
Progress Report 2003
on the Barents Euro-Arctic Pan-European Transport Area
(BEATA)

Submitted by the Chairman of the BEATA Steering Committee
to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the European Commission

Steering Committee:

Mr. Vyacheslav Parfenov	Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, Chairman
Mr. Boris Sitkov	Ministry of Railway Transport of the Russian Federation
Mr. Juha Parantainen	Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finland
Mr. Kjell Rosanoff	Ministry of Transport and Communications, Norway
Mr. Tomas Brolin	Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, Sweden
Mrs. Kristina Geiger-Weichbrodt	European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy and Transport

The Barents Euro-Arctic Pan-European Transport Area (BEATA) is a multi-modal transport area established in the Pan-European Transport Conference in Helsinki in 1997. The BEATA covers the northern provinces of Finland, Sweden and Norway, as well as the northwest part of the Russian Federation: the Republic of Karelia and Komi, the Oblasts of Murmansk and Archangelsk, and the Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

Progress Report

This is the fifth Progress Report on the Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area (BEATA) to be submitted to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the European Commission.

The Ministers of Transport of the BEATA countries and the Transport Commissioner of the EU Commission signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Copenhagen in May 1998. In the MoU the Ministers established a Steering Committee for BEATA co-operation. Norway was the first chairman of the Steering Committee in 1998. Finland assumed the BEATA chairmanship in March 1999, and Russia in March 2000. The chairman for most of 2003 was Sweden starting from March 2001. Norway took the chairmanship in October 2003 for the next two-year period.

The Finnish Ministry of Transport has supported the permanent secretariat in Helsinki, which provides assistance to the Steering Committee.

Earlier Accomplishments

The Steering Committee of BEATA has implemented the measures specified in the Action Programme 1999 - 2003, more specifically the following:

1. Creating the framework for co-operation in BEATA.
2. Defining the first backbone network for transport in the Barents area.
3. Developing the BEATA database (GIS) and collecting network data.
4. Reviewing the existing traffic forecasts in the Region
5. Collecting current and planned project information in the Nordic Countries and northwest Russia.
6. A website.
7. Assisting the financing and launching of the Sustainable Transport in the Barents Region (STBR) project.
8. Inclusion of the Republic of Komi in the BEATA cooperation.

The Swedish Chairmanship

During the Swedish period (March 2001-October 2003), the rules of chairmanship have been revised to be compatible with the new BEAC practice. The chairman will now be nominated for a two-year term.

In 2003, two Steering Committee meetings have been held. The first was in Luleå, Sweden, January 22, 2003 and the second in St. Petersburg, Russia, September 11, 2003. The latter meeting was held in connection of the Third Euro-Asian Transport Conference organised by the Russian Ministry of Transport. Between the Steering Committee meetings work meetings have been held.

The activities in 2003 have included the following:

1. Drafting a new Action Program 2004-2008. The first five-year Action Program 1999-2003 ended in 2003.
2. The Backbone network for the Barents Region was opened for revisions. This was the first round of revisions after the creation and approval of the first network layout in 1999. The transport system of Komi Republic was included in the backbone network. More detailed

route identification is yet to be made.

3. The first summary of the known investment projects in the Region was compiled.

In 2003, the main effort of the Steering Committee has been to support the launch of an Interreg IIIB project, *Sustainable Transport in the Barents Region, STBR*. As Interreg III B is primarily a program for and between the regions, the members of Communications Group of the Barents Regional Council were the main partners in the application process. The process has, however, at all times been closely coordinated with and strongly supported by the BEATA Steering Committee. The Committee is Advisory Board of the STBR project.

The Sustainable Transport Project has been the main driving force of the cross-border transport development in the Region in 2003. The project started with the following activities:

1. Organising the work and establishing a project secretariat in Luleå/Oulu.
2. Launching the implementation of Work Package 1, which entails, among others, data collection and preparation of region-wide studies of passenger and freight flows.
3. Drafting of Tacis CBC applications for the participating regions in Russia.

Other developments

Transport infrastructure improvements impacting more than one country include but are not limited to the following:

1. With the help of the EU the preparation of starting a full-scale test of the railway gauge changing system at the Finnish – Swedish border (Tornio/Haparanda) has been carried out. The tests with steel products and paper will start in autumn 2004.
2. Construction of the new railway Ledmozero – Kotchkoma (Karelia, Russia) was completed at the end of 2001, but further procurement and installation of appurtenances (electricity, line control system and stations) have been under way.
3. Increasing the allowed axle-load to 30 tons on the Ore line (Norway/Sweden)
4. Norwegian and Russian authorities have completed the modernisation of the Russian border station at Borisoglebsk/Storskog (Norwegian/Russian border). Inauguration of the new border station was in January 2003.
5. The North East West Freight Corridor (N.E.W.) project initiated the first steps for a demonstration run.

Future Work

The Norwegian chair of BEATA focuses on the following activities in 2004:

1. Close involvement in the STBR project
2. Review of national planning processes in partner countries
3. Maritime transport along the Norwegian and Russian coastline as well as in the Gulf of Bothnia (Finland, Sweden).
4. Road traffic safety
5. Improving coordination of the on-going projects in the region

The Norwegian chair plans to hold two Steering Committee meetings during 2004.

Tomas Brolin
Chairman of
the BEATA Steering Committee
Stockholm, February 18, 2004

Martti Miettinen
Secretary of
the BEATA Steering Committee
Helsinki, February 18, 2004