



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Executive Committee Meeting

MINUTES

8-9 April 2008

Time 8-9 April 2008 lunch-to-lunch

Venue Ledningskontoret Gotlands Kommun (Executive Office of the Region of Gotland)
Klosterplan 2, 62181 Visby, Sweden

Observe All work group reports and relating issues will be debated ONLY on the 9th of April.

Participants

Roll call

Members

Substitutes

(x)	Ms Christel LILJESTRÖM Itä-Uusimaa/Östra Nyland (FI)		President
(x)	Mr Poul MÜLLER Central Denmark (DK)	Vice- President	(-) Mr Jørgen KVIST Bornholm (DK)
(-)	Ms Elke ORDING Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)		(-) Mr Wolf BORN Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)
(-)	Ms Reet KOKOVKIN (EST)		(-) Mr Tarmo PIKNER (EST)
(-)	Ms Talvikki KOSKINEN South-West Finland (FI)		(x) Ms Marjatta VEKAOJA Pohjanmaa/Österbotten (FI)
(-)	Mr Ilgonis STEINBERGS Riga District (LV)		(x) 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) (8th of April)		(x) Mr Erik BERGKVIST Regional Council of Västerbotten (S)
Secretariat:			
(x)	Ms Anne STÅHL MOUSA		Executive Secretary, BSC Secretariat Visby
(x)	Ms Birgitta LARSARP		Secretary BSC Visby Secretariat

CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE – BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

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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) |
| (x) Mr Jaakko MIKKOLA, Regional Council of Itä-
Uusimaa (SF) | (-) Ms Linnéa LUNDSTRÖM,
Västerbotten (S) |
| (-) Ms Agnieszka GOLEBIEWSKA | (x) Mr Ingvar THELL, Region Skåne
(S) |
| (-) Mr Karl SCHMUDE, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
(D) | (-) Ms Viktorija LIUTKUTE |
| (x) Ms Lena CELION, Region Gotland (S) Tuesday | |
| (x) Mr Jan LUNDGREN (S) for lunch 8 th of April | |

DAY 1

April 8th , 1 – 5 pm

The local press was invited for the coffee break at 2:30 pm on Tuesday. See the web for press-cuttings under Executive Committee meeting in Visby April 8-9th 2008.



66 § Opening the Meeting

Final decision President Liljeström opens the meeting by welcoming the participants and thanking Ms Lena Celion, Gotland, for hosting this meeting and an excellent lunch the Visby Strand Congress centre.

67 § Adopting of the Agenda

Final decision The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following topics:

1. Riga – regional reforms (added April 9th)
2. Political papers from NSCs EC in Gothenburg
3. Political Papers to Herning. Suggested deadline May 15.
4. The 158 group
5. Event on the East Indiana Ship Götheborg during the summer

68 § Minutes of the Previous Meeting *Appendix 1 - Minutes E.C. Brussels 13th February 2008*

Final decision Adopted without amendments.

69 § Economic Report *Appendix 2 - BSC Economy Jan-March 2008 a and b*

New member fees 2009 - 2012 *Appendix 3 –BSC member fees 2009 - 2012*

An up-dated financial report for the period Jan – March 2008 is presented.

Suggestion regarding new member fees to provide equal levels for all regions by 2012.

Economic Report

The Executive Secretary Anne Ståhl Mousa explained that the transfer of the 80 000 e from Region Gotland had not yet been made, however the money is reserved for the secretariat in the Gotland budget.

The request made to the CPMR of having a more immediate transfer of annual fees paid to CPMR/BSC is now in practice and the secretariat have received a first transfer followed by a clear table over our member regions and their payments.

The question was raised whether or not Region Bornholm should be making a payment during 2008. According to BSC statutes the Region Bornholm will remain a member until the General Assembly June 13th 2008, thus stand as a member for almost half a year. It was decided that the Executive Secretary contact CPMR to clear the standard procedures of the organisation on a case such as thisⁱ.

Final decision

The economic report was adopted.

New member fees 2009 - 2012

The question of a closure of the gap of the annual fees for our BSC members was opened. A scheme with annual minor increases, starting from 2009 and closed by 2012 when all members would be paying the same fee, was introduced. By 2012 all BSC member regions would pay 1600e each. The president stressed that the change would still leave the opportunity open to our small Baltic State regions sharing a fee to remain doing so during this period of increase.

Final decision

After a short discussion it was decided that the General Assembly in Herning should be asked to ratify the suggested increase. Until the Executive Committee meeting on May 26 the Executive Secretary should however talk to all the regions concerned of the 2009-2012 increase to clarify if the regions like to follow the suggested scheme of smaller increase a year or if they are prepared to pay up in full as from 2009.

70 §

Follow-up on last EC discussion and actions on CPMR future & FOGAR

*Appendix 4 –Letter to the CPMR President
Appendix 5 - Agenda FOGAR meeting in Tangier*

BSC presence at the next FOGAR meeting in Tangier, Morocco May 12-14th.

Final decision

There has been no reply to the presidential letter so far. President Liljeström underline that the intention of the letter is to clarify the BSC point of view on FOGAR that this issue would not overshadow the much more important discussion on the future of CPMR.

President Christel Liljeström and the Executive Secretary Anne Ståhl Mousa will both be present at the upcoming meeting of FOGAR in Tangiers, Morocco in order to get a more in-depth view in and understanding of the objectives of the new organisation.

71§

Preparations for the up-coming elections and the GA in Herning (DK) parallel to the NSC, June 11-13.

*Appendix 6 - Received nominations
Appendix 7 - Registration pack 1 to 8*

Nominations and the General Assembly 2009

Till March 31st three nominations was received by the Secretariat; one for the sitting president, one for the sitting vice president and one for the continuation of the Executive Secretary and the Gotland Secretariat.

