



Transport- og Energiministeriet



Bundesministerium  
für Verkehr, Bau-  
und Wohnungswesen

Ministerium für Wissenschaft,  
Wirtschaft und Verkehr  
des Landes Schleswig-Holstein



Press Release after Meeting on 24 June 2005

**Meeting between the German Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Housing, Dr. Manfred Stolpe, and the Danish Minister for Transport and Energy, Mr. Flemming Hansen**

Today the Danish Minister for Transport and Energy, Mr. Flemming Hansen, and the German Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Housing, Dr. Manfred Stolpe, met in Copenhagen to discuss issues of common interest. The Minister for Science, Economic Affairs and Transport of Schleswig-Holstein, Mr. Dietrich Austermann, joined the meeting.

*Fixed Link across the Fehmarn Belt*

The ministers agreed to continue the work along the lines laid down in the joint declaration signed in Berlin in June 2004.

On this background, and as part of the preparation for a government agreement, the ministers took a number of decisions regarding the three main issues pointed out in the joint declaration from June 2004: 1) investigations in finding a financing model, 2) selecting a technical solution and 3) managing environmental issues. Furthermore it was agreed to launch a number of additional studies.

As an important further step towards finding a mutual financing model for the project the ministers decided to seek advice from independent financial experts in order to identify a solution as to how state guarantees and investments from the private sector can be utilized in the best way for the financing of the project. The ministers decided to narrow down the number of concrete financial models to be investigated further to two. The financial experts' analysis of the two models should be available this year in order to prepare a final decision on the financing model.

The ministers decided that a cable stayed bridge with a four-lane motorway and two rail tracks should be considered the preferred technical solution in view of the lower construction costs compared to an immersed tunnel with

the same number of road lanes and rail track as well as safety and emergency considerations. An immersed tunnel with the same number of road lanes and rail tracks should be considered the preferred alternative solution.

In line with this decision Dr. Stolpe and Mr. Hansen confirmed the necessity of a number of technical studies, e.g. studies of the navigational and geo-technical conditions in Fehmarn Belt as well as a study of the design and safety issues related to a tunnel.

A joint environmental consultation report on the coast-to-coast section of the fixed link as well as the hinterland connections in both countries is under preparation. A draft report indicates that the overall environmental impact associated with the project is modest and can be further reduced if the appropriate mitigating action is taken.

The Environmental Consultation Report will go into public hearing in both countries in the autumn in order to allow the public to express its views on the environmental aspects of a fixed link across the Fehmarn Belt. In later stages of the project an Environmental Impact Assessment in accordance with the EU legislation will be carried out.

After the meeting the ministers expressed their satisfaction with the progress of the project.

Minister Stolpe stated:

*"I am pleased to note that the Fehmarn Belt project is progressing well along the lines, which we agreed upon at our meeting in Berlin last year in June.*

*I find it particularly encouraging that we are on a good way to solve the questions concerning the financing aspects as well as the technical construction of the Link and that also the identified environmental questions seem to be manageable."*

Minister Hansen stated:

*"I look forward to continuing working together with my colleagues in Berlin and in Schleswig-Holstein towards the realization of this important infrastructure project, which will strengthen the connection not only between Denmark and Germany but also between Scandinavia and the rest of Europe.*

*I am confident that we will find good solutions to the still remaining questions."*

Minister Austermann stated:

*I appreciate very much this meeting with my colleagues concerning the Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link. We discussed the further work on the most important cross border transport infrastructure project of the State of Schleswig-Holstein and agreed on the next steps to be taken. I will keep on co-operating with Denmark and the Federal Government in this project. We are on the right way to reach a positive decision about a fixed link across the Fehmarn Belt.*