



**Executive Committee Meeting
11-12 September 2008**

MINUTES

Time 11 September 2008, 1- 5 pm
12 September 2008, 9-12 am

Venue City Hall Raatihuoneenkatu 9, Porvoo - Stadshusgatan 9, Borgå (FIN)

Participants

Members

Substitutes

- | | |
|--|---|
| (x) Ms Christel LILJESTRÖM
Itä-Uusimaa (FIN) Baltic Sea Commission | President |
| (x) Vice- President Mr Poul MÜLLER ,
Central Denmark (DK) | (-) Mr Poul WEBER , South Denmark (DK) |
| (-) Vice- President Mr Jaroslav DWORZANSKI ,
Podlaskie (PL) | (x) Mr Michal PODBIELSKI , Podlaskie (PL) |
| (x) Ms Annika ANNERBY JANSSON , Region
Skåne (S) | (-) Mr Erik BERKVIST , Regional council of
Västerbotten (S) |
| () Ms Raisa MINCINAUSKIENE ,
Klaipėda (LT) | (-) Ms Dalia MAKUSKIENE ,
Klaipėda (LT) |
| (-) Mr Jon TØRSET ,
Nordland (N) | (x) Ms Liv Julie WÅGAN ,
Nordland (N) |
| (x) Mr Ilgonis STEINBERGS ,
Riga District (LV) | (-) Ms Grenada DEMAKINA ,
Riga District (LV) |
| (-) Mr Arto BRYGGARE ,
Uusima (FIN) | (-) Mr Harri HELMINEN ,
Kymenlaakso (FIN) |
| (-) Ms Reet KOKOVKIN ,
Hiiumaa (EST) | (-) Mr Urmas MAJAJÄÄS ,
IdaViru (EST) |
| (x) 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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<p>Other participants:</p> <p>(-) Mr Peder BANG, Central Denmark (DK) (x) Mr Ingvar THELL, Region Skåne (S)</p> <p>(x) Ms Anne Berg, Nordland (N) (x) Mr Bernt VEDIN (S), Regional Council of Västerbotten</p> <p>(-) Mr Enrico MAYRHOFER, CPMR (BEL) (x) Jaakko MIKKOLA, Itä-Uusimaa (FIN)</p> <p>(-) Mr Tapio VÄLINORO, Kymenlaakso (FIN) (x) Ms Ilmi Tikkanen, Itä-Uusimaa (FIN)</p> <p>(-) Ms Asta Raugaliene, Klaipėda (LT) ()</p>	
11 §	Opening Session I
Final decision	The session was opened and the president wished all participants a warm welcome to her home region.
12 §	Presentation of Old and New Board Members
Final decision	<p>The executive committee has seen some last minute changes of board members added to those advertised at the Executive committee in Herning on June 13th.</p> <p>A round of presentations was made and all was greeted to the executive committee to be continuing over the two coming years.</p>
13 §	Adopting the Agenda
Final decision	Adopted.
14 §	BSC Thematic Work Group – Reports
	<p>a) Transport Working Group (Ms Elke Ording)</p> <p>The transport WG has been very active during the first half of the year. At its WG meeting in Herning, it was decided that the focus during the autumn would be on the TEN-T revision and the Intercommission group CPMR will form to follow this revision period. - Suggested as chair for this group is Mecklenburg Vorpommern (MV).</p> <p>Some WG members will also take part in a meeting on the 18th of September when the CPMR transport representatives will meet with DG Tren representatives. MV will also participate at the advertised stakeholder conference on the 14-15th of October.</p> <p>The ambition is to push for “good clear criteria’s” on topics; such as Short Sea Shipping, the maritime dimension, motorways-of-the-seas (MoS), the present problem of administrative bottlenecks, pushing for northern transport access and some global aspects on environment. – “The Baltic Region should bring ‘practical’ ideas to the table”.</p> <p>Mr Schmude and Ms Öberg will try to have input from all member regions.</p> <p>During late summer the WG answered an EU Questionnaire on “freight railways”. As this came amid holiday season all WG members may not, unfortunately, have had the chance to give their comments.</p> <p>A WG meeting will be organized during the autumn, the date is not yet set but most likely it will be during late November or in early December. There was a wish for an ‘early notice’ – at least 8 weeks ahead – as many autumn schedules are already solidly booked.</p>

There is a standing, open, invitation for all regions to join the important work of the transport WG.

b) Energy WG (Dr. Erik Bergkvist, Ms. Eva Wahlström)

The Energy WG is now “re-grouping” to take aim for a new challenge after the successful completion of the joint BSC-NSC conference in Umeå.

