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Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area - Draft Work Program 2020-2021

Norway is in charge of the Steering Committee of Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area (BEATA) until autumn 2021. Sweden handed over the responsibility to Norway during the Transport ministerial meeting in Umeå 11-12 September this year. Norway has for the same period taken over the presidency of the Barents Council. Norway will consolidate and build upon the existing cooperation. Thematic focus areas for Norwegian leadership of the Barents Council will be health, people-to-people and knowledge under the main heading 'A strong and viable Barents region'. Transport and mobility are important parts of the overall policy for the Barents region. The Ministry of Transport is in charge of BEATA, and presenting the draft work program for BEATA, describing ambitions, key priorities and activities.

Proposal for BEATA Work program

The overall objective of our Presidency is consistent with the objective in the Joint Barents Transport Plan (JBTP): To develop an efficient and sustainable transport system in the Barents region with good internal connections in the region and with good external connections to the world markets. In addition to the national objectives, the development of the transport system should be in line with the UN's global sustainable development goals (agenda 2030), and the Paris agreement.

In addition, we propose these sub-targets: BEATA will develop the cooperation based on the recommendations of JBTP and seek tangible results. The Steering Committee will develop topics further and propose measures for follow-up, either in BEATA or in other settings. BEATA shall have an active dialogue with the Barents Regional Working Group of Transport and Logistics (BRWGTL). It is important to have good dialogue with NDPTL and other relevant working groups under BEAC, including Tourism.

Postal address
Postboks 8010 Dep
0030 Oslo
postmottak@sd.dep.no

Office address
Akersg. 59
www.sd.dep.no

Telephone
+47 22 24 90 90
Org. nr.
972 417 904

Department
Department of Civil
Aviation, Postal
Services and
Procurement of Non-
Commercial Transport

Reference
Paal Iversen
+47 22 24 81 74

ITS

The work within ITS and digitization should aim for visible results in terms of better information for road users by stimulating to ITS pilots and tests. BEATA should stimulate more cooperation and coordinated efforts, between actors, private and public, national and regional level. It is the Norwegian counties that are responsible for the ITS part of the Kolarctic project. They have involved ITS Norway and cooperates with the Norwegian Public Road Administration. We propose that BRWGTL takes the main responsibility for ITS issues in the period in close dialogue with BEATA. By initiating a closer cooperation with BRWGTL and the Kolarctic project on ITS we will achieve better overview and avoid overlapping activities.

Road Corridor development, night rest areas in the cross-border road corridors

Road transport is vital in the Barents region and the roads are work places for the drivers. It is a need for facilitating proper conditions for resting areas for truck drivers. We propose to start a cooperation for mapping suitable localities for this. We aim to propose a mandate and establish an expert working group consisting on agencies and regions that will deliver a map of possible localities and (if possible) sketch out a development program. The goal should be to receive a report and suggestions to the meeting in the autumn of 2020. Follow-up must be done in each country, but based on a map that sees the various locations together.

Sustainable transport system

We propose to strengthen the collaboration between the stakeholders regarding knowledge sharing and cooperation related to the effects of climate change on the infrastructure in the Barents region, including winter operations, avalanches, landslide, and rainfall and thawing of permafrost. We will investigate which topics that most are interested in and seek to hold a workshop during the Norwegian Presidency.

The Kolarctic project also include a work package on green transport in the Barents region. It is necessary with a good dialogue with BRWGTL on this topic and try to find out how the levels of governance can supplement each other. We aim to discuss at the first SC meeting how BEATA can contribute to the development of sustainable transport in the Barents region. We will include the issue in the agendas for the seminars on each transport modes. In addition we will present a memo to the Steering Committee concerning sustainable transport and the role of BEATA in due time before the SC meeting in March 2020.

Traffic safety

We propose to hold a seminar on traffic safety in connection to a steering committee meeting, to share and disseminate knowledge and best practice. The seminar will take place in the autumn 2020 aiming to attract stakeholders and experts from the Barents region.

Meetings

We would like to use the Steering Committee meetings as a venue for learning and inspiration by having a thematic program connected to each meeting. By allowing one transport mode to have the main part of the thematic program, we believe we could gain

greater attention and can invite relevant actors and stakeholders from the countries to the planned meetings. In addition, it is desirable to have good contact and dialogue with the Barents Regional Working Group for Transport and Logistics (BRWGTL). Meetings could be shared and/or back-to-back. The work program and meeting schedule will be submitted to the BRWGTL as part of the process. We will consider holding a ministerial meeting in the end of the Presidency; this will be decided at a later stage.

Preliminary list of key words for the Steering Committee and thematic program:

10-12 March 2020 – Bodø,

- Steering committee, discuss and decide the work program and working groups
- Thematic program: *Aviation* in the Barents region
 - Project New city-new airport in the city of Bodø
 - Remote control towers
 - Electric aircraft

October 2020 – Tromsø,

- Steering Committee:
 - Discuss proposals for night rest locations
 - Follow-up first discussion of ITS issues
 - Follow up on sustainable transport
- Thematic program: *Road sector* in the Barents region
 - ITS, possible including eCMR(electronic freight documentation)
 - Low- and zero emission technologies
 - Winter operations
 - Traffic safety
 - Tourism and traffic safety, joint challenges concerning unexperienced drivers in rented cars

Winter/spring 2021, Narvik

- Steering committee, more on ITS-cooperation, on charging and filling stations
- Thematic program: *Railway* in the Barents region
 - Logistics, inter-modality
 - ERTMS
 - The future for railway in the Arctic, alternatives and possibilities?

Autumn 2021, Kirkenes

- Steering committee, follow up on working groups, wrap up of the Norwegian presidency
- Thematic program: *Maritime transport* in the Barents region
 - Northern Sea route
 - Sustainable sea transport
 - Freight flows and arctic logistics
 - Ports in the Barents region, cooperation, challenges and possibilities

- Safety and preparedness
- Maritime ITS

Yours sincerely

Fredrik Birkheim Arnesen
Director General

Paal Iversen
Senior Adviser

This document is signed electronically and has therefore no handwritten signature

Copy
Utenriksdepartementet

Address list

Ministry of Transport and
Communications -
Finland

P.O.Box 31

Ministry of Transport
of the Russian
Federation - Russia
Ministry of
Infrastructure

1-1, Rozhdestvenka str.,