

**Public consultation on the report:
“Networks for peace and development –Extension of the major trans-European transport
axes to the Neighbouring countries and regions”**

Contributor: The North Bothnia Line Group

The report produced by the High Level Group on the extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries and regions presents five major transnational axes and projects.

The Northern axis connects the northern European union with Norway in the North and with Russia and Belarus and beyond to the East. Further the connection to the Barents region linking Norway through Sweden and Finland with Russia is also foreseen. Within the Northern axis the North Bothnia Line is of great importance.

The entirety of the Northern axis will be strengthened by the Bothnia Corridor connecting the north of the EU with the central EU, and with the Nordic Triangle as well as connecting the north EU eastwards and westwards through the most northern trans-national transport corridor; the Barents link.

The North Bothnia Line is part of the Bothnia Corridor and consists of a 400-km new coastal track from Haparanda to Umeå connecting to the Bothnia Line in the south and with Barents link in the north. The North Bothnia Line contributes to the realization of transport policy goals for Europe by reducing congestion in central Europe as well as reducing the transport-related environmental load in Central and Eastern Europe.

Hence the North Bothnia Line, Barents link and Nordic Triangle as well as the Motorways of the Seas in the north Europe contributes to sustainable development, economically, socially and environmentally. It helps realize the intentions of the European Union for sustainable development regarding long-term sustainable transport systems and combating climate change.

The North Bothnia Line Group is thus very pleased that the High level Group has in the report on major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries and regions, supported the Nordic triangle as well as foreseeing the development of the connection in the Barents region linking the north of EU with Norway and Russia and beyond.

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