



The High Level Meeting of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics

Moscow, 8 December 2017

COMMUNIQUÈ

The High Level Meeting (HLM) of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL) convened in Moscow, on 8 December 2017, under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation.

1. Contents of the Future Work of the Partnership

- Reaffirming all provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding setting out the modalities of establishing the NDPTL, signed in Naples on 21 October 2009, and the Joint Declaration of Intent setting out the continuation of the cooperation within the NDPTL;
- Recalling the goals set for the Partnership by the HLM in Brussels on 16 December 2016;
- Taking into account the continuation of the work on implementation of mutually beneficial initiatives in the fields of transport, infrastructure and logistics having practical capacity, and on the further strengthening the existing international cooperation in these areas;
- Underlining the importance of implementation of general-interest joint projects aimed at creating modern transport links in the NDPTL Region and implementation of advanced and innovative technologies in transport and logistics;

The HLM acknowledges the need to take stock of NDPTL activities in line with the agreed priorities for 2018-2019. The HLM asks the Steering Committee to elaborate guidelines for an independent evaluation on how sufficient added value from the partnership's activities can be obtained and to identify possible ways of continuing cooperation between the partners after 2019. This work is planned to be finalised during 2018, allowing enough time to take necessary decisions by 2020.

The HLM welcomes the following priorities for 2018-2019:

- Meeting the need for reduction of greenhouse gasses and promotion of ecologically friendly transport.
- "Vision Zero" - Zero Road Deaths and serious injuries.
- Digitalisation including Intelligent Transport Systems and Global Satellite Navigation, robotisation and automatization.
- New Emerging trade routes, including connections to Asia.
- Sharing best practices on transport education.

2. NDPTL Regional Network

- Recalling the conclusions of the HLM held in Oslo in 2012 on the NDPTL Regional Network being the basis for the concrete work conducted by the Partnership, providing the general priority guidelines for the NDPTL activities;
- Following the statement of the HLM in Moscow on 23 November 2011, welcoming the efforts made to define the NDPTL Network and requesting the SC to identify projects having a high cross-regional added value and reflecting the parties' interests in a balanced way;
- In order to foster synergies and enhance cooperation with other initiatives active in the Northern Dimension region;

The HLM encourages the Steering Committee to ensure that the NDPTL Regional Network reflects the changes in the national and international transport networks in the Northern Dimension Area.

3. NDPTL Support Fund

- Recalling the main and specific goals of the Partnership;
- Underlining the importance of the practical nature of the Partnership;
- Welcoming the activities of the Support Fund so far for conducting the practical work within the scope of the NDPTL activity;

The HLM emphasises that project activity is one of the priorities of the NDPTL's work.

The HLM underlines that the Fund is to serve the fulfilment of the main and specific goals of the Partnership and recognises that it can contribute to accelerate the implementation, preparation and/or monitoring of transport and logistics -related functions in the region.

The HLM expresses its gratitude to the partners who have financially supported the Fund.

4. NDPTL Secretariat

- Recalling the decisions of the HLM's 2015 and 2016, held, respectively, in Oslo and Brussels;

The HLM expresses gratitude to the Steering Committee for finding and reaching an agreement on solutions needed to secure operation of the NDPTL Secretariat.

The HLM calls on the partners to fulfill all necessary measures identified and elaborated by the SC in regard of the Secretariat's work.

5. Co-operation with other initiatives

- Recalling the agreement of the Northern Dimension Ministerial Meeting of 18 February 2013, to seek a more systematic approach to co-operation in the Northern Dimension region;

- Acknowledging the efforts aiming to identify objectives of mutual interest for co-operation in the region based on relevant strategic and policy documents of the partners;
- Recalling instructions given by the HLM on 23 November 2011 to further develop relevant issues in close co-operation with the four Regional Councils (AC, BEAC, CBSS, NCM) in order to foster synergies, while avoiding duplication of work within the mandates of these organisations;
- Emphasising the need for ensuring efficiency, avoiding the overlap of activities, achieving general co-ordination and promoting the efficient use of financial resources;

The HLM appreciates the work done by the SC and the NDPTL Secretariat to promote the NDPTL in general and to develop contacts within the network of stakeholders in the Northern Dimension area and instructs the Secretariat to continue activities in this direction.

The HLM appreciates further co-operation between NDPTL and BEAC and invites parties to continue efforts in fostering synergy of BEATA and NDPTL working bodies responsible for transport with the participation of IBS during the Swedish chairmanship in BEAC in 2017-2019.

The HLM propose to explore possibility of strengthening synergy between NDPTL and BEATA and exchanging information about activities of these two organizations.

6. Rotation of the Chairmanship

The HLM expresses its appreciation for the work carried out by the European Commission during its Chairmanship of the Steering Committee in 2017, and welcomes Sweden as the new Steering Committee Chair in 2018, hoping for continuation of the fruitful practical co-operation within the transport and logistics sector in the Northern Dimension area.

The HLM expresses gratitude to the Russian Federation for leading the general co-operation, and for hosting and chairing the HLM in 2017, and welcomes Norway as the new HLM Chair for 2018.