

**Executive Committee Meeting
26-27 February 2009**

MINUTES

Venue Kauppurienkatu 8 A, 2nd floor, 90100 Oulu, Finland

Participants	Members	Substitutes
	(x) Ms Christel LILJESTRÖM Itä-Uusimaa (FIN) Baltic Sea Commission	President
	(-) Vice- President Mr Poul MÜLLER , Central Denmark (DK)	(-) Mr Poul WEBER , South Denmark (DK)
	(x) Vice- President Mr Jaroslav DWORZANSKI , Podlaskie (PL)	(x) Mr Michał PODBIELSKI , Podlaskie (PL)
	(-) Ms Annika ANNERBY JANSSON , Region Skåne (S)	(-) Mr Erik BERGKVIST , Regional council of Västerbotten (S)
	(-) Ms Raisa MINCINAUSKIENE , Klaipėda (LT)	(-) Ms Dalia MAKUSKIENE , Klaipėda (LT)
	(-) Mr Jon TØRSET , Nordland (N)	(-) Ms Liv Julie WÅGAN , Nordland (N)
	(-) Mr Ilgonis STEINBERGS , Riga District (LV)	(-) Ms Grenada DEMAKINA , Riga District (LV)
	(-) Mr Arto BRYGGARE , Uusimaa (FIN)	(-) Mr Harri HELMINEN , Kymenlaakso (FIN)
	(-) Ms Reet KOKOVKIN , Hiiumaa (EST)	(-) Mr Urmas MAJAJÄÄS , IdaViru (EST)
	(-) Ms Elke ORDING , Mecklenburg- Vorpommern (D)	(-) Mr Wolf BORN , Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)
	Secretariat:	
	(x) Ms Anne STÄHL MOUSA , CPMR Baltic Sea Commission	Executive Secretary, BSC Secretariat

CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE – BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

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Other participants:

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| (-) Mr Peder BANG, Central Denmark (DK) | (-) Mr Ingvar THELL, Region Skåne (S) |
| (x) Ms Anne BERG, Nordland (N) | (x) Mr Bernt VEDIN (S), Regional Council of Västerbotten |
| (X) Ms Marie Ange ORIHUELA, CPMR (FR) | (x) Mr Tapio VÄLINORO, Kymenlaakso (FIN) |
| (-) Ms Asta RAUGALIENE, Klaipėda (LT) | (x) Roman GOKKOEV, Oulu Region (FIN) |
| (x) Mr Marko RUOKANGAS, Oulu Region (FIN) | (x) Mr Jerker JOHNSON, Osterbotnia (FIN) |
| (X) Mr Indrek NARUSK, Ida-Virumaa (EST) | (X) Mr Kari AALTO, Oulu Region (FIN) |

37 §

Opening Session

Mr Karo Aalto wished all very welcome to Oulu Region. President Christel Liljeström, thanked Oulu Region for their kindness to host our meeting and upend the session.

Final decision

38 §

Adopting the Agenda

Final decision

President Liljeström noted that there had been a number of last minute cancellations from board members this giving that the board was not complete enough to make decisions.

The decision was to:

- Lift out the topics that demand a full board e.g. the financial report and the presentation and discussion about a revision of the BSC member fees.
- The meeting should focus on the “Northern Dimension” and “Barents Region” information.
- The remaining topics should be treated as information points, only.

39 §

Oulu Region - Northern Dimension – the Barents Cooperation

Appendix 1 - Oulu Region, a presentation by Mr Kari Aalto
Appendix 2 – The Northern Dimension & Barents Cooperation in the EU-Programmes by Mr Marko Ruokangas
Appendix 3 – The Barents Cooperation by Mr Kari Aalto

Mr Aalto started by bringing the attention to the geographical and administrative details of the Oulu region – bordering Russia in the east. The region is not only “Nokia” land but also a growing centre of high tech industries, an important region for raw material paired with a growing tourism sector. The Oulu regions is also the “youngest” region in Finland when speaking of demography.

The climate change is already visible here with shorter and less cold winters (as the visitors could se for them selves) affecting winter tourism negative but, on the other hand seeing the forest grow faster and with a prospect of the “Northeast Passages” (the sea rout north of continental Europe-Asia) to be opened in the future.

Please, refer to the attached PPT, Appendix 1.

Mr Marko Ruokangas, gave an account of the possibility to find financial support from EU funds for cross boarder cooperation. Please, refer to the attached PPT, Appendix 2.

Mr Ruokangas is also a member of the Baltic Sea Strategy Laboratory Group. The group is to present (in Visby on June 12th) its first suggestion on how present program funds could be used in the future to help finance the Implementation of the Baltic Sea Strategy Action plan – for instance by changing selection criteria’s.

