Current State of Play

For the first time since 2013, the European Commission has launched the revision of the Trans European Transport Network (TEN-T). The TEN-T revision offers an opportunity to make the network more sustainable, smart and resilient and, above all, to connect all European regions. This is a unique opportunity to make one of the key priorities of the CPMR North Sea Commission a reality: A Connected North Sea Region.

The European Commission’s (December 2021) proposal made important steps to this end. The Council’s General Approach (December 2022) and the European Parliament’s position (April 2023) set out their respective ambitions for an improved TEN-T regulation. The currently ongoing trilogues are the last step of the revision process. On 18 December the next, and possibly last, round of negotiations will take place.

Our Ambition

The North Sea Region is a major transport hub, vital for competitiveness and sustainable growth in Europe. The TEN-T revision should be seen as a chance to maximize the potential of our region for the benefit of Europe as a whole. Seamless cross-border transport corridors is an important condition to boost such cooperation. This is why ambitious infrastructural projects such as the Green Jutland Corridor (Padborg-Hirtshals/Fredrikshavn and linking the Danish and the Norwegian ports), the Fehmarnbelt tunnel and the Lelyline (Amsterdam-Groningen), CEF Flagship project Wunderline (Groningen-Bremen) have our top priority. We are committed to contributing to the development of these transport corridors (in line with the requirements/goals of the TEN-T guidelines) in cooperations with stakeholders along the corridor (for example the Green Jutland corridor-project, an Interreg-project).

HOW CAN THE TEN-T REVISION CONTRIBUTE TO A CONNECTED NORTH SEA REGION?

- The new railway line from Amsterdam to Groningen (NL) – Lelyline – to be included in the extended core network as a crucial part of the existing missing link in the TEN-T network between Amsterdam and Hamburg.
- To include the Oslo (NO) - Stockholm (SE) railway in the European Transport Corridor ScanMed.
- Upgrade the Rail/RoadTerminal in Padborg (DK) to the Core network.
- The ports of Hanstholm and Skagen (DK) to be included in the comprehensive network.
- Consider adding urban nodes to the TEN-T maps for Norway in the process of updating the maps and in dialogue with the Norwegian Government.
- The port of Den Helder (NL) to be included in the comprehensive network because of the important role the port plays as a gateway towards offshore energy hubs.
- We are pleased that the Jutland corridor to Hirtshals/Fredrikshavn (DK) is now part of the ScanMed, and we urge governments and other stakeholders to contribute to the development of the Jutland corridor in Denmark and Norway (depicted with orange lines on the map).

What can you do to help?

The European Commission and the European Parliament have introduced a variety of extensions of the current TEN-T network which will strengthen the entire network and the connectivity of our North Sea Region. However, any changes to the maps of the network depend on the support of the national ministries. We therefore call upon all national governments involved to support the above changes to the network during the final stages of the negotiations. Will you help to connect our region?