



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Executive Committee Meeting

MINUTES

13 February 2008

Time 13 February 2008 9 am – 4 pm.

Venue CPMR Brussels Office, RP Schuman 14, 1040 Brussels.

Participants
Roll call

Members	Substitutes
(x) Ms Christel LILJESTRÖM Itä-Uusimaa/Östra Nyland (FI)	President
(x) Mr Poul MÜLLER Central Denmark (DK)	Vice- President
(x) Ms Elke ORDING Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)	(-) Mr Jørgen KVIST Bornholm (DK)
(-) Ms Reet KOKOVKIN (EST)	(-) Mr Wolf BORN Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)
(-) Ms Talvikki KOSKINEN South-West Finland (FI)	(-) Mr Tarmo PIKNER (EST)
	(-) Ms Marjatta VEKAOJA Pohjanmaa/Österbotten (FI)
(x) Mr Ilgonis STEINBERGS Riga District (LV)	(-) Ms Grenada DEMAKINA Riga District (LV)
(-) Raisa MINCINAUSKIENE Klaipėda (LT)	(-) Ms Dalia MAKUSKIENE Klaipėda (LT)
(-) Mr Geir-Ketil HANSEN Nordland (N)	(-) Ms Sonja A STEEN Nordland (N)
(-) Mr Dariusz PIONTKOWSKI (PL)	(-) Mr Michał PODBIELSKI (PL)
(x) Ms Annika ANNERBY JANSSON Region Skåne (S)	(x) Mr Erik BERGKVIST Regional Council of Västerbotten (S)
Secretariat:	
(x) Ms Anne STÅHL MOUSA	Executive Secretary, BSC Secretariat Visby

CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE – BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Executive Secretary *Anne Ståhl Mousa*, Telephone +46 498 203444, Mobile +46 70 5408858, Fax +46 498 205120
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Other participants:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (x) Mr Enrico MAYRHOFER
CPMR Brussels Office | (x) Mr Bernt VEDIN (S), Regional
Council of Västerbotten |
| (x) Mr Peder BANG,
Central Denmark (DK) | (x) Mr JanErik MAJEWSKI, Region
Skåne (S) |
| (x) Mr Ole M KOLSTAD, Nordland (N) | (-) Mr Henrik EYBYE NIELSEN
Bornholm (DK) |
| (-) Mr Jaakko MIKKOLA, Regional Council of Itä-
Uusimaa (SF) | (-) Ms Linnéa LUNDSTRÖM,
Västerbotten (S) |
| (-) Ms Agnieszka GOLEBIEWSKA | (-) Ms IImi TIKKANEN, Regional
Council of Itä-Uusimaa (SF) |
| (x) Mr Karl SCHMUDE, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
(D) | (x) Mr Ingvar THELL, Region Skåne
(S) |
| (x) Ms Maria ÖBERG, Norbotten (SWE) | (x) Mr Sebastian SCHRÖDER,
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) |
| (-) Ms Viktorija LIUTKUTE | (x) Ms Carol THOMAS CPMR
Brussels Office |

X 9h30 Nathalie Hesketh, Head for Communication at the Task

X 11h00 Xavier Gizard with Ms Priscilla Post Wohl, Executive Director, Northern Forum

X 12h00 Rory Watson, marketing officer of EUROPOLITICS

X 12h30 Guy Vanhaeverbeke, founder in 1976 of "Sail for Europe"

47 § Opening the Meeting

Final decision The President opened the meeting wishing everyone most welcome to what will hopefully be a day full of interesting debate.

48 § Adopting of the Agenda

Final decision The agenda was adopted with 56§ to be taken last when everyone is present.

49 § Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Appendix 1 - Minutes E.C. Klaipeda 20th of November 2007

Final decision The minutes were adopted.

50 § Information on Executive Committee Member Regional Elections

Election to the post as Podlaskie Regions Marshall
Retirement of Bornholm's representative Jörgen Kvist

Welcome to **Jan-Erik Majewski** future replacement **Mr Ingvar Thell**

Final decision The advertised changes were noted.
It was also noted that **Mr Tomas Gustafsson** will permanently be replaced by **Mr Bernt Vedin** as the Region of Västerbotten from 1st January 2008 have a new regional authority, **the Regional Council of Västerbotten, also refer to 51§.**

The president wishes all welcome to the “fellowship” of the BSC.

51 § Information Regarding Announcements of New and Leaving Member Regions

Bornholm region has decided to leave BSC as from our GA in Herring on June 13th, 2008. Region South Denmark is a new BSC member.

Final decision *The change was noted, and the president stressed that this only meant that we may have lost a good member, in Borholm, but that we know that we will have them as a “good friends” in the Island Commission (IC).*

The president also took the opportunity to inform the EC that mutual contacts been made between the IC and BSC secretariats aiming in the direction of establishing a closer cooperation between the two geographical commissions. The commissions share the view on many issues and do also have overlapping members in the Baltic Sea Area. Further more islands, like Rügen (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) and Öland only may participate in the CPMR geographical commissions through the BSC as they are not “per IC definition” islands.

As from the CPMR GA in Florence 2007, BSC welcome a new Danish member; the Region of Southern Denmark.

The Region of Southern Denmark

Openness, dialogue and citizen involvement are the guiding lights for interaction between the Region of Southern Denmark on the one hand and local authorities, the business community, knowledge institutions and private citizens on the other.

