Some main cargo flows to and from Arctic area

Salmon and other fresh and frozen seafood

Minerals, metals, forest and other industrial products

Supplies to oil and mining industry

Fruit/vegetables, wine, other food products (northbound)

Congested areas (to be avoided)
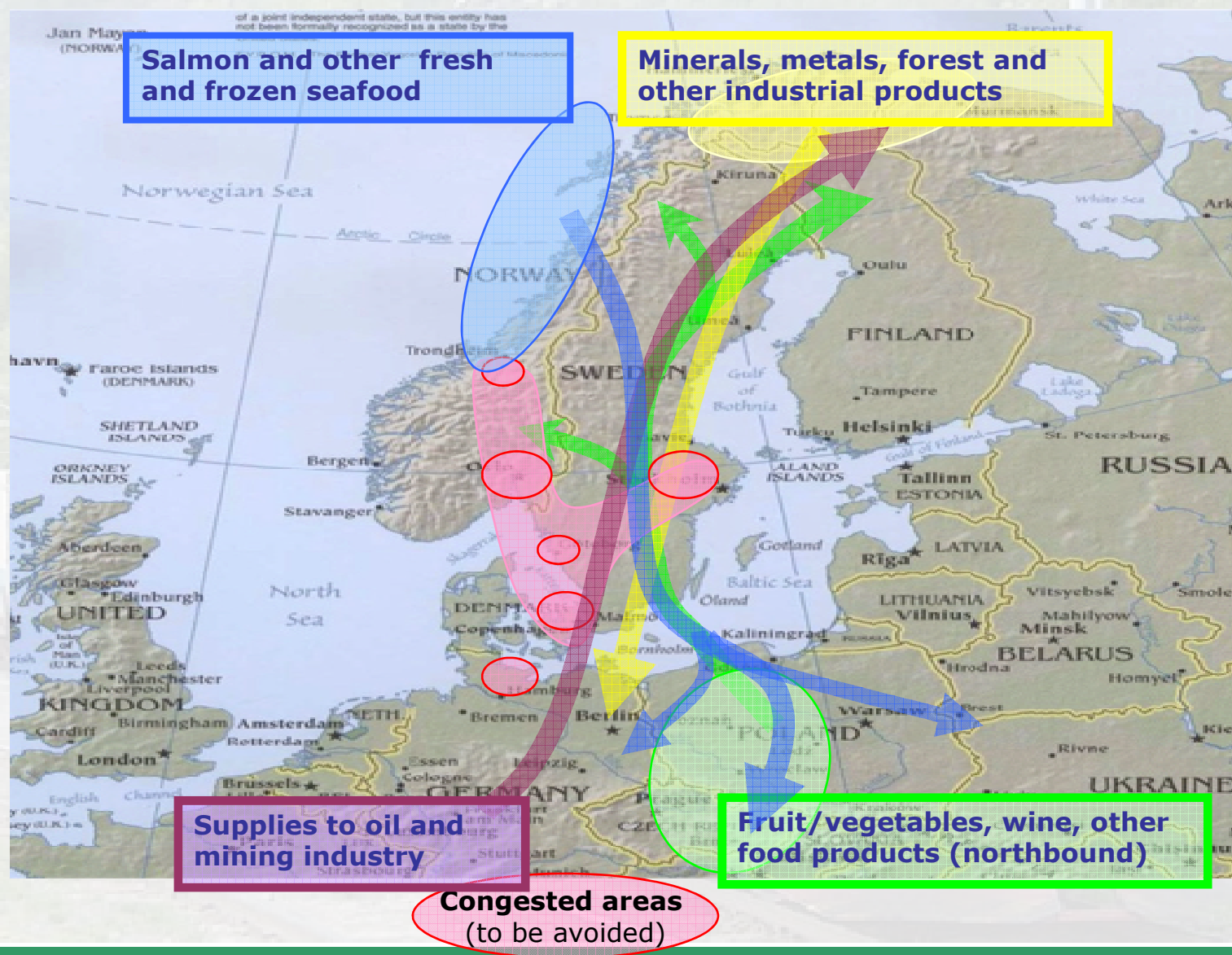
Hotspot (main problems):

The main challenge with regard to the future transport development in the Baltic Sea Region is to reduce its remoteness by improving links within the region and to the rest of the EU. East / West linkages are needed to overcome the infrastructure shortfalls of the eastern and south-eastern sides of the sea. The North is very remote. Better connections to Russia and other neighbours are needed. Further connections to Asia as well as to Black Sea and the Mediterranean regions should be developed. This might further increase the region's potential as EU's gateway to Asia.

Baltic Sea Region Added Value:

The geography of the Baltic Sea Region makes transport particularly challenging. The improvement of internal and external transport links, increasing the efficiency and minimising the environmental impact of transport systems, should contribute to higher competitiveness of the Baltic Sea region, and increase its accessibility and attractiveness. Links to islands and remote communities are a specific issue.

Options should also be considered to implement other important projects for the region such as:

- The Bothnian Corridor (divided to the Swedish side and the Finnish side) which connects the Northern Axis to the Nordic Triangle and to Rail Baltica;

- Links with the Barents Region;

- Elements of the Northern Axis (East-West connections through the Baltic States and in the North of the region);

- Via Baltica linking – by road – Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

"Facilitate efficient overall Baltic freight transport and logistics solutions"

by removing non infrastructure-related bottlenecks, promoting intermodal connections, developing the Green Corridor concept through the implementation of concrete projects, developing infrastructure, supporting logistics service providers, establishing harmonised electronic administrative procedures, harmonising control procedures,...