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Item 2(b) (ii) of the provisional agenda

Inland Transport Instruments:

**European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries-
Amendments to the Agreement**

Amendments to the Agreement

Submitted by the Government of Finland

In this document, the Government of Finland proposes to amend the references to the Finish E-roads network routes that are part of E16 in Annex I of AGR.

Consideration for amendments to annex I to the AGR by Finland

I. Proposal

1. Finland proposes that Annex I to AGR Agreement will be supplemented as follows:

Extension of Road E16 from Gävle to Finland from Rauma via Tampere, Lahti, and Kouvola to Kotka.

The proposed extension concerns Finland only.

New overall reference:

Londonderry – Belfast ... Glasgow – Edinburgh ... Bergen – Fagernes – Hønefoss (Oslo) – Gardermoen – Kongsvinger – the Norwegian/Swedish border – Torsby – Malung – Borlänge – Falun – Sandviken – Gävle – Rauma – Tampere – Lahti – Kouvola – Kotka.

The best route for the E16 would go from Rauma via Tampere, Lahti, and Kouvola to Kotka. Within Finland, the E16 would consist of main road 12 between Rauma and Kouvola, main roads 3 and 9 in Tampere, and main road 15 between Kouvola and Mussalo, Kotka. The length of the E16 in Finland would be approximately 400 kilometers.

2. The proposed amendments are shown in the maps attached.

II. Justification

3. In April 2024, the Ministry of Transport and Communications received an initiative on the extension of the E16 to Finland, from Rauma via Tampere, Lahti, and Kouvola to Kotka. The initiative was launched by the cities of Rauma, Tampere, Lahti, Kotka, and Kouvola together with the Regional Council of Satakunta, the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso, the Council of Tampere Region, and the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme.

4. According to the consultant report commissioned by the city of Rauma, the best route for the E16 within Finland is from Rauma via Tampere, Lahti and Kouvola to Kotka. Within Finland, the E16 would consist of main road 12 between Rauma and Kouvola, main roads 3 and 9 in Tampere, and main road 15 between Kouvola and Mussalo, Kotka. The length of the E16 in Finland would be approximately 400 kilometers. According to the preliminary study attached to the initiative, the current roads along the proposed E16 extension fulfil the technical requirements of Annex II to the AGR agreement. The proposed section is part of the main road network and its maintenance is of a high standard.

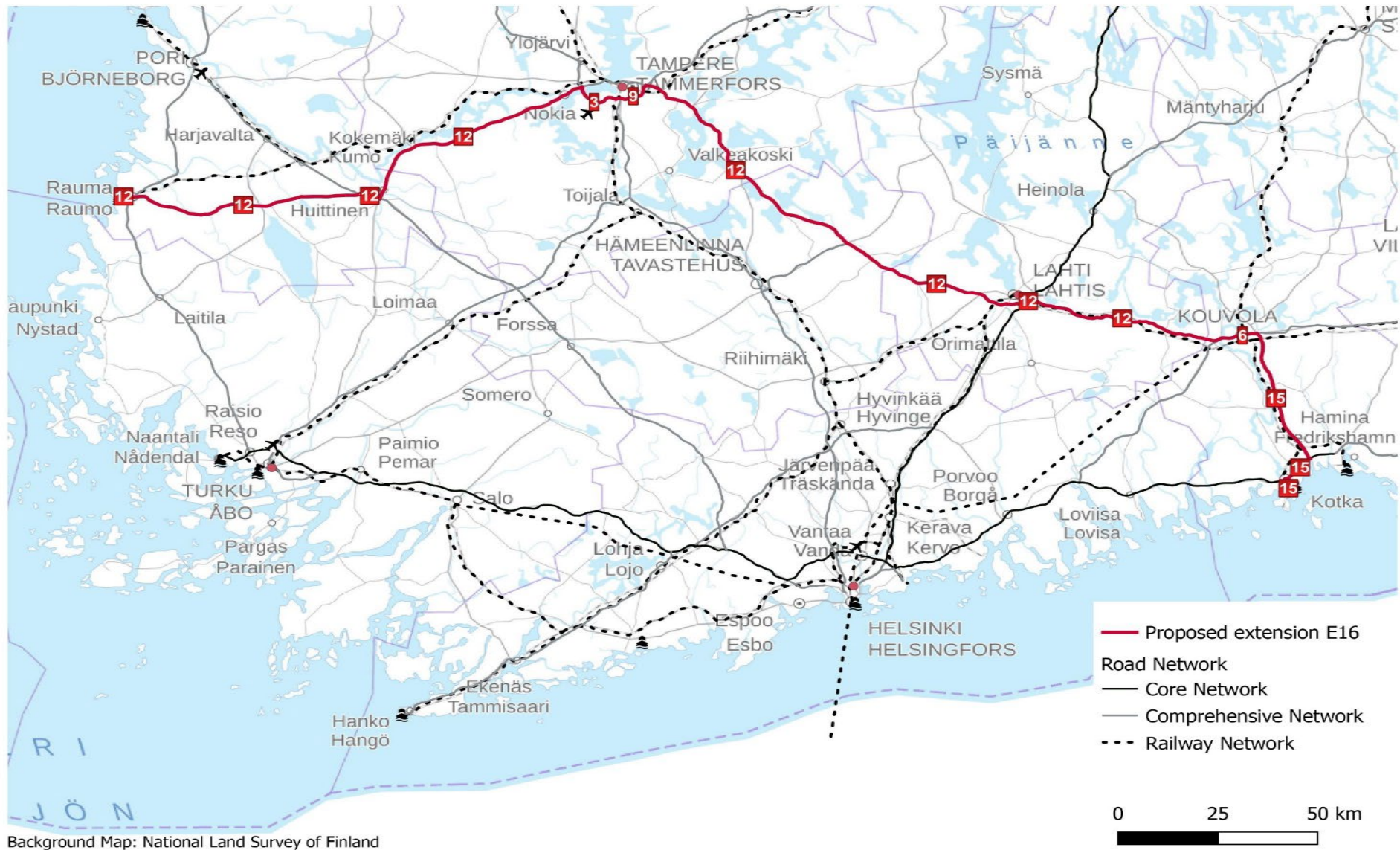
5. The amendment would improve Finland's connections to the west by further strengthening cooperation between Finland and Sweden and by underscoring the role of ports. Additionally, the amendment would put an emphasis on the significance of east-to-west traffic within Finland.

6. Extending the E16 to Finland would provide opportunities for increasing the vitality and creating favorable operating conditions for the region. Municipalities and regions are looking to improve their own operating conditions. The new E-road would provide a new perspective to this interest representation.

7. Extending the E16, according to the proposal, will also benefit tourism. The E-road network is clearly indicated on maps and various navigating software. This would make regions and cities more visible on maps and easier to find even on less detailed maps.

8. The cities that have taken the initiative see the proposed E16 extension as offering significant benefits for regional vitality and operating conditions.

Map of the proposed extension



Background Map: National Land Survey of Finland

