

Date

Contact
Jesper Damm Olsen
Head of Press
Phone +45 40 85 93 88
jdo@trm.dk
www.trm.dk

Cross-border infrastructure and transport will create growth by tying the EU closer together.

On Thursday 22 March 2012, EU Ministers for Transport meet in Brussels to discuss new guidelines for the EU's transport network, TEN-T, and aviation policy.

For the first time, the Danish Minister for Transport Henrik Dam Kristensen will hold the presidency chair for the EU Ministers for Transport at the Council meeting on 22 March. At the meeting, the ministers will discuss e.g. the European Commission's proposal on new guidelines for the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

Through the TEN-T programme, funds are allocated from the EU budget in the shape of direct financial grants to selected transport projects, which tie the EU member states closer together. The objective of the new guidelines is to focus the criteria for TEN-T financial support, thus creating an increased focus on cross-border projects and projects that can alleviate bottlenecks.

The new guidelines place focus on the common European railway signalling system, ERTMS, as well as electrification of the railway network. This will create a more efficient railway sector to the benefit of both passenger transport and transport of goods.

In addition to the TEN-T, the ministers will also discuss the proposal on revised rules for groundhandling in airports. Among other things, groundhandling comprises baggage handling, the refueling of aircrafts, etc. The number of passengers is expected to increase significantly in the coming years and for this reason, there is a need to increase the efficiency and quality of the groundhandling services in the European airports.

During the lunch meeting, the ministers will discuss airport security procedures and the flight time regulations for pilots and other flight staff.

In this connection, the Danish Minister for Transport Henrik Dam Kristensen says:

- We will be having some important discussions about the future shape of the Trans-European Transport Network. The TEN-T is an obvious instrument to



generate genuine European added value via EU funds. An improved, more coherent European infrastructure can be a contributory factor in generating the growth that will bring the EU out of the economic crisis.

- I am also looking forward to some important discussions on revised rules for groundhandling services. By increasing competition between groundhandling providers, the objective is to create a framework for improved services to the benefit of the users of the European airports.

- During the lunch meeting, the Danish Presidency would like to initiate a discussion on airport security procedures and the flight time regulations for pilots. Perhaps the time has come for a service check of the current airport security procedures, which can benefit both passengers and the industry, while maintaining a very high standard of security. In order for the passengers to feel completely safe when flying within the EU, it is also important to me that pilots and flight crew are well-rested. For this reason, the EU rules should to be based upon a scientific foundation. I look forward to hearing the views of my colleagues on these matters.

Webcast of the Council meeting will be available. [Link to follow.](#)