



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Executive Committee Meeting

MINUTES

26 May 2008

Time 26 May 2008 - 9 am to 1 pm

Venue Stockholm, Arlanda, Sweden.
Arlanda Conference & Business Centre, room "Metropolitan-Airbus".

Observe The meeting will not present any WG reports. Lunch is not included.

Participants

Members

Substitutes

Roll call

	(x)	Ms Christel LILJESTRÖM Itä-Uusimaa/Östra Nyland (FI)		President
	(-)	Mr Poul MÜLLER Central Denmark (DK)	Vice- President	(-)
(written answers forwarded to the meeting in advance)	(☞)	Ms Elke ORDING Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)		(-)
	(-)	Ms Reet KOKOVKIN Hiiumaa (EST)		(-)
	(x)	Ms Talvikki KOSKINEN South-West Finland (FI)		(-)
	(-)	Mr Ilgonis STEINBERGS Riga District (LV)		(-)
	(-)	Raisa MINCINAUSKIENE Klaipėda (LT)		(-)
	(-)	Mr Geir-Ketil HANSEN Nordland (N)		(-)
	(-)	Mr Dariusz PIONTKOWSKI Podlaski (PL)		(-)
	(x)	Ms Annika ANNERBY JANSSON Region Skåne (S)		(-)
		Secretariat:		
	(x)	Ms Anne STÅHL MOUSA		Executive Secretary, BSC Secretariat Visby

CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE – BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

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	<p>Other participants:</p> <p>(x) Mr Peder BANG, Central Denmark (DK)</p> <p>(x) Mr Ole M KOLSTAD, Nordland (N)</p> <p>(x) Mr Ingvar THELL, Region Skåne (S)</p> <p>(-) Ms Viktorija LIUTKUTE</p> <p>(x) Mr Bernt VEDIN (S), Regional Council of Västerbotten</p> <p>(-) Mr Jan Erik MAJEWSKI, Region Skåne (S)</p> <p>(-) Mr Henrik EYBYE NIELSEN Bornholm (DK)</p>
81 §	Opening the Meeting
Final decision	President Liljeström wished everyone present welcome to this short but, hopefully, very efficient meeting.
82 §	Adopting of the Agenda
Final decision	<p>The agenda was adopted with two additions under AOB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation of CPMR future scenarios (3 of them) prepared by Region Skåne ➤ Discussion on future format for the Commission work <p>Meeting is to be held in “Scandinavian” with notes taken in English.</p>
83 §	Minutes of the Previous Meeting <i>Appendix 1 - Minutes E.C. Visby 8-9th April 2008</i>
Final decision	The minutes of the Visby Executive Committee meeting were adopted.
84 §	Resolutions for the BSC General Assembly
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Appendix 2 - 84§ Discard – Incompatible with Sustainable Fisheries</i> <i>Appendix 3 – Towards a Sustainable European Regional Cohesion Policy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appendix 4 – Political Position of the CPMR Opinion on a Project for Post-2013 Europe</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix 5 – Transport</i> * TEN-T policy post-2014 * Marco Polo II programme * European Territorial Cooperation projects <i>Appendix 14 – Innovation TEN-RIS PPP</i> <i>Appendix 15 - Energy</i></p> <p>The following resolutions/papers have been suggested for adoption at the BSC general assembly in Herning the 13th of June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed by NSC and supported by the BSC WG for fisheries: Discard – Incompatible with Sustainable Fisheries • Towards a Sustainable European Regional Cohesion Policy - Challenges and opportunities in sparsely populated areas • Political position of the CPMR opinion of the general secretariat on a project for post-2013 Europe. <p>The secretariat will circulate these to all member regions, if adopted today, in order for the regions to have time to study them before the general assembly.</p>
Final decision	<i>Discard – Incompatible with Sustainable Fisheries</i> – The BSC WG for Fisheries have been looking into this paper and returned with the answer, before May 15 that this paper is as valid for the Baltic Sea as for the North Sea. BSC thus should support the paper. The Executive

Committee noted the recommendation from the WG for fisheries and asked the Executive Secretary to add it to the papers of the General Assembly.

