

Executive Committee Meeting
12 November 2008
MINUTES

Time 12 November 2008, 3-7 pm

Venue Herbowa room at **Office of the Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship**, Okopowa Str. 21/27, Gdańsk (PL)

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)	(X) Mr Erik BERGKVIST , Regional council of Västerbotten (S)
	(-) Ms Raisa MINCINAUSKIENE , Klaipėda (LT)	(X) Ms Dalia MAKUSKIENE , Klaipėda (LT)
	(X) Mr Jon TØRSET , Nordland (N)	(-) Ms Liv Julie WÅGAN , Nordland (N)
	(-) Mr Ilgonis STEINBERGS , Riga District (LV)	(-) Ms Grenada DEMAKINA , Riga District (LV)
	(X) Mr Arto BRYGGARE , Uusimaa (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

Executive Secretary *Anne Ståhl Mousa*, Telephone +46 498 203444, Mobile +46 70 5408858, Fax +46 498 205120
E-mail anne_stahlmousa@msn.com, Web www.balticseacommission.org
Gotland Region, Executive Office, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, 621 81, Visby SWEDEN

<p>Other participants:</p> <p>(X) Mr Peder BANG, Central Denmark (DK) (-) 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>(X) Mr Damien PERISSE, CPMR (FR) (-) Mr Tapio VÄLINORO, Kymenlaakso (FIN)</p> <p>(X) Ms Asta RAUGALIENE, Klaipėda (LT)</p>	
27 §	Opening Session
Final decision	<p>President Liljeström opened the session wishing all very welcome, especially Mr. Tørset and Mr. Bryggare, joining the Executive Committee work meeting for the first time, to this Executive Committee meeting in Gdansk.</p> <p>A short round of presentation followed.</p>
28 §	Adopting the Agenda
Final decision	The agenda was adopted with the addition of a short status report from our vice-presidents on the work on revised membership fees.
29 §	Minutes of Previous Meetings <i>Appendix 1 - Minutes E.C. Porvoo/Borgå 11-12th of September 2008</i>
Final decision	The minutes were adopted without amendments.
30 §	Economic Report <i>Appendix 2 - BSC Economy Jan-October 2008</i>
	<p>The Executive Secretary, Ms Ståhl Mousa, presented the financial report. At the beginning of the last quarter finance are well on budget. The transfer from Rennes is working very smoothly. During this period BSC received the 2008 dues from; Hiumaa & Saaremaa € 700, Riga € 700 and Ida-Virumaa, € 700. In addition Hiumaa & Saaremaa and Riga have completed their 2006 dues by a payment of € 100 each.</p> <p>The arrangements of the Baltic Sea Strategy round table on environment, together with Gdansk, Warsaw and DG Regio, will supersede the budget granted at the last Executive Committee meeting in Porvoo/Borgå (€ 2 000) as DG Regio have withdrawn from the agreement that they should take the costs for travel and accommodations for speaker. This will affect the outcome of the years result. The executive secretary does still believe the budget will be met.</p>
Final decision	The economic report was adopted without amendments.
31 §	Reflection on the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne
	<p>The analysis of the past CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne was that the meeting turned out better than expected with good papers presented on the table. The president thanked all, absent and present members, who participated actively in the Bayonne debate.</p> <p>President Liljeström officially apologised for that she got carried way and voted on the CAP issue at the Political Bureau. Her only defends is that the voting was concerning procedure and not the substance but “-I realise that I was wrong, all the same, in doing so”.</p>
Final decision	The President promised to take up, with CPMR General Secretary, the issue that Västra Götaland was not permitted to bring the issue to the General Assembly, after the “no” at the Political Bureau.

The pre-preparation, with different speakers ready to take the floor has proven a good model that BSC shall continue to adopt.

