



**DET KONGELIGE
SAMFERDSELSDEPARTEMENT**

*Ministry of Transport and Communications
The Minister*

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Your ref

Our ref
09/1868- EM

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15.10.2009

Proposal for amendment to Annex 1 to the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)

Proposal

Extension of road E16 from Hønefoss to the Swedish border.

New overall reference:

E16: Londonderry – Belfast – Glasgow – Edinburgh – Bergen – Fagernes – Hønefoss – (-Oslo) – Gardermoen – Kongsvinger – the Swedish border

Justification

In Norway the road connection E16 stretches from Bergen on the west coast of Norway to Oslo (Sandvika) with a total length of 507 km. The E16 is a part of the national trunk road network of about 8 800 km, mainly E-roads. From 1st January 2010 the national trunk road network will consist of roads with an overall length of about 10 000 km. The Norwegian government has initiated an investigation in the prerequisite for upgrading of the road between Oslo and the Swedish border to E road. The conclusions of the National Road Administration in Norway is in line with a corresponding investigation in Sweden regarding an incorporation of the Swedish roads 239, E45, 71, 70, 50 and 80 in the European E-road network.

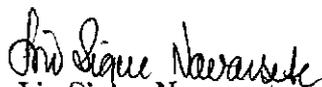
This proposal will result in an extension of E16 between Hønefoss and the Swedish border of about 130 km. The prolongation of E16 in Norway implicates renaming the national roads 35, 2, and 200. The present E16 between Hønefoss and Oslo will remain as a part of the E road network, still classed as E16. The Swedish government is at the same time proposing an amendment to Annex 1 regarding an extension of E16 between the Norwegian border to Gävle on the Swedish east coast.

The proposed extensions of road E16 from Hønefoss to Gävle is a natural prolongation of the existing road E16 from Londonderry in Northern Ireland to Oslo in Norway and will be an important contribution to the E road network in the region.

At the moment E10, E12, E14 and E18 are crossing the Swedish-Norwegian boarder in a west-east orientation. The E12 and E18 run further on over the Baltic Sea and continues in Finland.

The foremost benefit of incorporating the road connection into the E Road network is that trade and industry, not the least tourism, will be promoted as well as the overall development in these inland regions. The road is an arterial road for traffic to the largest winter sport area in northern Europe, Dalarna County in Sweden and the Trysil area in Norway. The proposed extension of road E16 from Hønefoss to Gävle, as put forward from the Norwegian and Swedish governments, is a natural prolongation of the existing road E16 from Northern Ireland.

On behalf of the Norwegian government,


Liv Sighe Navarsete

Norwegian minister for Transport and Communications