

Memorandum of Understanding
setting out the modalities of establishing
the Northern Dimension Partnership on
Transport and Logistics

The European Commission, Ministries responsible for transport, infrastructure and logistics of the Kingdom of Norway, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Republic of Belarus

hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties to the Partnership" or "Parties",

REPRESENTED by the Ministers responsible for transport, infrastructure and logistics,

RECALLING the decision by the Northern Dimension Ministers at their meeting in Saint Petersburg on 28 October 2008 to establish a Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDTLP),

FOLLOWING the provisions of the Northern Dimension Policy Framework Document, effective as of 1 January 2007,

STRESSING the usefulness of a discussion forum for current transport policy and future visions in the development of infrastructure, harmonising the standards and legislation, preparing regional projects,

RECOGNISING that the present document is an expression of political intent, not amounting to legally binding obligations on the part of the Parties,

SIGN the following Memorandum of Understanding setting out the modalities of establishing the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics.

1. AIMS

1. The main goal of the Partnership will be to improve, in compliance with the ecological needs of the region, the major transport connections and logistics in the Northern Dimension region to stimulate sustainable economic growth at the local/regional and global level by focusing on a limited number of priorities that reflect both regional and national priorities in a balanced way.

2. With the general aim of promoting international trade, the specific aims of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics are to assist in:

- Improving the major transnational transport connections between the Parties with the view of stimulating sustainable economic growth at the local/regional and global levels;
- Accelerating the implementation of transport and logistics infrastructure projects along the major transnational connections, and facilitating the approval of projects of mutual interest;
- Accelerating the removal of non-infrastructure related bottlenecks, affecting the flow of transport in and across the region, and facilitating the improvement of logistics in international supply chains;
- Providing effective structures to monitor the implementation of the proposed projects and measures.

2. ACTION PLAN

To meet the aims, as set in Point 1, the Partnership will develop an Action Plan of Northern Dimension priority projects of common interest covering both infrastructure projects and horizontal measures.

The Action Plan should include:

- a methodology on the identification of both infrastructure and non-infrastructure related bottlenecks with a view to improving transport connections and logistic processes between the countries concerned;
- a methodology on project evaluation and appraisal that meets the highest international standards, notably those of the International Financial Institutions, with the aim of ensuring bankability of projects;
- a methodology and criteria to monitor progress of implementation of the Action Plan;
- a list of a limited number of priority projects and measures meeting the aims, as defined in Point 1. The projects will be located in the Northern Dimension area and in particular on the Northern Axis and the

Motorways of the Sea. The Action Plan may also include projects with a sub-regional or local focus if they contribute to the Aims of the Partnership and better regional integration.

3. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The Parties will endeavour to make the information relevant to the development, use and operation of the infrastructure available to each other on an ongoing basis including *i.a.* data and/or information on:

- the state of the infrastructure, traffic flows, waiting times at borders,
- environmental and organisational measures planned or undertaken,
- financial resources allocated or to be allocated to maintenance, reconstruction, rehabilitation, upgrading and the development of infrastructure,
- the national transport plans,
- the legal and regulatory framework(s) for private participation in the development, use and operation,
- relevant economic and social factors.

4. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

1. To meet the aims set out in Point 1, the Parties will envisage a structure comprising a three level institutional set-up:

- High Level Meetings to take strategic decisions, and to give political impetus, strategic orientation and direction to the Partnership. The High Level Meetings may take place at the level of Ministers responsible for Transport and Infrastructure when necessary and/or when useful deliverables can be put on the table.

- A Steering Committee to co-ordinate the joint work under this Memorandum of Understanding, and to follow and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan, and review the general functioning of the Partnership and the Memorandum of Understanding. The Steering Committee will decide on its rules of procedure and may decide to set up ad hoc working groups.

- A permanent Secretariat to be established upon a decision of the High Level Meeting, to provide administrative and technical support to the Steering Committee and the High Level Meetings.

2. Concerning the strategic direction the Parties of the Partnership will be guided by the principles of the Northern Dimension, as set out in the Northern Dimension Political Declaration, which are "equal partnership, common responsibility and transparency".

3. Decisions in the Partnership will be taken on the basis of consensus.

5. ROLE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Taking into account the role of the Financial Institutions in contributing to the implementation of the projects and measures the Nordic Investment Bank, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank, as well as other relevant Financial Institutions, may be invited to attend the Partnership's activities as Observers.

2. The aim of the participation of the Financial Institutions is in particular to facilitate access to funding through *i.a.*:

- exchange of information on specific projects with a view to their financing,
- dissemination of criteria for assessing the viability of projects, and
- clarification, establishment and dissemination of best practice on project preparation and financing, including also PPPs, to ensure bankability.

6. COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL BODIES

1. Underlining the importance of the four Regional Councils¹ as Participants of the Northern Dimension policy and welcoming the actions already undertaken by them; welcoming the on-going actions of international organisations, in particular the UNECE and the International Transport Forum, and projects/initiatives stemming from their programmes, the Partnership may establish a dialogue and contacts with the four Regional Councils and other bodies active in the Northern Dimension area to foster synergies and to avoid overlap of activities.

2. The Partnership may establish a dialogue and contacts with the actors of major transnational corridors when planning of projects and measures on such corridors may have implications for the work of the Partnership.

3. The relevant Regional Councils, other regional organisations and/or corridor actors may be invited to take part as Observers on an *ad hoc* basis in the meetings and work of the Partnership when issues of relevance for them are on the agenda.

¹ The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Barents Euro Arctic Council (BEAC), the Arctic Council (AC) and the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)

7. PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR AND SOCIAL PARTNERS

1. The Parties intend to work jointly on best practices and guidelines for the legal and financial conditions necessary for private sector participation in the development and/or operation of the infrastructure, as appropriate.
2. The Parties intend to hold a structured social dialogue with the relevant social partners as well as with environmental stakeholders in order to seek to ensure that they are involved in the processes of change and development that will accompany implementation of the infrastructure projects and the horizontal measures.

8. EXTENSION OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Upon a request of a third country, the High Level Meeting may accept that country as an Observer or as Party to the Partnership.


9. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Co-operation in the context of this Memorandum of Understanding is based on a voluntary commitment and will continue in principle until the objectives of the initiative have been achieved. Where any of the Parties so requests, this Memorandum of Understanding can be reviewed and may be amended on the basis of, among others, a proposal submitted to the High Level Meeting by the Steering Committee.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to run for a period of five years, which may be extended by common understanding.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding does not contain, and is not intended to contain, legal obligations.
4. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into operation on the date of its signature.

Done at Naples, on

in one copy in the English language.

For the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs of the
Federal Republic of Germany



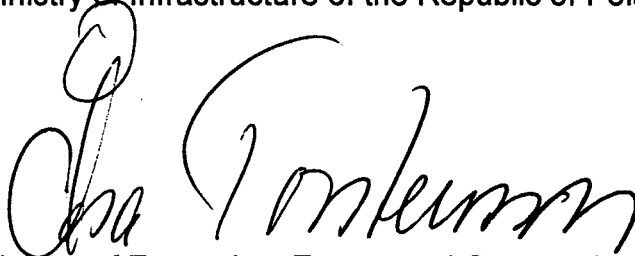
For the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia



For the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of
Lithuania

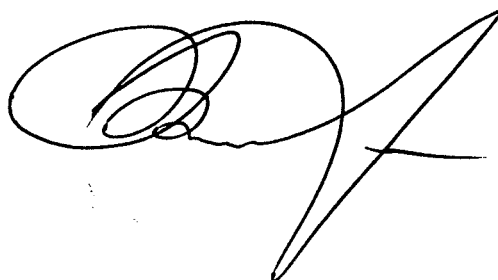


For the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Poland

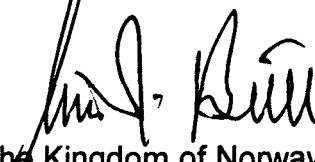
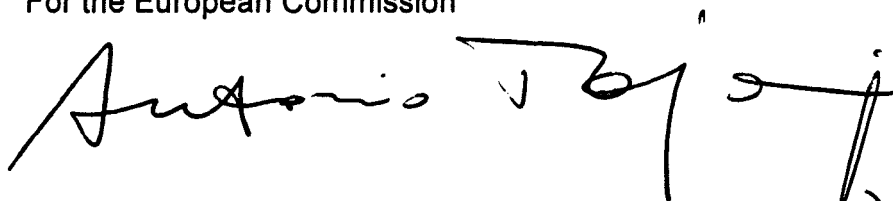


For the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications of the Kingdom of
Sweden

For the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Belarus



For the European Commission



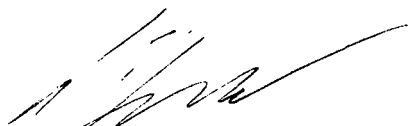
For the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Kingdom of Norway



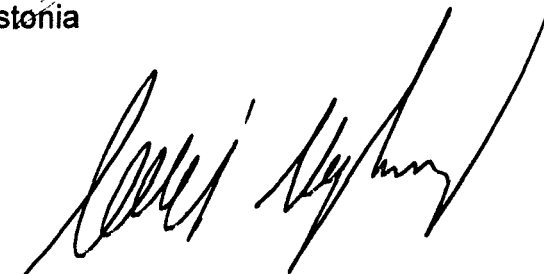
For the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation



For the Ministry of Transport of the Kingdom of Denmark



For the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Estonia



For the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Finland