32 §

BSC Thematic Work Group – Reports

There transpired some general discussions under the different WG headings that is gathered here:

- The model of having “raporteures” on various topics is good and could perhaps be extended perhaps by adding “experts” to our network. – A food-for-thoughts for the presidium when considering future models of working.
- All WG are burden by a lack of active member regions and welcome more members in order to find a balanced geographically distribution of members around the BSC area, to broaden our scope of competence and strengthen of impact when sending forth our papers.
- Discussing the suggestion of a WG on health issues, a dialogue transpired leading to the conclusion that “-we can’t save the world, but need to focus” to maintain our strength. Also, the BSC WG should basically mirror the CPMR WGs or topics that, in turn, are following the EU agenda.

a) Transport Working Group (Ms Elke Ordning)

The level of activity is very high in the Transport WG – with the TEN-T as one of the main fields of activities in the next year-and-a-half to come.

The WG chair, Mr. Schröder, has had several meetings with leading representatives for EUs transport policy during the autumn and, together with the WG secretary Mr. Schmude, took part the CPMR/DG Tren meeting in Brussels on September 25th. At this meeting it became evident that the revision will bring a complete overhaul of the TEN-T system. At the meeting CPMR-BSC member regions was warmly encouraged to take part in the process.

A green book first draft will arrive by the end of 2008 and after this will follow a very tight agenda. The consultation, will in much copy the form of the Baltic Sea Strategy process, will take part during 2009 and include; stakeholder meetings, work groups on special models issues, maybe some selected focus-areas will be addressed by the Scientific Council.

The TEN-T will change objectives and the context will adapt to the Lisbon strategy. There will be three main objectives with three criteria’s. The objectives being; **internal market, social and economic /territorial cohesion, environment.**

On request of the Executive Committee the memo referred to by Ms Ordning, will be added to the minutes in appendix A, below.

Advertised events:

- The WG will participate on the CPMR Inercommission TEN-T follow-up.
- The Transport WG invite all regions, who are interested, to send their transport expert to the next meeting in Tallinn, back-to-back with the Program conference of the Inter Reg 4B meeting on November 27th.
- The Baltic Sea Strategy Stakeholder Conference in Rostock 4-5 of February.

Final decision

The Executive Secretary will send a reminder of the invitation to the next WG meeting and distribute the memo, referred to by Ms. Ordning (included in blue above) to the Executive Committee.

Energy & Climate Change WG (Dr. Erik Bergkvist, Ms. Eva Wahlström)

After two years of activities the WG have made a “light” evaluation of the work. The conclusion is that the group has lived up to what it set out to do; delivering resolution to the CPMR General Assembly and organising/hosting a conference on Sustainable Building in Umeå. The group has also been very active in the CPMR Intercom group on Energy and in cooperation with the North Sea Commission.

Looking ahead:

The group is considering if they should approach to influence the CUP-meeting. It is also imperative that the energy group will have some influence on the BSS (Baltic Sea Strategy).

There was a unanimously agreement to Mr Bergkvist statement that “- *climate change and energy should be viewed as two sides of the same coin*”.

b) CPMR WG Inercommission Social Inclusion `Migration & Integration` (Ms Annika Annerby Jansson)

At the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne it was decided that BSC's Region Skåne shall head the workgroup on migration and integration under the umbrella of the Inercommission Social Inclusion WG. The WG will hold it's first meeting in Brussels on December 19th.

c) CPMR WG (continuation of the Human Resource Group)– Employment and Training

<<<< NOTE: Added to the agenda. >>>>

Region Podlaskie is taking an active part in this group.

Podlaskie is willing to host a work-shop on “life-long-learning” during 2009.

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

At the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne the chair of the TN_RIS project delivered the final report. The WG have been much appreciated and has seen a wide interest among many of the CPMR member regions.

A follow-up seminar has now been confirmed. The seminar will be held in Stockholm during the Swedish EU presidency (some time during September-December 2009). The DG Regio is highly supportive to the seminar.

The seminar will focus on the more “political” aspect of innovation and also relate to the cohesion policy and sustainable energy

e) CPMR Inercommission WG – Energy & Climate

This Inercommission group is to have a meeting in Aberdeen on the 13-14 of November. The topic is “Climate Change and Territorial Cohesion”.

f) CPMR Inercommission WG – Sustainable Tourism - BSC WG Tourism – decision

There are presently a lot of activities in the CPMR Inercommission WG on sustainable tourism. Till date Gotland has been acting as representatives for BSC.

