



# CPMR

## BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

### Baltic Sea Commission Political Bureau Århus, DENMARK

## Minutes

**Time:** 14 March 2001, 14.00 – 17.30

**Venue:** Århus Amt, Amtsgården, Lyseng Allé 1, 8270 Højbjerg, DK

**Participants:**

**Members:**

**Substitutes:**

**Roll call**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> President Mr Anders Gustâv S       |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice President Ms Bente Nielsen DK | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr Jørgen Kvist DK             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr Inge Andersson S                | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr Hans Klintbom S             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr Rainer Kosmider D                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr Klemens Büscher D           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr Mikko Rönholm FIN               | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr Johan Söderberg FIN         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr Jaanus Sahk EST                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr Urmas Majajääs EST          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr Ilgonis Steinbergs LV           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs Anita Jegere LV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ms Virginija Lukosiene LT                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr Roma Stubriene LT           |

**Secretariat:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr Jaakko Mikkola | Executive Secretary                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms Pia Renlund    | Assistant of the Executive Secretariat                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr Tapio Välinoro            | Executive Director of The Regional Council of Kymenlaakso |

**Other participants:**

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr Philippe Cichowlaz CPMR, Rennes ca 16.30 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annemarie Elverum, Århus Amt                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Lauze, Riga                           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**27 § Opening the meeting**

**Proposal:** The President will open the meeting.

**Final decision:** The President opened the meeting at 14.00

**28 § Adopting of the agenda**

**Proposal:** The Executive Committee will adopt the agenda.

**Final decision:** The agenda was adopted. Mr President made following additions to the agenda:  
 - The President's report was added in connection with the Activity Report (§36);  
 - Ms Pia Renlund would give a Power Point presentation about the work of the BSC and CPMR in general in the end of the meeting (§ 43).

**29 § Minutes of the previous meeting – Appendix 1.**

The previous meeting was held on 15 December 2000 in Gdansk, Poland.

**Proposal:** Minutes of the previous meeting will be adopted.

**Final decision:** Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

**30 § Harju County Government's temporary resignation from CPMR and continuing as an observer – Appendix 2. -**

Mr Orm Valtson, County Governor of Harju, Tallinn, Estonia, sent a letter to Mr Gizard to the CPMR head office on 6 October 2000 where Harju County Government informed CPMR that they have "to stop" their membership in CPMR due to a difficult financial situation and continue as an observer. They did not use the word "resignation" but told us that they have "to stop" their membership hoping to become a full member again with the improvement of their financial situation. Enclosed there is the letter they sent to Mr Gizard. appendix 2

To our delight we saw a representative from Harju County both in the CPMR Gdansk conference in December 2000 and in the Tallinn SDG meeting in January 2001. Harju County is actively continuing its participation in the activities of CPMR. Ms Kristina Mänd informed the SDG in Tallinn that she will be succeeded by Ms Heli Kirikal in the SDG in the future.

**Proposal:** The Executive Committee states to Harju County Governor Mr Orm Valtson that the BSC fully understands the financial difficulties of Harju County Government and warmly welcomes Harju back as a full CPMR member as soon as the financial situation at least a little improves in his county. Meanwhile Harju is welcomed to be an active observer. The information in Mr Valtson's letter will be recorded in the minutes. The President will write a letter informing the Harju County of this decision.

**Final decision:** A discussion was held on the membership issue of Harju County.

Finally it was decided that

- 1) a dialogue with Harju should go on;
- 2) no decision would be made now concerning the membership of Harju County;
- 3) the Final Decision would be delayed to the autumn meetings of the BSC Executive Committee;
- 4) a letter of Mr President would be sent to Harju County where it would be made clear that there is no such status as "an active observer" within the CPMR and it's not possible to continue in the BSC work without paying any membership fee.