Final decision

President Liljeström noted the received nominations and added that more candidates are

welcome – not the least a candidate for vice president as we shall choose two vice-presidents in Herning and one of them should, hopefully, be from one of the regions in the new EU member states to better balance the representation in the presidium.

The president also directed a wish to Visby to host the 2009 BSC General Assembly. Ms Lena Celion answered that the Gotland Region will be back on this issue to the EC meeting on Arlanda (SWE), May 26 as a final decision still have to be made within the region.

The Herning GA program

At the joint presidium meeting in Gothenburg the GA coordinator Malou Munkholm presented a very good overview of the programme, and we are sure that the GA in Herning, 11-13th of June, on the theme “to a sustainable future” will be very interesting to all.

Some 600 participants are expected why an early registration will serve to ensure that the delegates will have a hotel in the direct vicinity of the meeting venue. However, shuttle busses will be available.

Final decision

11 June:

The EC will hold its meeting in the afternoon

The BSC thematic WGs are invited to have their WG meeting during the afternoon. The Executive Secretary will inform WG leaders that they, please, inform the secretariat if they need a room at our meeting venue the Conference Center in Herning.

12 June:

The suggestion is that the national meetings are held right before the reception on Thursday evening. The EC members are asked to inform their national organizers to return to the BSC if they will need a room at our meeting venue the Conference Center in Herning for their meeting.

The Executive Secretary is asked to draft, and circulate, a special edition of the program directed to the BSC member with only BSC activities included.

72 §

Activity Report February 2008 (Brussels) – April 2008 (Visby)

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

February 14	BSC Presidium meeting with DG REGIO Dirk Ahner, Brussels (BEL)	P	<i>Appendix A</i>
February 14-15	BSSSC Board Meeting Riga (LV)	JE Majewski	
February 28-29	TEN-Ris meeting in Rennes (FR)	ASM	<i>Appendix B</i>
March 11	Presentation of CPMR 2008 Work Program	ASM	<i>Appendix C</i> <i>Appendix D</i>
March 7-8	CPMR workshops – Human Resource Group, Stockholm (S)	ASM	
March 25	CAP meeting, Brussels (BEL)	CL, ASM	
March 26	1 st Aquamarina meeting, Brussels (BEL)	ASM	
March 28	Contact meeting NSC+BSC on Sustainable Tourism, Bergen (N)	-	
April 4-5	Joint presidium meeting BSC+NSC, Gothenburg (SWE)	P	
April 8-9	BSC Executive Committee meeting, Visby (S) lunch-to-lunch	ALL	

Who did represent the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission?

CL Christel Liljeström, **PM** Poul Müller, **ASM** Anne Ståhl Mousa, **P** The Presidium

A few oral reports were made – others were dealt with in later paragraphs below.

Jan Erik Majewski on the BSSSC Board Meeting in Riga

- BSSSC decided to support the TransBaltic and the BalticMaster II projects.

<p>Final decision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BSSSC board noticed with satisfaction that BSC is joining them in the support of the Committee of Region. • BSSSC will be involved in the work with the Baltic Sea strategy. Mr Uno Aldergren is the chair and with several other BSSSC board members also being members of the CoR Baltic Sea group. • There were discussions on the content of the BSSSC General Assembly in Kaunas. Who will be the next hosting region is still not decided but maybe it will be Germany. <p>The BSC ought to have a meeting with Mr Uno Aldegren during May. The BSC president and Executive Secretary should try to set up the meeting.</p>
	<p>Executive Secretary on the TEN-Ris Meeting in Rennes</p> <p>The meeting was a WG meeting. The final format for the report was decided. An interesting debate spun around the definition of innovation vs. research-and-development.</p> <p>The participating regions were asked to contribute with “best practice” experiences that could be attached to the final report. It was also suggested by Ms Inger Linge, Stockholm Region and the WG chair, to add a political document on innovation.</p> <p>This group is very popular with many regions and if it will have a continuation after the general assembly in Herring a call for members should be open. It is also clear, from a meeting with the NSC WG representative of Innovation and Education that they look forward to a close cooperation with BSC in the future.</p>
<p>Final decision</p>	<p>Annika Annerby-Jansson and Executive Secretary Anne Ståhl Mousa on the CPMR workshops – Human Resource Group, Stockholm</p> <p>The meeting with a number of very interesting and much appreciated presentations and the visit to the Recruitment Bazaar was very successful. A number of regions have returned to the organisers to learn more.</p> <p>Regarding a continuation in a project on Integration and Migration it seems to be possible to open an Intercommission WG on the subject. Still the term referred to “social inclusion” may/may not be exactly what BSC intended with our suggestion for a WG on Migration and Integration.</p> <p>President Liljeström was asked to closely listen in to what is suggested to be the content of a future CPMR Intercommission WG on “social inclusion”, as the question arise at the Political Bureau on Rhodes, that our intentions aren’t loss into something else divagating from our suggested WG on Migration & Integration.</p>
<p>73 §</p>	<p>Short reports: President Liljeström, Mr Enrico Mayrhofer and BSC Executive Secretary</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidium meeting with DG REGIO Dirk Ahner <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix A</i></p> <p>The presidium met with DG Regios Director Mr Dirk Ahner in Brussels on February 14th. The fruitful exchange of information led to Mr Ahner asking the BSC to return in April-May for further discussions on how CPMR/BSC could play a role in this early phase of the development of the Baltic Sea Strategy.</p> <p>The presidium meeting with Mr Ahner led to the idea of changing the topic for BSCs Autumn seminar in Tallinn 2008 from innovation to a seminar on a high-level the Baltic Sea Strategy. The idea being that BSC invite the stakeholders, the major Baltic Sea organisations and representatives of regional governments, like Ms Cecilia Malmström Sweden’s EU minister and Mr Alexander Stub Finland’s minister of foreign affairs together with Mr Ahner to a joint meeting.. The aim of the conference should be to present the structure and goals of the Baltic</p>

Strategy and in the same time capture all the stakeholders ideas while in the same time, through this joint activity, ensure that the process well anchored within the region to ensure a successful implement of the future strategy.

