

## 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Herning, Region Central Denmark (Denmark)

### MINUTES June 13<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Time** 13 June 2008  
9.00 Registration  
9.30 – 12.00 General Assembly meeting

**Venue** Herning Kongrescenter, HERNING, (DK)

**Participating  
Regions**

Regions present

Central Denmark  
Southern Denmark  
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany  
Pärnu County, Estonia  
Uusima Region, Finland  
Itä-Uusima, Finland  
Kymenlaakso, Finland  
Päijät-Häme, Finland  
Oulu Region, Finland  
Ostrobothnia, Finland  
South-West Finland  
Riga District, Latvia  
Klaipeda, Lithuania  
Nordland, Norway  
Västra Götaland, Sweden  
Norrbotten, Sweden  
Västerbotten, Sweden  
Västernorrland, Sweden  
Gävleborg, Sweden  
Stockholm, Sweden  
Gotland, Sweden  
Blekinge, sweden  
Skåne, Sweden

Regions not present

Hiiuma, Estonia  
Saarema, Estonia  
Åland, Finland  
Tukums District, Latvia  
Podlaskie, Poland

*Appendix A - Roll Call*

**1 § Opening Session**

Welcome speech by Region of Central Denmark.

Welcome speech by Ms Christel Liljeström, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission.

**Final decision**

*Appendix B - 1§ & 3§ INTERVENTION CLAUDIO MARTINI*

The meeting was opened in a joint session of the General Assemblies of the Baltic & North Sea Commissions. Please refer to Appendix B – Speech President Claudio Martini.

President Martini attended the BSC General Assembly for the first half of the meeting.

President Christel Liljeström opened the General Assembly of the BSC with a short speech:

Welcome to the Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly!

This year we once again have a different General Assembly compared to previous ones. Last year we had a wonderful stay in Bodø, Norway, with the midnight sun and a great discussion at the Assembly. Vision and Objectives were the main issues, we also drew up the guidelines for the work of the working groups and we decided upon the new statutes for the whole organisation.

This year, we have the opportunity to have a joint seminar with our friends from the North Sea Commission. Cooperation with other organisations in issues which are important for us is one of our ways to receive results. Our cooperation with the North Sea Commission has been very fruitful and of great importance. The Nordic Dimension gives us the same platform when preparing important papers and statements to the CPMR and European Commission. The past year has also seen intensified cooperation in the fields of the different working groups.

This year we are proud to be hosted by the Region of Central Denmark. They have proved to be as efficient organisers as we hoped they would be. To take care of about 400 participants, an Interreg seminar, working groups, studies tours and two General Assemblies... that is a real challenge. And after 3 days and with 2 more to go, I can proudly announce that the region of our Vice President Poul Muller has carried out the work to a very high standard. I can guess that this General Assembly will be remembered as the days when the delegates all had a Danish smile on their faces.

When we have our General Assembly this year, we can also show you the new unique brand that we have created. The table stand, the pens and the badges, all show the new logo in the colours of the CPMR. We also present a new slogan "The Baltic Sea Commission – Top of Europe". You should know that finding the slogan has not been an easy challenge. But with this one we can all find a suitable meaning and a positive approach.

And that is an important point of view in all our work: to find the real substance in our issues and that we can all join together to move them forward in a creative, positive and active way.

With these greetings, I now open the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Baltic Sea Commission the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2008. The fact that today is also a Friday may not in any way have an effect on our work.

<b>2 §</b>	<b>Adopting of the Agenda</b>
<b>Final decision</b>	The agenda was adopted with the addition that the paper on Innovation should be included at 8§.
<b>3 §</b>	<b>Outlook for the CPMR</b>
	Speech by Mr Claudio Martini, President of the CPMR, President of Tuscany Region
<b>Presentation</b>	<b><i>Appendix B</i></b>
<b>4 §</b>	<b>Activity Report 2007 - 2008</b>
	<b><i>Appendix 1 - BSC Annual Report 2007 – 2008</i></b>
	Ms Christel Liljeström will present the Baltic Sea Commission Annual Report on the organisations activities in the period <b>June 2007 (Bodø) – June 2008 (Herning)</b> .
	<b>President Christel Liljeström presented the Annual Report:</b>
	This year when I present the annual report for the period June 2007 to June 2008, I am impressed by how much the Baltic Sea Commission has achieved.
	We can prove that our goal to return results to our Member Regions has come true.
	From the Public Events I would highlight the high-level Seminar on Impact Assessment of the new Baltic Sea Gas Pipeline that we held on Gotland in July 2007. The issue was controversial but we did our best to build up an interesting discussion and to provide information from both sides.

