

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

Oslo, November, 21, 2012

Agreed Conclusions

The High Level Meeting (HLM) of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL) convened in Oslo, Norway, on November, 21, 2012, under the chairmanship of Norway.

1. Prolongation of the Memorandum of Understanding

- Recognising, that a well-functioning transport and logistics system is a pre-requisite for sustainable economic growth and good standard of day-to-day life;
- Underlining the growing need for international and inter-regional co-ordination and co-operation in the situation of constantly increasing globalisation;
- Aiming to ensure that the transport and logistics system of the Northern Dimension region is able to meet the challenges connected with the changing economic, political, geographical and social conditions so as to provide sustainable regional development for the benefit of the peoples of the Northern Dimension area;

The HLM of the NDPTL reaffirms all provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding setting out the modalities of establishing the NDPTL, signed in Naples on October, 21, 2009 (MoU).

As declared in § 9 p. 2 of the Memorandum of Understanding:

“The Memorandum is intended to run for a period of five years which may be extended by common understanding.”

- Taking into consideration that the Memorandum of Understanding setting out the modalities of establishing the NDPTL expires on October, 20, 2014;
- Underlining the importance of all above-referred issues;
- Realising that the platform of the Northern Dimension policy has proved to be the relevant discussion arena and the effective tool facilitating co-operation between the member states in elaborating joint actions needed for the efficient and sustainable development of the transport and logistics system of the region;

The HLM of the NDPTL 2012 emphasises the need of continuation of the international co-operation in the field of transport and logistics within the frames of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics.

Taking the foregoing into account, the High Level Meeting of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics instructs the NDPTL Steering Committee:

- To examine the legal requirements for the appropriate way of prolongation of the MoU.
- To conduct necessary preparations as regards all national procedures and formalities needed for the prolongation of the MoU.
- To undertake other measures so as to ensure smooth uninterrupted continuation of all activities, including the prolongation of the other agreements needed for the efficient work within the frames of the NDPTL.
- To establish the order of rotation of the Chairmanship of the HLM for the next five-year term 2014 – 2019 to be endorsed by the next HLM.

2. NDPTL regional network

- Emphasising that one of the specific aims of the Partnership is to accelerate the implementation of the transport and logistics infrastructure projects along the major transnational connections;
- 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 in order to stimulate 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;

- Following the statement of the HLM in Moscow on November, 23, 2011, welcoming the efforts made to define the NDPTL network and requesting the Steering Committee to identify projects having a high cross-regional added value and reflecting the parties' interests in a balanced way;

The NDPTL HLM endorses the NDPTL regional network in the form agreed by the Infrastructure Working Group and the Steering Committee.

The NDPTL regional network is to be the basis for the concrete work conducted by the Partnership, providing the general priority guidelines for the NDPTL activities.

The NDPTL projects are to have proven added value for strengthening and developing connections, ensuring smooth transportation and removing bottle necks within the NDPTL regional network.

The NDPTL HLM instructs the Steering Committee to closely work with the Infrastructure Working Group on further development of the regional network and adopt changes if necessary. The Steering Committee shall report such changes to the HLM.

3. NDPTL Support Fund

- Recalling the main and specific goals of the Partnership;
- Underlining the importance of the practical nature of the Partnership;
- Following the decisions of the HLM in Moscow on November, 23, 2011 to welcome the establishment of the NDPTL Fund;
- Recognising the necessity of establishing a practical instrument for conducting the practical work within the scope of the NDPTL activity;
- Recalling the decisions of the Steering Committee on March, 28-29, 2012 and September, 24, 2012 to establish a NDPTL Support Fund with related Fund Rules;

The HLM welcomes the commencement of operations of the NDPTL Support Fund aiming to ensure the fulfilment of the main and specific goals of the Partnership, providing the financial basis and means for accelerating the implementation, preparation and/or monitoring of the transport and logistics projects furthering the purposes of the NDPTL and within the scope of activities and according to the principles, aims and provisions set out in the Memorandum of Understanding.

- Taking into consideration the work already done;

- In order to foster synergies and conduct the work within the scope of the NDPTL in the most efficient way possible;

The NDPTL HLM values the efforts made by the Nordic Investment Bank and welcomes further co-operation as regards the Fund with the Nordic Investment Bank and other international financial institutions.

4. Further activity

- Following the discussions on the HLM in Helsinki on December, 16, 2010 and the HLM in Moscow on November, 23, 2011;
- Recalling the § 6 of the Memorandum of Understanding setting out the principles and underlining importance of co-operation with the other stakeholders active in the Northern Dimension area within the transport and logistics field;
- Recognising the importance of the four Regional Councils (AC, BC, CBSS, NCM) and welcoming actions already undertaken by them;
- Emphasising the need for ensuring the highest extent of efficiency, avoiding the overlap of activities and necessity for general co-ordination;

The High Level Meeting appreciates the efforts made by the NDPTL Secretariat in establishing contacts within the network of the stakeholders, active in the transport and logistics sector in the area of the Northern Dimension.

The co-operation with other organisations and fora of relevance in the area improves NDPTL's visibility and credibility and supports the general co-ordinating role of the Partnership.

5. Rotation of the Chairmanship

The High Level Meeting expresses its appreciation of the input Germany made to the work of the Partnership during the Chairmanship of the Steering Committee in 2012, and welcomes Russian Federation as a new Steering Committee Chair in 2013, hoping for continuation of the fruitful practical co-operation between the member-countries within the transport and logistics sector.

The High Level Meeting expresses gratitude to Norway for leading the general co-operation, hosting and chairing the High Level Meeting in 2012 and welcomes the European Commission as a

new High Level Meeting Chair, counting on achieving good results and enhanced co-ordination under Commission's strategic guidance.