At the Executive Committee in Borgå/Porvoo it was decided that the Gdansk meeting should decide on who should chair the group. Gotland is interested and the chair would be Inger Harlevi, a local entrepreneur in the tourist sector and also at the board of the Hanseatic League where she is leading a work on sustainable tourism from which the WG will be able to benefit.

Final decision

The Executive Committee decided that Gotland should be trusted this WG and that the Executive Secretary should inform the candidate and help calling together other regions who have already shown interest to join the group.

g) CPMR Intercommission WG – Aquamarina / Maritime surveillance (Mr Bo Löfgren)

Under the CPMR Intercommission WG Aquamarina, aiming to follow up on the implementation of the Maritime Policy « blue book », region Blekinge has assumed the responsibility for the subgroup on Maritime Surveillance. The sub-group is chaired by Bo Löfgren. The group is having their first meeting in Brussels today, November 12th.

Final decision *Regions who are interested to add to the work of this sub-group, please, contact the Executive Secretary Ms. Ståhl Mousa.*

h) CPMR Inercommission WG - Territorial Cohesion

The work on territorial cohesion/Lisbon agenda is of top priority within the CPMR at present. Already CPMR have actively participated in this work. Recently CPMR took part in the **conference on territorial cohesion and the future of the policy of cohesion**, organized by the French Presidency of EU, in partnership with the Committee of Regions, the European commission and l' Association of the Areas of France in Paris, 30-31 of October. Next CPMR will participate at a Commission hearing in Brussels where CPMR is one, out of three, organisations invited.

There is a green-paper out to be answered by February 2009. - To this end CPMR will present its position on this green-paper at the Political Bureau meeting of CPMR in Århus, Denmark, 23rd January 2009. This joint position paper should be built on input from the member regions. The window of opportunity to file input to the CPMR writing team will close mid December.

CPMRs approach is that the content of the new paper should not be restricted to the DG Regio but to try to visualize how each sectorial policy-area connect to the territorial cohesion.

The BSC President stressed that the territorial cohesion is one of the most important areas for the BSC to act on.

Final decision *Already Mr Perissé is having a good co-operation on this issue with Mr Esa Halme, Regional Council of Päijät-Häme, Finland, but additional input is welcome.*

Mr. Damien Perissé will forward the Executive Secretary the CPMR draft papers and follow up this with a phone call in an effort to ensure that BSC will bring a good input to the answer to the green book that CPMR is preparing.

i) CPMR Intercommission WG – TEN-T our nominations

One of the most important areas within the transport sector is the TEN-T now up for revision. Above, is already noted that this will be the prime focus for the Transport WG in the coming year-and-a-half.

The importance of this revision is also captured at the CPMR level where an Intercommission group is set up, inviting two member regions from each commission.

The Executive Secretary of the BSC have

- a) Received a positive answer to the request of sending three delegates to the group, that is **Mr Karl Schmude** of the Transport Group plus two others
- b) Asked and received a number of BSC regional nominations for this group

The nominations were presented being from Blekinge, South West Finland, Västerbotten supported by Nordland who by this withdrew their candidate. All candidates were found very well merited.

Final decision

The Executive Committee decided that the most important was to have a good geographical spread. As BSC representatives, in addition to Mr Schmude, was elected :

Ms Lilly Bäcklund, Member of the Board of the Regional Council of Västerbotten, Chair of the Blue Highway Association since 2004, Chair of the E 12 Alliance since 2003 and more. Ms Bäcklund will be supported by Ms Sabine Mayer, North Sweden European Office.

Mr Janne Virtanen, South West Finland, a long time member of the BSC´s transport workgroup. The Executive Secretary will inform CPMR of the decision.

