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Progress report of NSC Transport group, June – October 2006

Please find below an account of the main activities of the NSC Transport group in the period since the last Executive meeting on 14 June.

- Attendance at meeting of Baltic Sea Commission Working group on transport, Klaipeda, Lithuania, 29 June 2006

The Co-ordinator attended the above-mentioned meeting. He gave a presentation of the Transport group, and took part in discussions on relevant areas and forms of co-operation between the two Commissions within transport. The two groups agreed to co-operate on the development of Motorways of the Sea, response to the EU Maritime Green Paper, regional air transport and sustainable surface transport.

- Input to CPMR response to Mid-term review of EU Transport White Paper

The Co-ordinator drafted and submitted a preliminary response to the CPMR in mid July. The response builds upon previous responses to EU transport policy documents.

In general the group endorses the profile of the Mid-term review as an orientation for the future EU transport policy. However, the group believes that the Mid-term review should focus more on the role of secondary ports and hubs, raise the ambition for the development of regional air ports & transport, should consider to adopt the Scandinavian "Vision Zero strategy" for road safety, work for more differentiated security schemes better adapted to the role & functions of ports and airports, ensure that future charging schemes are designed in such a manner that they do not function to the disadvantage of remote regions, and ensure that future charging schemes are designed in such a manner that they do not function to the disadvantage of remote regions.

- Co-ordinators meeting in Skien, Telemark, 22 August

The Co-ordinator attended a meeting between the NSC Secretariat and Co-ordinators in Skien.

- Meeting of NSC Transport group, Groningen, 21 – 22 September

The meeting discussed the follow-up of the 2006 – 2007 Work Plan (division of labour, timing of activities), as well as the input to the Mid-term review of EU Transport White Paper and revision of the Terms of Reference. It was decided that the Transport group will organise an event on the development of project ideas for the next North Sea Programme in conjunction with the next meeting in the winter of 2007. The event will primarily target representatives of current and past projects, as well as other relevant stakeholders in the North Sea region.

Besides, the meeting recommended that the NSC should request observer ship in the recently established Motorways of the Sea Task Force for the North Sea Region (consisting of Ministry Officials and stakeholder organisations within shipping and ports) in order to represent the regional political perspective. The meeting also recommended that the NSC and the BSC should consider



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the feasibility of launching a common candidate for the position as Lead region for the CPMR InterCom group on transport. The proposal was motivated out of a wish to re-vitalise this group, as well as to strengthen the Northern dimension of the transport policy.

Participation in external events of relevance

- Presentation at Annual Conference of the SustAccess project, Perth, Scotland, 26 – 27 September

The Co-ordinator gave a presentation at the Annual Conference of the Interreg IIIB project SustAccess. The presentation went on the roles & functions of the Transport group as a project developer, co-ordinator and channel of dissemination from Interreg projects, as well as elaborating on possible ideas for transport projects under the new North Sea Programme. The conference also discussed the roles and functions of the NSC in conjunction with the final SustAccess conference in 2007 and the corresponding sustainable transport “road shows” which will be organised as a part of the exit strategy of the project.

- MSUO conference on Motorways of the Sea, Helsinki, 2 – 3 October

The Co-ordinator attended the above-mentioned conference on behalf of the Northern Maritime Corridor II project. The conference was organised by the Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation unit under Interreg IIIB. The conference discussed ways of developing the Motorways of the Sea concept, with emphasis on maritime safety issues. Such events, with broad participation from the European Commission, Government Ministries, ports and transport operators etc, are regarded as a very useful source of updated information on the MoS issue, as well as an excellent opportunity for networking with various stakeholders in this field. The conference also gave a good update on transport issues in the Baltic Sea Region which is regarded as a useful background for NSC – BSC co-operation.

- Kick-off meeting of North Sea Motorways of the Sea Task Force, Brussels, 11 October

The Co-ordinator attended the Kick-off meeting of the North Sea Motorways of the Sea Task Force on behalf of the Northern Maritime Corridor II project, which has been granted observer status. The Task Force consists of Government Ministry & Maritime Administration officials from all EU member states in the North Sea Region, as well as from Norway and Russia. The European Commission – DG TREN, and stakeholder organisations related to ports and shipping are observers to the Task Force. The aim of the Task Force is to draw up a framework for the implementation of the MoS concept in the North Sea Region, with emphasis on “horizontal issues” (i.e. safety, simplification of administrative procedures, customs, information systems, environmental issues etc) with wider benefits for all stakeholders. Observer ship in this Task Force is regarded as an excellent opportunity to promote the Northern Maritime Corridor as a framework for the prolongation of the MoS network further North along the Norwegian Sea up to the Barents Region (cf relevant paragraphs of the NSC resolution on the Maritime policy), as well as for receiving updated information on recent MoS developments.

NORTH SEA



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