Final decision

The meeting agreed on that CPMR/BSC should play an active part in this process.

The President will write Mr Ahner presenting the idea of a seminar during the early part of autumn this year.

• **CPMR 2008 Work Program**

Appendix C & Appendix D

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

Final decision

The executive committee agreed that it is important that we meet up to the CPMRs high set expectation on us to actively contribute to the work program above. The contribution could be split between our work groups and joint activities with the NSC and IC, but also through coordinated actions, via the secretariat, between all the regions.

At the joint presidium BSC + NSC meeting in Gothenburg it was agreed that the two commissions should cooperate in the responses to the CPMR activities primarily through our now established WG cooperation's. – Also see the notes on the meeting with NSC presidium below.

• **ACCR – Awareness of Climate Change for Regions**

The call is open click for more information: eu.baltic.net/How_to_apply.62.html?

ACCR is the first in a nice trend were other projects look to the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission for support of their project for mutual information exchange and dissemination.

• **CAP meeting**

The CPMR CAP intercommission group is chaired by Aquitaine (FR). One first meeting was held in Brussels on March 25th with the executive secretary, BSC president and region Västragötaland represented. There will be a technical WG were with two technical seminars and a larger meeting.

The CAP group is setting up of a drafting group of Regions preparing Rhodes (27 June) The goal is to present:

- 1/ Positions that could be defended by regions
- 2/ Future of CAP after 2014

The 23rd of October 2008 there will be a seminar in Nantes,Loire (FR) titled: The CAP and the Regions towards a convergence?

Already secured speakers are: Mariann Fishe- Boel and Michel Barnier.

BSC will be represented at the technical WGs these through two representatives:

<p>Final decision</p>	<p>Staffan Nilsson from LRF Sweden and Henrik Ingo, Österbottens Svenska Lantbrukssällskap.</p> <p>The CAP issue is a topic on which no common point of view could be expected between the BSC member regions. Thus, in place of opening up do a debate that will split the organisation the regions are invited to act on their own in the CPMR CAP group.</p> <p>The BSC is not an active part in the CAP discussion but the executive secretary participates to collect and redistribute information. The regions are invited to represent their own stand on this issue. – This also closes the possibility to cooperate with the NSC on the CAP issue.</p>
<p>Final decision</p>	<p>Baltic Master II – Request for BSC participation</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix G Baltic Master II Request for support</i> <i>Appendix H Baltic Master II</i></p> <p>The Baltic Master I was, by right, an award winning project in the last project period. Their ambition is to continue the work and several of our BSC member regions will be part of this Baltic Master II.</p> <p>The Baltic Master II have extended a request to the BSC of us to support them in about the same way as we have given our support to ACCR and the TransBaltic project in the past. The idea is that we shall mutually benefit from this: us receiving information and the project accessing BSC and CPMR and our channels to Brussels. In a period when we will focus on a Baltic Strategy this could be a valuable addition to our WG portfolio.</p> <p>The executive committee agreed to give the Baltic Master II their full support and asked the executive secretary and the BSC President to draw-up and sign and send a letter to the Baltic Master II organisers with cc to CPMR general secretary Xavier Gizard and CPMR Dir. Françoise Durant.</p> <p>On the suggestion of the vice president Poul Müller it was decided to ask that the executive secretary shall send the following comment to:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The Baltic Master II general objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decrease pollution from maritime traffic. Both limiting the input of pollution as well as the consequences of it. <p>This objective does have to be put into a wider context than at a Baltic/EU level to achieve an effect.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Aquamarina <p>The decision to set up this group was taken by the CPMR General Assembly held on the 19th of October 2007 in Florence. The chairmanship of the group was given to the Brittany. Brittany's general task as a pilot Region is to set up the resources required to prepare points of view (resolutions, technical memos, reports etc.) for the CPMR's executive bodies (General Assembly, Political Bureau, Presidency) on all issues relating to the integrated European maritime policy.</p> <p>The group's work will lie within the timetable of Community progress in this respect, in particular in the follow-up to the European Commission's publication of the Blue Book on maritime policy on 10th October 2007.</p> <p>The group is scheduled to operate for two years, 2008 and 2009, with 6 plenary meetings which corresponds to the period of implementation of the Action Plan accompanying the Blue Book. If appropriate, its duration could be extended, depending on the CPMR's priorities and the situation within the Community.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Focus:</u></p>

- 1/ Progress report on EU maritime policy, future actions
- 2/ Priorities for Regions

- 26 March 2008: Maritime safety
- 8 July 2008: Maritime Transport and Maritime Spatial Planning
- Autumn: Integrated coastal zone management

Regarding the database for the EU Maritime policy:

The action plan accompanying the Maritime Policy “Blue Book” announced the creation of an economic and social database on the EU’s maritime activities. An invitation to tender for the conception, architecture and construction of this database was launched by Eurostat in September 2007. The successful tender was submitted by a consortium made up of Ifremer (France), BALance Technology Consulting (Germany), MC Marketing Consulting (Germany), Nasca-Géomarine (France) and Claudio Sdogati (Italy). The project will be carried out from January to December 2008.

The consortium has already started to work and will make contact with all relevant stakeholders in all regions.

Final decision

After the Executive Secretary stressed the importance of the Aquamarina group as a means of maintaining a pressure on EU as to how the Maritime policy is implemented it was decided that the Executive Secretary should set up such a group within the BSC and in cooperation with the NSC. The group should prepare our “northern point of view” to the Aquamarina meetings. Contact and exchange of documents and comments will primarily be commenced electronically.