Together, we are to build a better region for us all – through a good, well-functioning working relationship. We are facing a range of great challenges, and important decisions will have to be taken; decisions that are sure to affect all our lives for many years to come. For this reason, it is essential that we work together to create solutions to help everyone to thrive.

<http://www.regionsyddanmark.dk/wm228983>

Final decision *It was noted that the Region of Västerbotten has, from 1st January 2008, undergone a regional reformer and the new regional authority is the Regional Council of Västerbotten, an authority that has the responsibility for regional development in Västerbotten. This means also that some tasks have been moved from the County Administration as well as from the County Council. One of these tasks is the membership in the CPMR. – In reality this will not change anything as Erik Bergkvist will continue since he is also chairing the new Regional Council.*

The Executive Secretary informed the EC of the contacts taken by Region Ida-Virumaa, Estonia, Mr Valli Laas, International coordinator.

Region Ida-Viru was observers in 1998 and 1999 to the BSC. At the beginning of this year the region has got the membership fee donation from the Estonian Government and is now formally applying for membership to the CPMR and BSC.

The region is have asked, and been granted, that their President of the region could participate in BSC GA 2008 in order to get to know our members. They have also expressed an interest in participating in WG activities.

52 § Activity Report November 2007 (Klaipeda) – February 2008 (Brussels)

A brief oral account of the meetings attended by the BSC Presidium members.

November 19	CPMR Port & Maritime Transport, Gijón, Asturias (ES) - http://www.cpmr.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,58	NONE
November 19-21	Inter Baltic Final Conference, Klaipeda (LIT) - http://www.interbaltic.org/	~ ALL EC
November 21	BSC Executive Committee meeting, Klaipeda (LIT) <i>Appendix 1 - Minutes E.C. Klaipeda 20th of November 2007</i>	ALL EC
November 27-28	EU Blue Planet Forum (CPMR activity on the 28 th), Brussels (BEL)	NONE
December 5-7	B7 Annual conference, Bornholm (DK) - http://www.b7.org/ The meeting offered an excellent programme on regional development. B7 focus on running a few, but strong, projects. They have and will continue in BalticMaster II.	ASM
December 5	Annual Consultation meeting with the CBSS Special Participants and Strategic Partners, Troika meeting BSR partners, Copenhagen (DK)	PM
December 12	BSSSC+BSC joint transport project preparation meeting in Malmö (S) - See WG reports Appendix -59§ f	Region Skåne
December 13	Energy WGs of NSC+BSC chairmen and coordinators meeting, Brussels (B) - See WG reports Appendix -59§ b	WG Energy
January 10-11	CPMR CODIR meeting, Rennes (FR) First meeting held in English only. Focus on CPMR future and the PB in Seville.	ASM
January 16	BSC+BSSSC Transport project meeting - See WG reports Appendix -59§ f	Region Skåne
January 18	CPMR / Committee of the Regions Seminar "Which future for Regional policies after 2013?" , Andalucía (Seville, Spain) - http://www.cpmr.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,64 CL held a made an intervention on the subject: Regional innovation strategies in the Baltic Sea Area	CL & PM
January 19	CPMR Political Bureau, Andalucía (Seville, Spain) - http://www.cpmr.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,63 The BSC President to an active part in the debate, particularly regarding the new organisation FOGAR.	CL & PM
January 28- Feb 1	Committee of the Regions - EU sustainable Energy Week - EUSEW - "EU Sustainable Energy policies in the Peripheral and Maritime Regions of Europe", Brussels (B) - http://www.cpmr.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,61 The BSC was represented by our WG on Energy and through speeches at the CPMR meeting by Region Norrbotten and earlier in the week by Region Gotland.	WG Energy & Region Gotland
January 31	CPMR Intercommission WG on Tourism, 2nd meeting, Brussels (BEL) - See WG reports Appendix -59§ h	ASM
End January	TN-RIS WG meeting, Rennes (F) - See WG reports Appendix -59§ e	ASM
February 5	CPMR secretarial meeting on questionnaire to regions, Paris (FR) - See comments under -56§ section C	ASM
February 6	BSR Organisations meeting on Climate and Energy, Copenhagen (DK) - See Appendix 52§ D – Minutes BSR Org, Copenhagen 6th Feb BSC will act host for the next meeting, late spring (June) 2008, in Borgå/Porvoo (FIN).	ASM
February 12	BSC meet representative of the org of Arctic Regions, Brussels (BEL)	P
February 13	BSC Executive Committee meeting, Brussels (BEL)	ALL
Who did represent the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission? CL Christel Liljeström, PM Poul Müller, ASM Anne Ståhl Mousa, P The Presidium, Region Skåne: Mats Petersson WG Energy: Linnéa Lundström		

53 §

Short reports:

**Ms Nathalie Hesketh, Mr Enrico Mayrhofer, BSC Executive Secretary and Xavier Gizard
CPMR General Secretary**

• **EU Maritime Day 20th of May**

Ms Nathalie Hesketh, Head for Communication at the maritime task force presented the EU Maritime Day.

This year the European Commission will organize a large event, "stakeholder's conference" in the Charlemagne building to promote the blue paper and the creation of the European maritime policy. The Commission expects that CPMR show involvement and bring some suggestions. For instance, the AQUAMARINA project must be involved in this event somehow!

Furthermore, CPMR could organize something in Brussels during the event such as exhibitions, etc. However, we could also promote this day locally giving free entrance to maritime museum/aquarium, organizing some cleaning seashores action, etc.

