

Comments from the TransportGroup on the consultation on the future trans-European network policy

The TransportGroup (TransportGruppen) is an organisation for co-operation of industry and employer's associations in the transport sector, including the motor trade and petroleum industry. Our eight member associations draw adherence from all transport modes, covering both passenger transport and movement of freight. The TransportGroup represents 12 000 member companies which have around 170 000 employees, and is therefore the main focal point for transport business in Sweden.

The TransportGroup would like to take the opportunity of expressing our views in this public consultation concerning the "*Commission working document – Consultation on the future Trans-European transport network policy.*"

The core network must be based on existing flows of cargo

The stable flows of cargo throughout Europe are essential for the industry when it comes to providing transport solutions and they must be the basis on which governments plan the infrastructure measures. Considering the importance of these flows, the core network which is suggested to be incorporated in the Member States infrastructure is a welcome change in the TEN-T revision, providing there is a dialogue with the industry regarding which strategic links and nodes that should be included. The element of top down-approach could however be an efficient way to secure the vital flows of freight, within the union as well as in connection to third countries.

Furthermore, in order to optimize the European transport system, it is important to have a European perspective to the core network instead of focusing on regional solutions. The effects of the TEN-T are therefore preferably measured on a national and European basis rather than on a regional.



The TransportGroup is strongly involved in the Swedish Green Corridor project which has achieved recognition within the EU. Green Corridors are well in line with the idea of the core network and we therefore advocate that Green Corridors are an integral part of the future TEN-T.

ITS may complement measures in the physical infrastructure and efficiently improve the transport system within a reasonable timeframe

An efficient transport system is essential for achieving sustainable and competitive industry and service sectors as well as for securing the undisturbed movement of persons and goods within the EU.

The TransportGroup would like to stress the importance of building strategic infrastructure within a reasonable timeframe. In general, the planning and the construction of infrastructure is a slow process, guided by mandatory legislation in the fields of environment and spatial planning. In addition, administrative processes and issues of funding et cetera lead to delays in the construction process. The problems that we have in this respect in Sweden are currently being investigated by a government committee and will hopefully be addressed. Therefore, the TransportGroup strongly advocates that TEN-T projects are built within the timeframes that are foreseen and that delays due to national planning processes should be avoided. In other words, we would like to see that TEN-T projects were given a higher priority in the planning of Member States.

In addition to building new infrastructure connecting strategic nodes and links, effective support systems, such as ITS, can improve efficiency and further help eliminate bottlenecks in the transport system, for passengers as well as freight. We welcome the emphasis on innovative infrastructure measures in the Commission working paper and we believe that focussing on ITS and new technologies is equally important as physical infrastructure.

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