There was a suggestion of forming a special sub-group for the TEN-T issue under the present transport group and headed by Blekinge´s Mr Bengt Gustafsson, already a member of the transport group.- After some debate the decision was to keep the TEN-t issues within the Transport WG. The WG should invite all those who were interested in the TEN-T to join the group

and, if seen needed an ad-hoc group could be formed at a later stage.

j) Request by Region Stockholm, Sweden – to form a WG on healthcare

Region Stockholm has over the years been cooperating with neighbouring Baltic Sea regions, on professional and political level, within the health-care sector.

Today the focus should be on cooperation on the issue of protection against infectious diseases. Tuberculosis and HIV doesn't stop at the national borders. Resistance against antibiotics is a growing problem for all.

Stockholm has already made some preliminary studies leading up to a work-shop for specialist during December 2008. After this Stockholm like to proceed with BSC/CPMR member regions as well as BSSSC.

Final decision

After some discussion on whether or not to bring in new WGs – refer to the top of 32 § - it was decided that the Executive Secretary ask member regions of the interest in this group.

Baltic Sea Region Programme supported applications – status:

k) Baltic Master II

The Executive Secretary informed the Executive Committee of the successful outcome for the Baltic Master II application.

33 §

BSS Work Shop on Environment November 13th in Gdansk

Report on the preparatory work for the conference.

The Executive Secretary reported on a preparation period including much 'excitement' but that in the end seem to have landed much were the Executive Committee intended with regards to the competence and geographical distribution of speakers.

That the HELCOM action Plan shall form the foundation of the discussion on environment is even, prior to the meeting, evident. During the last week BSC secured a strong representation of HELCOM members to act as speakers from the podium and floor in all of the four round table sessions.

The president reported on the hard work 'behind the scene' and thanked Ms. Ståhl Mousa for the good work.

34 §

Contribution to the Baltic Sea Strategy

Appendix 3 – Consultation BSS

As BSC member region *Regional Council of Päijät-Häme, Finland*, met with Mr. Dirk Ahner, DG Regio, during the autumn an invitation for BSC to make a direct input to the Baltic Sea Strategy arrived.

Final decision

The decision was to ask the presidium to formulate a series of 'concrete actions' before mid December that could be circulated among the members, and to be delivered to DG Regio in January.

The Executive Secretary was asked to make preparation for this work, and could report that some discussions have already taken place with, amongst others HELCOM. Ms Berg, from Nordland, Norway suggested that one thing to bring to this set of practical actions was to point to the **EGTC 2006 regulation** "European Groupings of Territorial Cohesion" created to simplify project work.

35 §

The 14th BSC General Assembly in Visby, Gotland, Sweden on May 10-12th, 2009

- Presentation of draft programme

- Topic for the seminar of the coming General Assembly?
- Work Shop/ Excursion – WGs that would like to organise a meeting and an excursion on Gotland?
- Request from Mr Philipp Schwartz, Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat, of the possibilities to promote the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013, either with an "ordinary" stand, a presentation or whatever one can imagine.

The Executive Secretary explained that the preparation for the next General Assembly of the Baltic Sea Commission, to be held in Visby, Gotland, has already started. The hassle of meeting on Gotland is that Hotel bookings can't be held no longer than 8 weeks prior to arrival.

The draft program include

Saturday 9th Travelling day (boat or flight)

Sunday 10th – all day guided tour of the island.

- Individual dinners (with the help of a special prepared restaurants guide)

Monday 11th – morning: Meeting of the WGs/Executive Committee

- Lunch for WGs/Executive Committee

Monday 11th – afternoon: Open Seminar – topic Baltic Sea Strategy

- Guided tour of the Medieval Visby, on foot
- Joint dinner

Tuesday 12th – morning: BSC General Assembly

- Joint lunch

Tuesday 12th – afternoon: WG Excursions

- WG tourism have an idea
- WG Fisheries is planning a joint meeting with NSC
- *Others to be added – please, contact the Executive Secretary*

Final decision

The Seminar topic should be focusing on the outcome of the round table and stakeholder meetings of the Baltic Sea Strategy possibly with comments by DG Regio Mr Ahner and others.

