

Riksdagsledamot Ulla-Maj Wideroos

Almedalsveckan 2.7.2013

Kvarken Multimodal Link – bra för Sverige, Finland, Norge och EU!

The ferry traffic between Vasa and Umeå is more than merely a line of transport. It is a connection that binds together two countries and two peoples. It is a connection that ensures cultural exchanges between people. As much the connection signifies well functioning tourist traffic, it is as much about environmental friendly transport. The ferry traffic also prides a vital precondition for business in both regions. This question is about providing two active regions the possibility to cooperate.

People today demand transport to be comfortable and well functioning. Traffic between east and west is as important as traffic from north to south. This means society has an obligation to create opportunities for the regions to grow and develop. In our regions this means that one of the single most important prerequisites is functioning ferry traffic. It is vital for development, cooperation and growth.

This is why the Finnish government has had a working group that has looked at what conditions a functioning traffic link demands. The possibilities exist, but this would require investments both from Finland and Sweden, West Bothnia and Ostrobotnia, Umeå and Vasa. We also need a ferry that fulfills certain requirements. The ferry needs to be able to traffic in icy conditions and there needs to be a certain capacity for passengers and enough cabin space. Further, facilities for conferences and seminars are important. All in all, it needs to be a good quality transport ferry.

I am convinced both regions are ready to do what they can to ensure our Kvarken-project will be successful. We do, of course, as well turn to the European Union in hope for understanding for the support our region needs.