



Berlin Declaration

on the

Regional Development in the Baltic-Adriatic-Development Corridor

30 November 2007

The special strategic importance of an international development corridor ranging from the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic Sea for the East German states has become more and more obvious within the framework of the present discussion of the regional development policy on national and European levels. In the Baltic-Adriatic-Development Corridor from Scandinavia (Nordic Triangle) via the East German federal states up to the Adriatic Sea (including the preferential trans-European transport axes 1 and 22) we find some border-crossing metropolitan regions and economic regions of extraordinary importance.

Active policy in this corridor by integrating the neighbouring countries shall support to generate economic impulses and to use the chances for regional development.

At the same time, a contribution shall be made to a balanced socio-economic development at European scale by implementing the “European Regional Development Concept” (EUREK) and the “Territorial Agenda of the EU” (TAEU). The special development potentials at the new EU internal frontiers identified in the cohesion report of the EU shall be used to a greater extent and be taken into consideration at the new orientation of the EU-finances for the next funding periods. The corridor is an important element of cohesion policy.

1. The Senator competent for Regional Development and the competent ministers of the federal states of Mecklenburg-Western-Pomerania, Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt, Saxony and Thuringia have agreed to establish an alliance focussed on regional development and growth in order to strengthen the region of their states as part of the Baltic-Adriatic-Development Corridor by implementing the objectives of the "European Regional Development Concept" in economic and social terms. The initiative is open for all interested partners and neighbouring countries.

2. It is the objective of the initiative to get an attractive transport infrastructure as well as a transport offer in the Baltic-Adriatic-Development-Corridor and its secondary routes on an internationally competitive level, in particular the extension of the trans-European transport networks and the connection of the region to the routes. In this regard it is about

- * considerable shortening of the travelling times by train between the city and metropolitan regions,
- * quick, multi-modal logistic chains,
- * the upgrading of the location qualities of the cities/towns and regions along the corridor for industry and services and
- * the settlement of transport-related and further innovative industrial sectors.

The transport backbone of the corridor to be further improved is of extraordinary importance to trigger economic development impulses by cooperative integrated regional, transport and economic development.

3. The Baltic-Adriatic-Development Corridor shall be introduced with all its qualities to Europe by respective marketing, by the establishment of communication structures and networks and it shall become integral part of the public awareness as an alternative and load reducing corridor for other transport corridors that are even now overloaded. By eliminating bottlenecks as well as infrastructural and organisational measures effects can be generated in this field that could be achieved only at considerably higher costs in other fields.

4. The East German states appreciate the previous commitment of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs and ask to continue supporting the initiative, as well as to make the necessary funds for the trans-European transport networks and for the other investments in the infrastructure available, but also for projects of territorial cooperation in the corridor.

5. They ask the EU to integrate the Baltic-Adriatic-Development Corridor as an important element for a balanced socio-economic and polycentric development of the EU-region at the

implementation of the Territorial Agenda. This objective shall be implemented by

- * the extension of the major trans-European transport axis 1 (from Italy, Munich, Erfurt, Halle/Leipzig, Berlin via Rostock to Scandinavia by connecting Sassnitz) in connection with
- * the extension of the also major transport axis 22 (from Prague via Dresden up to Berlin) by respective connection of the region of Halle/Leipzig/Magdeburg, by
- * developing the "Green Corridor" according to the Action Plan on Freight Transport Logistics of the European Commission (resolution dated 18 October 07) and
- * by investments made in the elimination of bottlenecks and further infrastructural and organisational measures.

6. The participating states are aware of the fact that the integration of further federal states, South, Central and East European

countries as well as of partners of all relevant private and public sectors such as e.g. economy, science, culture, are a prerequisite for the creation of an economic region and the final overcoming of the outdated frontier situation. They will approach the potential partners and ask them to participate in common projects in the Baltic-Adriatic-Development Corridor.

7. The participating states appeal to continue or initiate quickly project-preparing measures for the funding period 2007 – 2013 on the basis of existing surveys and networks in order to generate first concrete projects at short notice (in particular from funds of the target 3 "European Territorial Cooperation" of the European Fund for Regional Development and other support programmes of the EU). They will support in common applications promoting the development of the Baltic-Adriatic-Corridor.

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