Other WG are encouraged to urgently make contact with the Executive Secretary if the wish to have a WG meeting and or organise an excursion.- Hast is needed as the web for booking the event need to be set up as soon as possible due to the difficulty of keeping hotel reservation.

Mr Schwartz offer was gratefully accepted and the Executive Secretary was asked to invite him.

36 §

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.

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)	ASM/ more
September 17-19	Baltic Sea Strategy Round Table - BS an Attractive Place	ASM/ more
September 29	Baltic Sea Strategy Swedish Meeting, Stockholm (SWE)	Erik Bergkvist Västerbotten
September 30	Baltic Sea Strategy First Stakeholder Conference, Stockholm (SWE)	CL, ASM
October 3	CPMR WG Tourism, Bayonne, (FR)	Region VästraG
October 1-3	CPMR General Assembly, Bayonne, Aquitaine (FR)	ALL
October 14-15	TEN days in Brussels	WG Transport members
October 16-17	NSC Board Meeting, Aberdeen (UK)	Region VästraG
October 22	Joint BSO on Energy and Climate meeting, Copenhagen (DK)	Västerbotten Eva Wahlström
October 22	Joint BSO meeting on BSS, Copenhagen (DK)	Västerbotten Eva Wahlström
October 23	CPMR CAP Meeting, Nantes (FR)	Henrik Ingo Ostb Jorma Pitkälä P- Kjell Nybacka (FIN)/more

Final decision

October 28	Joint BSO meeting on BSS, Växjö (SWE)	Blekinge Bo Löfgren	
October 29	UBC Executive Board & Annual Meeting, Växjö (SWE)	Blekinge Bo Löfgren	
October 29-30	World Summit on Climate Change, St Malo (FR)	Poul Müller	
October 30-31	French Presidency High Level Meeting, Paris (FR)	Erik Bergkvist Västerbotten	
November 12	BSC Executive Committee, Gdansk (PL)	ALL	
November 12	Aquamarina Plenary Meeting, Brussels?, (BEL) BSC Baltic Speech	Blekinge Bo Löfgren	
November 13	Baltic Sea Strategy Work Shop - Environment, Gdansk (PL)	BSC ExCom	
November 15-17	European Development Days, Strasbourg (BEL)	? Nordland	
November 26	BSO meeting on BSS projects	ASM	
November 13-14	CPMR on Territorial Cohesion and Climate change, Aberdeen, (UK)	Västerbotten Eva Wahlström / Nordland	
November 17-18	SOG 21, Copenhagen (DK)	?	
November 20-21	BSSSC Board Meeting Tallinn (E)	?	
November 20-12	Covenant of Mayors' conference "Financing sustainable energy actions", Helsinki (FIN)	?	
November 27	BSC WG Transport meeting, Tallinn, (EST)	WG Transport	
December 1-2	BDF Baltic Sea Strategy – Prosperity, Copenhagen/Malmö (DK/SWE))	ASM	
December 3	B7 Annual Conference, Kuressaare, Saaremaa (EST)	? ASM	
December 3-4	HELCOM 27 HOD, Helsinki (FIN)	?	
December 4-5	CPMR Secretarial meeting on future of CPMR, Marseille, (FR)	ASM	
December 9	CBSS, Baltic Sea Strategy – Safety, Helsinki (FIN)	P/ASM	
December 11	BSSSC inviting :Signing "Declaration of common interest" - CoR and BSR organisations, Brussels (BEL)	?	
December 16 or 17	1 st meeting of the 158 group, Paris (FR)	ASM	
December 19	CPMR Employment and Training Working Group meeting (morning only 10.00-13.00) Brussels, (BEL)	Podlaskie/ Stockholm?	
December 19	CPMR Social Inclusion Working Group meeting (afternoon only 14.00-17.00, Brussels (BEL)	Annika Annerby Jansson	
	2009		
January 8-9	Meeting of the CPMR Management Committee + CPMR Executive Secretaries-, Rennes (FR)	ASM	
January 23	Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Aarhus, Midtjylland (DK)	P	
January 24	Presidia meeting BSC+NSC, Aarhus, Midtjylland (DK)	P	
February 5-6	Second stakeholder conference on the Baltic Sea Strategy in Rostock (GER).	ASM	
April 7-8	General Assembly of the CPMR Islands Commission, Western Isles (UK)	ASM/Gotland, Åland	
May 10-12	BSC Seminar and BSC General Assembly, Visby (SWE)	ALL	
May 14-15	General Assembly CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission (Cantabria, Spain)	?	
June 11	General Assembly of the Balkan /Black Sea Regional Commission, Odessa (Ukraine)	P ?	
June 12	Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Odessa (Ukraine)	P ?	
June 24-26	General Assembly of the CPMR North Sea Commissions, Haarlem (NL)	ASM	
June 28—July 4	Almedalsveckan, Gotland (SWE)	?	
Sep 30 – 1-2 Oct	37th CPMR General Assembly, Göteborg, Västra Götaland (SE)	All	
	2010		
Sep 29-30—1 Oct	38th CPMR General Assembly, Aberdeen (UK)	All	
	Who did represent the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission?		