• **Joint presidium meeting in Gothenburg**

The topic the presidiums decided to cooperate on could be summarised as:

- Cohesion policy
- Climate change (most likely within other WG activities like energy)
- The 158 group
- Aquamarina – a join group WG before the CPMR meetings
- Web-cooperation in a working space.
- WG cooperation

CPMR in the future: We all support Jean-Didier Hache as the best choice to drive the process. Few people from the North were in the present list, we are asked to come up with candidates to be interviewed. The Executive Secretaries will conduct interviews for external and internal informants.

It is important to encourage all members to give their input to the future CPMR. A signal from the NSC Executive Committee meeting is for CPMR to focus on the maritime issues, coastal areas challenges and the European continent.

The commissions agreed to that we must focus on cooperation between the North and the South regions of the CPMR.

CPMR work programme: Here the focus area for cooperation between the commissions are:

Territorial Cohesion and the European budget post 2013. NSC will establish an Ad Hoc group on this issue. The BSC is will do the same, se below AOB 79§.

Adaption to Climate change – an issue that will appear under several other group-headings like transport and energy.

Maritime policy/Aquamarina group – The suggestion is to form a small strategy discussion in advance of the meeting between the CPMR commissions. Both commissions should be represented in the group. We must work to make this group efficient and add our “northern dimension” to the agenda.

Also - *DG Mare responsible for North Sea and Baltic Sea* must be approached and we must hold

contact with *Director John Richardson* DG Mare. The director will be invited to speak to us in Herning in June.

Take part in *the CAP group*, both commissions do so but there will be no cooperation here between the two commissions.

Work group cooperation: This is developing well in a positive direction.

- Energy – SDG work together, joint conference in Umeå end April.
- Both Transport groups have a tradition to work together and will continue to do so.
- Innovation has potential to work together post this present period.
- Tourism? CPMR Intercom Tourist group will be our common place to work together. BSC possible establishment of a WG is discussed under WGs 76§ below.
- Fisheries there are traditionally close connection between BSC and NSC.

Joint web site: There was agreed that we should have joint work-space and information pages on the web but still keep our identity as commissions. The work rest with the Executive Secretaries will continue to work out an example page.

How to continue our cooperation:

Long term cooperation – BSC and NSC will continue our cooperation. The secretariat work well together and the presidents are happy for the cooperation.

NSC want to have close cooperation with the BSC and we together are a strong platform in the CPMR. Still, we need to be humble when using this platform/strength. We must inform each other, and the secretariats should keep in close contact and use our joint political **stand to influence** CPMR policies. Our long term commitment will in the long term show results.

Territorial Cohesion and Climate Change will be the overall big issues for the future, and both commissions agree on the way ahead. We continue with our spring meeting each year. And we shall make an exchange of papers to open up for Joint resolutions as often as applicable.

NSC's two *resolutions* were distributed, see under AOB 79§ below.

A suggestion was put forward on a join resolution regarding Territorial Cohesion to the CPMR General Assembly in the beginning of October.

Our commissions could take the lead for use of new fuels; maybe we jointly could launch this idea for the CPMR GA in October.

The *next meeting* is planned to be held in Brussels together with the CPMR office in spring 2009.

Final decision

- The executive committee agreed that a continuation of the cooperation is important with at least one meeting a year and close cooperation between the secretariats.
- Climate change and sustainability is a strong common interest.
- BSC shall also form an ad hoc group to the 158 group, see point 4 under 79§, suggested by Island Commission, that will feed in comments to the cohesion policy, and that this group should cooperate with the NSC.
- We shall cooperate in the preparation of input to the Aquamarina group as mentioned above under the Aquamarina group heading. As long as we are the organisation of maritime regions the follow-up of the implementation of the Maritime Policy should be our priority.
- We agree to continue the cooperation on the web.
- We will join in the invitation to MR Robertson as a speaker in Herning.
- Our WG cooperation should continually be encouraged.

- **Inquiry CPMR Future – Interviews**

Appendix E & Appendix F

The inquiries will be made by four of the commission secretaries and the general secretary trying to redistribute the interviewees that the result will be as objective as possible.

To the list we may still add names – today. Any suggestions?

SWAT-analysis´ made by all commissions will be presented, and put to the debate at the Political Bureau meeting on Rhodes.

The outcome of the Rhodes debate will be put together to a number of scenarios by the commission secretaries, still on Rhodes, and then set out as a questionnaire to all member regions. The result of this questionnaire on the future of the CPMR will be presented at the CPMR General Assembly in Aquitaine in October.

The urgency of the matter is to match the structure of the CPMR future with the need to recruit a new general secretary for the organisation by 2009.

Final decision

Inquiry CPMR Future – Interviews

At the BSC Executive Committee meeting 8-9th of April the board decided that we like to add the following names to the list of external contacts to be interviewed:

Uno Aldergren, Now at the CoR and the former chair of BSSSC

- Arne Ørent, Chair of BSSSC
- Hannu Tapiola, former BSC president of Kymenlaakso, Finland
- Inge Andersson, former BSC president and now director of the North Sweden Office in Brussels
- Uffe Ellemann-Jensen

The questions to be debated in Herning will be circulated to all regions after this meeting that they all have the possibility to hold an internal debate before we meet in Herning to make the SWAT-analysis. The regions are welcome to provide suggestions for scenarios for the future of the CPMR to the BSC secretariat.

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The political position of the CPMR opinion of the general secretariat on a project for post-2013 Europe.

[Appendix 8 - CPMR PPP Cohesion](#)

Open for debate

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.

The discussion was introduced by Mr Enrico Mayrhofer's presentation, below 75§, on CPMR Current Affairs.

A few important notes were made:

If the text focus on the regional level it will facilitate to include Russia – now excluded by CPMR as it is considered `too-big-to-handle´. Russian regions in the west are very important to the Baltic Sea Area as well as are Belarus. There is also an active people-to-people cooperation within the Barents region that should be noticed. Still the northern aspect is good.