A continues task is to be active in the CPMR intercommission WG on Energy, led by the Island Commission’s Mr J-D Hache.

The group is planning to respond to the Baltic Sea Parliament Conference’s document on energy.

c) Experts in Fishery (Mr Kjell Nybacka, Mr Rolf Gidemo)

No one from the Fishery group was present at this meeting and this led on to a discussion landing in two statements:

- The group is no doubt very active, and represent the Baltic Sea region well, in technical issues within its pitch of competence, and this in cooperation with the NSC and CPMR and in relation to the EU authorities. The group should however be renamed to “experts” rather than a WG.
- There is an open invitation for any region to take the lead for this group.

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

After the Human Resource seminar in Stockholm, 7-8 of March, there seemed to be an acceptance for the idea of forming the M&I group. At present the situation is less clear, and it seems that Mr Rui Azevedo is working along the idea of having two WGs under a joint Human Resource umbrella; A WG on Social Inclusion and Culture, led by Valencia and another on Integration and Migration chaired by region Skåne. – A decision will possibly be reached before the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne, end September beginning of October.

The Executive Committee agreed to that Region Skåne ought to retain the original idea; focusing on a group on migration and integration.

e) CPMR Intercommission WG – TN-RIS Project (Ms Inger Linge, Mr Tommy Karlsson)

Region Stockholm, Ms Inger Linge as chair of the group, will present the TN-RIS final report at the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne.

There was, and is, a wide-spread interest in this Intercommission WG among a large number of CPMR member regions, however, it is yet to see – probably at the CPMR General Assembly meeting in Bayonne - if there will be a continuation of this group.

f) Joint BSC-BDF-BSSSC TransBaltic Pan-Baltic Transport Strategy (Ms Annika Annerby Jansson)

The project application is well focused, and formulated, and is also supported by a number of strong stakeholders. On October 23 the Monitoring Committee of the Baltic Sea Region Programme will announce their decision.

g) CPMR Intercommission WG - The Future of CAP - development

The intercommission group working on the CAP revision is continuing their work with no direct BSC representative involved, apart from the Executive Secretary as an `observer`. However, there are “national” representatives/experts taking part from Sweden and Finland.

h) CPMR Intercommission WG – Sustainable Tourism

There are two candidates, so far, interested to chair a BSC WG on Sustainable Tourism; The regions of Riga and Gotland. – It was decided that interested regions should talk to one

Final decision

Final decision

Final decision

another at the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne and that a decision will be made at the next Executive Committee meeting to be held in Gdansk.

i) CPMR Intercommission WG – Aquamarina / Maritime surveillance

Region Blekinge will be heading a sub-group of the CPMR Intercommission Aqua Marina group. The topic will be “Maritime Surveillance”.

Nordland expressed their interest, and more regions are welcome to join in this important group. More information will be circulated to all BSC member regions once the group has been launched (mid November).

15 §

Dynamic Work Groups

The discussion that followed on the work of our WGs, participation of member regions and cooperation didn't land in any concrete decision(s). Still, there came out some ideas that could be food-for-thoughts in the future development of WG work.

The Executive Secretary opened the debate with a brief review of the WG development over the past two years, stressing the importance of the groups as the “experts” of the organisations when BSC is asked to feed in to CPMR/EU/NSC/BSO (other Baltic Sea Organisations) papers.

President Liljeström stressed that WGs should be “open-to-all” that wishes to take part in the group. (No one disagreed to this).

The difficulty when forming a group, and for a group to remain active, is finance. The cost rest with the group members, however BSC do not stipulate any format of the WGs activities other than it should report back to the Executive Committee, support the Executive Secretary, all in effort to make it possible to accommodate the responsibility of a WG with any BSC member region.

A comparison was made to the format of WG structure in the NSC, at this point under some discussion. Where NSC forms more permanent WGs the BSC focus on flexibility with “one-year-missions”, which are delivered to the BSC Executive Committee/BSC General Assembly. The model, introduced in Murcia in October 2006, was devised to enable BSC to follow suites to the agenda of the CPMR/EU.

The very active cooperation, under the lead of Region Västra Götaland, between the Swedish CPMR member regions was brought to the attention, as one model of working.

There was a consensus to that WGs should reflect the WG agenda of the CPMR and EU in order to enable BSC to make “strong” input to CPMR technical papers and to answer – to us relevant – EU consultation calls.