Towards a Sustainable European Regional Cohesion Policy – This paper has been delivered, before May 15th, to both the North Sea and the Baltic Sea Commission. The paper like to comment on the statement of the CPMR paper from the beginning of 2008 “*Political Position of the CPMR Opinion on a Project for Post-2013 Europe*” stressing the difficulties and opportunities in the northern peripheral regions, islands and mountain areas. The Executive Committee agreed to the statement and asked the Executive Secretary to add it to the papers of the General Assembly.

Political Position of the CPMR Opinion on a Project for Post-2013 Europe – This competence document, by CPMR and more thoroughly introduced by Mr. Mayrhofer at the Executive Committee meeting in Visby, has not received a single comment from the regions while out for amendments.

The dictions was to present the Position Paper on the EU Cohesion Policy 2013+, reviewed and amended in January 2008 by the BSSSC and BSC member regions as an answer to the CPMR paper, together with the paper “*Towards a Sustainable European Regional Cohesion Policy*” just mentioned above.

Region Central Denmark is at the moment working to answer this document and will, in doing so, see if this could be done through amendments to one, or both, of the documents “*Towards a Sustainable European Regional Cohesion Policy*” and/or “*Towards a Sustainable European Regional Cohesion Policy*” or as a separate document then to be presented at the Executive Committee in Herning on June 11th.

The new Transport WG had advertised papers for this Executive Committee, later to be presented at the General Assembly in Herning. As the papers haven’t yet reached neither the secretariat nor been circulated to the regions present at the well attended WG meeting in Schwerin, the decision was to circulate these documents to all member regions, provided they arrive the secretariat before the 30th of May. The Executive Committee meeting of June 11th will then decide if the papers be brought to the General Assembly. - At any case, the Region of Mecklenburg Vorpommern may present them under their own name at the General Assembly.

Toward a New Regional Innovation System (TN-RIS). This CPMR Intercommission group, led by region Stockholm did just hold its WG meeting why we haven’t yet received the short PPP expected. It was decided that to circulate these documents to all member regions, provided they arrive the secretariat before the 30th of May. The Executive Committee meeting of June 11th will then decide if the papers be brought to the General Assembly.

Energy as a Priority in European Sustainable Procurement. This paper was originally put forward and accepted at the Executive Committee in Visby April 8-9 with the noting that minor revisions would be made to the text at the joint BSC and NSC Energy Seminar in Umeå. Decision here was to adopt the paper with amendments and to take it to the General Assembly in Herning.

85 §

Suggested amendment to the BSC Statutes

Appendix 6 – BSC Statutes – Adopted 2007

Article 7: Amendments to the charter

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

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

Article 3: Constitution

....

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

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

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

....

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

....

The elections of the President, the two vice-presidents and the Executive Committee will take place every 2nd year, following the procedure outlined below:

- General Assembly shall elect a President, **who should be office holding**, two Vice-Presidents and an Executive Committee.

- The Executive Secretary asks the Assembly if there are any nominations to the post of President of the Baltic Sea Commission. Each nomination must be seconded by a region other than the region represented by the nominee. ~~The President of the Baltic Sea Committee will be the president /political leader of their respective regional authority.~~

- Once the nominations are known, a vote by show of hands will be taken. However, if any of the regions so request, the vote will be by secret ballot. If there is more than one candidate, the vote will also be by secret ballot. The candidate having obtained an absolute majority of the votes of the delegates present will be declared elected.

- Then the election of the Executive Committee takes place. Each member country shall appoint one representative and one substitute representative. Two vice-Presidents shall be elected, who must be from different countries in between themselves and of the President. In case of absence of the President during the period of his/hers mandate, the Vice-Presidents assumes his/her functions.

