

DECLARATION OF INTENT

of the Ministers responsible for Transport of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and
Finland

on the TEN-T Priority Project No 27 "*Rail Baltica*"

27 March 2006

Brussels

The Ministers,

- being aware of the importance of a north-south transport infrastructure axis for the economic development of the EU Member States and their integration into the single market, as well as the potential for growth, jobs and improved competitiveness that the construction of the "*Rail Baltica*" project will bring,
- emphasising the fact that the implementation of the project "*Rail Baltica*" will contribute to the reconnection of the rail system of the Baltic States with Poland and the rest of the Single Market and that its construction will facilitate the movement of people and goods within the entire European Union,
- supporting the promotion of the use of sustainable railway transport as well as noting the benefits each country will gain from the safety aspects and environmental protection by reducing road congestions in the partner countries,
- referring to the "*Rail Baltica*" project implementation terms set out in the Decision No 884/2004EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the *Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network and considering the importance of coordinating the efforts of the partner countries in order to secure the common European interest in the "Rail Baltica" project,*

Hereby declare:

1. to consider inclusion of all sections of "*Rail Baltica*" as priority projects in the preparation of national transport strategies of countries along the corridor and underline the need for the implementation of those sections in accordance with EU legislation (based on economic, social and environmental aspects),
2. the importance of defining the border-crossing points and cross border sections of the project so as to coordinate efforts on presentation of common structures for finance and construction of these sections, efforts relating to the planning,

3. the significance of the Feasibility Study as it will assist in taking decisions on the project's implementation and the timely planning of works of national sections of the project in order to respect the goals described in Decision No 884/2004EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network,
4. the coordination of common activities as well as a full exchange of views and information between the "*Rail Baltica*" project partners, the European Coordinator and the European Commission.

Jerzy Polaczek, Minister of Transport and Construction of the Republic of Poland

(signed)

Petras Čėsna, Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania

(signed)

Head of Delegation of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of
Latvia

(signed)

Edgar Savisaar, Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications of the Republic of
Estonia

(signed)

Susanna Huovinen, Minister of Transport and Communications of Finland

(signed)

Pavel Telička, European Coordinator "*Rail Baltica*"

(signed)

Brussels, 27 March 2006