

**Protocol No. 18**  
**Meeting of the Steering Committee of**  
**the Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area**  
**Date: October 14, 2008**  
**Place: Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation**

**Members present:** Tuija Maanoja, Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications, Martti Miettinen, Secretary of the BEATA Steering Committee, Finland, Kjell Rosanoff, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Norway; Per Bjoern Holm-Varsi, Director of Transport and Communication Department, Finmark County authority, Norway, Bo Erik Ekblom, Chief transportation officer, County administrative board of Norrbotten, Sweden, Mikhail Maslov, Elena Kushnirenko, Lubov Smirnova, Roman Yunusov, Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation;

**Other participants:** Alexander Zaboev, Head of the Division of the Scientific Centre of Complex Transport Problem; Alexander Ignatiev, Head of the International Barents Secretariat; Andrey Chernishev, Head of the Division of Customs Cooperation Directorate, Federal Customs Service; Inna Tarisheva, Third Secretary of the Second European Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Russian Federation; Dmitry Bazegsky, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Karelia; Viktor Dosenko, First Vice-President, International Transport Academy; Vadim Finashin, Head of the Directorate of Industrial-production Zones, Federal Agency for Management of Special Economic Zones.

### **§1 Opening of the Meeting**

Mr. Maslov opened the meeting.

The meeting agenda (Appendix 1) was adopted.

### **§2 Development of transport infrastructure at CBER countries**

At the meeting the current situation and problems of the development of the transport system of the Euro-Arctic Barents region on the whole and of certain regions/provinces within the CBER region, were discussed. The representatives of the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Republic of Finland informed the members of the Steering Committee about the results of the implementation of transport development national programs.

The representative of the Russian Federation informed the participants of the Steering Committee that the draft of a new Transport Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period until 2030 was elaborated and that it would be considered at the meeting of the Government of the Russian Federation on October 22, 2008 in Novosibirsk. According to the draft Strategy development of the transport system of

the Russian industrially developed areas of the Barents Euro-Arctic regions will be aimed at dynamic, innovative growth of economy and transport-economic relations. Development of the Northern regions of the European Russia, having the highest resource potential and underpopulation, will be aimed at the development of new mineral deposits, including those on the continental shelf, and improvement of the quality of peoples' life. The key priorities of the new Transport Strategy of the Russian Federation are also significant improvement of the traffic safety level, provision of transport safety as well as the sustainable abatement of harmful transport impact on the environment. It is a very important aspect for the Barents Euro-Arctic region. After that the representative of the Russian Federation outlined the major projects, related to the development of transport infrastructure in the Russian part of the Barents Euro-Arctic region, including modernization and construction of roads and railroads, as well as development of infrastructure of seaports and airports.

The representative of the Kingdom of Norway informed the participants about his country's policy in transport system development, volumes of funds allocated, attracting new investments and the realization project of five infrastructure projects for the 5-year period. Also he stressed that it is very important not to duplicate the work within the BEATA Steering Committee and within the «Northern dimension» Partnership.

The representative of Finland Republic informed about the efforts made for the development of infrastructure of border-crossing points, improvement of their operation and measures to reduce waits of motor transport at the Russian-Finnish border. Particularly she dwelt upon the railroad transport issues, welcomed the opening of the Ledmozero-Kochkoma line for international traffic and proposed to intensify efforts on the building of a new Sala-Kandalaksha line, which should considerably promote regional connections between Finland and Russia in the West-East direction. According to the representative of Finland, the policy pursued by the European Union on the promotion of competition and the liberalization of access to the railroad transportation market plays the key role for the growth of railroad transport competitiveness and the increased contribution of the railway transport to regional development. She also mentioned the important role, which the «Northern Dimension» Partnership plays for the development of logistics and freight traffic in the BEATA region.

The representative of the Kingdom of Sweden introduced the transport infrastructure development projects, which were being elaborated by the countries' Government. He mentioned that by 2012 the project on «Happaranda» motorway modernization and the construction of new railroad lines would be implemented. Also the representative of the Kingdom of Sweden informed, that in the long-run period it is planned to attract investments for the development of transport infrastructure in major cities. He presented the budget plan for the twelve-year period, where half of allocated funds will be directed to the realization of the existing projects.

The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation mentioned, that the Steering Committee for BEATA is one of the leading groups among other 14 CBER working groups and joint CBER working groups. Also she

underlined the importance of integrating efforts within different one-type CBER working groups and participation of representatives of different working groups in the work of other groups.

Alexander Ignatiev, Head of the Barents Council Secretariat, informed the participants about its work. He informed about the objectives and tasks of the Council, its structure and current activities. In particular, Internet-sites [www.barents.info](http://www.barents.info) and [www.beac.st](http://www.beac.st), are established and supported. They provide for the implementation of the information strategy in the CBER region and accessibility of any CBER documents, including those on transport for officials and business representatives. All the Steering Committees and working groups were granted their own personal pages on the information Internet-site. The Barents Council Secretariat is situated in Kirkenes (Norway). Alexander Ignatiev called on the participants of the Steering Committee to participate fully in the development of the Internet-site.

### **§3. Development of further cooperation between BEATA countries in the sphere of transport – draft programme of cooperation between BEATA countries**

In accordance with the existing practice the Russian Federation, as a presiding party, represented the draft of BEATA Action Programme for 2009.

The first and the second Programmes of Action for Barents Euro-Arctic Pan-European Transport Area (BEATA) development were drawn up in two time sections (for a five-year-period and for an annual period). Hereby, in five-year action plans the long-term cooperation terms of the Parties were specified, which reflected the objectives, fixed in the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area in Copenhagen signed on May 26<sup>th</sup>,1998. At the same time annual programmes are of small duration for reflecting even short-term interests of the Parties on the development of Barents Euro-Arctic region transport system. Taking into account the abovementioned and the realization practice of such programmes it would be more efficient to elaborate two-year Action Programmes, coinciding with a chairmanship time period of one of the Memorandum Parties.

Draft of the Action Programme proposed by the Russian party specifies directions of the Parties' cooperation for the realization of the objectives identified by the Memorandum and concrete arrangements for the implementation of these cooperation directions, fixed, in particular, in the conception of the chairmanship of the Russian Federation at BEATA.

The Parties adopted the proposed draft of BEATA Action Programme for 2009 (Appendix 3)

### **§4. Continuation of STBR 2**

In December 2007 the 2nd phase of the implementation of the project «Sustainable transport in the Barents region» reached its completion. The Parties stressed,

that STBR project, including its 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, had made a valuable contribution to the process of development of cooperation in the sphere of transport at Barents region.

In this respect it was decided that all conditions are available for the implementation of the STBR3 project under the new European programme.

The Parties informed that they had already prepared all the documents for the participation in the STBR3 project. Only the Russian Federation is still expected to confirm its participation. The representatives of the Russian federation mentioned that they would inform its position concerning the participation in the STBR3 project earliest possible.

### **§5 Appointment of the date of the next meeting**

The next BEATA Steering Committee meeting and the Conference «Cooperation of CBER countries in the sphere of trade, transport and customs procedures towards promotion of international transportation and simplification of cross-border procedures in the Euro-Arctic Barents region» will be held in the beginning of June, 2008 in Archangelsk, Russian Federation.

Taking into account that one of the objectives of the Parties' cooperation is the development of cooperation between the regions of BEATA countries the Russian Party paid other Parties' attention to the necessity to invite representatives of business and scientific communities of the Parties for the participation in the Conference.

### **§6 Closing of the Meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting

Appendix:

1. Meeting agenda №18
2. Protocol №17
3. Action Plan 2009