



ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA)
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Your ref

Our ref

Date

15/1923-

2 February 2024

Minimum safety requirements for tunnels in the Trans-European Road Network

Reference is made to the package meeting held in Oslo 27 October 2023 concerning minimum safety requirements for tunnels in the Trans-European Road Network (TERN) in Norway.

In this letter the Ministry will, as notified, submit information concerning the National Budget for 2024 that is relevant for this case. The Ministry will also give an update on the state of compliance with all the minimum safety requirements of Directive 2004/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on minimum safety requirements for tunnels in the Trans-European Road Network, OJ L 167, 30.4.2004, p. 39 (“the Directive”).

TERN tunnels in the National Budget for 2024

The 2024 National Budget for the transport area was proposed by the Government in Prop. 1 S (2022–2023) for Samferdselsdepartementet. The Government's budget proposal for national roads was mainly accepted by the Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget) on 20 December 2023.

In 2024, the investment in the tunnel refurbishments on the TERN will continue. Funds are prioritized to continue projects that have already been started. With the budget proposal, five tunnels located on the TERN will be fully refurbished in 2024. It then remains to improve 13 tunnels on this road network after 2024. Furthermore, it is assumed that 20 other tunnels on the TERN must be replaced with new road sections over time, and these are therefore not improved. This applies to tunnels on the joint road and railway project Vossebanen/E16 Arna–Stanghelle and E16 Hylland–Slæen in Vestland as well as E6 Megården–Mørsvikbotn

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in Nordland. Funds have been allocated to start E6 Megården–Sommerset, which will replace six tunnels longer than 500 meters on the TERN. 26 January 2024 the Government put forward a proposal to Stortinget regarding the financing of E6 Megården–Sommerset. Stortinget is expected to consider the matter before the summer of 2024. If Stortinget accepts the proposal before the summer of 2024, it is expected that construction can begin in 2025. Funds have also been provided to continue preparatory work on Vossebanen/E16 Arna–Stanghelle in 2024.

Letter of Appropriation to the Norwegian Public Roads Administration (NPRA)

The funds provided in the National Budget are made available to the NPRA through the annual Letter of Appropriation from the Ministry. In the Letter of Appropriation for 2024 the Ministry states that the NPRA shall report on the status of refurbishment of tunnels in accordance with the tunnel safety regulations.

Compliance with the safety requirements in Annex 1

Please find enclosed a detailed overview concerning the progress of the refurbishment of TERN tunnels in Norway. The enclosed tables also include hyperlinks to online information from the NPRA where the progress for each tunnel can be followed.

The new tunnels and the refurbished tunnels naturally comply with the Directive, while the remaining tunnels still will have deficiencies. The attached tables are meant to give an approximate overview over the compliance with the minimum requirements of the Directive in Annex I (status by January 2024).

The Ministry hopes that the above description of TERN tunnels, seen in conjunction with the information provided in the Ministry's letters of 2021, 2022, and 2023 is satisfactory. We would be happy to facilitate any further needs for information that the Authority may have.

Yours sincerely

Hans Einar Nerhus
Deputy Director General

Sonja Lindqvist
Specialist Director

This document is signed electronically and has therefore no handwritten signature

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