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The secretariat will circulate this amendment to all member regions, if adopted today. The amendment is to be decided at the General Assembly in Herning 13th of June 2008.

Final decision

The amendments suggested was adopted, and also accepted prior to the meeting by Mecklenburg Vorpommern, by the Executive Committee.

Following the suggested amendments the decision was that the phrasing **“regional authorities” throughout the document should be replaced with “regions”/“member regions”** to accommodate the regional reform waiting in Latvia.

In order better to adapt the text to reality the text:

Article 3: Constitution

....

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

The Executive Secretary was asked circulate the amended text in full to all member regions and to add it to the papers of the General Assembly.

86 §

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

Appendix 7 – BSC Draft Agenda for Herning

Short report on the preparations for the General Assembly, number of registered participants and received nominations.

<p>Final decision</p>	<p>The draft BSC Agenda for the meetings in Herning 11-13th is added and discussed at 90 §.</p> <p>To date 15 regions out of 30 has registered to participate at the General Assembly in Herning (last year it was 23 out of 29 regions present).</p> <p>The secretariat has sent reminders to all regions and also made direct calls. As registration does not show immediately in the list of participants the hope is that still more regions are already on the final list.</p> <p>Five regions have reported, as the secretariat did call them on the phone that they will not be participating in the General Assembly.</p> <p>Three nominations arrived before the time set, end of March, expired. The nominated are the sitting president, vice president and the Gotland secretariat all nominated to their present positions. There is still lacking a nomination of vice-president – hopefully to be filled by a candidate from EUs new member states. The Executive Secretary is asked to once more contact the member regions in these countries encouraging them to bring forward a candidate.</p>
<p>87 §</p> <p>Final decision</p>	<p>Draft Annual Report 2007-2008</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix 8 – Draft Annual Report 2007-2008</i></p> <p>The President presents a draft Annual Report on the BSC activities over the period June 2007 – June 2008. The Annual report will be presented at the BSC General Assembly in Herning June 13th 2008.</p> <p>The draft annual report was presented though still lacking some last up-dates on the thematic WGs and finance up till the end of May 2008. The Annual Report will be distributed at the General Assembly and there presented by the BSC President Christel Liljeström.</p>
<p>88 §</p> <p>Final decision</p>	<p>Draft Activity Plan 2008 - 2009</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix 9 – Draft Activity Plan - Visions & Objectives 2008-2009</i></p> <p>The President presents a draft activity plan for the coming year for comments by the Executive Committee. The Activity Plan will be presented at the BSC General Assembly in Herning June 13th 2008.</p> <p>The Activity Plan was presented by the president. A discussion on the punch-line ensued landing with: “Baltic Sea Commission – Top of Europe”.</p> <p>Regarding the focus in the coming two years the secretariat was asked to outline the task given by DG Regio, for further details se below under 93 §, in the beginning of the text.</p> <p>Under the first bullet point “member regions” should precede DG Regio in the text.</p> <p>The bullet point should be changed as shown: The ambition is to try to make our Baltic Sea input on all green books presented by the commission that have <u>relevance</u> to our region and organisation.</p> <p>Territorial cohesion should be added as another focus area.</p>
<p>89 §</p>	<p>Revision of membership fees 2009 - 2012</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Appendix 10 – BSC member fees 2009 - 2012</i></p> <p>At the Visby meeting it was decided that the secretariat make contact with the regions regarding the suggested change of membership fees for those regions that are today charged 50% of the BSC fee.</p>

