

JOINT STATEMENT

Tallinn, 21 June 2014

The Prime Minister of Estonia Mr Taavi Rõivas, the Prime Minister of Latvia Ms Laimdota Straujuma, and the Prime Minister of Lithuania Mr Algirdas Butkevičius met on 21 June 2014 in Tallinn to review the progress in the implementation of the regional Rail Baltic/Rail Baltica Project.

The Prime Ministers:

1. *Reiterated* the importance of the Rail Baltic/Rail Baltica Project (further – the Project) as a part of the trans-European transport network to strengthen the social, economic and territorial cohesion of the European Union and to contribute to the development of a single European transport area;
2. *Recognised* the European Commission's continuous support for the Project and contribution to the regional dialogue during the course of the preparation and implementation of the Project;
3. *Welcomed* the successful conclusion of negotiations by the Rail Baltic Task Force and high officials of the ministries responsible for transportation on the draft of the Shareholders' Agreement and agreed to promptly take all necessary steps at national level in order to approve and sign the Shareholders' Agreement and establish the Rail Baltic Joint Venture as soon as possible;
4. *Reiterated* the importance of implementing the Rail Baltic/Rail Baltica as fast conventional double track 1435 mm gauge electrified railway line with the maximum design speed of 240 km/h on the Route from Tallinn through Pärnu – Riga – Panevezys – Kaunas to Lithuanian-Polish border as proposed by AECOM study with a connection of Vilnius - Kaunas as part of the Route;
5. *Recognized* the importance of multi-modal links between the EU capitals and other main cities, ports, airports and key land border crossings, as well as other main economic centres as highlighted in the White Paper entitled "Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system" adopted by the European Commission on 28 March 2011 and emphasised the connection of the three Baltic countries' capitals (Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius) by 1435 mm gauge fast conventional railway, in that respect;
6. *Agreed* to proceed with activities, including preparation and submission of project applications to Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and construction of the railway, on sections of the railway line which are eligible for EU CEF funding as stipulated by relevant EU legislation, and stressed the importance to prepare and submit the joint Rail Baltic/Rail Baltica CEF application for the first CEF call for project proposals to be opened from September 2014 through February 2015;

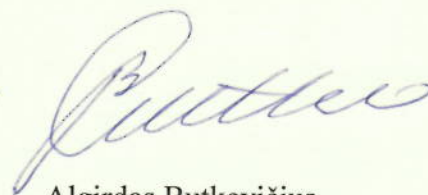
7. *Agreed* to take required action with the purpose of making the entire Railway's construction as provided for in the paragraph 4 of this Statement equally eligible for EU funding from CEF, where it is necessary by means of amending the EU Regulation No 1315/2013 and EU Regulation No 1316/2013;
8. *Invited* Finland and Poland to continue active participation in the development of the North Sea-Baltic TEN-T Corridor with the aim to prepare for good connections with and active use of the Rail Baltic/Rail Baltica.



Taavi Rõivas
Prime Minister
Republic of Estonia



Laimdota Straujuma
Prime Minister
Republic of Latvia



Algirdas Butkevičius
Prime Minister
Republic of Lithuania