



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Proposal

Memorandum

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**Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and
Communications Sweden**

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**Program for the Swedish Chairmanship of the steering group for cooperation
in the Barents Pan-European Transport Area (BEATA) 2009-2011**

BEATA Steering Committee meeting in Moscow October 2009, handed over the chairmanship to Sweden for the BEATA co-operation between Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden. Sweden will be chairman of the Committee for the period 2009 – 2011. Sweden also chairs BEAC under the same period.

Background

At the second Pan-European transport conference in Crete in 1994, and again at the third in Helsinki in 1997, the transport corridors and four Pan-European transport regions were defined. The Barents area is one of the four regions. Attention was initially brought to the need for co-operation between the countries of the Barents region at a meeting of the transport ministers of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, BEAC, in Archangelsk in September 1996.

At a meeting in Copenhagen in May 1998 between the transport ministers from Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden and representatives from the EU Commission, the BEATA co-operation was established and guidelines for its work drawn up. The aim is to promote international cooperation in the development of transport infrastructure in the Barents region. Development work in the Barents region will include border crossing, customs co-operation and the maintenance and reconstruction for existing infrastructure as well as construction of new infrastructure. The objective of the work is to create an efficient and integrated transport system employing various modes of transport in an internationally viable system.

After the meeting of transport ministers in Copenhagen, a steering group was established for co-operation between the member countries. This steering group is empowered to appoint working groups. The steering group is required to submit its report once a year to BEAC.

Proposed objectives for 2009 - 2011

The Swedish chairmanship in BEAC working for a more eco-efficient economy in the Barents region will also be the main overall focus of the chair of BEATA. The transport area is one of the key players in the future success of combining economic growth with environmental responsibility.

The Swedish chairmanship in both BEAC and BEATA will also strive towards coordination and synergies with work done in other forums, such as the Arctic Council and the Northern Dimension. And as stated in the objectives of the BEAC chairmanship it is important to integrate the Barents transport infrastructure issues into other pan-European East-West corridor discussions.

Proposed activities for 2009 - 2011**High North study**

The strategic high north study is a Norwegian initiative focusing on future need of infrastructure in the Barents region. The BEATA member countries have been asked to contribute and be part of this study.

The high north study will cover a thirty year perspective and be compiled over the next two years. The study will look at the future development in the high north, evaluate existing plans and give proposals of future international transport corridors in the area. If possible earlier STBR and cross-border studies should contribute to this new initiative.

The outcome of this study could be a base for a future society built on eco-efficient economy.

Road maintenance

The intention is to share the main findings concerning road maintenance from the RO ADEX projects.

The RO ADEX network is a collaboration of public and private organizations dealing with low volume roads of the Northern Periphery. The aim is to create effective technical exchange & co-operation between road districts in the Northern Periphery. The projects have developed best practice strategies for road maintenance procedures and operations, in order to deal with the regions unique combinations of remoteness, climate, topography, low traffic volumes and long distances to markets.

For more information please visit the website [RO ADEX Partnership Introduction](#).

Meetings in the BEATA steering committee

The chair plans two meetings during the Swedish period for chairing the BEATA co-operation in 2009 - 2011. The first will take place in Haparanda, Sweden on the 16th-17th of June. The proposed main focus of this meeting is to highlight the future development potentials of the northern region and link it to the strategic study on the Future Need of Infrastructure in the High North.

The second meeting is planned to take place in 2011 and besides following up on the High North study the proposed focus is to be on road maintenance. The location and time will follow in due course.