

# Agreed Minutes

Representatives at a high administrative level from the Ministries of Transport in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden met in Oslo on 7 February 2013 to discuss closer cooperation within the field of air traffic management and provision of air navigation services between the Danish/Swedish FAB and NEFAB.

The meeting was follow-on from the discussion on this topic at the annual meeting of the Nordic-Baltic Ministers of Transport in Denmark last August. The Norwegian Ministry of Transport and Communications convened the meeting on behalf of the NEFAB States.

The list of participants is enclosed as an Annex.

The agenda contained the following main items:

- I. **Discussion on the fundamental prerequisites for closer cooperation between NEFAB and Danish/Swedish FAB**
- II. **Establishment of a common informal framework at Ministerial level**
- III. **Joint political declaration or Memorandum of Understanding**

The discussions were carried out in a frank, positive and constructive manner.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed to pursue the matter as follows:

## Declaration

- The Ministries are requested to actively support and facilitate the existing and good cooperation at ANSP level and NSA level with the view to building the foundation for a step-by-step process towards a possible future consolidation encompassing Danish/Swedish FAB and NEFAB.
- The first key task is to draw up and agree on a joint political declaration as a response to the call from Siim Kallas, the Vice-President of the European Commission, for a political commitment from the States participating in the Danish/Swedish FAB and NEFAB to formally integrate the existing good cooperation into a common legal FAB framework.
- The point of departure for the text of the declaration is the proposed declaration drawn up in the autumn of 2011. The text tabled by the Danish Ministry at the 7 February meeting will be developed further, i.e. on the basis of provisional comments put forward at the meeting and subsequent comments in writing. It is important to include some concrete projects for cooperation between Danish/Swedish FAB and NEFAB in the joint declaration. The introduction

of the “Free Route Airspace” concept in the combined airspace of Danish/Swedish FAB and NEFAB by the end of 2015 was suggested to be included in the declaration. The ANSPs are invited to suggest possible additional projects.

- Initially, the aim is to conclude the joint political declaration approved by the six Ministers (Governments) and sign it in conjunction with the meeting of the European Transport Council on 11 March. The Norwegian Ministry will facilitate the process of coordinating the text of the joint political declaration.

#### Future projects/ activities for cooperation

- Second task is for the ANSPs to identify and suggest further projects/activities for cooperation and the States and NSAs involved to encourage and facilitate such cooperation. Such suggestions are to be transmitted to the Ministries before the next high level meeting between the Ministries.

#### Framework for cooperation

- It was tentatively agreed to establish an informal framework at high administrative level in the Ministries to pursue the enhanced cooperation and facilitate a process towards a possible future consolidation. In the interim, a contact group at working level will be set up to support the high level group. The coordinates of contact persons should be exchanged ASAP. One of the tasks of the latter group would be to draw up and coordinate the text of the joint political declaration. Another task would be to draw up and coordinate proposed terms of reference for the high level group, and eventually a “road map” for the further process.
- Norway volunteered to chair the cooperation between the six States at Ministerial level during the year 2013.
- It was tentatively agreed to convene the next meeting of the high level group on 22 May 2013. (That is, back-to-back with the meeting of the NEFAB Council.)

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