### **31 § The 6<sup>th</sup> BSC General Assembly in Tallinn, Estonia, on 29 May 2001**

The BSC General Assemblies have been held as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup>, 1996 Silja Line, on board from Helsinki to Stockholm
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1997 Riga, Riga District, Latvia
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1998 Oulu, Northern Ostrobothnia, Finland
- 4<sup>th</sup>, 1999 Borgholm, Öland, Sweden
- 5<sup>th</sup>, 2000, Rönne, Bornholm, Denmark
- 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001, to be held: Tallinn, Harju, Estonia

The preparations for the next BSC General Assembly have started. The venue will take place in the Ministry of the Interior on Toompea Hill in the old town of Tallinn. The people involved in the preparations in addition to the BSC presidency and secretariat are Mr Tarmo Pikner, Saaremaa, Vice President of CPMR, Mr Urmas Majajääs and Ms Valli Laas from Ida-Viru, Harju County Government, the Estonian Ministry of the Interior (Mr Priidu Ristkok and Ms Anne Lindma) and the CPMR Rennes general secretariat.

The scheduled provisional programme of the 6<sup>th</sup> BSC General Assembly and the accompanying seminar looks as the following.

## Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2001

*Venue: Ministry of the Interior, Pikk 61, EE0100 Tallinn*

**12.30 – 13.00** Arrival of the participants  
(All hotel alternatives will be found in the centre of Tallinn.)

**13.00** Theme "Estonia in the World"

- Mr Stig Östdahl, President of the CPMR
- Estonian speakers (Ministry of the Interior; also regional level)

**15.00** Opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> BSC General Assembly

- President Anders Gustâv
- Welcome addresses (Estonian member regions)
- Presentations
- Mr Xavier Gizard, CPMR, Governance and the regional policy
- Mr Philippe Cichowlaz, studies on polycentrism

### Coffee break

**16.00** BSC General Assembly

- Membership issues (Riga, Tukums, Jurmala, Harju)
- Nominations (Klaipeda)
- BSC Activity Report
- Summary of the Gdansk meeting
- BSC Action Plan 2001-2002
- Membership fees, budget 2002
- Intercommission Groups
- Northern Dimension (ND)
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)
- Fisheries
- Ecomar
- BSC Working Groups
- Spatial Development Group (SDG)
- Ongoing or future projects (Interreg III B or others)
- Smetab
- Contribution of BSC in HELCOM, VASAB, UBC and BSSSC
- Other issues

**19.00** Closing of the 6<sup>th</sup> BSC General Assembly

- President Anders Gustâv

**19.30** Dinner in Old Tallinn

- participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2001

## 9.00 – 11.00 BSC Executive Committee meeting

**Proposal:** The Executive Committee will adopt the provisional programme of the 6<sup>th</sup> BSC General Assembly to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, and the accompanying seminar on 29 – 30 May 2001.

**Final decision:** A discussion with many ideas concerning the seminar programme was held. Also the draft programme of the 6<sup>th</sup> BSC General Assembly was carefully checked through. The Executive Secretary gave information concerning the current practical preparations of the coming event in Estonia.

It was decided to

- 1) get a Swedish speaker to the seminar (EU Presidency);
- 2) leave the studies on polycentrism to another occasion;
- 3) ask e.g. for Mr Deiw Rahumägi, Estonian Ministry of Interior, as an Estonian speaker;
- 4) adopt the draft agenda for the seminar and the provisional programme of the 6<sup>th</sup> BSC General Assembly.

## 32 § **Riga Regional Development Council (RRDC) - a reorganization in Riga. – Appendix 3. -**

Riga District Council has informed the Executive Secretariat about the resolution of the Riga Regional Development Council on December 21, 2000. The RRDC comprises of Riga District, Tukums District, Ogre and Limbazi districts. The authorities from Jurmala, Riga and Tukums district have been empowered by the RRDC to represent the interests of the region in the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions and in the Baltic Sea Commission.

The RRDC has authorised by the resolution on 21 December 2000 Riga District Council, Tukums District Council and Jurmala Town Council to represent the interests of the RDCC in the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission.

The official letter from the RRDC is found as an attachment, **appendix 3.**

**Proposal:** Riga Regional Development Council (RRDC) comprising e.g. of Riga, Tukums and Jurmala will be recorded as a member region in the work of the Baltic Sea Commission and RRDC is proposed to be welcomed as it were a “new” member region. This decision will be sent to CPMR General Secretariat to Rennes for investigation and

finally the statement of CPMR General Secretariat will be recorded as information in the BSC General Assembly in Tallinn on 29 May 2001.

