

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

PAPER NSMC TRAN 2 (12) JC

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

TRANSPORT MEETING

**NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT OFFICES,
ARMAGH**

5 OCTOBER 2012

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The thirteenth North South Ministerial Council Transport meeting was held in the NSMC Joint Secretariat offices, Armagh on 5 October 2012. The meeting was attended by Minister Varadkar, TD, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Minister Kennedy, MLA, Minister for Regional Development and Minister Attwood MLA, Minister of the Environment. Minister Varadkar chaired the meeting.

OPENING REMARKS

2. Ministers noted the Department for Transport's decision to introduce legislation which would lead to HGV road user charging in the UK. The Council noted that the European Commission had been asked for clarity on matters relating to bus Cabotage. Ministers discussed the potential implications of the EU Roadworthiness Package.
3. Ministers also noted the conclusion of the work of the All-Island Freight Forum, welcomed the relationships and cooperation which had been developed through the Freight Forum, and looked forward to these continuing.

A5/A8

4. The Council noted that the necessary Orders have been made to facilitate construction on two sections of the A5. Ministers also noted that in line with the procedure for payment of the Irish Government contribution agreed at the July 2009 NSMC Plenary an updated project milestone and payment schedule, for the period to the end of 2016, will be prepared for agreement at a future NSMC Transport meeting. They also noted that the construction work has commenced on the A8 project and is expected to be completed by early 2015.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PENALTY POINTS

5. Ministers noted that terms of reference and membership of the steering and working groups have been agreed to take forward work on mutual recognition of penalty points. Ministers agreed the timetable of key milestones for having the necessary primary and secondary legislation in place by 31 December 2014 and noted that an update will be reported to the next NSMC transport meeting.

ROAD USER SAFETY

6. The Council welcomed the continued sharing of knowledge and experience between officials from both jurisdictions on the development and delivery of road safety strategies to ensure the best approach towards reducing the number and severity of injuries across the island. This included progress on the reduction of drink drive limits in each jurisdiction. The Council also shared progress on drafting of legislation to improve Northern Ireland's driver training, testing and post-test regime.

VEHICLE SAFETY

7. Ministers welcomed the continuing proactive co-operation to target a wide range of illegal activity within the goods haulage and passenger transport industries including:
 - an increasingly targeted approach towards enforcement;
 - continuing liaison on cross border enforcement operations in 2012 in both jurisdictions;
 - co-operation in relation to vehicle standards including mutual recognition of vehicle type approval, which will allow simplification of the registration process; and
 - exchange of data on and follow up of unroadworthy foreign vehicles in either jurisdiction.

The Council also noted the excellent co-operation on enforcement of EU tachograph and drivers hours rules and the proposed training exchange for enforcement officers that will take place in 2013.

EU MATTERS

8. Ministers noted some of the current significant EU proposals with implications for the transport sector on the island. They also heard the priorities for the Irish Presidency of the EU during the first half of 2013 relevant to the transport area and that Departments will liaise on relevant issues in the coming months, specifically before the EU Transport Council meeting in March. The Council also noted that events are being organised in Ireland during the EU Presidency which may be of interest to Departments with responsibility for transport safety.
9. Minister Varadkar invited Ministers Attwood and Kennedy and relevant officials to attend EU Presidency events relating to Road Safety and Intelligent Transport Systems.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10. The Council agreed to hold its next NSMC Transport meeting in 17 April 2013.

**Joint Secretariat
5 October 2012**