	<p>The question was will it be acceptable to make this increase in: A) a single step in 2009 or B) should the increase be slower and reach full payment by 2012.</p> <p>The executive secretary will report back on the answers.</p>
Final decision	<p>Following the result of the Executive Secretaries small survey it is clear that the increase of membership fees for those member regions that are today paying a lower fee shall increase in slow transition reaching the same level as all members will be paying in 2012. The final document to the General Assembly should mirror this new direction that is no diagram or fixed level of payment for 2012.</p> <p>The budget of the Baltic Sea Commission is the smallest of all the geographical commissions of CPMR and it does not allow the organisation the financial strength it needs to congregate the requirements of the member regions.</p> <p>It was decided that the president will bring the subject of an increased annual fee to the General Assembly in Herning. The new levels will be decided during the General Assembly 2009 and are suggested to be implemented by 2010.</p>
90 §	<p>Draft agenda for the BSC General Assembly in Herning, June 13th 2008 <i>Appendix 7 – BSC Draft Agenda for Herning</i></p> <p>An agenda has to be adopted for the Herning General Assembly, and this will be posted on our webpage as well as distributed to the Herning conference team for distribution to all registered participants, as well as to all member regions.</p>
Final decision	<p>The draft agenda was adopted and may be posted to all the regions. At the Executive meeting it was still uncertain how long time CPMR President Mr Claudio Martini would have to spend on the two meeting General Assembly's in Herning why a certain flexibility as to 3 § must be accepted.</p>
	<p>Short reports:</p>
91 §	<p>President Liljeström, BSC Executive Secretary <i>Appendix 11 - Meeting Report FOGAR/Morocco</i></p> <p>On the FOGAR meeting in Tangier, Morocco, May 12-14th 2008.</p>
Final decision	<p>The president presented the report, Appendix 11 in full. A short discussion on the impact of FOGAR on the future of CPMR followed – no decisions nor was suggestions made. The report was adopted.</p>
92 §	<p>BSC Executive Secretary</p> <p>From the CPMR <i>CODIR</i> meeting in Rennes May 21-22nd 2008.</p>
Final decision	<p>The past <i>CODIR</i> meeting was a quiet and low key event brining not that many new topics to the table. Worth noting is that regarding Territorial Cohesion the commission is reported not to appreciate cross-sectorial themes (no reason given).</p> <p>CPMR President Claudio Martini will include the following subjects to his speech at the BSC and NSC General Assemblies: the future of the CPMR, Energy, Maritime Policy, and Territorial Cohesion.</p>
93 §	<p>DG Regio – cooperating with the BSC on the Baltic Sea Strategy</p> <p>In a direct response to the presidium visit to Mr Dirk Ahner, Mr Ahner has asked the CPMR</p>

Baltic Sea Commission to host one of its four round table discussions during the autumn of 2008. The discussions are to encompass the topics; environment, prosperity, attractiveness and security. The BSC has been trusted the topic on environment.

The executive secretary will give a short report at the meeting on the present statues of the request.

Final decision

The President explained that the BSC has been approached by DG Regio with the request to organise one out of four seminars with work-shops set up to gather input to the Baltic Strategy. The four meetings are on different topics; environment, prosperity, attractiveness and security. DG Regio expects some 400 participants, including representatives of some 20 governmental bodies and representatives from 8 of EUs Directorates. The wish is that the meeting is hosted in one of EUs new member states if possible.

Mr. Olivier Baudelet, from DG Regio, will be attending the Executive Committee meeting in Herring, June 11th, to further explain what is expected and to outline the detail for the seminar and workshop.

The Executive Committee did continue with a discussion on how to finance this big event as the financial strength of our member regions in the new member states are not such that they themselves could host such a large event nor is the budget of the BSC sufficient. The subject will be further developed at the executive committee meetings in Herring.

94 §

Candidate for the Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly 2009

Final decision

The executive secretary informed the meeting that the Region of Gotland is working to be able to host the Baltic Sea commission General Assembly in Visby 2009. A final political decision is not yet made but will be in place by the time for the General Assembly in Herring.

The issue was raised that perhaps next year's General Assembly should be relocated in time not to collide with important political activities in the member regions that is presently partly seen as a reason for why some regions will not be meeting up in Herring, Denmark this year.