**Final Decision:** The proposal was adopted. The Executive Secretary corrected the list comprising the RRDC by adding the City of Riga and the Town of Jurmala. The representative from Riga Ms Laura Lauze gave further information about reorganising the administration of Riga.

### **33 § A seminar to be held in Riga**

Mr Ilgonis Steinbergs, Executive Director of Riga District Council, has suggested a seminar to be held in Riga. The time of the seminar would be October – November 2001 and it could be in connection with an Executive Committee meeting in Riga, the capital of Latvia. The aim of the seminar would be activating the different working groups of the BSC and focusing on the Enlargement issues in the EU Accession countries of the BSC. The substance of the seminar would follow the pattern of the General Assembly in Tallinn on 29 May 2001.

For information it can be mentioned that the autumn time SDG meeting chaired by Mr Ulf Johansson will be held in Riga on 16-17 October 2001 ("lunch to lunch"). On 25-27 October 2001 there will be a BSSSC conference in Riga.

**Proposal:** The Executive Committee will decide that a BSC seminar in connection with the late autumn time Executive Committee meeting will be held in Riga, Latvia. The date of the BSC seminar and the Executive Committee meeting will be decided later in paragraph § 40.

**Final decision:** The proposal was adopted.

### **34 § Nominations of Klaipeda County, Lithuania – Appendix 4. -**

The Executive Secretary sent a letter to the newly elected Governor of Klaipeda County, Ms Virginija Lukošienė, on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2001, **appendix 4**. Ms Lukosiene answered the letter by announcing of the nomination of the representative of Klaipeda County in the Executive Committee. She/He will be Ms/Mr ..... . The substitute member will be ..... .

**Proposal:** The nominations of Klaipeda County will be recorded in the minutes.

They will also be taken to the agenda of the 6<sup>th</sup> BSC General Assembly in Tallinn, Estonia, on 29 May 2001.

**Final decision:**

Klaipeda County had informed their nominations to the Executive Secretary just before this meeting:

- 1) The representative of Klaipeda County will be **Ms Virginija Lukosiene**, Governor of Klaipeda;
- 2) The substitute member will be **Ms Roma Stubriene**;

The new Lithuanian members were warmly welcomed to the BSC Executive Committee. For information it was mentioned that the Executive Secretary will visit Klaipeda County in the end of April 2001.

**35 § Action Plan – Appendix 5. and 6. -**

In the first draft of the revision of the BSC Action Plan (**appendix 5**) both minor (technical) changes and bigger ones, deletions and additions have been made. The draft has to be compared with the old Action Plan (**appendix 6**).

The changes concern the new EU Northern Dimension policy, updatings and decreasing repetition. Telling about the serious consequences of the 50 years' division of the Baltic Sea countries (1940-91) has been decreased and more emphasis put on the decade of freedom and positive progress (1991-2001). The sad cold war division belongs already to history.

**Proposal:**

The Executive Committee will read through the first draft of the BSC Action Plan 2001 – 2002 being currently under revision and comments on the changes compared with the earlier Action Plan which was adopted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> BSC General Assembly in Oulu in 1998. The Executive Committee will give some guidelines to the Executive Secretary and the Action Plan working group for further elaboration of the renewed Action Plan which will be adopted in the 6<sup>th</sup> BSC General Assembly in Tallinn on 29 May 2001.

**Final decision:**

The proposal was adopted. The Executive Committee checked the draft Action Plan page by page. It was also decided that a renewed version of this changed and corrected draft Action Plan (as revised in Århus) would be sent to the Executive Committee well in advance before its adoption process in the General Assembly in Tallinn.

**36 § Activity report (15 December 2000 – 14 March 2001)**

After the previous meeting in Gdansk on 15 December 2000 there have been e.g. the following events:

