

DECISIONS

OF THE JOINT SESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

Tallinn, Castle of Toompea

7.5.2018

Topic 1

Physical Connections

1. To continue the close cooperation between the two countries in order to create an enabling business environment fostering innovation and user-oriented services which are interoperable across the borders.
2. To work jointly to promote a TEN-T Core Network that serves as a basis for sustainable transport and passenger flows and creates a transport corridor from the Arctic Sea to Central Europe.
3. To emphasize the importance of Rail Baltica in developing an economic corridor in North-East Europe and boosting growth and economic integration in the region and therefore highlight the need for the Baltic States along with Finland and Poland to work together with the same vision and timetable so that Rail Baltica can be realised by 2026.
4. To recognize the tunnel between Helsinki and Tallinn being an infrastructure project having an impact over the 21st century or longer and enabling the region to become a globally visible innovation node. The tunnel would be a unique megaproject requiring innovative actions and diversified funding sources. Together with renewed Rail Baltica connection it would form a quick access to Central Europe. Private sector involvement can be seen as an option in developing the process forward rapidly and in establishing a solid financial case.
5. To continue and strengthen the close cooperation between the two countries in energy market development, in decarbonizing the energy system on national and European Union level and energy infrastructure projects.
6. To combine their efforts to open an Eastern Baltic gas trading hub together with Latvia and Lithuania, being strongly interlinked with the rest of the European Union's internal energy market.
7. To continue their efforts to finalize the Balticconnector gas pipeline to interconnect the Baltic and Finnish gas systems by 2020.
8. To strengthen cooperation to ensure a common view on security of supply of Finnish and Estonian electricity systems in the regional context keeping in mind both physical and cyber elements of security.

Topic 2

Digital Collaboration

1. To ensure and take all the necessary actions that the ongoing data-exchange projects shall be completed in due time in 2018 and 2019, and the use-cases and roadmaps in next data exchange areas identified by end of 2018.
2. That data will be shared between Estonian and Finnish government agencies without any charges or fees to the other side, although the agencies can agree the limits to the scope of use of the data in other country.
3. To explore ways to bring next digital service infrastructure components under joint development into the Nordic Institute for Interoperability Solutions, and to support the Institute in efforts to find new member countries.
4. To extend the cooperation into semantic interoperability area by jointly identifying and building methodological framework for data content and format agreements needed for cross-border data exchange, and by sharing with each other without charges the relevant tools developed in either country.
5. To enable our connected economies, governments will support the progress of real-time economy, especially in cross-border initiatives.
6. To set up regular policy dialogue and initiate concrete collaboration projects between both countries' national artificial intelligence programmes.
7. We must secure the position of small languages, such as Estonian, Finnish and Swedish, in public services which are based on artificial intelligence.
8. To set up close dialogue and initiate joint activities of cross-border collaboration in genomic research in order to contribute to the implementation of the European Union's one million sequenced genomes initiative.

Topic 3

Cultural, Language and Educational Bridges

1. To continue promoting the teaching and learning of the Finnish and Estonian languages including through e-learning and development of digital solutions.
2. To facilitate the cooperation in the field of international marketing of education by making use of the both countries' success in PISA and other international studies on education.
3. To increase joint cultural export volumes and support projects of common cultural export potential, and to promote synergies between the Finno-Estonian Cultural Fund and other existing facilities by means of bilateral cooperation, jointly across the world.
4. To support corresponding cultural centres in both countries.
5. To strengthen strategic cooperation in order to promote sustainable growth through high level of education, higher education, research and innovation at the European Union level, and to promote mutual interests and values in relations to the OECD, UNESCO and other international fora.

Topic 4

Building Sustainable Growth Together in the European Union

1. To continue promoting structural reforms and growth-enhancing policies such as trade, Single Market, Digital Agenda and circular economy, including a joint input for the next discussions of the Strategic Agenda.
2. To work towards a competitive European Union in the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework period, including supporting the continuation of appropriate cross-border co-operation programmes.
3. To ask the Ministers of Estonia and Finland to seek further co-operation in the European Union issues at the ministerial level and to present concrete joint project initiatives in their particular areas by early autumn 2018. The Prime Ministers will consider these proposals for further development at their next regular meeting in the second half of 2018.
4. To enhance and extend regional (NB6 and NB6+) co-operation and information exchange in the different formations of the Council of the European Union.