Final decision

The document "*The political position of the CPMR opinion of the general secretariat on a project for post-2013 Europe*" is very comprehensive and need a closer read through to be able to come to any conclusions. It was thus decided that the executive secretary will distribute the document to all regions and ask them to mail back their amendments by the end of May.

If the members need to discuss the details they will be welcome to address these to the executive secretaries and to the authors Julie Gourden and Philippe Cichowlaz at the CPMR Rennes office.

Presentation

CPMR Communication Officer Enrico Mayrhofer gave a presentation of the political position of the general secretariat on the regional policy for Europe post 2013: The outlook for CPMR activities in 2008 on territorial cohesion and the European budget post 2013.

There are two different laws that are up for revision; the budget review and the regional policy. The CPMR paper, presented to Seville, is an umbrella paper addressing both issues.

BUDGET REVIEW

- ▶ There is a need to change the EU budget structure :
The CPMR paper call for the *need for the EU budget to*:
 - Answer the EU internal challenges
 - Answer the global challenges
 - Promote the European model "abroad"
 - Need to have more transparency and efficiency within the Institutions (Lisbon Treaty)

FUTURE OF REGIONAL POLICY

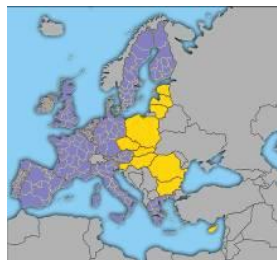
- ▶ General proposals for a Regional Policy after 2013 (Will it survive?)

The general secretary argues there are two challenges answering to two policies:

Convergence policy

Aim: To help the least prosperous States to catch up economically and socially

Eligible area: Least prosperous States (pre-accession and the EU's outer borders)

**Territorial excellence policy**

Aim: To activate the potential of each territory to achieve greater competitiveness of the EU within a global economy

Eligible area: all Regions within the EU



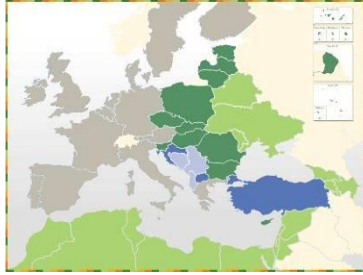
There are also **two additional policies** in the Regions concerned to achieve greater efficiency in obtaining a **better convergence policy** (allowing the least prosperous States to catch up economically and socially) for a geostrategic entity of 800 Million inhabitants:

INTERNAL COMPONENT (dark green)

- ▶ Least prosperous Member States + OMRs + pre-accession countries

EXTERNAL COMPONENT (light green)

- ▶ Neighbouring States (South and East)



The **territorial excellence policy** aim to activate the potential of all European Regions and it could be build it on **three pillars**:

TERRITORIAL COHESION
=
ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE KNOWLEDGE & INFORMATION
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION / MITIGATION
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DAY 2 April 9th , 9 am to 12 noon

76 § BSC Thematic Work Group – Reports

a) Transport Working Group (Ms Elke Ording)

Appendix 9 - a To our Members , b Invitation

The main request from the new WG for transport was: Please, ask the regions to sign up for the Schwerin meeting as there are only a very few signed as yet.

The status report of the Transport WG read as follows:

- * Main event will be the T-WG meeting in Schwerin end of April (draft invitation has been sent out);
- * An independent keynote speaker (Mr Spiekermann) who is very experienced in transport planning on programme level and who has been working for the EU-COM has already confirmed his participation;
- * The issue of "contributing to TEN-T after 2014" has raised considerable interest among some members (e.g. Blekinge); however we are still waiting for a feedback from DG TREN - obviously due to the fact that DG TREN is under internal reorganisation: Mr Thielmann who invited CPMR for dialogue has left very recently;
- * A revised agenda can only be sent out when we know how DG TREN will act;
- * However, all CPMR-BSC member regions are invited again to Schwerin, represented by their transport experts (as we have written on the 1st page of the programme).
- * Most likely, the follow-up event will be in the framework of the Herning meeting; decision will be taken most probably at the Schwerin meeting;
- * Concerning Interreg project ideas in the transport field, there are several with involvement of several CPMR-BSC member regions (TransBaltic = Skåne and others; EastWest = Blekinge and others; Northern Axis = Nordland and others; Air Cargo = Nordland and others; SCANDRIA / North-South Axis = Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and others), but no genuine "CPMR-BSC Transport WG" project. However, the picture is changing fast. We will know more in June when all the applications have been sent to the Secretariat, and in October / November when the decisions will have been taken. I expect that at least some of these projects will be approved, with the chance for back-to-back working meetings for the Transport WG.

Final decision

At the EC the regions of Central Denmark, Skåne and Nordland announced that they will register for participation in the Schwerin meeting and in the work of the transport WG.

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

Appendix 10 –Energy Conference

At the moment the focus is on the coming seminar 24-25 of April in Umeå. The WG does also hope to produce a position paper, together with the NSC to our general assemblies in Herning.

In an answer to the transport WG the energy WG does also stress that they would like to see participation from more regions.

The status report of the Energy WG read as follows:

The major focus for the Energy WG in 2008, besides the Sustainable energy week in January, 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. The theme of the conference is "Regional actions for sustainable buildings".

Coming up next is a new steering committee meeting in Brussels on May 28th, where the "Energy and climate package" and its process will be discussed. During April, a draft position paper from CPMR regarding energy and climate will be circulated around the steering committee for input, later to be passed on to the geographical commissions and the bureau/GA.

Closer cooperation with the BSSSC and other Baltic Sea organizations was initiated in 2007 and will continue in 2008. Ideas have come up concerning the biofuel discussion and that a seminar about that heavily debated topic might be a good idea, especially since this is of great interest for regions around the Baltic Sea.

Otherwise, despite the massive focus on energy and climate nowadays, there has been quite low interest from the member regions in participating more actively in the working group. Cooperation with the NSC and other Baltic Sea organizations are therefore seen as vital inputs and parts of the WG's work.