The Executive Secretary was also asked to remind Mecklenburg Vorpommern of their earlier thoughts on hosting the General Assembly of BSC in 2010.

95 §

Letter of support for ACCR - AWARENESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE FOR REGIONS

*Appendix 12 –ACCR Project Summary
Appendix 13 – BSC Support for ACCR project application*

The BSC has expressed its verbal support for the ACCR at a consecutive number of EC meetings.

The ACCR will file its application to the first round of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013, closing at May 30.

The ACCR would much appreciate if the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission would be able to extend our support in writing, to be at hand at the ACCR secretariat before May 30th. The Executive Secretary has drafted the attached suggestion, following suite the letter of support provided by the BSSSC.

Final decision

The ACCR project has long been on the BSC Executive Committee agenda and at all time an oral support has been given. The drafted letter of support follow suit the discussion in earlier meetings and was adopted. The Executive Secretary is asked to immediately mail the letter to the ACCR application group.

95 §

Remembering - Executive Committee Meetings 2008

In connection with the BSC General Assembly an EC meeting is scheduled for the 11th of June in the afternoon ...and in the afternoon of June 13th, 1 hour. - Other dates to be decided.

Final decision	<p>The Executive Committee meeting on the 11th of June in Herning will take place at the Congress Centre in Herning 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Topics: Additional political papers up for the General Assembly June 13th. Baltic Sea Strategy on environment – presentation and discussion with Mr Olivier Baudelet on the seminar and workshops to be held by BSC together with DG Regio during October-November 2008.</p> <p>Sum-up of the discussions on the future of the CPMR during the Political Seminar with BSC, NSC, with Mr. Jean Didier Hache Director of CPMR as a starting point for the BSC own discussion at the General Assembly on June 13th.</p> <p>The Executive Committee meet on the 13th of June in Herning, same location as the meeting on the 11th, 2:00 – 3:30 pm Topics: Welcome the new Executive Committee. Focus for the coming year(s) with particular attention to the Baltic Sea Strategy. The meeting form and schedule for the Executive Committee will be discussed and decided.</p>
96 §	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation of CPMR future scenarios (3 of them) prepared by Region Skåne ➤ Discussion on future format for the Commission work <p>Final decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Region Skåne have prepared three scenarios for the future of CPMR suggesting a) that CPMR merge with AER and jointly keep the focus on maritime and peripheral issues b) That CPMR keep its focus on maritime and peripheral issues. C) That the (P) peripheral is dropped and that the CPMR future focus should be on maritime issues. These are only scenarios to be added to the discussion in Herning and the draft of CPMR scenarios to be made after the CPMR Political Bureau meeting on Rhodes. The decision was NOT to send out the scenarios to other regions previous to the General Assembly. Regions Skåne will however send a copy to the Executive Secretary. ➤ Discussion on future format for the Commission work did never land in a single paragraph but transpired through the paragraphs 85§, 86§, 88§, 89§ and 95§. <p>A quick summary of the discussion that took place under these paragraphs: In order to achieve influence on EU policy, via CPMR, alone or together with others BSC members need to be active, need to utilise the competence of the member regions through thematic workgroups, benefit from cooperation with other organisations then particularly in the Baltic Sea Area. The financial strength leaves more to be wished for and a serious debate on an increase of member fees need to initiated already at the General Assembly in Herning. To secure attendance to the meeting the number of Executive Committee meetings should be balanced with the need to keep momentum in moving the interest of the member regions forward. The time for the General Assembly 2009 ought to perhaps be shifted to another, most likely earlier, date to make it possible for all regions to participate.</p>
97 §	<p>Closing the Meeting</p> <p>Final decision</p> <p>President Christel Liljeström closed the meeting and thanked everyone for the attendance and active debate and looked forward to meet all in Herning, (DK) in a few weeks time.</p>

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