

CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Executive Committee Meeting

MINUTES

11 June 2008

Time 11 June 2008 – 5.30–6.30pm

Venue Herning Conference Centre, Herning (DK)

Note The meeting will immediately follow the joint BSC+NSC Political Seminar, to which all EC members are invited.

Participants Present

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)
(X)	Ms Elke ORDING Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)		(-) Mr Wolf BORN Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)
(-)	Ms Reet KOKOVKIN Hiiumaa (EST)		(-) Mr Tarmo PIKNER Saaremaa (EST)
(-)	Ms Talvikki KOSKINEN South-West Finland (FI)		(X) Ms Marjatta VEHKAOJA Pohjanmaa/Österbotten (FI)
(X)	Mr Ilgonis STEINBERGS Riga District (LV)		(X) Ms Grenada DEMAKINA Riga District (LV)
(-)	Raisa MINCINAUSKIENE Klaipėda (LT)		(X) Ms Dalia MAKUSKIENE Klaipėda (LT)
(-)	Mr Geir-Ketil HANSEN Nordland (N)		(-) Ms Sonja A STEEN Nordland (N)
(-)	Mr Dariusz PIONTKOWSKI Podlaski (PL)		(-) Mr Michał PODBIELSKI Podlaski (PL)
(-)	Ms Annika ANNERBY JANSSON Region Skåne (S)		(-) Mr Erik BERGKVIST Regional Council of Västerbotten (S)
Secretariat:			
(X)	Ms Anne STÅHL MOUSA		Executive Secretary, BSC Secretariat, Visby

CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE – BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

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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>(X) Ms Asta RAUGALIENE, Klaipeda County (LIT)</p> <p>(X) Mr Olli PEKKA, Uusimaa Regional Council (FIN)</p> <p>(X) Mr Olivier BAUDELET, European Commission, DG Regio (BEL)</p>	<p>(X) Mr Bernt VEDIN, Regional Council of Västerbotten (S)</p> <p>(X) Mr Jan Erik MAJEWSKI, Region Skåne (S)</p> <p>(X) Ms Eva WAHLSTRÖM Regional Council of Västerbotten (S)</p> <p>(X) Mr Toomas KIVIMÄGI, Pärnu County Government (EST)</p> <p>(X) Mr Kari AALTO, Council of Oulo Region (FIN)</p> <p>(X) Mr Enrico MAYRHOFER, CPMR (BEL)</p>
98 §	Opening Speech	
Final decision	President Ms Christel Liljeström opened the meeting wishing Executive Committee members, Mr Olivier Baudalet and all other Member Region representatives present very welcome.	
99 §	Presentation of the Agenda	
Final decision	The Agenda was adopted.	
100 §	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	<i>Appendix 1 - Minutes E.C. Arlanda May 26th</i>
Final decision	The minutes of the Executive Committee at Arlanda (SWE) were adopted without amendment.	
101 §	Resolutions for the BSC General Assembly	<i>Transport: Appendix 2A - TEN-T policy post-2014 Appendix 2B - Marco Polo II programme Appendix 2C - European Territorial Cooperation projects Appendix 3 – Innovation TN-RIS Paper Appendix 4 – Energy Sustainable Procurement</i>
	<p>The papers arrived late and the EC shall decide if they should be presented to the General Assembly in Herning on 13 June 2008. The Transport WG suggests that only the TEN-T Paper is for the General Assembly and that the other two should be seen as information to the Executive Committee.</p> <p>All the documents had been circulated to the Member Regions at the end of May.</p> <p><u>Regarding the Transport Papers:</u></p> <p>None of the papers had arrived before the deadline for papers to the General Assembly, 15 May 2008. Due to the late arrival the documents have not been circulated to the Regions.</p>	
Final decision	<p>Appendix 2A TEN-T policy post-2014 – This paper is not yet ready to present to the General Assembly as it is far too technical to be completed with short notice. There is also time to present this paper at a later date.</p> <p><i>The paper will not be presented at the General Assembly.</i></p> <p>Appendix 2B – Marco Polo II programme - This paper was presented to the Executive Committee for information only.</p> <p>It was noted that the new Transport group is working well but they are welcoming more member regions to their work.</p>	

Appendix 2C European Territorial Cooperation Projects - This paper was presented to the Executive Committee for information only.

Appendix 3 – Innovation TN-RIS – The paper has been mentioned at the Executive Committee meetings in Visby and Arlanda but, due to the meeting schedule of the working group, it was presented to the delegates during the meeting. The intention is, on the one hand, to inform the Baltic Sea Commission, as chair of this Inter-Commission working group, on the progress of the project and on the other hand, to ask the BSC to help stress issues which are important from a northern point of view within the WG.

Final decision *The Executive Committee felt the paper was well presented and advertise and as it was also short it will be presented to the General Assembly of the BSC on 13 June 2008.*

Appendix 4 – Energy Sustainable Procurement – The paper presented at the meeting contained minor amendments following the joint BSC+NSC Seminar in Umeå 23-25 May 2008. The paper is included in the working papers of the BSC and NSC General Assembly of 13 June 2008.