Final decision

The president wished the WG much success with the Umeå seminar.

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

The status report of the Fisheries WG read as follows:

WG Fisheries will participate in a Fisheries Intercom Group meeting in Vigo on April 7. A main theme is the effect of fuel prices on fisheries. The question is not of such a major importance in the Baltic Sea as in e.g. Spanish fisheries due to the structure. Large ships, high sea trawlers, consume more fuel than the comparatively small scale fisheries in the Baltic with shorter fishing trips. The question will be viewed upon from both a regional perspective and from a CPMR perspective.

Final decision

The secretariat will ask the WG representatives to participate at our EC meeting in Herning on June 11th.

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

This was also treated under the section activity report 72§ above.

- The Stockholm workshop was split into three main sessions: The first presenting the main difficulty and contexts at European and regional levels, and on introducing some experiences and projects developed in the Region of Stockholm. The second a visit of the Recruitment Bazaar. The third session allowed the presentation of experiences from other European Regions as well as a debate and exchange of experiences.
- Integration of immigrants should follow a framework of basic values accepted by everybody, sustaining the policies and ensuring the involvement of all. They are the following: human rights; pluralism; openness; tolerance and mutual respect; participation; democracy.
- As stressed in several presentations throughout the workshop, the relevance of the topic of social inclusion of immigrants within the EU is increasing; demographic dynamics and migration trends are creating new challenges in EU territories.
- The lack of data concerning migration and social integration of migrants was also mentioned as a weakness restricting the development of more accurate policies in the matter. A joint effort between the European Commission, Member States and Regions must be pursued to overcome this difficulty.
- Several participants highlighted the important role Regions and local authorities can play in the field of

<p>Final decision</p>	<p>social integration of immigrants. They are closer to the problems and can more easily manage the coordination of different policies and measures to combat problems in a more global and integrated way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In conclusion, under the proposal of the Baltic Sea Commission, the Regions decided to create a CPMR working group on social inclusion. This proposal will be presented to the next CPMR Political Bureau and General Assembly. <p>Still the term referred to “social inclusion” may/may not be exactly what BSC intended with our suggestion for a WG on Migration and Integration.</p> <p>President Liljeström was asked to closely listen in to what is suggested to be the content of a future CPMR Intercommission WG on “social inclusion”, as the question arise at the Political Bureau on Rhodes, that our intentions aren’t loss into something else divagating from our suggested WG on Migration & Integration.</p>
<p>Final decision</p>	<p>e) CPMR Intercommission WG – TN-RIS Project (Ms Inger Linge, Mr Tommy Karlsson)</p> <p>This was covered under the section activity report 72§ above.</p> <p>Executive Secretary on the TEN-RIS Meeting in Rennes The meeting was a WG meeting. The final format for the report was decided. An interesting debate spun around the definition of innovation vs. research-and-development.</p> <p>The participating regions were asked to contribute with “best practice” experiences that could be attached to the final report. It was also suggested by Ms Inger Linge, Stockholm Region and the WG chair, to add a political document on innovation.</p> <p>This group is very popular with many regions and if it will have a continuation after the general assembly in Herning a call for members should be open. It is also clear, from a meeting with the NSC WG representative of Innovation and Education that they look forward to a close cooperation with BSC in the future.</p> <p>The BSC look forward to read the political paper and the report.</p>
<p>Final decision</p>	<p>f) Joint BSC-BDF-BSSSC TransBaltic Pan-Baltic Transport Strategy (Ms Annika Annerby Jansson)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix 11 –BSC Project Support</i></p> <p>Today the TransBaltic have 19 partners including the Lithuanian Ministry of Transport and CPMR/BSC. The application will be sent in to the first round and the project, if accepted, will start 2009 and run over three years. The total budget is estimated to between 6 and 7 million €.</p> <p><u>The TransBaltic status report read as follows:</u></p> <p>We are very glad for the letter of support received from BSC.</p> <p>The preparation of an application for interreg co-financing from the Baltic Sea Programme continues in the frames we have informed about earlier. The partnership and the main content of the project proposal are now quite clear. We have partners from Västerbotten, Lahti, Stockholm, Kaliningrad, Pomerania, Western Pomerania, Hamburg, Själland, Skåne, Blekinge, Västra Götaland, Western Norway and West Agder. We are also working to involve St Petersburg as partners.</p> <p>The project budget will probably be € 6-7 million. During the 2-5 April we participated in the Lead Applicant Seminar i Hamburg. A partner preparation meeting will be held in Oslo 9 April to further discuss budget and the engagement of the different partners. After that we hope to be ready to fill in the application form.</p> <p>The BSC will continue its support.</p>
	<p>g) CPMR Intercommission WG - The Future of CAP - development</p> <p>This was covered under the section activity report 73§ above.</p> <p>The CPMR CAP intercommission group is chaired by Aquitaine (FR). One first meeting was held in Brussels on March 25th with the executive secretary, BSC president and region Västragötaland represented. There will be a technical WG were with two technical seminars and a larger meeting.</p>

The CAP group is setting up of a drafting group of Regions preparing Rhodes (27 June) The goal is to present:

- 1/ Positions that could be defended by regions
- 2/ Future of CAP after 2014

The 23rd of October 2008 there will be a seminar in Nantes,Loire (FR) titled:
The CAP and the Regions towards a convergence?
Already secured speakers are: Mariann Fishe- Boel and Michel Barnier.

Final decision

BSC will be represented at the technical WGs these through two representatives:
Staffan Nilsson from LRF Sweden and Henrik Ingo, Österbottens Svenska Lantbrukssällskap.

The CAP issue is a topic on which no common point of view could be expected between the BSC member regions. Thus, in place of opening up do a debate that will split the organisation the regions are invited to act on their own in the CPMR CAP group.

