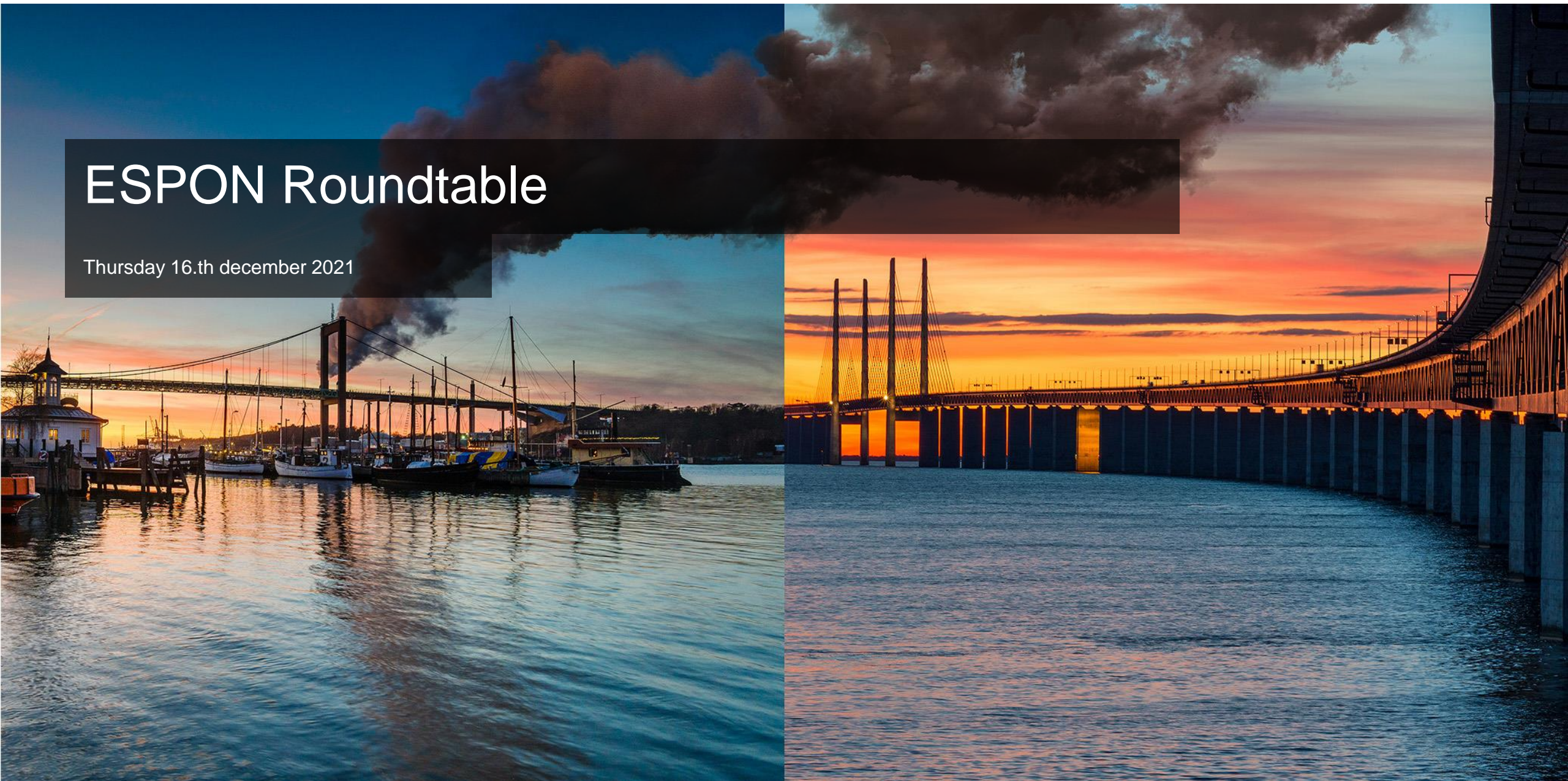


ESPON Roundtable

Thursday 16.th december 2021



How to rebuild Nordic co-operation after COVID-19 and closed borders?

Niels Boye, EU Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak (Denmark, Sweden, Norway)

- Reflections and in-sights from the pandemic must lead to better Nordic co-operation
- The Corona pandemic has demonstrated that Nordic co-operation - in times of crises – has not performed as expected and therefore there is a need to focus on what we can learn from the pandemic
- Since March 2020 the movement of persons and goods across the borders has been limited och some governments decisions have been taken without consulting – or even informing - the "neighbours"
- Sweden has applied a more open strategy than the other Nordic countries. Therefore, it is mainly from the Swedish side that there has been a wish to keep borders more open. On the other side Denmark and Norway have argued that specific measures were needed in the state of emergency during the Corona pandemic..

Recommendations to strengthen Nordic co-operation

- ✓ Closer coordination and exchange of information
- ✓ Reform the rules for taxation and social security
- ✓ Better emergency preparedness for future crisis
- ✓ Give the responsibility for civil emergency preparedness in the Nordic countries to the Nordic co-operation ministers
- ✓ Implement a common Nordic travel certificate
- ✓ Pilot test how to organise common procurement of vaccine
- ✓ Modernise rules and regulations for the labour market, taxation and pension schemes for cross-border workers