Final decision *The Executive Committee decided to present the paper to the General Assembly on 13 June 2008.*

102 § Recommendations to the General Assembly As Executive Secretary

According to the Baltic Sea Commission Statutes:

Article 5: The Executive Secretary

The Baltic Sea Commission has an Executive Secretary whose responsibility is to ensure the day-to-day organisation of its work and the implementation of its decisions. **On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the General Assembly shall nominate the Executive Secretary.** The Executive Secretary appointed should be from another country than the President. His/her mandate is renewed every 2 years.

The Executive Secretary of the Baltic Sea Commission assists the President in his/her task and acts under his/her authority.

The Secretariat has received the following nomination on 18 March 2008:

To the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

The municipality of Gotland has hosted the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Secretariat since October 2006.

We hereby offer to prolong that responsibility for the two coming years. Ms Anne Ståhl Mousa will continue as Secretary General and she will be stationed in Visby as hitherto.

Best regards,

Eva Nypelius, Ordförande Kommunstyrelsen

Final decision The Executive Committee unanimously decided to recommend that the General Assembly on 13 June 2008, accepts the offer from Region Gotland (SWE) to host the BSC Secretariat, with Executive Secretary Anne Ståhl Mousa, for another mandate period.

103 § Economic Report [Appendix 5 - BSC Economy Jan-May 2008](#)

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

The draft BSC Agenda for the meetings in Herning 11-13 June 2008 is included.

There are approximately 420 delegates registered for the joint event of the BSC and NSC seminars and General Assemblies. The BSC delegates are making up a quarter of the delegates, i.e. just over 100.

The secretariat has received the following nominations for the next 2 year mandate period, to be presented at the General Assembly 13 June 2008:

Ms Christel Liljeström, Itä-Uusimaa/Östra Nyland (FI), is nominated as President;

Mr Poul Müller, Central Denmark (DK), is nominated as Vice President;

Mr Jaroslaw Dworzanski, Podlaski (PL), as Vice President;

Region Gotland and Ms Anne Ståhl Mousa as Secretariat and Executive Secretary.

The Executive Secretary made a short presentation of the Economic Report.

Final decision

The report was adopted without amendments.

104 §

DG Regio – cooperating with the BSC on the Baltic Sea Strategy

In response to the presidium visit to Mr Dirk Ahner, Mr Ahner has asked the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission to host one out of four round table discussions with active workshops during the autumn of 2008.

Mr Olivier Baudalet, of DG Regio, has kindly agreed to come to the Executive Committee meeting to further outline the objectives of the meetings and, together with the Executive Committee, elaborate on the details. The event is to take place during October-November 2008, preferably in one of the new EU member states.

Mr Baudalet will be available to discuss this issue in more depth throughout the evening.

Mr Olivier Baudalet, European Commission, DG Regio (BEL) visited the Executive Commission to clarify some details of the proposed event to be hosted by the Baltic Sea Commission.

In response to the presidium visit to Mr Dirk Ahner, Mr Ahner has asked the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission to host one of its four round table discussions during the autumn of 2008. The discussions are to encompass the following issues; environment, prosperity, attractiveness and security.

Theme:

The BSC has been entrusted with the theme of the **environment** expected to include workshops on the following issues:

1. Eutrophication;
2. Ecosystem and biodiversity;
3. Coastal zones;
4. Hazardous substances;
5. Waste and contaminated sites;
6. Oil transport;
7. Pollution from ships;
8. Climate change;
9. 'Clean' energies;
10. Soil pollution;
11. Nuclear safety.

Location:

DG Regio would prefer that the seminar take place in one of the new EU member states, however not in Tallinn, which is already hosting one of the seminars. DG Regio has received an offer from the City of Gdansk, Poland to host one of the seminars.

If no host can be found in the preferred area, Helsinki could be considered as an alternative.

Format:

A one or one-and-a half day event with an opening seminar and high-level technical workshops. The aim is to collect practical input as to how shortcomings within the various sub-topics should be solved, to be brought together in an action-plan.

Timetable:

The event ought to take place during late October or early November 2008.

Event:

The BSC itself, or together with the organiser, will finance the event, including the meeting venue, coffee breaks and a lunch/dinner as well as managing the dissemination and receipt of the invitation/reservations.

DG Regio contribution:

DG Regio hopes that the BSC will contribute to the invitation list with our own contacts, however they will also contribute to this list with their own contacts. Several Directorates will be involved and personnel from DG Regio and others will join each group to take the minutes.

Final decision

The Executive Committee will continue to discuss the topic at the next Executive Committee meeting, after the BSC General Assembly on 13 June 2008.

105 §

The future of the CPMR

A short summing-up of the discussions on the future of the CPMR during the Political Seminar with the BSC, NSC and with Mr. Jean Didier Hache, CPMR Director was held, just prior to the Executive Committee meeting, as a point of reference to the BSC's own discussion at the General Assembly on 13 June 2008.

The results were split with the BSC outcome presented separately.

Approximately 50 representatives from the North Sea Commission (NSC) and the Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) attended the debate. The BSC thoughts are noted [below](#).

