

Within the framework of the chairmanship of the Russian Federation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) on October 15, 2008 the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation with the assistance of the Saint-Petersburg Government held the Conference «Development of Cooperation between the BEAC Member-States in the Sphere of Road Transport».

The theme of the Conference is of current interest for all the BEAC member countries, because cargo turnover and international road transportation increase from year to year. For example, in the period 2005-2007 cargo turnover between Russia and Finland is as follows: 2005 – 4667,0 thousands of tons; 2006 – 5231,8 thousands of tons; 2007 – 5976,1 thousands of tons, between Russia and Norway: 2005 – 54,5 thousands of tons; 2006 – 41,14 thousands of tons; 2007 – 57,0 thousands of tons, between Russia and Sweden: 2005 – 49,6 thousands of tons; 2006 – 58,0 thousands of tons; 2007 – 81,5 thousands of tons.

The Conference was held with the participation of the representatives of transport and trade authorities of BEAC countries (Russia, Sweden, Norway and Finland), the representatives of business and scientific communities of BEAC countries, representatives of Federal Customs Service of Russia, the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation as well as representatives of Nenets Autonomous Okrug, the Republic of Karelia, the Republic of Komi, Archangelsk and Vologodsk oblasts of the Russian Federation.

At the Conference the participants discussed issues concerning the development of international road transportation and road infrastructure at Barents Euro-Arctic region, and the ways of solutions.

The participants mentioned that technical and administrative problems are among the major problems, existing in international road transportation. The Conference testified, that such meetings promote development of recommendations to eliminate the existing barriers, as well as development of cooperation between the regions of BEAC countries and their business sectors.