

## **Summary / short report from meeting of NSC Transport group in Aberdeen on 19 February**

24 persons from 12 member regions in Scotland, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, including the NSC Secretariat and the Presidency attended the meeting. 10 of the participants were politicians and seven were new comers.

The group discussed and provided input to the ongoing process of developing the work of the North Sea Commission which was initiated by the ExCom in November last year.

The meeting supported an initiative from the Adviser to mobilise inactive NSC member regions in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and the UK for participation in the Transport group. The idea is that members of the group's chairmanship and the Adviser will organise road shows in the mentioned countries to inform about the work of the group.

The participants exchanged information and experiences on recent transport developments, such as plans, strategies, infrastructure projects, investments and regulatory schemes etc. in the member regions. Much is going on in the NSC member regions in terms of strategy development, input to national transport planning, big infrastructure projects on rail and road and introduction of zero/low emission buses in public transport. The meeting decided to exchange information on how NSC member regions manage simultaneous charging of many electric cars at big parking lots.

The meeting then addressed the key activities in the NSC Action plan.

An officer from Aberdeen City presented current projects and initiatives on sustainable transport

The task holders for clean transport presented a draft final version of the report on "alternative fuels in public transport and other transport services" which was adopted by the meeting. In the first half of the March the final version will be distributed to various external stakeholders – including the CPMR, the Interreg North Sea Region Programme Secretariat, representatives of related projects, DG Move and to European transport networks (CIVITAS, Polis). The group will also consider how the report could be used in support of the action plan for the new NSR 2030 strategy.

The meeting adopted an outline for mapping of the uptake of automated/autonomous, intelligent and new mobility solutions, and member regions are invited to provide input by 1 June. The purpose of this mapping is to benchmark practices and facilitate for mutual learning between the member regions. The mapping is also meant to serve as a knowledge-resource for developing ideas and identifying partners for EU-projects within this field. The report will furthermore function as a basis for influencing policy and regulation at the EU, national and regional levels, and showcase the North Sea region as a frontrunner in terms of developing or applying innovative mobility solutions.

Hilde Johanne Svensen from Møre og Romsdal and Øystein Hunvik from Vestland were welcomed as new task holders for clean shipping. They informed about recent policy developments and shared some ideas about relevant activities the group could perform. Members from non-Norwegian regions are urgently requested to volunteer for the clean shipping team, and national ExCom members are requested to assist in the mobilisation of relevant members from the respective countries.

The meeting discussed how to progress with the work of contributing to the TEN-T revision. It was decided to develop a pro format for demonstrating the societal impacts of the different links and corridors which are being promoted by the NSC. The group will furthermore apply for funding from the NSC Executive Committee for production of promotional material and for organising events at the EU TEN-T Days in Croatia 13 – 15 May.

The meeting decided to develop arguments in support of including the policy objective on transport in the new Interreg Programme for the North Sea Region as the EC Orientation Paper does not recommend to include this objective. The arguments will be included in a joint NSC statement on the orientation of the new programme which will be submitted to the upcoming ExCom meeting in April for validation.