The Commission is ready to give any kind of assistance to CPMR. For example, they will certainly pay for creating stands at the entrance of the Charlemagne building. Martine Allait from the Delegation of Brittany in Brussels has already showed interest of Brittany regions in this action, and I will probably address an email to other Brussels Regional offices.

Final decision

The member regions are invited to propose ideas. The commission has no money but could help with advertising and information.

It is up to each region to decide – but it would be good if we could have a report by the next EC as to know to what extent we will be an active.

The secretariat will inform all regions about the Maritime day and any further questions will be redirected through Mr. Enrico Mayrhofer.

• **Suggested CPMR media policy**

Appendix – 53§ a CPMR Media Policy for the Future

As a spin-off of the Media Policy proposed by Mr Mayrhofer at the CODIR meeting of the CPMR executive secretaries in Rennes, the BSC and NSC commission secretariats have decided to investigate the possibility to have a joint web-service with partly separate and partly shared pages and information, including interactive webpage's. – BSCs Anne Stahl Mousa will investigate the options. At the secretarial meeting in Paris several commissions showed an interest in a shared web-service why the new site should accommodate for additional geographical commissions that like to join it in the future.

Final decision

The executive secretary will report back at the up-coming joint BSC + NSC presidium meeting in Gothenburg, April 4-5 and at our next EC in Visby April 8-9.

• **ACCR**

We have also received preliminary information about the time table of the open call of the programme from the Rostock Secretariat, and the first call will be opened in the end of February and closed in the end of May. The applicant package will be published then in the end of February when we will also receive latest conditions for the project development. The lead applicant seminars will be organised in the beginning of April. I stress that all these dates are preliminary, and will be confirmed first after the meeting of the monitoring committee of the programme.

This also means that the large ACCR partner meeting will be postponed to the mid of April. The meeting will be held in Hamburg but the date will be confirmed later depending on the dates like of the lead applicant seminars.

• **Project Aquamarina and possible project co-operation with Eurostat**

Appendix – 53§b Proposal for the supply of statistical services

Applied for but not yet confirmed. If CPMR do get the project member regions in all geographical commissions will be approached for possible participation.

Project in co-operation with Eurostat: creation of an economic database in the field of the EU Maritime Policy.

The European Commission's Blue Book "An integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union" (COM(2007) 575) was published in October 2007, after a one year phase of debates from inside and outside the EU, which followed the publication of the Green Paper in 2006, a proposal document on the same topic.

The Action Plan of the Blue Book announces the elaboration of a socio-economic database on maritime activities in the EU. The design, architecture and construction of this database were put out to tender by Eurostat in September 2007.

The project will be carried out from January to December 2008.

26/3 all day : 1st Aquamarina meeting

Appendix – 53§c Aquamarina WG specifications

Final decision

The Executive Secretary will take part in the upcoming first Aquamarina meeting, hopefully along with other interested regions. In particular the Regional Council of Västerbotten showed a great interest in the Eurostat work and the Executive Secretary will inform CPMR of this interest.

- **BSSSC co-operation**

Appendix C – Declaration CoR-BSSSC

Final decision

BSSSC invite BSC to join the declaration of common interest between CoR and BSSSC. Other Baltic Sea Organisations that are invited to join the declaration are UBC and B7.

The BSC will join the declaration and ask the Executive Secretary and the BSC president to write BSSSC.

- **Treaty of Rome sailing boat**

About the "Treaty of Rome" sailing boat project.

The association "Sail for Europe" (www.sailforeurope.org), which aims to promote the construction of Europe through sailing, entered the sailboat "Traité de Rome" in the 1977-1978 and in 1980-1981 Whitbread Round the World Race. For the first time Europe participated in an international sports competition with a European team instead of having purely national teams as, for instance, at the Olympics. Moreover, the boat also took part in the Tour de France à la Voile race in 1984 and in 1985. Therefore, it was natural that this boat should be associated with the ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the signature of the founding Treaties of the European Union.

For more information about the project please read this article:

<http://www.cpmr.org/en/index.php?act=5,3,18,165>

or watch this video:

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=YCeLmGkS9KE>

The calendar or the harbors where the boat will stop can still be modified, therefore the person to contact in case some of your regions want to host this initiative is :

Final decision

SAIL FOR EUROPE ASBL, c/o Pierre Donner, Rue de l'Aqueduc 25, B-1060 Bruxelles, Tél : + 32 475 23 21 34, antares@skynet.be, www.sailforeurope.eu

The secretariat will, after receiving information from the "Treaty of Rome" organisation, inform all regions about the Maritime day and any further questions will be redirected through Mr. Enrico Mayrhofer.

- **Baltic Master II**

The information has been mailed out to all regions!

- **The Baltic Sea Commission “punch-line”.**

At the General Assembly the BSC member regions were asked to spend lazy summer days considering a good and short slogan for the BSC that could be added to the webpage, documents and on other appropriate places. So far, written September 17, no suggestions arrived to the secretariat.

Final decision

Let’s try again in Visby!

54 §

CPMR Current Affairs

CPMR General Secretary Xavier Gizard gave a presentation of the current affairs of the organisation. For this session Ms Priscilla Post Wohl, Executive Director, Northern Forum was also invited.

Presentation:

President Claudio Martini and CPMR General Secretary Xavier Gizard will both come to the BSC / NSC Seminar and General Assembly in Herning on June 12-13.

