

Press-release

Barents Regional Council meeting in Kuusamo 29.5.2008

The Barents Regional Council held its meeting on 29.5.2008 in Kuusamo. Transportation and logistics related issues were the main theme of the meeting. The Regional Council decided by common consent to support transportation projects important for the region such as Salla-Kandalaksha railroad between Finland and Russia, the North Bothnia Line in Sweden and Tjernfjell tunnel in Northern Norway. There was a full consensus in the meeting regarding promotion of these projects. The development of transportation infrastructure is a prerequisite for the development of the region's industry and trades, people-to-people cooperation and flexibility and safety of transportation.

The meeting had also political discussion on the future of the Barents cooperation and preparation of the regional Barents Programme. High priority was given to utilisation of natural resources and promotion of related logistical solutions as important subjects of future cooperation and common interest promotion.

In addition the Regional Council decided in its meeting to accept the region of North Karelia as an observer in the Barents Regional Council. At this stage there was no political consensus for North Karelia's full membership.

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