The BSC is not an active part in the CAP discussion but the executive secretary participates to collect and redistribute information. The regions are invited to represent their own stand on this issue. – This also closes the possibility to cooperate with the NSC on the CAP issue.

h) CPMR Intercommission WG – Sustainable Tourism

The creation of the CPMR intercommission WG on sustainable tourism has raised the issue of BSC forming a BSC WG on the same theme. Also there is, as was mentioned in 73§ a clear interest from the NSC WG on Culture and Tourism to cooperate with the BSC equivalent once formed.

There is an interest in taking the lead from Region Gotland, however indirectly represented at the executive committee through the executive secretary.

Final decision

The executive secretary was asked to send a mail to all regions penetrating the interest in participating in and/or leading a BSC WG on sustainable tourism.

The establishment of a WG on tourism will be brought back on the agenda during the autumn.

77 §

Coming Major Events – A Calendar for 2008

April 10-11	General Assembly of the CPMR Islands Commission, Islas Baleares (ES)	Gotland
April 22	Meeting with the BSC fishery group, Brussels (BEL)	ASM
April 23	VASAB Annual Conference, Riga (LAT)	Mecklenburg Vorpommern
April 23+24-25	Pre meeting + BSC/NSC joint seminar on "Regional actions for sustainable buildings", Umeå (SWE)	Energy WG ASM
April 29	First Transport WG meeting in Schwerin (D)	Transport WG
April 30	CPMR Intercommission WG on Tourism, 3 rd meeting, Brussels (BEL)	Gotland
May 6-7	Innovation WG meeting TEN-Ris, Helsinki, (FIN)	Stockholm Region
May 12-14	FOGAR meeting in Tangiers, Morocco	CL/ASM
May 21-22	CPMR CODIR, Secretarial meeting, Rennes (FR)	ASM
May 22-23	BSSSC Board Meeting St. Petersburg (RU)	Region Skåne
May 26	BSC EC meeting, Arlanda, Stockholm (SWE) 10 am – 1 pm	BSC ExCom
May-June	Second WG meeting of CAP, Brussels (B)	CL, ASM
June 11-13	BSC & NSC General Assemblies, Herning (DK)	ALL
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)	Stockholm Region
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)	P
July 8	Aquamarina, Brussels (BEL) Maritime Transport and Maritime Spatial Planning	ASM
September 17-19	BSSSC Annual Conference Kaunas (LAT)	P?

	October 1-3	CPMR General Assembly, Aquitaine (Fr) Bayonne	ALL
	November 20-21	BSSSC Board Meeting Tallinn (E)	?
	Who did represent the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission? CL Christel Liljeström, PM Poul Müller, ASM Anne Ståhl Mousa, P The Presidium		
Final decision	An amendment of the participation at the BSSSC board meeting in St Petersburg has to be made as the executive secretary have to take part in the CPMR CODIR, secretarial meeting, in Rennes on the same dates. Region Skåne will be representing us at the BSSSC board meeting. The next Aquamarina meeting was added with the executive secretary participating.		
78 §	Remembering - Executive Committee Meetings 2008		
	In connection with the BSC General Assembly an EC meeting is scheduled for the 11 th of June in the afternoon.		
	Afternoon of June 13 th , 1 hour.		
	Other dates to be decided – In order to handle policy papers and other issues that may chance to come before the GA the Executive Secretary suggest that a EC meeting rather in May in order to find time to process the documents and to redistribute them to our member regions before the GA.		
Final decision	An extra executive committee meeting will be held at SkyCity, Arlanda Airport (SWE) between 10 am – 1 pm. The focus of the meeting should be preparing papers to be redistributed amongst our member regions before the general assembly in Herning.		
79 §	Any Other Business		
	1 Solution to the dissolvent of Riga District as a region as from 2009		
	Ms Grenada Demakina explained that the new regional reform in Latvia will remove the present statues for Riga’s CPMR membership. However, Riga feels it is very important that Latvia is represented – they have been a member of the BSC for more than ten years. At the time being a solution might be that the small municipalities join in a form of cooperation and that the present Riga membership is only transferred to the new group – or territory.		
	The vice president spoke for the EC members present saying that it <u>is</u> important that Latvia remain as members, and that if, after the new reform, territories/municipalities would be the first level below state level the suggested change ought to be acceptable.		
Final decision	The executive secretary is asked to inform the CPMR general secretary Xavier Gizard of the new situation that will arise – he has previously been informed by her about that this might be a development that BSC wished to find a positive solution to that the organisation could maintain representation among all regions around the Baltic Sea.		
	The president closed the discussion with the reassurance to Riga that the BSC would always welcome them as members no matter under what heading.		
	2 Political papers from NSCs EC in Gothenburg		
	<i>Supplement A - NSC Political Statement - Fishery</i> <i>Supplement B - NSC Political Statement – Energy</i>		
	At the presidia meeting with the NSC the BSC received the two papers from the NSC on Fisheries and on Energy that we may choose to add our signature to. The papers received minor amendments in Gothenburg and regarding the energy paper it will be a joint affair, se below.		

Final decision The papers will be further discussed at the BSC EC meeting on Arlanda (SWE) on May 26th.

Regarding the Energy paper it will most likely receive further amendments at the joint BSC+NSC energy seminar in Umeå (SWE) on April 24-25.

The fishery paper need amendments to include the Baltic Sea more visually in the text than present. The executive secretary was asked to remit the document to our fishery group with the request to have it back in time for the said EC meeting on Arlanda.

3 Political Papers to Herning. Suggested deadline May 15.

It is important that also the BSC is producing some political papers to Herning, possibly they will be shared with the NSC and definitely they will be brought to the CPMR GA.

In order to prepare and to give the regions in both organisations a chance to study the papers before the GA the BSC ought to set a strict deadline for papers to April 15, suggesting that the executive secretary informs all WGs of this.

