



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

Brussels, 16 December 2016

Draft Agreed Conclusions version FINAL

The High Level Meeting (HLM) of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL) met in Brussels, on 16 December 2016, under the chairmanship of the European Commission.

All members confirmed the prolongation of NDPTL activities, as agreed by the 2013 NDPTL High Level Meeting, for the next period of five years into 2019. The goal is to accelerate implementation of a limited number of priority projects having regional added-value.

The HLM members thanked the Nordic Investment Bank for hosting the NDPTL secretariat and its management of the NDPTL support Fund. So far, the Fund includes nine projects from Finland, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Lithuania and Norway receiving grants. Four projects have been successfully implemented. It is a proof that the NDPTL Support Fund mechanism has been acting as a catalyst to raise substantial additional funding and final implementation of the projects. Work on projects is a key activity of the partnership enhancing the NDPTL regional networks with the aim to support international trade and people-to-people contacts and contribute to sustainable socio-economic and environmentally friendly development of the region.

The HLM encouraged work on new projects with a regional dimension and a regional added value to be supported by the partnership's support fund.

The HLM also agreed that there is a potential for the NDPTL to address projects in the Euro-Arctic area.

The members recalled the toolbox that was agreed upon (the NDPTL network, screening methodology for projects and the support fund) which is needed to meet the goals of the partnership, namely to create concrete projects.

The High Level Meeting appreciated the general coordinating role of the Partnership and confirmed that the NDPTL should be used to coordinate the initiatives in the field of transport and logistics in the Northern Dimension area.

The HLM calls the SC and the NDPTL Working Group on transport and logistics to intensify its work on implementation of intelligent transport systems, connection with the use of satellite navigation technologies in particular including possible cooperation between emergency response systems in case of accidents, exchanging opinions in sphere of transport education and creation of inclusive transport system in urban areas with relative stakeholders.

The HLM members also stressed the importance of cooperating with other relevant cooperation bodies such as the BEAC working groups for transport and Logistics, e.g. to develop synergies with all relevant strategies for the Baltic Sea Region.

The HLM encouraged the Secretariat to continue to develop contacts within the network of stakeholders with the aim to find synergies and avoid duplication of activities elsewhere. This should be done in agreement with NDPTL members, keeping SC members duly informed of any activity/mission/contact in advance and ensuring that an appropriate reporting is provided on a regular basis.

The HLM instructed the Steering Committee to continue the work on further development of the regional network and take into account the TEN-T network maps and its indicative extension to the neighbours as well as relevant EATL routes OJSJ rail corridors and transport development plans in the Northern Dimension Area.

The MoU sets the provision to exchange information and experience and to elaborate the national transport strategies in mutual synergy. With this in mind, the HLM encouraged the Steering Committee to explore issues of connectivity and digitalisation.

The HLM called for NDPTL partners to identify financial resources and support the Support Fund that is needed to concretise the projects.

Considering the financial situation of the Secretariat, the HLM also stressed the importance of an appropriate financial basis to ensure a smoothly functioning of this latter and underlined the need to define adequate financial contributions. Furthermore, the NDPTL HLM encouraged the Steering Committee and the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB) to develop ideas in order to ensure an optimal operating platform for the NDPTL Secretariat in compliance with the period of validity of the NDPTL Memorandum of Understanding.

The High Level Meeting expressed their gratitude to the Polish government for leading the coordination, hosting and chairing the Steering Group meetings in 2016.

The HLM members thanked the European Commission for coordinating, hosting and chairing the High Level Meeting in 2016 and welcomed the Russian Federation as a new High Level Meeting Chair, counting on achieving good results and enhanced coordination.