The Committee of Regions has formed an internal group on Baltic Sea, headed by Mr Uno Aldergren (DK) as a result of the Commissions decision to form a Baltic Sea Strategy. Mr Gerhard Stahl, of the Committee of Regions, has approached CPMR to participate in this group, and this would also include representatives of the BSC EC.

It is the aim of CPMR to have ready a package of policy documents to be adopted at the General Assembly in Gothenburg 2009. This package, containing the CPMR point of view will then be presented to at the new elected parliament. The work to compile the necessary documents starts in 2008. As for 2008 the main topics will be:

- a) Territorial Cohesion and the European Budget Post 2013
- b) EU Maritime Policy – *the Aquamarina group*
- c) EU Transport Policy
- d) Agriculture and Rural Development – *the CAP group*
- e) Adaptation to Climate Change
- f) External Cooperation Activities

Mr Xavier invited all regions to take part in the meeting on CAP, on March 25th and the Aquamarina meeting in Brussels on March 26th.

Mr Xavier also informed about the CPMR external cooperation through FOGAR. At the moment the CPMR is active in organising the coming meeting in Tangiers, Morocco, May 12-14 to which he hope to be welcoming representatives from BSC.

The aim of the organisation is amongst other things to coordinate aid from regions, to promote the “role of the region” and the “European model” in global governance. The present globalisation does affect our member regions and working through FOGAR is providing a platform for global action. This is important not only when it comes to regional development but also for global issues like the threat of climate change.

Final decision

The CPMR together with the BSC Executive Secretary shall try to set a date for a first meeting between the BSC presidium and the CoR’s Baltic Sea Strategy group led by Mr Uno Aldergren – as has been suggested by Mr Gerhard Stahl. The objective is to see if the BSC could be participating in this group.

Regarding a joint seminar in Tallinn Mr Xavier find that innovation as well as the upcoming revision of TEN could be two good subjects. One set in 2008 and the latter in 2009.

The BSC secretary is asked to contact the TEN-Ris innovation project to se if they will be ready to have a seminar in the autumn of 2008.

Ms Wohl stressed the important role that FOGAR has already played to her organisation for accessing UN funds to aid flooded regions in Russia.

The organisation comprises of 16 regions often large and scarcely populated. The main topics

on the agenda is climate change, sustainability, culture and business support. The organisation has Finnish Lapland as the only Nordic member and also Russian regions. Ms Wohl sees that our organisations could have several subjects in common and they would look forward to have small concrete projects together with our regions on topics such as issues on climate change, telemedicine, sustainable housing and clean water.

Final decision ***Anne Ståhl Mousa will keep the contact with Ms Priscilla Post Wohl, Executive Director, and Northern Forum. The first step is to send an invitation to the joint BSC NSC seminar on Regional actions for sustainable buildings, in Umeå (S) April 24-25th. For further cooperation the topic of climate change seem to be a good subject as well as sustainable energy issues.***

Discussion point **A BSC Seminar 2008 (possibly in Tallinn)**
The secretariat has been in contact with Mr Gizard who thinks it would be a good idea to have a CPMR/BSC seminar together in the autumn. His suggestion for topic was “transport” – “sustainable transport”. Alternatively a seminar on innovation with participation of Henrik Lax and an Estonian top politician. –The issue is open to discussion.

The executive committee had to postpone this question until the EC meeting, at the CPMR Office in Brussels on February 13th 2008.

Final decision ***The discussion landed in a preliminary decision to hold a full day seminar in Tallinn in the autumn of 2008 with the theme “innovation and regional development”. As mentioned above, Anne Stahl Mousa will contact the TEN-Ris Innovation group to see if they are prepared to have a seminar in the autumn. Region Skåne underlined that they are interested in taking an active part in arranging such a seminar. The subject is up for further discussions at the Visby EC April 8-9.***

55 § **Economic Report** [*Appendix 2 - BSC Economy Jan-Dec 2007 & Jan 2008 a, b and c*](#)

An up-dated financial report for the period Jan – December 2007 and Budget for 2008 is presented.

Final decision The financial report and budget was adopted.

56 § **The Aftermath of the CPMR Political Bureau Meeting in Seville, January 19th, 2008.**
[*Appendix 3 - Confidential Presidential Report*](#)
[*Appendix 4a - CPMR Future*](#)
[*Appendix 4b –Future of CPMR Enquiry -preliminary*](#)

- A) The future of CPMR, including election of new President 2008/2010 and new General Secretary 2010.
- B) One of the main topics was the debate concerning FOGAR. Please, refer to the presidential report to prepare for a good discussion as to how the BSC should act on this issue.
- C) **Report on the meeting of the executive secretaries of the geographical commissions:**

Regarding the Paris meeting on the future of CPMR in the end we were all the Executive secretaries gathered (on our own) and led by Jean Didier. - The right man for the job.

The result was – a structure of questions, to be distributed as PPTs that we could share, and that will be supporting an open debate (half an hour on each question at least) on our EC, in our regions and on the GAs before the PB in Rhodes where the debate will lead up to the establishing of scenarios for the CPMR future. These scenarios will be sent out to the regions to be further debated. A decision on our future direction could be taken at the CPMR GA 1-3 October.

