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European Commission
Directorate General for Energy and Transport
TEN-T
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**RESPONSE BY THE ASSOCIATION OF FINNISH LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES
to the consultation on the Green Paper: TEN-T – Towards a better integrated Trans-
European transport network at the service of the common transport policy**

The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (AFLRA) would like to draw attention to the following issues in the formulation of the future Trans-European transport network (TEN-T) policy:

- When strengthening the overall competitiveness of Europe, special attention should be paid to a comprehensive European-wide transport network and an increased accessibility of the northern parts of Europe to EU central markets. This would not only ensure these countries the opportunity for economic growth, but would also secure future access to raw materials and energy supply in the Northern peripheral regions and the third countries.
- Well-functioning, safe and sustainable transport networks, interoperability of different transport systems and interlinked intelligent transport systems play a very important role in fostering regional competitiveness and territorial cohesion in different European macro-regions like the Baltic Sea Region.
- Intraregional and East-West connections and the concept of the "Motorways of the Seas" need to be further developed. Special attention should be paid to smooth border-crossings and transport connections to Russia, especially in the southern and northern parts of Finland. Finland's remote location and long distances call for a sufficiently dense network and efficient and flexible transport routes.
- Securing safe transport modes on land, sea and air, reducing harmful emissions and taking care of the vulnerable Baltic Sea ecosystem should also be the key principles for developing guidelines for future TEN-T policy in the Baltic Sea Region.
- New mechanisms to promote the implementation of traffic networks have to be developed to ensure an efficient implementation of the existing plans.

From the regional policy perspective, the aim of territorial cohesion is to coordinate different sectoral policies and their impact in a coherent way and to ensure a balanced polycentric development based on every region's own needs, strengths and development capacity. Functional, cost-efficient and sustainable transport networks are of vital importance in pursuing the basic goals of the Cohesion policy: removing barriers to growth and fostering territorial cooperation.

In the Baltic Sea Region, the Member States have a key role in identifying the challenges posed by increased maritime traffic. The Motorways of the Seas links

the Baltic Sea Member States with Central and Western Europe through sustainable transport links. The Member States should together consider efficient ways to coordinate the implementation of land-sea-land traffic networks and the use of different funding sources. The development of new structures for the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region would provide a good and efficient way to organise the cooperation in implementing the future TEN-T policy.

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The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (AFLRA) consists of all the towns and municipalities in Finland. The Association also provides services to hospital districts, regional councils and joint municipal authorities. The Association provides services in Finland's two national languages – Finnish and Swedish. The Association's goal is to promote the opportunities for local authorities to operate and co-operate and to enhance their vitality and viability for the benefit of the residents. The Association's vision for the future encompasses the core values of the Finnish welfare society: good basic services, living democracy and sustainable environment.