37 §	<p>Joint CPMR actions the 158 group The 158 group will hold a first meeting in Paris on December 16th. BSC Executive Secretary is representing the organisation but will also try to open the possibility for a representative from the north.</p>
38 §	<p>Meeting agenda for spring 2009 The next meeting will focus on the Northern Dimension and shall take place in early spring in Oulu, Finland. We are yet to receive a date for this but it should preferably be during week 9 (23-27 February 2009). A second meeting is preliminary set out for April.</p>
Final decision	<p>The Executive Secretary will distribute the information as soon as it is available.</p>
39 §	<p>A.O.B. – Vice President presentation on the work revision of member dues.</p> <p>Mr. Podbielski made the presentation, <i>PPT added</i>, where the vice presidents have made a deeper analysis of the geographical commissions various models and levels of fees, starting by pointing out that a comparison was difficult as most commissions have their own models. For example the BSC receive a significant amount of its funding from the region hosting the secretariat and this is not included in the public CPMR account.</p> <p><u>From Mr. Podbielski's presentation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There doesn't seem to be any relation (among the geographical commissions) as to size = commission members and their budget. - No matter how the comparisons were made - the BSC have the lowest fee. <p>The discussion followed two lines: Why (increase) fee? – How to set the dues?</p> <p><u>Why increase the fee?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What matters is that the organisation is well working and active. - The bulk of cost rest with region hosting the secretariat which, today, limits the number of regions that could carry this – and much less afford a solution with a President and secretariat from the same regions such as is the model of the NSC. - BSC need an income that is large enough for BSC to locate the Executive Secretary where BSC think it is best – to this end a closer cooperation with the CPMR is important – much like the model of the Island Commission. - BSC need to break up the traditional model where the organisation risk to lose both a President and an Executive Secretary at the same time – losing know-how, and more important valuable personal contacts, virtually over night. To this end, it is the Executive Secretary that should be the more 'long standing' of the two. <p><u>How to set the dues?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fact why BSC have differential levels of dues is to ensure that both the wealthier and less wealthy Baltic Sea Regions should afford to be members. - It was agreed that all Baltic Sea Regions should be able to afford a membership – why GDP may be a setting differential levels. - The fact is that the BSC due is very small for the member regions in comparison to the due paid to the CPMR and to this end CPMR ought to contribute more than now to the BSC.
40 §	<p>Closing the Meeting</p> <p>Final decision President Liljeström thanked all present for a short, but very interesting, efficient and rewarding, meeting. All executive committee members were encourage to take an active part in the Baltic Sea Strategy round table discussion in environment tomorrow,, November 13th, in Gdansk.</p>

www.balticseacommission.org, www.balticseacommission.info,
Mobile +46 70 540 8858

Memo: Discussions CPMR / DG TREN on TEN-T revision

Authors: Maria Öberg / Karl Schmude, 25.09.2008

Date and Place: 18th of September 2008, premises of CPMR in Brussels

Participants:

