



CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Resolution on Transport Bodø, June 15 2007

The Baltic Sea Commission wish to state that focus on transport and communication is of vital importance for the development of the region, for internal and external accessibility and for cooperation between the regions in the Baltic Sea Area.

In the coming years we will see an economic development that will result in an increased need for infrastructure development to meet the needs for increased transport of cargo and passengers - at the same time as environmental challenges will increase.

Initiatives to promote intermodale transport solutions will be welcomed and safety and security must be given the highest priority in the future of transport planning. This can only be achieved by close cooperation between member regions of CPMR, national governments, the European Union and neighbouring countries and regions. Participation in trans-national and vertically integrated projects is important in this connection.

The Baltic Sea Commission welcomes the initiative from CPMR; putting air transport on the agenda. Many peripheral areas in the Baltic Sea Region, particularly in the northern part, are very rich on natural resources of importance for the rest of the region. Maintaining sustainable communities in these areas are therefore of highest importance. For many of these areas efficient and reasonable priced air services is a prerequisite for keeping up population and for cargo transport for businesses in these areas.

The present, preliminary approved, applications in the MOS program from four different countries/ports in the South Baltic Sea and there counterparts in South Sweden reflect the continuation of the TEN corridors from the eastern and central European continent, and their hinterland, leading to these ports. There is no competitive situation, as the ferry lines service has quite different transport needs and markets. The common factor is that all services are growing at a pace where improved infrastructure and removal of bottlenecks is vital for a continued safe, environmental friendly and economical transportation of goods, both on road and rail. These problems and suggested solutions are highlighted in the MOS applications submitted.

BSC also underline that it welcomes the initiatives that has been taken from its regional members towards a sustainable infrastructure in the BSR.

One important conclusion from the joint BSC/InterBaltic conference¹ in Nordland is that efficient cross border transports is important for the total development, both for the Baltic Sea Region and neighbouring areas. In particular border crossings with Russia represent bottlenecks for trade and development, which needs to be solved. Current initiatives are encouraged to join forces and speak with one voice concerning making the transport corridors between east and west available. This has to be given a particular focus on all levels.

¹ "Perspectives on Transport in the Baltic Sea Region" Bodø, Nordland 15th of June 2007.