



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

BSC Regional Meeting Florence (Italy)

MINUTES September 17th 2007

Time	17 September 2007 at 4-5 pm
Venue	International Congress Centre, Florence, Sala Verde
Roll call	A list was circulated see attached file. Appendix 1 – Participants Note 59 participants (23 politicians) registered.

1 §	Opening the Meeting
Final decision	President Liljeström opened the meeting wishing everyone welcome to three interesting and important days. First, however, our long time BSC champion Mr Tommy Karlsson of Stockholm, who was our second executive secretary and has served as our ever open historical archive and supporter of all newcomers in the organisation is now to retire. The BSC wished to thank him for all he has done for us during the years. A painting was presented to Tommy Karlsson.
2 §	Adopting of the Agenda
Final decision	The agenda was adopted without amendments.
3 §	Activity Report June 2006 (Bodø) – October 2007 (Florence) Appendix 2 – Activity report Appendix 3 – Activity report PPT
Final decision	President Liljeström noted that since last the meeting in Murcia a lot of things has come to pass in the organisations. One of the ambitions of the presidency and secretariat is to formulate clear goals, to keep members informed, to bring back real results to the regions and to have our member regions taking active part in the join work.

CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE – BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

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The visual result of the new direction is a revision of the existing documents ` **Visions & Objectives**´ and the BSC ` **Statutes**´. The internal work of the Executive Committee is now formulated in ` **Working Guidelines**´ that will be annually revised.

To keep members and others informed there is a new **website** www.balticseacommission.org temporarily with an ID *wu061006* and code *7mhf6g99*.

In order to live up to the ambitions the BSC, as an organisation, try to:

- To participate in meetings
- Have active work groups
- Respond to green books
- Respond to CPMR requests for input
- Cooperation with other Baltic Sea regional organisations
- To take own BSC initiatives
- Organise events - like the BSC high-level seminar in Almedalen, Sweden
- Position BSC to have a seat in strategic organisations – like HELCOM, BSSSC, CBSS, B7
- Work close together with NSC and the CPMR Secretariat

To promote a clear profile the BSC has decided to hold “sustainability” and “impact on climate change” as a key note in all our work.

The Baltic Sea Commission is aiming at a lead position in the Baltic Sea Area. In order to achieve this we need ALL our regions to be active. We do also need more member regions to be able to speak for the whole Baltic Sea region.

To avoid double work and deplete of regional recourses we need to cooperate with other organisations. BSC partners for cooperation is and will be the **CPMR** and its geographical commissions, in particular the North Sea Commission (**NSC**) and major Baltic Sea organisations like **BSSSC, B7, CBSS, HELCOM, Baltic21, VASAB, BSPC, UBC** and others approaching the BSC. The BSC strategy is also to **include Russian Baltic Sea Regions** in the work.

President Liljeström closed by thanking all member regions, there politicians and civil servants for their good support and the very good work that is being done in the organisation.

At the General Assembly in Bodø the member regions were asked to send in a “slogan” for the BSC that we could have on all our material. No contribution is so far received and the President asked the members to have this in mind on any forth coming nice evening when creativity is felt to be abundant.

4 §	Nomination procedure for BSCs election 2008	<i>Appendix 4 - Call for nominations</i>
	At the General Assembly 2008 the Baltic Sea Commission shall hold election of a President, two Vice Presidents and an Executive Secretary.	
	In order to have sufficient time to prepare the final documents for the General Assembly 2008 the BSC President now invite nominations for the elections and urge members to present their nomination to the secretariat by March 31 st 2008.	
Final decision	The president went briefly though the changes in the statutes, adopted at the BSC General Assembly in Bodø, June 15 th 2007.	
	According to the new statutes the BSC shall elect a president and two vice-presidents and the Executive Committee every 2nd year.	
	In accordance with CPMR Charter, Article 6, each member of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a period of two years. The members shall be office-holding representatives of regional authorities.	

Each nomination must be seconded by a region other than the region represented by the nominee.

In order to have sufficient time to prepare the final documents for the General Assembly 2008 the BSC President now invites nominations for the elections and **urge** members to present their nomination to the secretariat by March 31st 2008.

5 § Final discussion on the “Via Baltica” declaration before the CPMR General Assembly

Final decision The “Via Baltica” declaration was presented by the executive secretary and the president stressed that the effort had been to make it a ‘general’ declaration as there are many more regions but Podlaskie that would benefit from the road. It was also noted that the Podlaskie by-pass isn’t the only bottle neck why this should have been changed in the text and will be noted by the executive secretary at the CPMR meeting of the resolutions and final declaration overview group. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern stressed that the issue raised is “too local” to be brought up by BSC and the CPMR. The issue is also in a juridical phase where it is unlikely that any declaration would matter. The final decision was that the executive secretary presented the change above at the review group meeting and as such the BSC members support the resolution but with the abstention by Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

The discussion did also bring up the subject of the Russian gas-pipe line in the Baltic Sea. It was decided that further discussions on this issue would have to be brought up at the BSC Executive Committee, if there is an interest in doing so. The upcoming executive committee meeting will take place in Kalpeda on November 20th.