The questions shall also be performed in the format of interviews with top politicians that are no

longer involved in CPMR but know the organisation well. – **Here we need North European names!**

The questions will be:

In a SWOT

- How is CPMR perceived
 - o CPMRs biggest achievements in recent years
 - o Were did CPMR fail
- CPMRs most important task for tomorrow: What´s expected from CPMR
 - what to address
 - what policies
- CPMRs geographical scope: Relations with other stakeholders
 - EU
 - NEC (Neighborhood Economic Community)
 - Outside (the world)

Before we got this far we set out to define ourselves:

- “We are at the European organizational level below the governmental level (interpreted in a rather open way)”
- “We are regions that in turn are Council of Europe Members (48 or them) / Belonging to the Chamber of Regions of Europe + those belonging to the European Partnership”.
- “Regions with maritime coastlines + Those who feel they like to belong to the organisation and are accepted by its members (hinterlands, big lakes, rivers... or others)”.
- We are peripheral according to Norwegian Johan Galtung´s definition: “We are regions that are, or feel that they are, geographically peripheral in terms of social or economical terms from a political center”.
- “We are a political organisation”.

Final decision

The session started with the Executive Secretary presenting the outcome of the Secretarial meeting in Paris on the Future of CPMR, see section C above.

Regarding the list of those who should be interviewed Two names were added: Mr Stig Östdal, former CPMR President and Mr Jan Lundgren, one of the men behind the BSC.

It was noted that the calendar need to be revised - and the executive secretary is asked to inform Mr Jean Didier about this - vice president Poul Müller stressed that the PB may well make the recommendations on who they think should be the new general secretary of the CPMR but the decision must be taken by the CPMR GA in 2009.

There is a support of the idea that the next CPMR general secretary should not necessarily be recruited with Rennes as mandatory site of stationing.

The material will be circulated among the BSC members in advance to allow internal regional discussion, before the BSC at the General Assembly in Herring make our joint SWAT-analysis.

The EC did also stress their confidence in Mr Jean Didier Hache is the right man to undertake this work.

There was a long debate on FOGAR which ended in the conclusion that this subject must be acted out not to further intervene with the discussion of the CPMR future. The EC agreed that the CPMR will have to keep the present position as intermission solution but that post 2009 the organisation should be independent and then, the GA should be allowed to decide if CPMR should be a member or not. This should also be followed by a clear account of the finances.

The decision was to ask the presidium to draft a letter to President Martini, circulate it to the EC members, and then send it by surface mail.

See [Appendix 4 – 70§ Letter to the CPMR President\(Visby EC meeting April 8-9th 2008\)](#)

57 §	<p>The political position of the CPMR opinion of the general secretariat on a project for post-2013 Europe.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix 5 - CPMR PPP Cohesion</i></p> <p>This document was originally thought as a political position paper to be adopted by the PB in Seville. However, the subject will be back for a general discussion at the PB of Rhodes by the end of July.</p>
Final decision	This will be one of the topics for the Visby EC meeting on April 8 th .
58 §	<p>Work On the EU Green Paper On Cohesion Policy after 2013</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix 6 - BSC/BSSSC Answer to the Green Paper on Cohesion</i></p>
	The European Commission had initiated a consultation on the future EU regional/cohesion policy after 2013.
	The consultation was open until January 31, 2008.
	The BSC president decided that we should try to join the BSSSC in an effort to elaborate a BSC/BSSSC contribution to the consultation.
	Arriving right before the Christmas holidays the decision was to have the BSC Executive secretary to urge regions to answer a questionnaire before January 9 th 2008. The joint contributions was re-circulated by January 20 th and delivered to the Commission by January 31 st .
	The answers were to be made with a "BSC/BSSSC point of view", i.e. cohesion seen in a broad perspective in relation to the Baltic Sea as a region.
Final decision	The president thanked all the regions who took the time to answer this green paper in the midst of the Christmas holidays.
59 §	BSC Thematic Work Group – Reports
a)	Transport Working Group (Ms Elke Ording)
Final decision	<p>Mecklenburg-Vorpommern under Mr Sebastian Schröder, <i>Secretary of State Ministry for Transport, Building and Regional Development Mecklenburg-Vorpommern</i>, and with Ms Elke Ording, as the BSC Executive Committee contact, <i>has taken the lead of the BSC thematic workgroup for Transport.</i></p>
	Supporting Mr Schröder is Mr Karl Schmude, <i>Desk officer</i> . As a coordinator, the group will be Maria Öberg <i>County council of Norrbotten</i> .
	<p><i>Most participants to the Brussels meeting agreed that it will be necessary to pick very few themes and to set a quite tight schedule to produce visible outputs. The following possible objectives for the group have been discussed during both meetings:</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Contribute to future European Transport Policy: CPMR has been invited by DG TREN very recently to make proposals on concepts for TEN-T after 2014;</i> <i>• Contribute to current European Transport Policy, especially the package which has been presented by DG TREN in autumn 2007;</i> <i>• Promote intermodal freight transport, especially with a view on shortsea shipping in the Baltic Sea Region;</i> <i>• Promote rail freight transport in the BSR;</i> <i>• Promote interregional air transport across national borders in the BSR; a project application for the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 (http://eu.baltic.net/) is being prepared by Region Nordland / NO and others;</i>

- Promote easier transport links with Russia; a project application for the BSR Programme 2007-2013 is being prepared by Region Nordland / NO, Norrbotten / SE and others.

In addition, the Executive Committee has expressed its support for the Interreg IV B project application "TransBaltic" which is currently being prepared by Region Skåne. All project applications for the BSR programme will have to be submitted until end of May 2008, which is the responsibility of the respective Lead Partner.

