

October 15 , 2001

CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIR OF THE ARCTIC TRANSPORT WORKSHOP FOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS TORNIO – HAPARANDA, SEPTEMBER 26, 2001

On the invitation of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Finland, the governmental experts on Arctic Transportation of Canada, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United States, and the European Commission convened in Tornio – Haparanda, September 26, 2001, within the framework of the Arctic Council for the first time to discuss the issues of arctic transportation, to identify areas of cooperation and to find ways forward pursuant to sustainable transportation development in the Arctic.

The Governmental Experts on Arctic Transportation

- Took note of already existing and wide regional or bilateral cooperation in transportation and gave their support to the ongoing projects and programs, such as the Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area process between the Nordic countries, the EU and Russia; ARCOP - the Northern Maritime Corridor project between the EU countries, Norway and Russia; the Arctic Bridge and Polar Air Routes projects developed and implemented by USA, Russian Federation and Canada ; East-West Air Routes and Northern Sea Route priority projects of the Northern Forum and the CAPSTONE – project by the US/FAA being tested in Alaska.
- Endorsed the ongoing processes with the aim to attract global attention to the state of arctic environment and transportation such as the start-up of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and Protection of Marine Environment (PAME).
- Confirmed the need and wish for wider international cooperation in arctic transportation so as to ensure sustainable development, including the consideration of the effects of global change on transportation infrastructures especially in those areas that must adjust to major changes in permafrost distribution and degradation.
- Recognised the need to address the risks of the increasing maritime transportation as a consequence of new oil and gas exploration and production in the Barents Sea, North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean.

- Agreed to strengthen actively both bilateral, multilateral and inter-regional dialogue and exchange of views on arctic transportation and transportation related issues.
- Decided as a first step to establish an informal network of experts for exploring the issues of regional and inter-regional aviation in the Arctic, particularly as it pertains to cross-border traffic. It was agreed that the US/CITF project team based in Alaska will assume the role of a coordinator for the informal network of experts.
- Decided to arrange in the future, as needed, meetings and workshops between Arctic transportation experts and other interested and relevant parties such as the private sector, research institutions, regional organizations and indigenous peoples.

It was further decided that the Finnish chair of the transportation expert meeting will report these conclusions in the meeting of the Senior Arctic Officials, which will convene in Espoo, Finland, on November 5-7, 2001. The SAO will then decide how the Arctic Council will deal with the issue of transportation in its subsequent work.