

## The High Level Meeting of the Northern Dimension Partnership for Transport and Logistics

### Agreed conclusions

The High Level Meeting (HLM) of the Northern Dimension Partnership for Transport and Logistics (NDPTL) convened in Moscow on November 23, 2011, under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation.

1. The HLM reaffirms the aims and provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding setting out the modalities of establishing the NDPTL, signed 2009 in Naples.

### Establishment of the Secretariat and Financial Annex

2. The HLM welcomes the establishment of the NDPTL Secretariat, which was one of the objectives to achieve within the NDPTL cooperation framework in order to provide administrative and technical support to the Steering Committee (SC) and the High Level Meetings (HLM).

The Secretariat has become operational in September 2011 with the appointment of the Director.

In this context the HLM welcomes Belarus' fulfilment of the initial agreement and signing of the Annex in November 2011; with the latter signature in place the Agreement and the Annex are signed now by all parties and all formalities regarding the establishment of the Secretariat are officially accomplished.

### Exchange of information

3. - Recalling the provisions of the MoU on exchange of information on the state of infrastructure, traffic flows, waiting time 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, etc.;

- Recognising necessity to utilise the existing good practices and taking into consideration that one of the Secretariat's objectives is to create a tool facilitating the exchange of information in the form of a special database/information system;

The HLM expresses gratitude to the European Commission for the proposal to share its existing database system and welcomes the adoption of the TENtec information system for the use of the NDPTL.

#### Further activity

4. - The HLM welcomes the launch of the projects, financially supported from the funds earmarked by the Delegation of the EU to Russia, on identifying the common NDPTL network and possible improvements in the border-crossing management. The HLM requests the SC, with the support of the Secretariat, to define, as a priority, a list of projects having a high cross-regional added value and reflecting the parties' interests, during the coming months.
5. - Following the discussion on the HLM in Helsinki on December, 16,2010;
  - Reiterating importance of the practical nature of the Partnership;
  - Underlining the importance of the four Regional Councils (AC, BC, CBSS, NCM) as participants in the Northern Dimension policy and welcoming actions already undertaken by them;
  - Recalling goals and priorities mentioned in the MoU;

The HLM stresses that the region would get general added value by developing, in a sustainable and balanced way, the infrastructure and logistics in connection with the existing and future routes, so as to prepare the transport network in the Northern Dimension Region to fully benefit from the increasing transport operations and with a view to strengthen the connections with the neighbouring regions.

Thus, the HLM instructs the SC to further develop relevant issues in close cooperation with the four Regional Councils in order to foster synergies, while avoiding duplication of work within the mandates of these organisations.

#### Support Fund

6. - Recalling that the main goal of the Partnership, as stated in the MoU, is 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;
  - Emphasising that some of the specific aims of the Partnership are to accelerate the implementation of the transport and logistics infrastructure projects along the major

transnational connections and to provide effective structures to monitor the implementation of the proposed projects and measures;

- In order to ensure that general and specific aims of the Partnership are fulfilled;

The HLM considers the initiative of NDPTL Support fund establishment for the purpose of strengthening NDPTL activities.

Currently proposed general provisions are as following:

- The fund is to be a financial instrument to facilitate preparation, implementation and/or monitoring of projects furthering the purposes of the NDPTL within the scope of activities and according to the principles, aims and provisions set out in the MoU.
- Any partner can join the fund at any point of time on strictly voluntary basis.

A fund could provide credibility and visibility for the work of the NDPTL, serving as an effective instrument in helping to implement projects of high cross-regional value in the field of transport and logistics.

The HLM requests the SC to further develop the details for an NDPTL Support Fund in close cooperation with IFIs following the Basic Principles (enclosed as Annex 1) for the Fund in order to draw up the modalities for the administration of the fund.

The HLM expresses appreciation towards the willingness to contribute from Norway and Finland to the future NDPTL Support Fund.

#### Rotation of the Chairmanships

7. The HLM expresses appreciation to Norway's input into the activity of the Partnership during its Chairmanship of the SC in 2011, and welcomes Germany as a new SC Chair, hoping for further fruitful cooperation under the German leadership.

The HLM expresses gratitude to the Russian Federation for hosting and chairing the HLM 2011 and welcomes Norway as a new HLM Chair.

## **NDPTL Support Fund (basic principles)**

### **1 - Principles**

Art 1. of the NDPTL Memorandum of Understanding states that "*the specific needs of the Northern Dimension Partnership for Transport and Logistics are to assist in accelerating the implementation of transport and logistics projects[...] and facilitating the approval of projects of mutual interest*".

The NDPTL partners unanimously consider that the setting up of a support fund (the Fund) will help in achieving such objectives.

### **2 - Scope**

The purpose of the Fund is to support the transport and transport related projects (\*) in ND area making travel easier and safer for people and ensuring that goods can be transported efficiently.

(\*) projects include: studies and works as well as the support of secretariat's activities.

### **3 - Steering Committee**

The NDPTL Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat has the responsibility to identify the projects that met the criteria for the eligibility to the NDPTL support fund (\*\*).

The NDPTL Steering Committee submits the list of those projects to the Assembly of Donors.

(\*\*): the criteria have to be defined by the Steering Committee.

### **4 - Governance of the Fund**

The Fund is open to all donors. There is no minimum entry fee requested to join the Fund as the financial contributions are made on a voluntary basis.

The Fund may be set up with only one initial donor and others may join at various points of time, whenever it might be desirable, and strictly on a voluntary basis.

An Assembly of Donors (AD) is set up: the partners that contribute financially to the Fund are full members of the AD; those which do not contribute financially are granted the right of observers in the AD.

The role of the AD is to select the projects, among those identified by the Steering Committee, for which a financial support may be granted through the Fund.