There were some suggestions on WGs that we ought to form:

Sustainable Tourism. Is an important topic for the Baltic Sea Area and the very active work within the CPMR Intercommission Group ought to be followed by the BSC?

Territorial Cohesion will be of importance in the year to come and BSC, as well as the CPMR as organisation, ought to focus on this issue.

To follow the work on **Nordregio - European Space 2020** planning, energy and transport.

If Region Skåne is trusted with the CPMR Intercommission WG on **Migration and Integration** the BSC might form a WG on this topic to support Skåne's work at CPMR level.

The discussion was summed-up by the President Liljeström as she stressed how important the work of all the members/experts of the WGs are, and how much BSC appreciate that the regions are prepared to invest in the work. The lobbying voice of the BSC is to-en-large, dependant on

22 §	Baltic Sea Strategy (BSS) <i>Appendix 4 - Baltic Sea Organisation Joint Statement</i>
Final decision	<p>Concerning the BSS - There are a lot of activities around the Baltic Sea at present. A German paper and another from South West Finland are on their way and should be forwarded, and circulated among the Executive Committee members, as soon as they reach the BSC secretariat.</p> <p>After some discussions on the pros- and cons of too many papers delivered, the Executive Committee agreed to proceed as follows;</p> <p>The joint paper of the Baltic Sea Organisations (BSO), presented at the Baltic Sea Strategy round table in Kaunas, was adopted by the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The joint statement of the Swedish members of CPMR will be delivered as a `CPMRs Baltic Sea Commissions Swedish Regions´ input.</p> <p>However, the Executive Committee felt that the BSC should make a strong input of our own to the BSS.</p> <p><u>Proceeding was decided to be as follows:</u> After the BSS round table on environment in Gdansk, November 13th, (and the final round table in Helsinki on December 9th) the BSC presidium and executive secretary should formulate our statement. This will be sent to the board members, and to the member regions, for amendments before the end of the year and delivered to DG Regio in January 2009.</p> <p>The BSC statement should look to the HELCOM action plan as a starting point and our focus should be on input from experts, bringing precise measures in a list of prioritized actions.</p>
23 §	BSS Work Shop on Environment November 13th in Gdansk <i>Appendix 5 - Draft Agenda (on the table)</i>
Final decision	<p>The Executive Secretary gave a report on the preparatory work for the conference.</p> <p>It was suggested that the issue of environment could include the concept of “business strategy” as this could be a constructive way of approaching the topic.</p> <p>The Executive Committee asked the Executive Secretary to try to have climate change/clean energy added to the agenda as a separate topic.</p> <p>There was a unanimous agreement to the need to have, not only top politicians, but also experts at the round table. The members of the Executive Committee could mail suggestions for experts, to be invited, to the secretariat.</p> <p>The Executive Secretary asked, and was granted, to contribute to the Gdansk organisers with 2000 € to cover expenses for the BSS round table on environment.</p>
24 §	Developing Our Organisation
	<p>CPMRs future is debated within the organisation right now and this open up an opportunity for the BSC to revisit our own organisation in order to develop towards an attractive body to old and new member regions.</p> <p><u>The future of the secretariat</u> was brought to discussion – focusing on the difficulty, or at least inconvenience, that comes with the changing of president as well as executive secretary at the same time. If both are brought in “fresh” there is no continuity.</p> <p>There is also the cost for hosting a secretariat today, limiting the number of regions that could afford this. - Perhaps it is time to raise the question if BSC should have a permanent/semi-permanent secretariat? Should the executive secretary be seated for a limited time?</p>

Should the executive secretary also be working for, partly paid by, the CPMR – much along the lines set up within the Island Commission? Could the BSC members then maintain the influence on `who` is recruited in the future (assuming that a sitting executive secretary was originally transferred to CPMR)?

The NSC model, of having a region bringing a president as well as secretariat under one hat, was brought forward as a good model. This model secures an independence from the CPMR. – The drawback of this is that BSC regions are small, and financially weak, and that few member regions could afford to host both a president and a secretariat.

If the executive secretary was to be shared with CPMR, where would he/she be located? – An answer: - “Finding the right person should prevail over location”.

The president closed this discussion by asking the members of the Executive committee to further think about this issue.

Final decision

The BSC should revisit its structure and working methods, in order to improve on our performance. - The decision was to start this process in early 2009 to be able to make a presentation at the BSC General Assembly in Visby.

The secretariat should try to find out approximately what the NSC recent inquiry did cost.