Final decision In order to prepare and to give the regions in both organisations a chance to study the papers before the GA the BSC decided to set the deadline for papers to April 15, asking the executive secretary informs all WGs of this.

4 The 158 group

Supplement C - Group 158

The IC in cooperation with our and the NSC executive secretary have agreed on a suggestion of setting up a 158 group.

Background:

- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states at Article 2 that “ *the Union shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, and solidarity among Member States*”, and makes specific provisions to that effect in its Chapter XVIII, and most notably in Article 158. In that framework, Article 158 stresses that certain categories of regions will require “*particular attention*”; amongst which those which “*suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps*”. The northernmost regions with very low population density, the islands, and the mountain regions are explicitly mentioned.
- To that effect an umbrella alliance named “**Group 158**” is set up which will:
 - jointly articulate the compelling rationale for the addition of ‘territorial cohesion’ to the Treaty and the insertion in Article 158 of the references handicaps referred to above.
 - monitor whether the provisions of article 158 regarding territories with permanent natural or demographic handicaps are being satisfactorily implemented by the European Union
 - make representations to the EU Institutions and to the Member States to ensure that they are so.
- To that effect, whenever necessary, and according to unanimously agreed common objectives , the organisations belonging to Group 158 will :
 - issue political statements, press declarations or documents
 - organise common events
 - send joint delegations
 - pool their political resources
- Members of this alliance are
 - Association Européenne des Elus de Montagne (AEM)
 - European Small Islands Federation
 - EUROMONTANA
 - “Islands Commission” of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

- Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Union (INSULEUR)
- Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA)
-

As several of the BSC regions are falling under article 158 the BSC, like the NSC, ought to set up an ad hoc group to further and support the work of the 158 group.

Final decision There was a consensus that the BSC should set up an ad hoc group. Nordland pointed to the need for the group to remember sparsely populated areas, Gotland spoke for the island perspective and Västerbotten informed that they find the topic very important and that they are a member of the NSPA.

The WG will be an e-mail group, sharing information and amending documents. The WG should be coordinated through the secretariat.

5 Event on the East Indiana Ship Götheborg during the summer

The Presidiums of BSC and NSC were invited by Region Västra Götaland to visit the ship that will sail the Baltic Sea from May to September. There are stops scheduled already in Stockholm, Helsinki, and Tallinn and in Visby during the Almedals week. The suggestion was to invite to a seminar or to inform on CPMR/BSC work advertise our interest in the region.

Final decision The decision was that there is too short a time to do anything right now, also the summer season is difficult if we like member regions to participate. The EC felt that we should focus our recourses on a good seminar in Tallinn during the autumn.

The executive secretary was asked to thank Västragötaland for this kind, but a bit to sudden, offer.

6 Renewed subscription offer for EUROPOLITICS

The promised offer of a trial subscription of the Brussels based web paper EUROPOLITICS has not reached the secretariat. Mr Mayrhofer will ask the paper to provide information of a two week trial period and possible discounts and then circulate them through the secretariat to all member regions.

Final decision The executive secretary will help distributing the offer but from that point onward all communication/questions between the regions and Europolitics should pass directly or via Mr Mayrhofer as he chooses.



7 A new BSC logo

To the Herning general assembly the executive secretary have worked to produce a new BSC logo more clearly displaying all our regions, on a map, and including our name CPMR Baltic Sea Commission. The logo is also to be perceived as being in line with other CPMR geographical commissions and the CPMR logo.

Final decision The pale green (CPMR green) logo was chosen but still the map has to be modified to include Poland.

The secretariat was asked to produce pins and table flag(s) with the new logo to the GA in Herning. If possible to print could be coordinated with Herning and the CPMR that both are in the process of producing new marketing material – contact Malou Munkholm, Central Denmark.

8 A Baltic Sea Commission slogan

Since the GA in Bodø the quest for a BSC logo is going on. Mr Jan Erik Majewski suggested that the BSC should capitalise on the concept “top of Europe” suggesting the slogan:

	“Baltic Sea Commission – Promoting the Top of Europe”
Final decision	The EC will consider this until the next EC meeting on Arlanda May 26 th 10 am – 1 pm.
80 §	Closing the Meeting
Final decision	The president thanked all the participants for a very good meeting that had covered a lot of topics. Also the organisers, the executive secretary and Ms Birgitta Larsarp, and off course Ms Lena Celion and the Municipality of Gotland – closing the meeting with a wish that the BSC would be invited to hold its 2009 GA on Gotland.
	<p><i>CPMRs Baltic Sea Commission Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Anne Ståhl Mousa,</i> <i>Executive Secretary,</i> <i>anne_stahlmousa@msn.com,</i> <i>www.balticseacommission.org</i> <i>Mobile +46 70 540 8858</i></p>

ⁱ Regarding the CPMR membership fees:

ARTICLE 2: PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. The Conference may accept new regions as members or grant regions observer status, according to the following procedure:

- a. Applications must be sent to the Secretary General of CPMR, who shall submit them to the Political Bureau for approval. The Political Bureau shall reach a unanimous decision following advice from the relevant Geographical Commissions according to the provisions of Article 9 of this Charter.
- b. Applications from regions that do not form part of a geographical area covered by one of the Geographical Commissions shall be submitted directly to the Political Bureau.

2. Membership of the Conference and of its Geographical Commissions is linked to payment of the annual dues according to the provisions of Article 11.2.a.

3. Any application for membership accepted during the first six months of the calendar year, implies payment of the full annual due for that year. Applications accepted during the third quarter of the year give rise to payment of half the annual due. Applications accepted during the fourth quarter are not liable for payment of the due for that calendar year.

4. In the event of withdrawal during the first six months of the calendar year, the membership due for the full year will be payable. In the event of withdrawal during the second half of the calendar year, the membership due will be payable up to and including the end of the following year.