The following schedule for the CPMR-BSC Transport WG group is envisaged so far:

- Transport WG meeting in April/May, possibly back-to-back with the preparation of one or more of the above mentioned Interreg IV B projects
- Continuous contacts with DG TREN about the post-2014 EU Transport Policy
- Discussion paper about the post-2014 EU Transport Policy to be ready in June
- Transport WG meeting (possibly with a speaker of DG TREN) in the frame of CPMRBSC/ - NSC General Assembly June 11-13 in Herning / DK
- Seminar / Conference about EU Transport Policy in 2009

Since only about ten of the more than 30 members of CPMR-BSC have been present in Brussels, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern take the chance again to invite all member regions to join the Transport WG with their transport experts in Schwerin / DE on 29 April 2008.

b) Energy WG (Dr. Erik Bergkvist, Ms. Linnéa Lundström)

Final decision

Erik Bergkvist invited all the EC members to the BSC+NSC join conference in Umeå that is offering an excellent programme with the hope that it will attract many participants.

The major focus for the Energy WG in 2008 has so far been on planning the joint conference with the NSC Sustainable Development Group in Umeå, April 24-25. We will hold a separate WG meeting on the 23rd, and hopefully attract more BSC regions to become members of the WG. The theme of the conference is "Regional actions for sustainable buildings".

The WG was also represented at the CPMR energy steering committee meeting and contributed with a speaker at the CPMR seminar during Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels, January 30th.

Closer cooperation with the BSSSC and other Baltic Sea organizations was initiated in 2007 and will continue in 2008.

Result of the CPMR day during the EU Energy week

On "EU Sustainable Energy Policies in Peripheral and Maritime Regions of Europe" - all the papers presented are now available on our website, at the following link:

<http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,1,2,61>

The CPMR Working Group on Energy will present a Position Paper on sustainable energy and climate change to be presented to the next CPMR Political Bureau. Thus I intend to write an analysis note on the Commission's package shortly, that I will circulate to all the Regions in order to collect observations and comments.

c) Fishery WG (Mr Kjell Nybacka, Mr Rolf Gidemo)

For the moment the Baltic Sea regions and their Brussels offices are in a very exciting period of activities which concerns the future Baltic Sea strategy. It seems that the offices could be inclined to gather contributions and try to cooperate with DG Regio during the writing process. We have created an informal network with a little more than 50 organisations so far. The next step will be to introduce the Swedish and Finnish Baltic sea strategy expert to the Brussels scene. I suppose that this is also something which interests CPMR?

Final decision

The BSC Executive Secretary will take part in a joint meeting in Brussels in March-April. The Executive Secretary will also try to have Mr Rolf Gidemo to attend the EC in Visby on April 9th.

d) CPMR WG – Human Resource Group (Ms Inger Linge, Mr Tommy Karlsson) // Migration & Integration (Ms Annika Annerby Jansson)

Appendix 7 - Migration & Integration

Final decision INVITATION to the Employment and Training Working Group's Workshop "Social Inclusion".

The meeting will be attended by the host, Stockholm Region and by Ms Annika Annerby-Jansson and the executive secretary who will investigate the possibility to establish an intercommission WG on Migration and Integration..

Following our previous email informing you of a series of workshops launched by the CPMR Employment and Training Working Group, we have pleasure in inviting you to participate in the first workshop, "Social Inclusion", to be held on 7-8 March 2008 in Stockholm, SE.

This workshop will focus on the integration of migrants, and will include a site visit to the Recruitment Bazaar.

Click for the draft Agenda with practical information regarding your stay in Stockholm.

Online registration for this workshop is now open and will close on 15 February 2008. Please visit the CPMR website, www.cpmr.org, heading "Online Registration" to complete your registration. Confirmation of your online registration will be sent to you automatically immediately after your registration, and the CPMR Secretariat will send you a formal confirmation of your registration by email before the 22 February 2008.

Please do not hesitate to contact the CPMR Secretariat (clare.booth@cpmr.org) if you have any queries or require further information or ask for Mr Rui Azevedo, CPMR Director.

e) CPMR Intercommission WG – TN-RIS Project (Ms Inger Linge, Mr Tommy Karlsson)

Final decision The next meeting will take place in Rennes on 28/29 of February. The focus will be on technical aspects of the project such as the disposition of the first interim report with representatives from Stockholm Region and the BSC Executive Secretary.

The anticipated structure of the report should be:

- 1) A first introduction on the innovation's concept developed at regional level; its link with the "new" approach based on the theme of creativity/creativity (notably this approach is amply supported by Stockholm region) and the influence of the social and cultural dimension upon this framework. Here the purpose is try to have a sort of panorama on how some European regions define innovation and, at the same time, support it. This aspect obviously is quite important, tacking also into account that the European Commission (DG education) has recently declared that the 2009 will be the year of Creativity and Innovation, showing that the debate around innovation today has been going over the classical scientific approach, involving new dimensions such as the educational and cultural ones.
- 2) A brief analysis of the regional economic tissue. In which sector and to what extent innovation is present within the regional economies? Here the attention will be on the clusters' concept. Obviously today at European level this concept is well known, nevertheless it is interesting to know if there are others approach playing an important role in the process of innovation's production. Specifically referring to the different concepts of Pole the competitiveness (France), industrial districts (Italy) etc.... Are we talking about of clusters as well? Or maybe there should different aspects be developed? Presently, at the European level, there is a great confusion on the subject, and the only priority of some actors such as the Commission is try to develop the classical Porter's model on clusters. A focus on this subject from the regional point of view could give interesting information as to how innovation is produced at regional level.
- 3) A more technical part based on an analysis of the regional innovation systems: which are the main actors involved; how do they work; which strategy can be stressed at regional level and what about the governance of innovation. Obviously this part has not the purpose of being a scientific document.
- 4) Finally, the most important part: a focus on how the European Structural funds are used at regional level in order to fund and support innovation. This paragraph represents the point of departure for the future selection of some case studies, which will be deepened in the final part of our project. The purpose here is to understand what is the value added of the European Cohesion policy in the supporting innovation at regional level by analysing concrete examples suggested by the TN-RIS member regions;
- 5) The structure above will be submitted at the evaluation of our partners during the next meeting in Rennes. A first document will be presented as well. However it represents only an exercise to evaluate the reaction of our partners and understand what should be integrated or dismissed.