All Executive Committee members, who will be present at the BSS round table meeting in Gdansk, November 13th, should seize the opportunity to talk to representatives from Baltic Sea regions not yet BSC members.

The executive secretary was asked to contact the CPMR secretariat to have copies of which regions had already delivered the answer to the CPMR-enquiry and to send a reminder to those regions who had not yet delivered an answer.

25 §

CPMR General Assembly *Appendix 6 - The Agenda of the CPMR General Assembly*

The Executive Secretary presented some suggestions as to who should take the floor, on different topics, at the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne. The goal is to bring a well balanced and strong contribution from the BSC to the CPMR General Assembly.

Final decision

The Executive Secretaries suggestions were adopted, the individuals concerned were already aware of their “mission”, and a final decision will be made at the BSC pre-meeting in Bayonne.

26 §

Activity Report June 2008 (Herning) & Coming Major Events – A Calendar for 2008

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

June 11-13	BSC & NSC General Assemblies, Herning (DK)	ALL
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 2-3	CPMR Sustainable Tourism, Gothenburg (SWE)	Gotland (SWE) Lena Celion
July 3-4	Human Resource Oviedo, Spain	Carl-Ewert Ohlsson Gävleborg (SWE)
July 8	Aquamarina, Brussels (BEL) Maritime Transport and Maritime Spatial Planning	Blekinge (SWE) Bo Löfgren
July 8	SIDA Baltic Sea Dep. Seminar, Almedalen, Visby (SWE) – BSC in the panel – Baltic Sea Strategy – and can	ASM

	organisations cooperate?		
August 5	Baltic Sea Strategy work shop partner meeting: DG Regio, Pomorskie Region, Warsaw and BSC, Brussels (BEL)	ASM	
August 22	Baltic Sea Organisation meeting on joint Baltic Sea Strategy input, Copenhagen (DK)	ASM	
August 31 Sep 3	BSPC Conference, Visby, Gotland	Ulla Pettersson Gotland (SWE) ASM	
September 11-12	BSC Executive Committee Meeting, Porvoo/Borgå (FIN)	ALL	
September 16	CPMR BSC Swedish Member Meeting, Stockholm (SWE)	ASM	
September 18	CPMR Transport Coordinators Meeting, Brussels (BEL)	WG Transport Mr Schröder	
September 17-19	BSSSC Annual Conference Kaunas (LAT) With Baltic Sea Strategy – Attractive Place	P?	
September 26	CPMR Brainstorming on Globalisation, Brussels (BEL)	ASM	
September 29	Baltic Sea Strategy Swedish Meeting, Stockholm (SWE)	ASM/ more	
September 30	Baltic Sea Strategy First Stakeholder Conference, Stockholm (SWE)	CL, ASM	
October 1-3	CPMR General Assembly, Aquitaine (Fr) Bayonne	ALL	
October 16-17	NSC Board Meeting, Aberdeen (UK)	-	
October 23	CPMR CAP Meeting, Nantes (FR)	Henrik Ingo (FIN)/more	
October 29-30	World Summit on Climate Change, St Malo (FR)	PM	
October 30-31	French Presidency High Level Meeting, Paris (FR)	???	
November 12	BSC Executive Committee, Gdansk (PL)	ALL	
November 13	Baltic Sea Strategy Work Shop - Environment, Gdansk (PL)	ALL	
November 12	Aquamarina Plenary Meeting, Brussels?, (BEL)	? Blekinge Bo Löfgren	
November 13-14	CPMR on Territorial cohesion and Climate change, Aberdeen, (UK)	WG Energy	
November 20-21	BSSSC Board Meeting Tallinn (E)	?	
December 1-2	BDF Baltic Sea Strategy – Prosperity, Copenhagen/Malmö (DK/SWE)	ASM	
December 9	CBSS, Baltic Sea Strategy – Safety, Helsinki (FIN)	?	
Who did represent the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission? CL Christel Liljeström, PM Poul Müller, ASM Anne Ståhl Mousa, P The Presidium			

Final decision

The **next meeting** of the BSC Executive Committee should be held in Gdansk on November 12th, (time later set to 3-7 pm).

After this meeting, the suggestion is for Oulu, Finland, opening for a good discussion on the Northern Dimension and the issue of the Barents Region.

Further places that have welcomed to host the Executive Committee are: Region Skåne, Central Denmark and Podlaskie.

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Closing the Meeting

Final decision

President Christel Liljeström thanked our host for their generosity, and the organisers and members of the executive committee for the good work.