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European Commission  
Directorate General for Energy and Transport  
Unit B2 – TEN policies & technological  
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B-1049 Brussels

## **Comments to the Public consultation on the extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries and regions**

Central European Transport Corridor (CETC) is a co-operation to support the development of sustainable transports and regional development in a north-south corridor of vital European interest. Six regions in four countries are included: Region Skåne in Kingdom of Sweden, Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship, Dolnośląskie Voivodship and Lubuskie Voivodship in Republic of Poland, Region Hradec Kralove in Czech Republic and Region Bratislava in Slovak Republic. In 2004 the regions made an agreement stating a common interest to develop the corridor and different actions of co-operation. The co-operation is lead by a Steering Committee constituted by the political leaders of the six regions.

A reason to constitute the CETC is the increasing importance of good accessibility in the directions served by the corridor. There is also a clear vision of the possibilities to support development in European, national and regional perspectives by joint actions. Beside this there are obvious needs for investments and other measures to support efficient and sustainable transport solutions.

There already exist co-operation between regions, ports and other stakeholders within the corridor. The CETC aims to considerably extend this co-operation and focus to get specific results. The corridor offer transports by the different modes of transport - road, rail and sea. A high potential of development is expected within all the modes of transport. An important issue is also to support co-ordination and the development of multi modal transport solutions.

CETC passes through and connects the south of Sweden, western Poland, Czech Republic and the western Slovakia. The axis has an important and growing role to connect these areas. There is a big potential of increasing trade and interaction between regions and cities within this corridor.

Furthermore the corridor has a function today and a possibility to develop its role to serve the connections between central Europe and Norway in the north. The hubs at the South Baltic Sea are also gateways connecting the Transeuropean Network and Pan European Corridors. In south the corridor has a great potential to serve connections to regions in Austria, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia but also to the Balcan peninsula and Turkey.

The CETC is connected to several parts of the TEN-T and also to the Pan European est-west corridors especially Corridor II Berlin-Warszawa-Minsk-Moska, Corridor III Dresden-Wroclaw-Lviv-Kiev, Corridor IV Dresden/Nürnberg-Praha-Wien/Bratislava-Budapest, Corridor V Venezia-Trieste/Koper-Ljubljana-Budapest-Uzgorod-Lviv and Corridor VII The Danube.

We are confident that CETC could be a tool not only for development in our regions but for the realisation of European goals in the field of transport policy and regional development. We want to state our interest of co-operation with the European Commission. The present public consultation gives an opportunity in one of the potential joint areas. We want to emphasise the possibilities given by improved infrastructure and transport solutions in the Central European Transport Corridor. We suggest that these possibilities are taken into consideration in the further development of Trans-European transport axes and the connections to neighbouring countries.

On behalf of Central European Transport Corridor

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President of Steering Committee