f) Joint BSC-BDF-BSSSC Transport Project Pan-Baltic Transport Strategy (Ms Annika Annerby-Jansson)

Final decision The Lithuanian Government has joined as partners and will try to join the high-level group.
The BSC EC decided to support the project, Appendix 8b, and the Executive Secretary together with the BSC President will send a letter of support to the project representatives in Skåne (SWE).

Region Skåne is leading a process of making a transnational project for the BSR Programme 2007-2013 under the name of 'TransBaltic'. The project aspires to prepare and implement concrete transport development solutions towards an integrated transport system in the Baltic Sea region, based on an agreed pan-Baltic vision, strategy and action plan.

This initiative, partnered by several regions around the Baltic Sea, intends to consolidate and harmonise transport development perspectives of several actors at the regional, national and pan-Baltic level, including such organisations as: CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation, Baltic Development Forum and Baltic Ports Organisation. Intensive dialogue will also be held with state ministries and private stakeholders in order to adjust the project to needs and expectations of transport decision-makers and operators.

Present state:

- About 10 regions (acting as core partners) committed to the project
- Five pan-Baltic organisations either committed or interested in pursuing the project activities
- Several sector organisations (research institutions, associations of transport operators) contacted and informed about the project, some of them already willing to become partners
- Ongoing road map around the Baltic Sea (meetings with national transport ministries)
- Basic content of the project (rationale, objectives, activity plan and expected results) prepared and agreed among core partners
- Kicked off discussion on the project budget and distribution of responsibilities
- Planned completion of the preparatory work: May 2008

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g) CPMR Intercommission WG - The Future of CAP - development

Final decision A meeting will be held in Brussels on March 25th with, amongst others BSC President and Executive Secretary present.

h) CPMR Intercommission WG – Sustainable Tourism
Appendix 9 - 59§ Doc for CPMR_Tourism WG

Final decision Region Gotland is interested in taking on the responsibility for a WG on Tourism. Also the regional Council of Västerbotten is interested in the subject as well as our member region in waiting; Estonian region of Ida-Virumaa with Mr Valli Laas has also shown an interest in a future BSC WG on Tourism. The subject will be further discussed at the EC on Gotland to which also Mr Laas will be invited.

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AT THE LAST INTERCOMMISSION MEETING

1. The Tourism working group Terms of Reference was examined and agreed as provided in the appendix;
2. The CPMR General Secretariat will assess the financial involvement of the GS in accordance with the decision taken during the PB in Podlaskie (Augustow 08/06/2007);
3. Further to a speech by F. ATTAGUILE concerning the working conditions of the group, it was decided that:
 - The CPMR GS will contact each Geographical Commission to enable at least two representatives per Commission to be identified to follow the tourism group activities;
 - For the next working group meeting, the CPMR GS will produce a working document detailing the

group's agenda for 2008, some proposals for first work guidelines of the group – particularly from the work carried out by Peter Billing during the meeting - , an initial review of the responsibilities in the member states regarding tourism ;

- The group's participation in events organised in the tourism sector on a European level will be ensured according to everyone's availability; in particular this concerns the meeting in Barcelona on 15 February 2008 on the European network of regions for sustainable and competitive tourism and the network meeting on cultural tourism which will be held in Palermo in November 2008.

4. Further to the speech by F. Cron (Aquitaine) concerning the added value of a CPMR "Tourism" working group, it is emphasised that the added value is to be sought in the CPMR's ability to anticipate and to be forward-thinking as well as in its ability to establish contacts with EU institutions. Consequently, it was decided that the group must exist as a separate entity with regards to existing networks in this sector, such as the "European Network of Regions for Sustainable and Competitive Tourism" presented by Tuscany. It is also accepted that the action of the group must be of a more political, than technical, nature.

5. It was decided that the group shall have at least three meetings per year, one of which is to be held in parallel with the CPMR General Assemblies.

6. The organisation of a seminar on "Regions and Tourism" (title to be confirmed) to be held in Sicily during the first quarter of 2009 was accepted.

7. The next meeting of the WG will take place on 16 April in Brussels at the offices of the Region of Sicily from 10.00 until 13.00.

60 §

Executive Committee Working Guidelines – time for an up-date

New targets to be set for the coming year's Executive Committee work.

- WG efficiency and co-ordination
- Information to-and-fro to the regions
- Cooperation with other organisations

The executive committee had to postpone this question until the EC meeting, at the CPMR Office in Brussels on February 13th as time was running up due to the late arrival of the incoming flight.

