

626/2011 Reconstruction of the Ihala-Raivio-State border road, km 0-km 14

Information about the meeting of working group on cross-border traffic and development of border infrastructure on 25.3.2014 with site visit on 24.3.2014

The working group on cross-border traffic and development of border infrastructure of the Finnish-Russian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation held a meeting in Petrozavodsk on the 25th of March 2014. The press release in English is attached.

The reconstruction of the automobile road Ikhala-Raivio-State Border was discussed in the meeting. Head of the Republic of Karelia Alexander Khudilainen confirmed that the construction works are proceeding on the road. The participants of the meeting visited the construction site of the Ikhala-Raivio State border road on the 24th of March 2014. The representatives Upravitel (Kozak, Lanin) attended the visit.

Annex 1. Press release by the Republic of Karelia

Session of the working group on cross-border traffic and development of border infrastructure of the Finnish-Russian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation took place in Petrozavodsk on March, 25



Alexander Khudilainen, Sergei Karaulov and Valery Shlyamin

Within the two days on March 24 and 25 participants of the working group on cross-border movement and development of border infrastructure of the Finnish-Russian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation have been working in Karelia.

The working group was established about a year ago, and its activity is focused on promotion of development of infrastructure of border-crossing points, improvement of approaching roads, simplification of customs and control procedures at Finnish-Russian border crossing.

Russian participants of the group were led by Sergei Karaulov, Deputy Director of the Department of Europe and Americas of the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, and their Finnish colleagues were led by Hanna Lehtinen, Deputy Director General of the Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.



Finnish participants of the working group

The third session of the group took place in Petrozavodsk on March, 25, and the two previous sessions were held in Finland. Trade Representative of the Russian Federation in Finland Valery Shlyamin, Head of Karelia Alexander Khudilainen, representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Transportation, Federal Agency for State Border Infrastructure Development, Federal Road Agency, heads of territorial federal power branches have also taken part in the session.

The Finnish delegation included representatives of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Finnish Border Guard, Finnish Customs, and other authorities.



Russian participants of the working group

In his opening remarks to the third session Sergei Karaulov, Deputy Director of the Department of Europe and Americas of the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia and head of the Russian party has thanked Head of Karelia for the venue. He has mentioned that along with exchange of information concerning border infrastructure as a whole, request of the Government of the republic on promotion of development of the Syväoro-Parikkala simplified border-crossing point located in Lahdenpohja region in order to give it international status is considered in Petrozavodsk separately.

On the previous day, March 24, participants of the working group had visited the Syväoro-Parikkala border-crossing point to take a look at its customs and border infrastructure, as well as at the course of reconstruction of the Ihala-Raivio-State Border motorway Lahdenpohja region, as well as the A-121 Sortavala federal highway, that would establish connection between St.Petersburg and Petrozavodsk through Sortavala. During the session Head of the Finnish delegation Hanna Lehtinen has pointed out the importance of such trips, having mentioned that a picture is worth a thousand words.

Alexander Khudilainen has greeted the audience in Finnish, and then went into the question of importance of border infrastructure development for Karelia. He has reminded that border-crossing points currently operating at the border were built in the 1980s and 1990s, and do not correspond to today's load. Meanwhile, within the scope of the preparation for the 100th anniversary of Karelia it is planned to implement a lot of economic and social projects, thus the load of border-crossing points will keep growing.

– We look to development of new transport corridors between the European Union, Finland particularly, and Central Russia with hope. We also hope that Syväoro border-crossing point will be built soon, and will have international status, that would enable improvement of transport and logistic infrastructure of border territories, – Alexander Khudilainen has told.

Head of Karelia has also pointed out that tasks concerning inclusion of Syväoro border-crossing point in the federal target program The State border of the Russian Federation were set by the Government of Russia in March within the scope of activities of the State Commission for preparation for the 100th anniversary of Karelia.

According to Sergei Karaulov, in the course of its work the group will analyse suggestions of the Government of Karelia and will make a provisional collegial decision, and, if necessary, will hold further additional consultations. "We have a lot of work ahead, though I hope that through joint efforts with the Finnish party we'll be able to overcome all the difficulties," – Head of the Russian group has told at the meeting in Petrozavodsk.

http://gov.karelia.ru/News/2014/03/0325_17_e.html