



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE BARENTS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Towards a Smarter and Greener Barents Transport System

The transport system of the Barents Region has been developed primarily for north-south transport. There are significant possibilities to increase the transport potential using east-west directions. The future opportunities for tourism and industries to be located and operating in the Barents Region are dependent on how the transport and logistic systems are developed.

The continuation of the *Barents Joint Transport Plan* is therefore a priority, strengthening east-west transport connections (cargo and passenger traffic) in the Barents region, bearing in mind traditional livelihood.

The implementation of intelligent transportation systems (ITS) is important. This in order to increase safety and mobility as well as reducing environmental impact of transportation. Such a system would also allow for better information gathering regarding transportation of goods. The trend towards the reduction of fossil fuels and zero-emission technology is strong. ITS combined with new technology gives us a new mind-set when planning our smarter and greener infrastructure.

The Council endorses the work done and being done by governmental and regional transport authorities on implementation of the Joint Barents Transport Plan. The Council encourage national authorities to further strengthen their commitment.

The Council welcomes initiatives aimed at the development of navigation and intermodal transports in the Barents region bearing in mind future opportunities with regard to increased transport to and from Asia along the Northern Sea Route as well as rail and road.

Syktyvkar, September 27, 2018