



**Joint Declaration
of the BEAC Transport Ministerial Meeting
on Transport Development in the Barents Region**

(June 21, 2016, Arkhangelsk)

On June 21, 2016, the Transport Ministerial Meeting of the Barents/ Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) took place in Arkhangelsk (the Russian Federation). The Meeting was chaired by Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation M.Yu. Sokolov.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached.

In the course of the Meeting:

The Parties, governed by the provisions of the BEAC fundamental documents and seeking to implement the main objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding on the development of the Euro-Arctic Barents Pan-European Transport Area, in a friendly and constructive atmosphere, **have exchanged views** on the state and prospects of the development of multilateral transport cooperation in the BEAC framework.

The heads of the delegations **have stressed** that transport plays an important role in economic and social development of the Barents Region, noting the importance of taking into account environmental protection issues and public interests when developing national transport strategies of the BEAC countries.

The Parties **have confirmed** their priority attention, which is focused on the creation of the Barents integrated transport system, continuation of the work on implementation of mutually beneficial initiatives in the fields of transport, infrastructure and logistics having practical capacity, and on the further strengthening the existing international cooperation in these areas.

The heads of the delegations **have stressed** that the development of transport infrastructure and implementation of joint projects in the field of transport, logistics and communications will significantly expand the trade volumes, would give significant impetus to the development of the mutually coordinated regional system of transport routes in the Barents Region.

The Parties **have noted** that the efficient and smooth functioning of the regional transport system is dependent on optimization of cross-border procedures in accordance with the best international practices.

An essential aspect is the systematic approach to addressing issues of protection of the unique Arctic environment of the northern regions in the course of construction, reconstruction and maintenance of transport infrastructure.

The Parties **have noted** the importance of implementation of general-interest joint projects aimed at creating modern transport links in the Region and implementation of advanced and innovative technologies in transport.

The heads of the delegations **have recognized** the importance of active involvement of the business community in preparation of proposals for implementation of the transport projects, promoting development of the Region, including through public-private partnership mechanisms.

The Parties **have noted** that the passenger service is an important aspect for the development of domestic and international tourism and, consequently, the improvement of the population well-being in the Region.

The Parties **have noted** that benefits of development of the transport infrastructure, technology and regulation will help speed up the movement of goods and passengers, and will lead to the increased trade and tourism. New technologies and digitalisation in particular, can create opportunities for increasing the volumes, efficiency and security of the transport infrastructure, and offer better transport services for business and leisure travelers. The ability of the transport sector both to influence and react to these factors will determine the efficiency and effectiveness, as well as the stability of the transport and tourism sectors.

The Parties **recognize** that the development of the maritime industry requires improvement of cooperation between stakeholders in the transport sector within the framework of promoting efficient, sustainable maritime trade and passenger traffic, environment protection and improvement of the safety and reliability of maritime transport.

The Parties **consider** it appropriate to exchange information in the field of transport safety, innovation and intelligent transport systems.

Given the growing attractiveness of the Barents Region for international tourism, the Parties **have agreed** that high-quality, reliable, safe and cost-effective transportation is crucial for the tourism industry development and that transport services and infrastructure should be designed to meet the needs of all travellers.

The parties **have welcomed** the synergy of various international formats of interaction in decision-making regarding the development of the transport component of the Barents Region.

Based on the Meeting results, the following agreements have been reached:

The Parties **will continue** the implementation of measures aimed at creating an effective transport infrastructure and transport links in the North of Europe to promote the development of trade, mobility and tourism, as well as to improve the overall well-being of the population in the BEAC countries.

The Parties **will continue** to discuss possible initiatives aimed at the development of navigation and intermodal transports in the Region, including through the Northern Sea Route.

The Parties **will continue** to work on the development of cooperation in the field of air transport, in particular through cooperation in the field of air navigation, exchanging best practices in creation and management of international airports and considering the possibilities to enhance conditions for airlines/airspace users to open new cost-efficient air routes in the Barents Region.

The Parties **have underlined** the importance of fluent border crossings. The parties **have agreed** to continue the work on synergy of the transport and tourism sectors in the BEAC framework.

In order to improve traffic safety on the BEATA transport corridors being currently formed, the Parties **will continue** the work on implementation of emergency response systems in case of accidents, having paid their attention to the issues of application of the ERA-GLONASS and E-Call systems. The Parties **have agreed** to explore the interoperability of these systems.

The parties have agreed that the issues of training and retraining of specialists for the transport sector, working in the Arctic, should be adequately reflected in the agenda of the BEAC.

The Parties have noted the upcoming Finnish chairmanship of the Arctic Council and will continue to cooperate in developing arctic transport connections as well as safe maritime operations.

The heads of delegations take note of the positive development of the transport system in the region since the first draft of Joint Barents Transport Plan in 2013 and welcome the further activities aimed at creating an effective transport system in BEATA. Development of the transport routes in the Barents region should reflect the needs of the local population, enterprises and transport operators, as well as climatic and geographical features.

The parties **will continue** to work on coordination of activity with other regional formats in the sphere of transport, in particular, the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL).

The Parties **will continue** to work to address issues of this Declaration in the framework of the next BEAC Transport Ministerial Meeting, the date and venue of which will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

The Parties **have expressed** their gratitude to the BEATA Steering Committee for the work on the elaboration of the draft Joint Barents Transport Plan.

The parties **have expressed** their gratitude to the Russian side for the warm reception and excellent organization of the event.

Done at the city of Arkhangelsk on June 21, 2016.