

# Green Corridors – a Swedish initiative

## Why Green Corridors?

The effective transportation of goods is a necessary precondition for growth and welfare. At the same time, the negative impact of transport on health, climate and the environment must be reduced. This challenge has put goods transportation and logistics high on the socio-political agenda and resulted in greater responsibility being taken on the part of the transport sector for efficient transport solutions. A good example of this in Sweden is the work carried out in the Logistics Forum where industry, researchers and politicians meet and together take on common challenges. At European level, a greener transport policy is now under development which may be seen in the Freight Action Plan, the ITS Action Plan and the Commission's Green Paper on TEN-T. These advocate the concept of Green Corridors. The upcoming climate meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009 is also of major importance in this context.

In the Nordic region, first-rate logistics activities are carried on, which include the sustainability aspect. On the basis of this, Logistics Forum has taken an initiative to facilitate Green Corridors in which industry and politicians collaborate with the following objectives:

- To demonstrate efficient transport solutions by joining forces to upgrade ongoing transport efforts

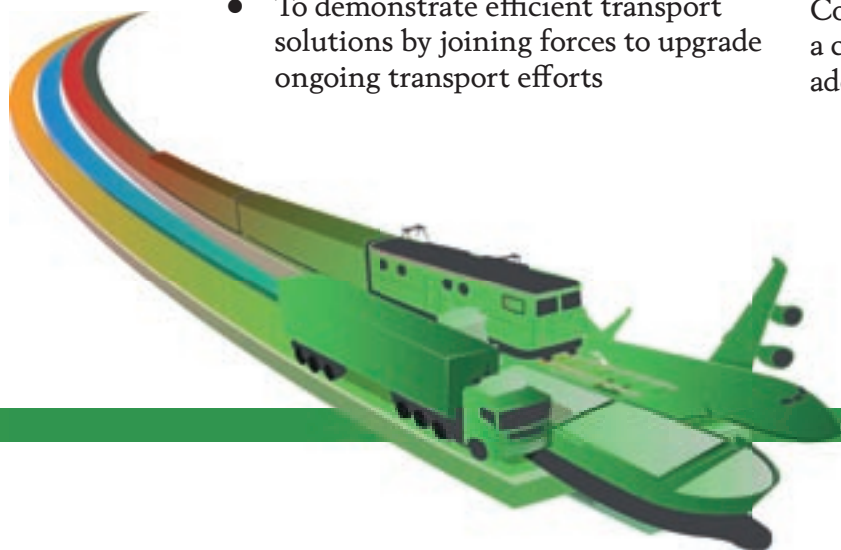
- To promote the development of Green Corridors in EU transport policy
- To establish international partnerships that can lead to Green Corridors to and from the Nordic region

## Our description of Green Corridors

An essential starting-point for our description of Green Corridors is the concept of co-modality. The flows of goods to and from the Nordic region well match this focus and today utilise shipping, air, rail and road transport, separately or in combinations of these. We have chosen to focus on transport from a customer perspective with long-term responsibility for the environment and climate. Measurability is another important criterion and know-how concerning how different alternatives may be compared will be developed – based on good examples such as:

- KNEG the objective of which is that emissions from typical Swedish long distance haulage by road be halved by 2020 and in which participants in the project undertake to carry out concrete measures.
- NTM and work on an environmental analysis tool for transportation of goods.

The initiative is working on the Green Corridors concept and the requirements a corridor of this type should fulfil. In addition, our objective is to apply the



concept to a geographic corridor. A possible corridor for the establishment of an international partnership is Finland-Sweden-Denmark-northern Germany-Holland-Belgium. A geographic corridor enables:

- Common priorities to get rid of bottlenecks
- Mustering of strength concerning good examples
- Demonstration of effects.

A green transport corridor is characterised by:

- Sustainable logistic solutions, that is to say solutions with documented reduced environmental and climate impact, high security, high quality and efficiency
- Integrated logistic concepts with optimal utilisation of the different modes of transport
- Harmonised system of rules with openness for all actors
- A concentration of national and international goods traffic on relatively long transport stretches
- Effective and strategically placed transshipment points and adapted and supportive infrastructure
- A platform for development and demonstration of innovative logistic solutions (information systems, collaboration models and technology)

Other important factors for effective transportation include business models, information handling and an overall view that includes product development and packaging. We have therefore chosen to regard Green Corridors as a platform for development and demonstration in these areas also.

### How we tackle the task

Four working groups have been established in the Green Corridors initiative: Market, Intermodal, Innovation and Technology and also Policy and Communications. The working groups represent all modes of transport and constitute a meeting-place for representatives of industry, academy and authorities. Each group is engaged in producing concrete proposals for how work can be developed. The projects that may be included in Green Corridors are based on existing initiatives. So far, some 30 projects and project proposals have been presented.

### How can I find out more?

Green Corridors is an open initiative that welcomes additional interested parties. Jerker Sjögren is coordinator and can be reached via: [jerker.sjogren@enterprise.ministry.se](mailto:jerker.sjogren@enterprise.ministry.se)