Mrs Gudrun Schulze, DG TREN, unit B.2 (Co-ordination of TEN-T priority projects);
Mr Dimitrios Theologitis, DG TREN, unit G.2 (Maritime transport & ports policy, maritime security);
Mr Patrick Anvrion, CPMR secretariat;
Representatives from CPMR transport groups from the different commissions;
From BSC: Mr Sebastian Schröder, Mr Karl Schmude and Ms Maria Öberg

Regarding the BSC position

The two adopted papers of the BSC-Transport WG on TEN-T revision were distributed, the “non-paper TEN-revision” (longer discussion paper) and “chairmandate TEN-T revision” (states in a few points important positions). This was of great interest to the participants since the BSC was the only commission so far that had made this type of statements.

Since CPMR had invited to this discussion under the premises that single transport corridors should not be the issue, the prepared paper on railway freight corridors was not distributed. Instead the question of how the railway freight corridors and the Baltic sea strategy should be merged into the TEN-T revision was raised. Mrs Schulze replied that this had to be done in a proper way and noted the issue.

To have a proper discussion on railway freight corridors it was decided among us from the BSR that we will ask for a separate meeting with responsible person at the DG TREN, Mr Castelletti, to discuss this further, where all interested members of the BSC-WG transport could participate.

Results of discussion with Mrs Gudrun Schulze

The concept of “TEN-T priority projects” was conceived before 1996. It is considered today as being somewhat problematic: The designation of these projects was strongly influenced by national interests, and the budget available is not even sufficient to implement the priority projects, let alone the entire TEN-T network.

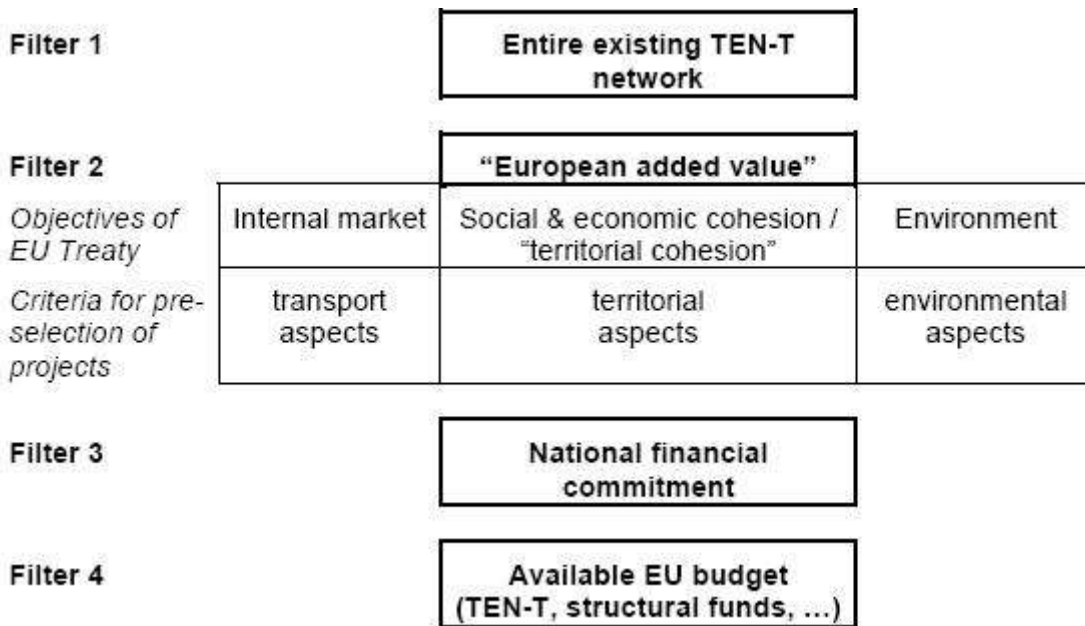
The new TEN-T guidelines should take budgetary realities more into account. They should incorporate new aspects such as climate change, quality of services, safety, environment, intelligent transport services (ITS), internalisation of external costs – all in all, TEN-T planning will be more than just planning of transport infrastructure. TENT will link all modes of transport (road / rail / air / shipping).