Mr Aalto presented the work of the Barents Cooperation. Please refer to the PPT

<p>Final decision</p>	<p>presentation Appendix 3. The Cooperation is different in the respect that it involves both a regional (13 northern most regions of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia) and the national level.</p> <p>President Liljeström expressed her gratitude for the excellent presentation that brought the participants a deeper understanding of the work done by our northern member regions, and in particular by Oulu Region, on the issue of Northern Dimension and the Barents cooperation. Baltic Sea Commission will in its continuing work bring forth these topics as one of our priority fields of interest. Not the least should the BSC work groups be advise to look into the possibility to make contact with the work group's within the Barents Cooperation addressing similar issues as the BSC. The meeting agreed that a first step should be a contact between our WG on Transport and its Barents Cooperation correspondent around the reply to the green book on the TEN-T.</p>
<p>40 §</p> <p>Final decision</p>	<p>Progressreport BSC General Assembly in Visby, Gotland, Sweden 10– 12th of May, 2009.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix 4 – Draft Agenda</i></p> <p>The draft agenda was presented, se attached file. There is an interest among the work groups to organise short seminars at during the first half of Monday the 11th – as to present was is done in the groups and to attract new group members.</p> <p>At the time of the meeting there were still some open questions to resolve regarding speakers for the seminar. The decition was to deligate this matter to the President and Executive Secretary.</p> <p>For the General Assembly Agenda there are the topics; Economics – and membershop fees, new members to thee ExCom board and position papers on Energy and the follow-up of the EU Maritime Policy. The GA shall also adopt BSC answer to the green book on the TEN-T (a "preliminary answer, with a note stating that the GA shall be reiwing the document on May 12th, will be sent to the commission as the consultation period ends April 30th).</p> <p>The Executive Secretary stressed that hotels is always difficult to obtain and asked everyone to be quick about securing their rooms.</p> <p>All information and documents will be posted on our webpage www.balticseacommission.info.</p>
<p>41 §</p>	<p>Reflection on the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne</p> <p>The start of the year have meant a lot of focus turning to revision of the Territorial Cohesion with a consultation period ending last February 2009. CPMR and all its geographical commissions have been very active, and co-ordinating this at the CPMR was Ms Marie Ange Orihuela who was invited to Oulu.</p> <p>Ms Orihuela said a few words introducing CPMR's political position paper on territorial cohesion adopted during the CPMR political bureau in Århus on 23rd January. She insisted on the fact that this paper, sent to all the regional, national and European partners and institutions was not the CPMR political proposal on Regional policy, but a political paper highlighting the necessity to take due consideration of the fact that territorial cohesion must be a key aspect of all territorial policies in Europe.</p> <p>She then remembered that this CPMR document called for an ambitious and pro-active approach to territorial cohesion to be implemented, with a focus on two different strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial cohesion as a cross-sectoral approach that is applicable to all European policies, in particular those that have the greatest territorial impact, aside from just cohesion policy; • Territorial cohesion as a governance issue concerning all levels of European public authorities, underneath just EU level. <p>She added that CPMR called for the launch of a European Territorial Pact which must involve all stakeholders from the local to the European level and all policies with a territorial impact. This Pact will need to be led in compliance with the rules of subsidiarity while also taking into account the competences and responsibilities of the various partners.</p> <p>She completed by saying that CPMR wants to see this approach developed in the White Paper that it is advocating.</p>

After these words on territorial cohesion, Ms Orihuela gave an overview of the future steps to be implemented by CPMR to propose in Gothenburg in October 2009 (CPMR General Assembly) a pack of propositions for the future European policies from 2014 to 2020. As the European commission and European parliament will be new at the end of the year, it appears to be the right moment to do our proposals to be then negotiated in 2010 and 2011.

Then, Ms Orihuela told the participants that CPMR is beginning a reflection on “the Regions and the economic crisis” as this new situation will of course influence the way we can propose a future regional policy in Europe, as well as sectoral policies that take due account of regional level and territories. She informed the participants that more information will be sent soon and that CRPM secretariat really needs the feedback from the Regions to be able to make useful proposals. A questionnaire should be sent soon to all the members.

Finally, Ms Orihuela thanked the representatives of the Oulu region for the very interesting information regarding the Northern Dimension and the Barents cooperation. She mentioned the fact that CPMR general secretariat will begin soon a work on “European neighbourhood policy” in order to complement the so-called CPMR’s Seville proposals done in January 2008, insisting on the geostrategic interest of European neighbourhood regions and the necessary support that Europe must bring to these countries and to European regions neighbouring them. She ensured the Baltic Sea Commission representatives that this work will be undertaken with the most concerned regions.

She then, introduced the seminar to be held in Marseille on 29th May on “Regions and development: the role of Regions in a new global framework”. She added that she was conscious that this theme “aid development” is not always a priority for Regions in some countries (as this policy is ensured at national level) but she is sure that all regions have partnership with “southern” regions, and can be interested in knowing how others are doing in order to deepen partnerships in this theme and also to have access to some European funding regarding development. She requested the help of Baltic Commission to identify a Region that could present during this seminar action undertaken (most of the time with national partners) in development. It is important that the European Commission understands how Regions are active in development in their diversity. It would be useful also for all CPMR Regions to know about their respective practices, this can help to promote new partnerships, projects, and ways to work together.

She concluded by thanking again BSC for the kind invitation to take part in their event. And the President thanked Ms Orihuela for coming all the way to Oulu, and added that this new deal, of having the responsible officer for a specific issue from the Rennes office to attend our meeting will tighten the work and understanding of one-another within the organisation.

42 §	The next ExCom Meeting
Final decision	The next ExCom meeting - in Billund, Denmark, April 1-2 nd , lunch-to-lunch – will be a very important session as it will be the last board meeting before the BSC General Assembly.
43 §	Closing the Meeting
Final decision	President Liljeström thanked our excellent hosts for their hospitality and excellent arrangements. President Liljeström did also thank all the attendance for a very interesting meeting that gave us a good insight into the Northern Dimension and Barents co-operation and did opened up a good dialogue with CPMR on the BSC views concerning territorial cohesion and cooperation with none-EU members.

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