Final decision

- The prime target for the organisation at present is the future of the CPMR and our continuing development in the cooperation with the NSC and other Baltic Sea Organisations.
- Regarding the information the Executive Secretary is asked to make telephone contact with the regions to establish who is the responsible officer for CPMR/BSC relations and to establish a routine were the secretariat should only need to mail the responsible officer who in turn would be responsible to distribute the information within his/her region.
- Attended meetings should be followed by a report.

61 §

Preliminary discussions on the BSC General Assembly in Herring (DK), parallel to the NSC, June 11-13.

Final decision

"Towards a Sustainable Future" is the theme of the conference and the event will focus on different aspects of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas in relation to regional development in the EU and beyond. The event will be arranged in a climate neutral fashion, i.e. enabling participants to offset travel emissions, etc. The event marks the first Annual Conference after formal approval of the IVB Programme, which builds on the success of the IIIB Programme and aims to expand the scope of transnational cooperation and facilitate relevant and innovative projects for the North Sea Region.

The event will provide stakeholders at all levels in regional development with a chance to explore challenges and possibilities for the future. It will also give an insight into the issues that project developers and decision makers in the participating countries are challenged with in relation to the Programme and EU-cooperation.

[Wednesday, 11 June 2008](#)

Morning: Basically NSC Interreg Day
 PLENARY SESSION: The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme
 SEMINAR SESSION: Creating Sustainable Projects for the Future
 Afternoon: Baltic Sea Commission: Workshops
 Baltic Sea Commission Executive Committee

Thursday, 12 June 2008

Morning: Our JOINT DAY
 PLENARY SESSION: Sustainable Regional Development
 Afternoon: Study tours

Friday, 13 June 2008

Morning: GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 Afternoon: Executive Committee

Saturday, 14 June 2008

All Day EXCURSIONS

62 § Coming Major Events – A Calendar for 2008

February 14	BSC Presidium meeting with DG REGIO Dirk Ahner	P
February 14-15	BSSSC Board Meeting Riga (LV)	Jan-Erik Majewski
February 28-29	TEN-Ris meeting in Rennes (FR)	ASM TEN-Ris WG
March 7-8	CPMR workshops – Human Resource Group, Stockholm (S)	ASM Human Res. WG Annika Annerby-Jansson
March 13-14	A set of workshops will be held during first part of 2008 starting in Asturias in February and the next one in Stockholm in 7-8 of March.	Human Res. WG
March 25	CAP meeting, Brussels (BEL)	ASM, CL
March 26	1 st Aquamarina meeting, Brussels (BEL)	ASM
March 28	Contact meeting NSC+BSC on Sustainable Tourism, Bergen (N)	Now WG available yet
April 4-5	Presidium meeting BSC + NSC in Gothenburg (S)	P
April 8-9	BSC Executive Committee meeting, Visby (S) lunch-to-lunch	ALL
April 10-11	General Assembly of the CPMR Islands Commission, Islas Baleares (ES)	Region Gotland
April 16	CPMR Intercommission WG on Tourism, 3 rd meeting, Brussels (BEL)	Region Gotland
April 23+24-25	Pre meeting + BSC/NSC joint seminar on "Regional actions for sustainable buildings", Umeå (SWE)	ALL regions
May 12-14	FOGAR meeting in Tangiers, Morocco	CL, ASM
May 22-23	BSSSC Board Meeting St. Petersburg (RU)	ASM?
May-June	Second WG meeting of CAP, Brussels (B)	ASM, CL
June 11-13	BSC & NSC General Assemblies, Herning (DK)	ALL regions
June 12-13	General Assembly of the Atlantic Arc Commission, Basse-Normandie (FR)	-
June 12-13	CPMR Working group on "Employment and Training", Toscana (IT)	Human Res. WG
June 27	Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Rhodes (GR)	P
June 28	General Assembly of the Balkans/Black Sea Regional Commission of CPMR, Rhodes (GR)	-
September 17-19	BSSSC Annual Conference Kaunas (LAT)	P
October 1-3	CPMR General Assembly, Aquitaine (Fr) Bayonne	ALL regions
November 20-21	BSSSC Board Meeting Tallinn (E)	CL?

Who will represent the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission?
CL Christel Liljeström, **PM** Poul Müller, **ASM** Anne Ståhl Mousa, **P** The Presidium,
 Region Skåne: **Mats Petersson** WG Energy: **Linnéa Lundström**

63 § Executive Committee Meetings 2007

Final decision	<p>The next Executive Committee meeting will be organised in Visby, Gotland (SWE) on 8-9th of April. The meeting will be a lunch-to-lunch meeting.</p> <p>In connection with the BSC General Assembly an EC meeting is scheduled for the 11th of June in the afternoon and a short meeting in the afternoon of June 13th, 1 hour.</p> <p>The EC members were reminded of their mission to “mission” on a person-to-person level with fellow politicians at the GA in Herning in order to further foster active member regions.</p>
64 §	Any Other Business
Final decision	None
65 §	Closing the Meeting
Final decision	The president closed the meeting with words of thanks to our hosts, the CPMR Brussels office, and the EC, for a very interesting and rewarding meeting.
Extra documents	<p>Appendix A - GB_-_Analysis_Blue_Book_+_Annex</p> <p>Appendix B - Rome Sailing boat présentat..</p> <p>Appendix C - Declaration_CoR-BSSSC</p>

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