

Joint political statement of Euroregion Baltic regarding the ongoing revision of the TEN transport corridors in Europe.

The Directorate-General for transport and Energy (DG TREN) of the EU Commission invited stakeholders from all over Europe to give their comments on the “Green paper” on the TEN-T until the 30th of April 2009. The Commission have announced that they will send out a message on the strategy for the future TEN-T policy first quarter 2010.

In accordance with the Euroregion Baltic Joint Transnational Development Program, the Council of ERB will take political actions in order to highlight new facts (that were not known at the time) that should be considered within the review of the TEN-T policy.

Since 30th of April several key conditions changed and ERB would highlight these to the Commission and national authorities concerned.

Within the ERB area two Motorways of the Sea projects have recently been approved. This means that the two links Karlshamn (SE) – Klaipeda (LT) and Karlskrona (SE) – Gdynia (PL) are seen envisage as high priority links within the TEN-T network. However the two Swedish ports and Klaipeda port have no priority connections to the TEN-T network (Nordic Triangle and Rail Baltica).

From a European point of view it is of utmost importance that Euroregion Baltic area will be a fully integrated part in the European multimodal transport network. In consequence:

- The Baltic Link from Gothenburg to Warsaw via Karlskrona and Gdynia must be included in the prioritised TEN-T network, in other words connection to the Nordic Triangle.
- The East West Transport Corridor from Denmark to Vilnius via Karlshamn and Klaipeda/Kaliningrad must be included in the prioritised TEN-T network, in other words connection to the Nordic Triangle and Rail Baltica.

Other members of the ERB are given the opportunity to submit new data on the regional routes of common interest which should be a priority.

In line with the above, ERB council strongly support the upgrading of the connections between the Swedish ports Karlshamn and Karlskrona to the Nordic Triangle and the connection between the Lithuania port in Klaipeda to Rail Baltica. Further the ERB will highlight the importance of the Polish routes from the ports of Gdynia / Gdansk down to Brno// Bratislava – Vienna.