

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRES OF FINLAND

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS OF FINLAND

22.3.2001

Invitation

The Finnish Chair of the Arctic Council invites the representatives of the Ministries/Departments of Transportation in the Arctic Council Member States, of the EU, and of the permanent representatives to **the Arctic Transportation Workshop for Governmental Experts**.

The aim of the Arctic Transportation Workshop is to discuss the interest and need for cooperation between the transportation officials of the Arctic Council member states and find ways to define at the governmental level a common approach for the development of transportation in the Arctic Regions.

The Arctic Transportation Workshop for Governmental Experts will be held in Tornio/ Finland - Haparanda/Sweden, September 26-27, 2001.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Wednesday, Sept 26

A.M. Arrival

14.00-18.30 Arctic Transportation Workshop:

- introductory statement
    - presentation of background paper(s)
  - interventions from participants
  - debate on the ways forward and conclusions
- 19.30 Reception & Dinner

Thursday, Sept 27

09.00-10.00 Possible continuation of the Workshop

10.00-13.00 Excursion

13.30-14.00 Lunch

P.M. Departure

Enclosed please find Draft 1 of " Sustainable Transportation in the Arctic Regions and the Development of Infrastructure". We appreciate if you can provide us with your comments on the Draft 1 report **not later than May 20, 2001**. We will update and prepare the final version of the document for distribution to the participants in beginning of June 2001.

We will present our plans to the SAOs at their meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting the SAOs will give their initial guidance for future work on transportation and infrastructure issues.

The Arctic Transportation Workshop for Governmental Experts will report to the SAO in November 2001, which is foreseen to decide on the ways forward

The language of the seminar is English. Russian translation will be provided.

General Secretary of the workshop will be Mr. Martti Miettinen. email

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Please contact Mr Mattsson email [kaj-peter.mattsson@mintc.fi](mailto:kaj-peter.mattsson@mintc.fi) and phone +358-9-1602523 or Mr Miettinen for further information.

Heikki Puurunen Kaj-Peter Mattsson

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