

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

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

Steering Committee:

Mr. Mikko Ojajärvi	Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finland, Chairman
Mr. Kjell Rosanoff	Ministry of Transport and Communications, Norway
Mrs. Kerstin Lokrantz	Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, Sweden
Ms Elena Kushnirenko	Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation
	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

The Finnish Chairmanship 2006-2007

In 2007, two Steering Committee meetings have been held in Helsinki, Finland; the first meeting was on March 29 and the second meeting on October 30. Both of these meetings were held jointly with the STBR II Steering Committee.

Evaluation of the BEATA Steering Committee work

The agenda of the Finnish Chair has called for the evaluation of BEATA cooperation and making proposals for improving the Committee's work. The evaluation was done in 2006, but discussion has continued in 2007 focusing on two issues:

1. How to organise the BEATA work so as to make it more efficient and effective, particularly taking into consideration two important parallel developments: the Northern Transport Axis and the Transport and Logistics Partnership between Russia and the EU. It is believed e.g. that the current situation within BEATA will improve by bringing regional transport authorities into cooperation as equal partners.
2. The system of project cards, which could be used to show the overall status and development needs of any sub-corridor or selected subject matter in the BEATA countries.

These matters have been discussed in the two BEATA Steering Committee meetings in 2007. In its October meeting the Steering Committee decided that:

- The BEATA cooperation continues at the ministerial level
- The BEATA continues to report to (1) BEAC and (2) the Commission in a fashion that will be reasonable after the Northern Axis cooperation framework has been set up
- The roles of the regional transport authorities will be strengthened in the cooperation
- The work on project and program/corridor cards should be started.

Sustainable Transport in the Barents Region, STBR Phase II

In 2007, one of the main focus areas of the BEATA Steering Committee has been to support and monitor the implementation of the second phase of the Interreg IIIB project, *Sustainable Transport in the Barents Region, STBR II*. The STBR II project has addressed all the modes of transport (road, rail, air and sea). At the conclusion of the project, recommendations have been produced for concrete measures with regard the future development of the transport system in the Barents Region.

The second phase of the Sustainable Transport in the Barents Region (STBR II) started in 2006. It strived to implement the recommendations from the first STBR (2003-2005) phase at a concrete level. It has meant considerable focus on freight transport, but still not forgetting fast passenger traffic. STBR phases I and II were carried out in four work packages (WPs), which all consisted of one or more sub-projects. The WPs and sub-projects of STBR II were the following:

WP 1 Regional Aviation

- Marketing support for operational air route between the Nordic Countries and Russia; Luleå-(Oulu-Rovaniemi)-Murmansk
- Barents Aviation Focal Point Network, which is a working group between aviation administrations, airport officials, flight operators and tourism companies.

WP 2 Barents Port Association, which will address the common problems and emerging issues of winter operations, EU regulations, safety and security issues, sustainable transport and the environment and training, and adopt joint measures to promote Barents port services

WP 3 Heavy Transport on Rail

- Pilot project and an operation model for freight transport between Russia and the Nordic Countries. The project includes identifying and solving obstacles (technical, administrative, legislative and institutional) of cross-border transport using real, full-scale test train hauls. In addition, an operation model will be developed for improving cross-border freight transport
- Study of the N.E.W. Railway Corridor/Barents Link in the Barents region, which provides information for further deliberations between the EU, Nordic and Russian decision makers

WP 4 Road Transport

- Establishing the future road corridors of the Barents region by an investigation of the main industries' demand for road transport
- Second phase of the heavy vehicle winter safety project, which analyzes and recommends measures for safer heavy goods vehicle transport
- Road Information Exchange System (Barents Road Database). The subproject makes the existing Nordic road databases accessible over the Internet to all road authorities.

STBR II was completed in December 2007.

Change of chairmanship

The Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communication handed the chair of the BEATA Steering Committee over to the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation in the 30 October 2007 meeting in Helsinki. The Russian chairmanship term lasts for two years.

Mikko Ojajarvi
Chairman of
the BEATA Steering Committee
Helsinki, December 31, 2007

Martti Miettinen
Secretary of
the BEATA Steering Committee
Helsinki, December 31, 2007