



CPMR BALTIC SEA
COMMISSION

Adapting to a changing geopolitical landscape: the future of transport in the Baltic Sea Region and wider Europe

Joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Scandria Alliance and the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Transport Working Group in Helsinki, Finland on 6 November 2023

The member cities and regions of the Scandria®Alliance and the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Transport Working Group gathered in Helsinki, Finland for internal meetings on 6 November 2023 and a joint conference on 7 November 2023.

In light of the challenging geopolitical context and its consequences, the members of the Scandria®Alliance and the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Transport Working Group:

- recognise the major challenges related to transport, logistics, security of supply, and the overall geopolitical unrest that regions bordering Russia or Belarus are facing following the Russian aggression against Ukraine;
- express their solidarity with these regions and offer to deepen the cross-border and transnational cooperation and connectivity with them.

The members of the Scandria®Alliance and the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Transport Working Group:

- emphasise the strategic importance of the prolongation of the Scandinavian-Mediterranean (ScanMed) and North Sea – Baltic (NSB) Transport Corridors to Northern Scandinavia, which has already taken place, and warmly welcome the upcoming inclusion of the stretch Oslo-Stockholm in the ScanMed Corridor as proposed by the Council of the EU in its general approach to and the European Parliament in its report on the revised TEN-T regulation;
- highlight the growing strategic importance of the ScanMed and NSB Corridors – as well as the connections between them – for fostering the security of supply and passenger transport to all corridor regions, while at the same time meeting military and cross-border transport needs in the new geopolitical reality, ensuring no bottlenecks from the Baltic Sea Region down to continental Europe;
- stress the need to strengthen the opportunities for east-west transport in Scandinavia, between Finland, Sweden and Norway;
- welcome the addition of the new nodes proposed by the European Commission and the EU co-legislators, however, call for integration of functionally important urban nodes, terminals and ports still missing in the TEN-T network;



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- express their concern about the worsening climate crisis and underline the need to accelerate the decarbonisation of the transport sector, in line with EU climate objectives and the Green Deal, in order to mitigate climate change and at the same time to ensure that our infrastructure is adapted to the inevitable consequences of a changed climate;
- underline the need for holistic and integrated approaches to transport planning in order to improve the ecological, economic and social sustainability and resilience of our transport system while improving the accessibility and competitiveness of European regions and strengthening the resilience of the transport system regarding crises, including geopolitical challenges and climate change.

With a view to this, the members of the Scandria® Alliance and the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Transport Working Group call on decision-makers at national and European levels to:

- work vigorously towards a strong Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) 3 Transport programme with a budget that corresponds to the objectives set in the revised TEN-T regulation, with a strong focus on transforming towards a more sustainable and resilient transport sector;
- involve cities and regions in the design, governance and implementation of the future generation of European transport and cohesion policies for post-2027 in line with the principles of multi-level governance and subsidiarity to build a prosperous and resilient Europe;
- reinforce the focus on developing cross-border links, hinterland connections, as well as transport bottlenecks in the European transport network, in particular the rail network, by earmarking adequate funding in European and national programmes in order to increase the resilience of the overall network and to realise the imminent potential for the accessibility as well as spatial and regional development of corridor regions;
- support and strengthen the growing role of urban nodes, including their functional urban areas, for the European transport network, being catalyst and innovation hubs for the green transition of the mobility sector, but also bottlenecks on the TEN-T, by earmarking adequate funding to urban nodes in European and national programmes;
- foster the development of green and multimodal freight transport through a coherent and ambitious policy framework and adequate support schemes for the further deployment of clean, alternative fuels, including upscaling, and by improving the framework conditions for combined and multimodal transport chains, in line with the "Fit for 55" package objectives of the Greening Freight Package, recently presented by the European Commission in July 2023;
- foster EU support in research and development to enable the development of new technologies in the transport sector contributing to the decarbonisation of the transport sector and promoting sustainable and smart mobility, as well as innovative transport modes that are affordable for their users.

The cities and regions represented in the Scandria® Alliance and the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Transport Working Group are committed to increase the resilience of the European transport network by:

- fostering the exchange of information and know-how between European regions;
- coordinating relevant stakeholders within their regions;



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- supporting and initiating cross-border and transnational cooperation projects, policies, strategies, platforms and fora;
- developing common positions and conveying them to relevant decision-makers;
- being in constructive dialogue with all parties concerned, such as the European Parliament, the European Commission, Member States and the actors of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The following cities and regions are represented in the Scandria® Alliance General Assembly and the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Transport Working Group:

- *Association Of Estonian Cities And Municipalities*
- *Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg*
- *Eastern Norway County Network*
- *Gävleborg*
- *Gotland*
- *Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg*
- *Helsinki-Uusimaa*
- *Jämtland Härjedalen*
- *Kvarken Council EGTC*
- *Kymenlaakso*
- *Lapland*
- *Mecklenburg-Vorpommern*
- *Norrbotten*
- *Örebro*
- *Ostrobothnia*
- *Oulu Region*
- *Östergötland*
- *Päijät-Häme*
- *Skåne*
- *South-West Finland*
- *Turku*
- *Region Stockholm*
- *Värmland*
- *Västerbotten*

Both bodies adopted this Joint Resolution in their respective internal meetings in Helsinki on 6 November 2023.