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## **Europaforum Norra Sverige opinion on the European Commission proposal for the future TEN-T network**

Europaforum Norra Sverige (EFNS) is a network of politicians from the four northernmost counties in Sweden, representing 900 000 citizens and half the geographical area of Sweden.

The EFNS appreciate the open dialogue we have had with EU commissioners, the European Parliament and EC officials throughout the TEN-T policy review process. We also have fruitful continuous contacts with the Swedish government in this matter. We offer our further participation in the remaining process towards the adoption of the new TEN-T policy, and look forward to provide assistance in the planning and realisation of the proposed TEN-T core- and comprehensive networks.

Regarding the presented proposal from the EC, we would like to express the following:

- We welcome with great appreciation that the Bothnian Corridor, at the Swedish and Finnish side of the Bothnian Gulf, is included in the EC proposal for the TEN-T core network.
- We do notice with satisfaction the Commission's recognition of the importance of connections to other axis and connecting ports within the core network, for our part the east-west corridor from the Bothnian Corridor via Kiruna to Norway and the port of Luleå.
- We are satisfied that the European Commission proposes that the Bothnian Corridor in mayor parts is included in the financial instrument Connecting Europe Facility.
- We recognize that the Commission suggests the strengthened new TEN-T policy to be adopted as an EU regulation, with very high goals for its realisation in time.
- We strongly emphasize the need for financial support from EU to this important infrastructure from north to south that constitutes the Bothnian Corridor, to create European added value connecting the vast natural resources in the north with all of Europe. This is also in line with the Commission initiative on the Raw Materials.
- We declare our willingness to collaborate with the EU institutions and the national authorities in the upcoming decision process and the following implementation of the TEN-T core- and comprehensive networks.

### **Europaforum Norra Sverige**

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