6 § Final discussion on the Resolution on Energy and Climate Change before the CPMR General Assembly

Final decision The resolution was presented by BSC Energy work group chair Dr Erik Berkvist of Umeå.

The debate that followed did in particular focus on the third bullet point from last year where the island of Hiiu, Bornholm and Gotland unanimously stressed that they did not support the final sentence “*would mean a higher cost for fossil fuel*”. It is unlikely that governments will compensate peripheral island regions, dependant on ferry connections to the mainland, for the increased cost of fossil fuel that a decision of this kind would imply’, they argued supported by the executive secretary of the Island Commission.

*Believe that in order to reduce the CO2 emissions, we need to support the use of **renewable and sustainable energy sources**, preferably locally resourced and managed, instead of fossil fuel. We therefore encourage policies that would mean a higher cost for fossil fuel, rather than subsidize renewables.*

It was decided that the BSC will keep the sentence as written, also through the review group meeting, where also the energy Work group chair and coordinator would participate, in order to bring this debate into the open at the CPMR General Assembly on October 19th.

7 § Final discussion on the draft input to CPMR’s final declaration on CAP

Final decision Region Västra Götaland has acted to add a paragraph on CAP to CPMR’s final declaration calling for a broad and open discussion on the subject.

Västra Götaland stressed the importance of the northern regions to take active part in the coming discussions and the work group for CAP to be set up by the CPMR as we now may have a co-chair seat.

The input was unanimously adopted and the executive secretary along with Västra Götalands Cecilia Lagerdahl would, if needed, defend the text at the review group meeting.

The BSC president would also address the CPMR General Assembly on the CAP subject.

8 § Coming Major Events – A Preliminary Calendar for 2007

October 9-10	Conference ISLENET Brussels (B) “ Island Networking and Focus on Technologies”
October 8-12	EU Open Days in Brussels (B) “Open days”, 8-12 October, Brussels - “Greener energy options – through alternative sources and new technologies”
October 17-19	35 th CPMR General Assembly, Tuscany (IT)
October 23-24	HELCOM HOD meeting in Helsinki (FIN)
October 25-26	WG Innovation meeting in Inverness (UK)
October 29	Coordination meeting BSC-BSSSC for a joint project on Sustainable Energy and Climate Change. Copenhagen (DK)
November 2	BSC sponsoring Mr Mälly Gotland Grand National, Visby (S)
November 5-6	Baltic Development Forum, Tallinn (EE)
November 8-9	CPMR meeting on sustainable energy Opatija, Croatia
November 15-16	Coordination meeting with secretariats and work group leaders in preparation for the General Assemblies of BSC and NSC in Herning (DK) 2008, Viborg (DK)
November 19	CPMR Port & Maritime Transport, Gijón, Asturias (ES)
November 19-21	Inter Baltic Final Conference, Klaipeda (LIT)
November 20	BSC Executive Committee meeting, Klaipeda (LIT)
November 27-29	Blue Planet Forum “Acting Together for the Future of EU Maritime Policy”, Brussels (BE)
December 3-4	CPMR Scientific Council on “Regional Development and globalisation”, Lisbon (PT)

Final decision Adopted.

9 § Any Other Business

Final decision Region Skåne brought up the new entity FOGAR that CPMR is not only the founding member of but also hold the positions of president and executive secretary through our own president Martini and executive secretary Gizard. What is the aim of the organisation, asked Annika Annerby-Jansson? Will it strengthen us as regions? What are the costs to date? It was decided that BSC through its president and region Skåne should address the organisations questions and doubts on FOGAR at the General Assembly meeting.

Region Päijät-Häme pointed out that the CPMR final declaration could have been rewritten in a much more condensed format, presenting a suggestion that in context would change nothing. It was decided that the executive secretary would forward this suggestion in a diplomatic manner to the CPMR secretariat.

The BSC unanimously accept the NSC suggested amendments to the text of the BSC ‘Resolution on Energy and Climate Change’ to be presented at the review group meeting.

10 § Closing the Meeting

Final decision Thanking every one for a very active and interesting debate president Liljeström closed the meeting.

NOTE The final resolutions and declarations adopted at the CPMR General Assembly are found at the CPMR home page at www.cpmr.org .

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