Our thematic working groups have done a really great job this year... The restart of the Transport Working Group is now chaired by Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The working group has already established good cooperation with the Transport Working Group of the North Sea Commission, as well as with the Pan-Baltic Transport Strategy Project and the CPMR contact on transport issues. The Energy Working Group, chaired by the new region in Sweden, the Regional Council of Västerbotten, had a joint seminar with colleagues from the North Sea Commission. They also have close contacts with the CPMR and are involved in the discussion in the Baltic Sea Region Organisations Common Energy and Climate Platform.

In Brussels we have the chair for our Fisheries Working group, Mr. Nybacka from the West Finland European Office. They have participated in several different meetings and have put forward several important positions on these kinds of issues. They also have an excellent relationship with the CPMR as well as the NSC and contacts with the European Commission.

The Employment and Training Working Group held a much acclaimed workshop in Stockholm during the spring. The Innovation group, chaired by Stockholm, is expected to present their final report at the CPMR General Assembly in Aquitaine at the beginning of October.

The Baltic Sea Commission has had a strong impact delivering a response to the Maritime Policy. Also the Green Paper on Climate Change received important input from us – as little had earlier been said about the Baltic Sea Region.

From my point of view the regions have been more involved, during the past year, in answering different policy papers. And that is a good sign as we experience that both the CPMR as well as other organisations are seriously, and increasingly, interested in our opinions. This we can see from the growing number of contacts and invitations to deliver speeches on the Baltic Sea point of view, as interpreted by the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission.

The last point I would like to draw your attention to, is our website. We have our own domain and we are bringing the new logo and colours in to use and we will offer areas of shared workspace for the activities of the thematic working groups and drawing up joint papers amongst other things.

<b>5 §</b>	<b>Economic Reports</b> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix 2 - BSC Economy Report 2007-2008</i></p> <p>Ms Anne Ståhl Mousa, Executive Secretary of the BSC presented the Economy Report for 2007 and the budget for 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation and vote on the 2007 annual accounts;</li><li>- Update on the implementation of the 2007 budget;</li><li>- Presentation and vote on the 2008 draft budget.</li></ul> <p>The Executive Secretary presented the economic reports.</p>
<b>Final decision</b>	<p>The 2007 annual accounts were adopted. The implementation of the 2007 budget was adopted. The 2008 budget was adopted.</p>

<b>6 §</b>	<b>Revision of membership fees 2009 - 2012</b> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix 3 – BSC membership fees 2009 - 2012</i></p> <p>Ms Christel Liljeström, BSC President presented the suggested revision of membership fees to provide equal levels for all regions by 2012.</p> <p>President Liljeström suggested “...BUT would it not be time for a discussion about the amount...?” “...Our Annual Report shows that the work carried out by the BSC has increased. We are active in several fields and our input has increased in strength. This will also have the consequence that the expectations that others have of us, is growing. We need to be able to take part in several cooperation projects, attend more seminars and we also need some resources when feeding into different substantial issues which are important for the BSC...”</p> <p>“... the BS Region is a region with rapid economic development. So, we feel that there is no longer a good reason why the BSC should not discuss an increase in the fee...” “...Today we are not ready to make any decisions on this issue. But I hope that you will take these thoughts</p>
------------	---

back home to your regions, and that we can have a preliminary discussion at the Executive Committee in 2009...”.

In the discussion following the President’s statement it was noted that running an organisation, with the ambition to be a strong player in the Baltic Sea area, is not acceptable in the long term.

**Final decision**

The General Assembly decided that the membership dues for the member regions now paying 50% of the dues will have their contribution increased gradually; that there will be no differential fees within the BSC by 2012. Also, following the suggestion, Appendix 3, new members from the Baltic and Polish Regions will pay the equivalent dues as other regions in the same country.

