



Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation
Department for Housing and Transport,
Division for Transport and Society

Minutes of meeting from BEATA Steering Committee Meeting 13 November 2017

List of participants:

Swedish delegation:

Annelie Mannertorn, (Chair) Special Advisor, Unit for Transport and Society, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Marija Milovic, Deputy Director, Secretariat for EU and international affairs, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Eva Ekmeahag, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Krister Palo, International Coordinator, Swedish Transport Administration

Delegation of the Russian Federation

Mr Sergey Andreev, Deputy Director of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of transport will be the head of the Russian delegation.

Maxim Ilyuhih, Ministry of Transport.

Nadezha Karkach, Chief Expert of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Transport

Delegation of Kingdom of Norway

Paal Iversen, Senior adviser, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Norway

Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

Agency of tourism,

Era-Glonass,

Translator.

Delegation of the Republic of Finland

Tuija Maanoja, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finland

International organizations

Thomas Hallberg, Director, International Barents Secretariat

Roman Gorakec, International Barents Secretariat

Oddgeir Danielsson, Director, NDPTL Secretariat

1) Welcome addresses and introductions

The Swedish delegation welcomed the participants of the BEATA Steering Committee to this first meeting via video under Swedish chairmanship.

The chair declared that this was a short first meeting during Swedish Chairmanship, with the aim of passing the chairmanship on and discuss on how to proceed with the Joint Barents Transport Plan.

The participants introduced themselves.

2) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was accepted by the participants. Annelie Mannertorn is also responsible for the chairmanship 2018 in the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics, (NDPTL) .

The Chairman thanked Russia for their achievements during their chairmanship.

The draft protocol from the meeting in St Petersburg will be circulated by mail and subject for approval in the next BEATA meeting.

Next meeting will be in March next year in the north of Sweden, Skellefteå.

3) Presentation of the BEATA Russian chairmanship

Mr Sergey Andreev, of the Russian Transport Ministry, gave an overview of the achievements of the Russian chairmanship.

It has included looking at satellite- and communications systems and training in the transportsector.

Transport and tourism has been discussed and a Russian hot spotmap has been developed.

The priorities of the Swedish chairmanship is very good areas. Important topics need to be processed before meetings.

The draft Joint Barents Transport Plan (JBTP) has been further developed and RU hope to see further progress.

An important progress was the infrastructural upgrade – the bridge between Murmansk and Kirkenes.

4) Presentation of the priorities of the Swedish chairmanship

The chair presented the over-all priorities of the Swedish chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC). Sweden is pursuing an agenda based on sustainable development, respect for human rights and gender equality. The emphasis will lie on enhancing people to people contacts, especially for young people. The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Paris Climate Agreement will provide the basis for our work.

The theme for the Swedish Chairmanship in BEATA is “Transport cooperation in the Barents-EuroArctic area for the future – innovative solutions for strengthened competitiveness and sustainable development”.

The more concrete aims are:

- Continue developing the cooperation with the countries and stakeholders concerned.
- Seek greater coordination and synergy between BEATA and Barents Regional Council and Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL).
- Promote transport policy objectives and strive for innovative, sustainable and efficient transport solutions in the region.
- Showcase Swedish solutions and innovations.
- Promote strategic and flexible planning of cross-border infrastructure measures and a well-functioning exchange of information on planned measures with countries concerned.
- Help reduce obstacles to transport flows in the region by highlighting challenges and changing experiences.
- Update and develop the draft Joint Barents Transport Plan (JBTP) in order to finalize at the end of the Swedish chairmanship..

On the subject of JBTP: It is the most important task for the Swedish chairmanship of BEATA. It is an important strategic document and it is of great value to having a dialogue and exchange of plans and hurdles in the transport area. It is necessary to give it a clearer structure, update the information and clarify the process on how to proceed. We need to identify on a common view on which the hurdles and bottlenecks are. It should be clear on what are national plans and what are only preliminary plans/or hopes from. Also clarify the role of the Regional Group in the process.

Regarding the plans of the BEATA meetings. A number of issues can be discussed as the following:

- Forecast models for cross-border transport flows. This is also an important way of integrating issues on tourism in the BEATA work.
- Road safety – Vision Zero (The Swedish Strategy for Road Safety which is well known outside our borders.) Road safety issues could be valuable taking into account the special conditions and challenges of the Barents region.

- Share Swedish experience in the four step principle in infrastructure investment and Strategic Choice of measures studies-

- Tourism and its connection to transports connections, where appropriate. The chair will be working together with the working group on tourism to see on how we can discuss issues connected to tourism and transport, and also further the work Russia has done in identifying tourism hot spots.

Activities and meetings under Swedish chairmanship:

BEATA Steering Committee preliminary plan is to have meetings twice per year in concerned regions Norrbotten or Västerbotten County. The meeting will be combined with seminars and study tours which concerns innovative and sustainable transport solutions.

The BEATA Steering Committee meetings are planning to coordinate meetings with the regional transport group if possible. As Sweden is chairing the NDP TL Steering Committee during 2018 there will further opportunities to seek synergies between BEATA and NDP TL in order to promote Barents cooperation in the field of transports. We will look into the possibilities of having The NDP TL Steering Committee meetings can be held in connection to the BEATA Steering Committee.

One meeting in March 2018: Skellefteå. Innovative autonomous vehicles in the mining industry combined with study visits.

Preliminary: October 2018 Kiruna. Joint seminar and study visit to Kiruna City, sustainable solutions for heavy rail and road transport. Cooperation with NDP TL (Chairmanship 2018).

Preliminary plans have meetings in spring 2019 in Luleå or Arvidsjaur/ Arjeplog and autumn 2019 in Umeå.

4) Comments from Norway, Finland and the secretariats of NDP TL and BEAC (Barents Secretariat).

The chair asked the delegations for short comments, and especially on the subject of JBTP.

Paal Iversen; Norway: The programme of the Swedish chairmanship are good and ambitious. NO support the focus on new technology and ITS. NO is looking forward to continue work with the JBTP. NO points out that it is important with a good process regarding JBTP and proposes to set up a working group to work with the draft. The plan will be an important contribution with a good structure.

Tuija Maanoja, Finland: Support Sweden's ambitions and programme. FI is prepared to work further on the JBTP and will engage several parties in the work. FI also support the synergy with NDPTL.

Sergey Andreev, Russia: The goals of Swedish chairmanship is good. Besides also important is the satellitesystems communication for search and rescue and tourism-transport connection. Russia agree on the importance on continued work on the JBTP. On 29 September the bridge Murmansk-Kirkenes was inaugurated which is a significant step in the transportsystem in the Barents area.

Tomas Hallberg, International Barents Secretariat: Support the idea of a small task force for finalizing JTBP. IBS also proposed to see how the Environmental Working Group has made their work visable with Action plan and identification of hotspots/bottlenecks

Oddgeir Danielsen, Secretariat of NDPTL: Supports the Swedish chairmanship and the ambition to avoid overlaps. Rapid technological development makes it necessary to work together. A Road Map will be decided on the NDPTL shortly. NDPTL has a focus on implementation.

5) Conclusions

The chair thanked the delegations for their comments. A Working Group has been proposed for the JPTP with the aim of developing the draft further. The draft will be subject for discussions in the next BEATA meeting and for a decision in late 2019.

At last the chair welcomed the delegations to Skellefteå in March 2018 with more indepth discussions.

