



# CPMR

## BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 18 February, 2000, 10h00 – 15h00.

Venue: Stockholm County Council, Hantverkargatan 45, Stockholm.

## MINUTES

President **Hannu Tapiola** opened the meeting.

The agenda was adopted.

Minutes from Executive Committee meeting in Åland 11 November 1999 were adopted.

### I : Internal issues

The already fixed Meeting schedule of the Executive Committee for the activity year 2000 was perused. The President reminded that the next meeting was scheduled for Kotka, region of Kymenlaakso in Finland, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. Owing to transport logistics, participants would be welcomed already in the afternoon of the 11<sup>th</sup> May, on which day the official dinner would be given. - Mr **Wolf Born** expressed the wish of the *Land* of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to stage an Executive Committee meeting in 2001. The executive secretary informed about the spring agenda, comprising meetings and conferences to most of which Board members were invited: (1) Ports and Territorial Development (CPMR, Lorient 10-11/3); (2) Baltic Palette (Stockholm 23-24/3); (3) Balance III: Baltic trade flows (Hamburg 29-31/3); (4) Sustainable maritime transport (Gdansk 30-31/3); (5) Baltic Sea Youth Forum (Sudermanie 6-9/4); (6) HELCOM General Assembly (Helsinki 20-21/3); (7) Local and Regional Authorities (Riga 22/2).

The secretary informed about preparations for the BSC General Assembly 15-16 June 2000, which marks the end of the present mandate period for Executive Committee and Executive Secretary. All member regions have been specifically reminded of their obligation to evaluate the situation and to put forward suggestions regarding the forthcoming elections. - Mr **Philippe Cichowlaz** made a thorough presentation of the CPMR Document *Towards a New Regional Policy in 2007*, distributed to all member regions. A general discussion on the topic took place, and it was decided that the document after adaptation to Baltic conditions should make a theme for the General Assembly.

<b>II : Projects, intercommissions, thematic groups, etc</b>
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Mr **Juha Talvitie**, in the absence of Mr **Roger Jansson**, Åland, chairman of the CPMR Northern Dimension Intercommission, read a message from Mr Jansson that outlined the tasks and the work programme for this group.

Mr **Ulf Johansson**, Chairman of the Baltic Sea Commission Spatial Development Group, described the objectives and work of this group, which is responsible for matters concerning ESDP, Interreg, Vasab etc. Its first meeting, after kick-off 23/9/99 in Vaasa, was held 12 January in Stockholm.

Mr **Rolf Gydemo**, BSC representative of the CPMR Fisheries Group, gave an interesting account of the activities within this field, not very familiar to most Executive Committee members. The timetable for CPMR planned actions with the purpose of influencing EU policies was put before the Board.

Mr **Christer Candal**, Chairman of the CPMR Intercommission on Integrated Coastal Zones Management, reported of the group's activities. Here, too, the schedule for CPMR action was presented. The group met in Brussels 14 January, the next meeting will be on 8 June in Norrtälje, Sweden.

Mr **Björn Hårsman**, member of the CPMR Scientific council, informed about the work of the council in general and about its last meeting, 28-29 January at Funchal, in particular. The presentations there had been theoretically very interesting as well as useful for practical application in the member regions. – The executive secretary commented that Scientific council members from our area had been very helpful indeed, taking active part in most meetings and gatherings organised by the Baltic Sea Commission. Beside Mr Hårsman reference was made to Professors **Urpo Kivikari**, Finland, and **Uffe Østergaard**, Denmark, and to Mr **Bjarne Lindström**, Åland. – Mr Hårsman finished by conveying the tentative wish of the Scientific council to hold its next meeting in Stockholm. (The council only meets about once a year.)

CPMR Research/SME group. A couple of Baltic Sea members have from the very start claimed interest in this group, decided upon in Vaasa (t.w. Northern Ostrobothnia and Aarhus). Mr Cichowlaz said that the group had not yet been set up, but he expressed hopes that it would be done soon.

AER Summer School 6-11 August in Vilnius, Lithuania. The executive secretary, who the week before had taken part at a meeting in Vilnius with the organising committee of the School, described the present situation and the involvement of the Baltic Sea Commission. Professors Østergaard and Hårsman of the CPMR Scientific council, as well as Mr **Jan Linzie**, Senior Advisor of Stockholm County Council, had agreed to give lectures in Vilnius. A Round Table with politicians was also to take place, an event which the secretary invited members of the Executive Committee to join.

The Helsinki Commission: its General Assembly to be held in Helsinki 20-21 March, on which occasion the question of BSCs reaching observatory status would be resolved.

The secretary gave short information about activities of the groups America latina (next meeting 16-17 March); Ecomar (organiser of the aforementioned conference in Lorient; its next meeting on 9 March); and of Medbalt, the Mediterranean/Baltic co-operation (four students from the Mediterranean area have been invited and registered for the Baltic Sea Youth Forum in Sweden 6-9 April 2000.)

Accession Conference “The Enlargement Perspective...” (Gdansk). Mr Cichowlaz informed about his contacts with representatives of Gdansk. It seems likely that this conference will be staged towards the end of the year.

<b>III: General information about CPMR and Member Regions’ actions</b>
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Mr Cichowlaz informed about steps taken, results achieved and actions to be taken before the Council, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, the National Governments and Parliaments etc.

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At this stage the President closed the formal part of the meeting, welcoming everyone to Kotka for the next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May. – Thereafter lunch was taken, hosted by Mme **Christina Tallberg**, Vice President of Stockholm County Council. In a much appreciated address Mme Tallberg recommended Executive Committee members to visit Vilnius this summer for the AER School, an event at which she had so far never failed to participate.

After the President’s thanks to Mme Tallberg and Stockholm County Council on behalf of all those present, the convivium was dissolved.