The small member regions, today sharing their membership fee, may continue to do so.

The question of raised membership dues will be brought up again during the General Assembly of 2009.

**7 §**

**Amendment to the BSC Statutes**

*Appendix 4 – BSC Statutes –  
With amendments to the GA in Herring 2008*

**Article 7: Amendments to the charter**

Amendments to the Baltic Sea Commission charter can only be made by the General Assembly and will normally be based on the recommendations of the Executive Committee.

Mr Poul Müller, Vice President of the Baltic Sea Commission presents the amendments to the BSC Statutes.

- Adaption to changes in the regions;
- Adapting to the fact that not all member regions border the Baltic Sea;
- Removing the demand that the President has to be the political leader of a member region;
- But that he/she should be office-holding in the member region.

The presidium suggest that paragraph should be revised and suggest the following reading:

*Please, refer to 10 § below in this document or Appendix 4.*

Adoptions made are to be for immediate implementation.

**Final decision**

**8 §**

**Proposed Resolutions for the BSC General Assembly**

*Appendix 5 - Discard – Incompatible with Sustainable Fisheries*

**Discard – Incompatible with Sustainable Fisheries**, Proposed by the NSC and supported by the BSC Fisheries Working Group:

*Appendix 6 – Towards A Sustainable European Regional Cohesion Policy*

*Appendix 7 - Energy as A Priority in European Sustainable Procurement*

**The Technical Paper from the CPMR General Secretariat on a project for post-2013 Europe.**

*Appendix 8 - BSC/BSSSC Answer to the Green Paper on Cohesion*

**Final decision**

**9 §**

**Activity Plan 2008 - 2009**

*Appendix 9 – Amendments Visions & Objectives With 2008-2009 Activity Plan*

The Activity Plan is a part of the Vision & Objectives.

The Executive Committee suggest amendments to the Vision & Objectives:

- The slogan;
- Activity Plan for the period June 2008 – June 2009.

**Final decision**

**10 §**

**Election of President, Vice-Presidents and Executive Committee**

*Appendix 10 – BSC Statutes 2007*

**Article 3: Constitution**

The Baltic Sea Commission brings together the Presidents of the Member Regions which border the Baltic Sea i.e. regions and islands which have a coastline vis-à-vis the Baltic Sea.

The Presidents, who may delegate their own representative, should be appointed by the Regional Authorities immediately below the level of the Central Government.

Members of the Executive Committee should be office-holding elected members from the member regions.

**Article 4: The election of the President and of the Executive Committee**

The election of the President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Executive Committee will take place every 2<sup>nd</sup> year, following the procedure outlined below:

- General Assembly shall elect a President, two Vice-Presidents and an Executive Committee.
- The Executive Secretary asks the Assembly if there are any nominations to the post of President of the Baltic Sea Commission. Each nomination must be seconded by a region other than the region represented by the nominee. The President of the Baltic Sea Committee will be the President /political leader of their respective regional authority.
- Once the nominations are known, a vote by show of hands will be taken. However, if any of the regions so request, the vote will be by secret ballot. If there is more than one candidate, the vote will also be by secret ballot. The candidate having obtained an absolute majority of the votes of the delegates present will be declared elected.
- Then the election of the Executive Committee takes place. Each member country shall appoint one representative and one substitute representative. Two Vice-Presidents shall be elected, who must be from different countries in between themselves and of the President. In case of absence of the President during the period of his/her mandate, the Vice-Presidents assumes his/her functions.

**Final decision**

Election of President:  
Election of two Vice Presidents:  
Election of the Executive Committee:

**11 §**

**Nomination of the Executive Secretary**

*Appendix 10 – BSC Statutes 2007*

**Article 5: The Executive Secretary**

The Baltic Sea Commission has an Executive Secretary whose responsibility is to ensure the day-to day organisation of its work and implementation of its decisions. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee the General Assembly shall nominate the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary appointed should be from another country than the President. His/her mandate is renewed every 2 years. The Executive Secretary of the Baltic Sea Commission assists the President in his/her task and acts under his/her authority.

