

Memorandum of Understanding

between

Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications, City of Tallinn Government, City of Helsinki, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council and Harju County Government, later referred as the Founding Partners of the Finnish-Estonian Transport Link Initiative

on the joint understanding of the challenges and objectives of Finnish-Estonian cooperation towards further integration of the two economies.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets forth the terms and forms of cooperation towards the implementing improved mobility and interactions of Finnish-Estonian Transport Link.

Background

The economic integration of Estonia and Finland and the regional integration of the Helsinki-Tallinn twin-city are laying the foundations for this region's ambition of becoming one of the leading economic centers of Northern Europe. By combining the financial, material and human resources of these two regions, the innovation potential of the area can be multiplied. Both cities have a high education level, and the economic complementarities bring large-scale opportunities both for traditional industries and for new industries based on innovation.

Helsinki and Tallinn are the two most remote EU capitals from the center of Europe with regard to land transportation and travel times in Europe. Rail Baltic will address this issue by removing a missing link in the European rail network. It is essential to link Finland better to this corridor.

Purpose

The signatories of this MoU together establish the Finnish-Estonian Transport Link Initiative which will be promoted through various measures, such as

- promote removing Helsinki-Tallinn bottleneck in North-Sea Baltic Connection in TEN-T
- synchronize the digital transport services between Helsinki and Tallinn
- support carrying out full feasibility study on Finnish-Estonian Transport Fixed Link
- support pilots on smart digital transport services between Helsinki and Tallinn.

Implementation

This MoU is signed by the six Founding Partners and later by the associate partners. The Founding Partners form a working group named secretariat of the Finnish-Estonian Transport Link Initiative to coordinate the above mentioned activities. The Initiative organizes thematic round-tables and conferences and carries out activities for broad and effective communication and participation of the two societies. Communication with the entire Baltic Sea Region and the EU institutions is a priority task. The partners work together with the aim of linking our region more closely. The partners will lobby and promote the Initiative at all political and public forums.

Initiative

By signing this MoU, the Founding Partners form an open initiative called the Finnish-Estonian Transport Link Initiative. It is an open cooperation network for all interested parties who join.

Duration

This MoU shall become effective upon signature and will remain in effect until modified or terminated. This MoU may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from founding partners. In the absence of a mutual agreement by the authorized officials this MoU shall end on 31 December, 2018.

Partners Contact Information

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Harju County Government, contact person Kaarel Kose, telephone +372 611 8616, e-mail kaarel.kose@harju.maavalitsus.ee.

Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, contact person Olli Keinänen, telephone +358 50 540 2260, e-mail olli.keinanen@uudenmaanliitto.fi.

Signatories:

Signed in Tallinn, 5th of January 2016

Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

(Kristen Michal, Minister)

City of Tallinn

(Taavi Aas, Acting Mayor)

Harju County Government

(Ülle Rajasalu, County Governor)

Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications

(Anne Berner, Minister)

City of Helsinki

(Pekka Sauri, Acting Mayor)

Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council

(Ossi Savolainen, Regional Mayor)