



**Euroregion Baltic Executive Board's  
Joint Statement  
in support of the development of  
the East West Transport Corridor**

**16<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

In the Baltic Sea Region, trade and traffic in the east-west direction is increasing dramatically. Hence, the need to develop sustainable transport in the east-west direction is of outmost importance. The development of concepts for Green Corridors and integrated transport solutions is promoted by the European Transport Policies (e.g. the Transport Freight Logistic Action Plan). However, there are no best practice models on the Green Corridor concept with measures for concrete environmental-friendly transport solutions.

Within the INTERREG IIIB Programme the East-West Transport Corridor (EWTC) from Esbjerg to Vilnius, including connections to Russia and Far East was developed and identified as an important corridor within the Northern Transport Axis, promoting inter-modal solutions and an integrated transport chain. The corridor includes several TEN-T ports, road and railway links, parts of the Nordic Triangle and Corridor IX B/D in Lithuania/Kaliningrad. A Vision, Strategy and Action plan with strong focus on long-term goals were also developed within the project.

Now a follow up project, called EWTC II will be developed and a project proposal will be submitted to the INTERREG IV Baltic Sea Region Programme in May 2008. Focus in the project is to implement the EWTC Action Plan as well as to create measures and a best practice case for a Green Corridor concept. Partners will be from Lithuania, Denmark, Kaliningrad Oblast, Region Blekinge, Region Skåne and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

We, the members of the Executive Board of Euroregion Baltic have previously voiced our support to the development of a *Motorways of the Sea* project within the corridor. We appreciate that a large number of partners of the EWTC network are now willing to continue their partnership and start the implementation of the EWTC Action Plan. We recognise that the EWTC is one of the most important corridors within the Northern Transport Axis and that the development of the EWTC corridor from Denmark to Klaipeda/Kaliningrad, Vilnius and Moscow via Skåne and Blekinge is a strong prerequisite for the development of Euroregion Baltic.

We hereby confirm that the EWTC II project is given our thorough support and express undeniable belief in the successful implementation of its Action Plan.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Per Ole Petersen', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Per Ole Petersen

President of Euroregion Baltic