**18 March 2008 07:16:12**

To the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

*The Municipality of Gotland has hosted the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Secretariat since 2006. We hereby offer to prolong that responsibility for the two coming years. Ms Anne Ståhl Mousa will continue as Secretary General and she will be stationed in Visby as hitherto.*

*Best regards*

*Eva Nypelius ( c )*

*Ordförande Kommunstyrelsen*

**Final decision** Nomination of the Executive Secretary:

**12 § Enquiry Into the Future of the CPMR**

**Appendix 11 - CPMR Future**

The enquiry into the future of the CPMR aims to give the organisation a clear vision of the nature of its membership, and of the political goals commonly shared by its Members. It intends to assess the organisation's past strengths and weaknesses, and draw lessons from them. It will outline the main objectives which its Members wish to pursue in the forthcoming years, as well as define the main fields of activities where they wish to see the CPMR involved, be it within or outside the geographical scope of the EU.

The enquiry will not deal with strictly organisational matters, since addressing such matters before clarifying political goals would be getting priorities wrong. Debates and decisions on organisational matters will obviously have to follow, but it seems appropriate that they be handled by the organisation's future Secretary General.

**1) SWOT Analysis**

- *What do you consider to be the CPMR's biggest achievements during recent years?*
- *On what occasions, or in what areas, do you consider that the CPMR has failed, or could have done more?*
- *What do you consider as the most important issues which the CPMR should address in the foreseeable future?*

**2) CPMR external relationships**

- *How do you think that the CPMR could get more actively involved with other stakeholders on the European scene, and with which ones?*
- *How do you think that the CPMR could play a greater role with the territories covered by the EU Neighbourhood Economic Policy?*
- *How do you think that the CPMR could become increasingly involved with other structures or networks of regional organisations worldwide?*

These findings will be summarised and presented to the CPMR Political Bureau due to be held in Rhodes in June 2008. After discussion by the Political Bureau it will draft a number of "scenarios". The scenarios will be submitted to Members in the course of the summer 2008, in view of a large debate during the General Assembly in early October.

There will also be the organisation of an "opinion poll"; via a short questionnaire which will be distributed to all Member Regions in electronic format (to enable quick processing) the Members will be asked to give their opinion on each scenario proposed and to indicate their individual preference regarding the nature and goals of the CPMR. They will also be given the opportunity to make comments or suggestions.

**Final decision**

**13 § Presentation of a new BSC Member Region**

The **Southern Denmark Region** is welcomed as a new Baltic Sea Commission member.

The Region of **IdaViru, Estonia**, has applied to rejoin the CPMR, and the BSC, as from the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne , Aquitaine (Fr) October 1-3 2008.  
The BSC is happy to welcome the Region of IdaViru today.

**14 § Candidate for the Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly 2009**

The 14<sup>th</sup> BSC General Assembly will be held in May/June 2008.

Previous BSC General Assemblies have been held in:

- 1<sup>st</sup> 1996 Silja Line, on board from Helsinki to Stockholm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 1997 Riga, Riga District, Latvia
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 1998 Oulu, Northern Ostrobothnia, Finland
- 4<sup>th</sup> 1999 Borgholm, Öland, Sweden
- 5<sup>th</sup> 2000 Rønne, Bornholm, Denmark
- 6<sup>th</sup> 2001 Tallinn, Harju, Estonia
- 7<sup>th</sup> 2002 Klaipėda, Klaipėda County, Lithuania
- 8<sup>th</sup> 2003 Umeå, Västerbotten, Sweden
- 9<sup>th</sup> 2004 Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany
- 10<sup>th</sup> 2005 Naantali, South-West Finland, Finland
- 11<sup>th</sup> 2006 Karlskrona, Blekinge, Sweden
- 12<sup>th</sup> 2007 Bodø, Nordland, Norway
- 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 Herning, Region Central Denmark, Denmark

**Final decision**

**15 § Any Other Business**

**Final decision**

**16 § Closing speech**

**Thanks was given to all participants to end the proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Baltic Sea Commission**

**Final decision**

*CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Secretariat,  
Anne Ståhl Mousa,  
Executive Secretary,  
anne\_stahlmousa@msn.com,  
www.balticseacommission.org  
Mobile +46 70 540 8858*