Final decision

The results of the meeting will be taken by the Executive Secretary to the internal CPMR working group and shall not be presented at the General Assembly.

106 §

Next Executive Committee Meeting 2008

In direct connection with the BSC General Assembly, an EC meeting is to be held during the afternoon of 13 June 2008, (2.00-3.30pm) at the Herning Conference Centre.

Final decision

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place in Herning on 13 June 2008 immediately after the BSC General Assembly. Further meeting dates and venues will be decided by the new Executive Committee on 13 June 2008.

107 §

Any Other Business

108 §

Closing Speech

Final decision

President Christel Liljeström closed the meeting by thanking all participants for this session and the last two years and invited everyone to attend the General Assembly of BSC on 13 June 2008.

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Baltic Sea Commission Feedback

The Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) participants identified a wide range of ideas and issues.

SWOT Analysis

1. What do you consider as the CPMR's biggest achievements during the recent years?

For the BSC Regions group, the most popular and common themes in answer to this question were:

- The CPMR has done a lot for EU regional policies by doing a good job in including all regions;
- The CPMR has become a strong lobbying organisation which is established and respected;
- The CPMR is well-known in Brussels;
- The CPMR has close cooperation with the Baltic Sea Commission.

Other comments included:

- The CPMR is active in opening discussions on different issues;
- The CPMR has done a good job on influencing the Maritime Policy;
- The CPMR provides a good base for cooperation;
- The CPMR is more political than the AER – focusing more on partnership;
- The CPMR has not been excluding regions;
- The CPMR has an active and professional secretariat;
- The CPMR's voice is heard by others;
- The CPMR's President is close to the European Commission;
- Through the CPMR, best practice is available to the regions on common challenges.

2. In what occasions, or in what areas, do you consider that CPMR has failed, or could have done more?

For the BSC Regions the most popular and common themes in answer to this question were:

- There has been a lack of marketing and information sent out to the Regions;
- There has been too much focus on the southern regions and not enough attention paid to the Baltic Sea and northern parts of the CPMR area;
- The CPMR has not handled the enlargement and the involvement of 'new' regions in a good way;
- The CPMR could have handled FOGAR (Forum of Global Associations of Regions) discussions in a better way.

Other comments included:

- The CPMR could have included the member regions more;
- The CPMR requires better evaluation and follow up;
- There has been too much focus on Maritime Policy;
- There is not always enough information for members;
- There is a lack of recognition of the CPMR;
- The CPMR could have done more on the Common Agricultural Policy.

3. What do you consider as the most important issues which CPMR should address in the foreseeable future?

For the BSC Regions the most popular and common themes in answer to this question were:

- The CPMR should still focus on the successful regional policies;
- The CPMR should continue to focus on sustainability - including climate change, energy and fisheries;
- The CPMR should focus on preparing for actions required post 2013;
- The CPMR should consider Regional competency issues.

Other comments included:

- The CPMR should strengthen the links between the Baltic Sea and North Sea activities;
- The CPMR should consider the inclusion of regions from new member states;
- The CPMR should increase the EU budget for regional policies;
- If external policy is part of the CPMR's goals – the focus should be on Russia;
- The CPMR should focus on European self-sufficiency in raw materials;
- The CPMR should focus on infrastructure/accessibility;
- The CPMR should focus on energy and climate change;
- The CPMR should focus on demography and migration;
- The CPMR should focus on Maritime Policy implementation and development;
- The CPMR should focus on the protection of coastal areas;
- The CPMR should focus on the link between new and old members.

CPMR external relationships

4. Do you think that CPMR should get more actively involved with other stakeholders on the European scene, and if so which ones?

The most popular and common themes in answer to this question were:

- The BSC Regions thought that, overall, the CPMR should get involved with other stakeholders on the European scene – but it should focus on specific issues and working together where appropriate;
- The BSC Regions thought that there should be more activity with the Barents Regional Council;
- The BSC Regions also stated that there should be more cooperation with the AER - including practical work on specific issues - but also on a presidential and secretariat level;
- The BSC Regions felt that the CPMR should be involved with the Committee of the Regions - but it should fill the dialogue with more concrete questions.

Other comments included:

- The CPMR should get more actively involved with Northern dimension stakeholders.

5. Do you think CPMR should play a greater role with the territories covered by the EU Neighbourhood Economic Policy?

The most popular and common themes in answer to this question were:

- The BSC Regions thought that overall, yes, the CPMR could play a greater role with the territories covered by the EU Neighbourhood Economic Policy – and it should do this by actively inviting and collaborating with the neighbouring countries. This could be dealt with by the Geographical Commissions.
- There was, however, also an alternative view that was less supportive of the CPMR playing a greater role. Some of the BSC participants thought that the CPMR should focus on Regional Policy and implementation for existing members.

6. Do you think that CPMR should become increasingly involved with other structure or networks of regional organisations worldwide?

- The majority of the BSC group members thought that there was no need for more organisations. They also thought that there were not enough resources for new organisations. The BSC member regions thought that the CPMR should concentrate on doing its existing activities better, and focus on the BSC's near neighbours e.g. Russia and Northern Africa.