These lines of thinking are reflected in the programme of the forthcoming TEN stakeholder conference in 14-15 of October (<http://ten-t-days.teamwork.fr/>).

The Green Paper due for end of 2008 will set out policy options. Then there will be a large conference and a public consultation process, including conferences on specific topics during 2009. A session of the CPMR’s scientific council could be a welcome contribution to the discussion of the Green Paper.

A traffic forecast for the TEN-T will be presented end of 2009. DG TREN expects that a solid planning and setting of priorities according to convincing criteria will be crucial to get sufficient financing when it comes to EU budget negotiations. However, national financial commitment has to be given higher priority than today.

Territorial cohesion (Green Paper expected end-2008) will be one of the main objectives. All in all, the scheme for selecting future TEN-T priority projects could be:



Results of discussion with Mr Dimitrios Theologitis

Most probably in Oct 2008, DG TREN will publish a Communication on the EU Maritime Transport Strategy 2008-2018 ("OptiMar") with six main issues:

- (1) Global competition
- (2) "The human element" (i.e. knowledge, workforce, image of shipping)
- (3) Quality shipping (i.e. safety, security and environment)
- (4) International presence (i.e. EU representation in IMO, negotiations with third countries e.g. about open waters)
- (5) Logistics, ports, hinterland connections
- (6) Research and technological supremacy

In Nov 2008, DG TREN will put forward a communication on maritime transport without barriers ("common maritime space"). Among other things, the European Customs Union should be extended to EU waters. From a users' perspective, using a ship has to be as simple as using a truck.

Another important issue: Investments in ports could be regarded as state aid, since such an investment can distort competition between ports. Regardless whether these ports are owned by municipalities or regions, they are acting as private companies, designed to make profit. DG TREN is in favour of classifying investments as "not relevant for state aid" / "relevant for state aid" according to their potential to distort competition. As a rule, general infrastructure is seen as unproblematic, whereas "dedicated" infrastructure could be subject to state aid rules which means that they should be notified to EU. A communication on this topic is foreseen for end of 2008.

State aid: http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/state_aid/overview/index_en.cfm and http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/state_aid/index_en.htm

Shoreside electricity will be an important topic for DG TEN as a measure to lower air emissions in ports – however from shipowners' point of view, this solution is still too costly. EU-COM is thinking about a tax exemption for shoreside electricity.

Ship-to-shore interface in Travemünde: http://www.newhansa.net/air_emissions.htm and http://www.newhansa.net/documents/NewHansa%20NL2_web.pdf (p 8 + 9)

Some other topics which have been mentioned:

- Financing of ships as infrastructure is quite problematic, since these ships can be easily transferred to other routes, or can be sold.
- Motorways of the Sea will also be possible between EU Member States and third countries (e.g. Russia).

- If stakeholders have any ideas for criteria to pre-select of MoS, this should be brought forward during the stakeholder consultation.
- Not only the major hubs, but also the smaller ports will play a role in DG TREN's considerations.
- Further simplification of administrative procedures for Marco Polo and Motorways of the Seas is foreseen; the Italian "Ecobonus" programme is an interesting option.

Ecobonus: an incentive for modal shift

The Italian law n. 265/02 creates a direct contribution up to 30% of the sea-tariff to Road Hauliers to support the transfer of traffic from road to sea. The incentive is based on:

- *Marine distance*
- *Land distance saved*
- *External costs : (pollution, road congestion, accidents) saved through modal shift.*

*The last financial law provides adequate coverage for 3 years (77 M€ per year).
A dedicated web-site assists Road Hauliers*

Mr Theologitis expressed his wish to continue the exchange of views with CPMR.

Results of CPMR-internal discussion

Most participants of the meeting were convinced that a working group on CPMR level which is dedicated to the TEN-T revision would be quite helpful. However, this group would need a clear mandate, a convincing time schedule and a simple structure.

This will be discussed, most probably, at the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne (FR) on 1st-3rd of October 2008.