

## Hearing of COINCO Strategy 2025 Discussion Paper

COINCO (Corridor of Innovation and Cooperation) is the name given to the corridor connecting Oslo, Göteborg, Malmö, Copenhagen and Berlin.

COINCO is also the name of a project aiming at producing a common strategy for the corridor.

The COINCO project has been initiated by the Scandinavian Arena – the GO-region including Halland and the Øresund Region.

It has been supervised by the Political Steering Committee of the Scandinavian Arena with participants from all of the regional and municipal partners. From Germany, the Investitionsbank des Landes Brandenburg has been our partner, representing Berlin and Brandenburg.

COINCO is an ambitious attempt to cope with the challenges of European integration and globalisation. When we are trying to develop our regions and cities, we can no longer just look at our national frameworks. Cross border cooperation is a must for all of us.

COINCO is one such cross border cooperation, but of course not the only one. Every region and city should seek out its partners according to its geographical position and political priorities.

It is the ambitions, which make COINCO something special. COINCO is not just about demanding new infrastructure. It is about creating a *strategic partnership* from Oslo to Berlin, a partnership based on common values and of common opportunities, a partnership aiming for growth and prosperity, but without jeopardizing our environmental standards, our social security, our access to unspoilt nature.

With these words I invite you all to read the Discussion Paper on the COINCO Strategy 2025. It is exciting to realize that hundreds of politicians from Akershus Fylkesting to the Berliner Senat will be talking about the same issues of corridor infrastructure, innovation, and cooperation.

We hope that these discussions can converge into a final Strategy Document by March 2007. This is ambitious in itself, but we trust that you can manage to make the discussions and reach your conclusions by 31 January, so that your points of view can go into the further process. In order to focus the discussion, a number of themes and questions have been articulated on the following page.

I wish you a productive and constructive debate.

Øystein Leonardsen, City of Copenhagen  
Lead Partner of the COINCO Project