- 12 January, Northern Dimension Intercom Group, Stockholm (S), (Bente Nielsen, Jaakko Mikkola et al.)
- 19 January, Executive secretaries and chairmen of Intercom groups, CPMR General Secretariat, Rennes (F), (from BSC area Christer Candal, Fredrik Berglund, Jaakko Mikkola and Tommy Karlsson)
- 25 January, Spatial Development Group, Tallinn (EST), (Ulf Johansson, Esa Halme, Harijs Kruze, Kristina Mänd, Per Nilsson, Tapio Välinoro, Jaakko Mikkola, Pia Renlund)
- 20-21 February, CPMR Political Bureau, Taormina (I), (from BSC Area Anders Gustâv, Bente Nielsen, Jaakko Mikkola, Tommy Karlsson, Annemarie Elverum) Stig Östdahl, Tarmo Pikner, Talis Pukitis, Laura Lauze, Claus Gerloff, Birgit Schwebs )
- 23 February, a CPMR conference entitled "The regions and research & development and innovation policy", Valencia (E), (from BSC area Stig Östdahl, Tarmo Pikner, Ilgonis Steinbergs, Jaakko Mikkola et al.; Estonia 3 participants, Denmark 1, Finland 7, Latvia 1, Sweden 5, of whom 3 were from Västra Götaland, NSC area )

**Proposal:** The participants will give a brief summary of these various CPMR events.

**Final decision:** The Executive Secretary told above the above mentioned events. The President gave a report on his activities:

- 1) Mr President had recently a meeting with Ms Britta Lejon, a Swedish minister. Mr Stig Östdahl will be invited to the Swedish Spatial Development Conference in Ronneby on 2-3 April 2001 as the CPMR President.
- 2) Mr President had an opportunity to talk with Polish representatives on Polish issues, CPMR etc.
- 3) Mr President had also met the Latvian Ambassador to Stockholm.
- 4) It was decided to record the Pomeranian Marshal's Mr Zarebski's letter to Mr Xavier Gizard in the minutes.

The President's and the Executive Secretary's activity reports were recorded in the minutes.

**37 §**                    **Implementing the Northern Dimension policy by allocating a proportion of TACIS funding to Northwest Russia – Appendix 7. -**

No new EU money will be reserved to promote any projects based on Northern Dimension policy. Funding instruments will be the old ones (e.g. Interreg, PHARE and TACIS). Therefore it would be essential to earmark at least a proportion of the eligible TACIS funding reserved to whole vast Russia and other NIS countries directly to Northwest Russia. This part of vast Russian Federation borders Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Norway. Twelve administrative areas comprise the concept Northwest Russia (see a map, **appendix 7**). It is one of the new areas of governance under Putin Administration but it also forms a new co-operative unit in Russian regional administration called 'Northwest Association' and currently chaired by City of St Petersburg.

A draft proposal to the CPMR Political Bureau is enclosed (**appendix 7**).

**Proposal:**            The BSC Executive Committee decides to propose an expression of opinion (enclosed) concerning TACIS funding in Northwest Russia to the CPMR Political Bureau.  
The BSC Executive Committee also decides to ask for a final report on the work of the Northern Dimension Intercom Group to be presented in the CPMR General Assembly in Porto on 20-21 September 2001.

**Final decision:**    The proposal was adopted, but the expression of opinion concerning TACIS funding in Northwest Russia was decided to be written in a more specific way and after that be sent to the CPMR General Secretariat in Rennes.

**38 §**                    **A proposal for setting up a new CPMR Environment Intercom Group - Appendix 8. –**

Region of Murcia, Spain, has been active in setting up a new Intercom group on environmental issues. The proposal which was on the agenda of the CPMR Political Bureau is enclosed (**appendix 8**). The regions of all CPMR geographical commissions are invited to join this group.

Bearing in mind that the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission is already actively participating in Integrated Coastal Zones Management group (ICZM), partly dealing with the very same environmental

issues, and the BSC is also an observer in HELCOM, dealing with environmental issues, the urgent need for the BSC member regions to join this new group may not be as big as in some other geographical commissions. However, each BSC member region can join also this new environmental group.

**Proposal:** The Murcia proposal for setting up a new CPMR Environment Intercom Group will be recorded for information in the minutes. At least one BSC member should have a nomination for this new Intercom Group in order to maintain a flow of information between BSC and the new group.

**Final decision:** It was decided that the BSC Secretariat make a questionnaire to all the 25 BSC member regions in order to ask for their possible interest in nominations. The possible nominations will be recorded in the Executive Committee as information (going via the Executive Committee forward).

#### **39 § White Paper on European Governance - Appendix 9,10,11 -**

Due to the strict schedule of the EU Commission, Mr President has already been obliged to give the answer on behalf of the BSC Executive Committee on White Paper on European Governance. Enclosed you will find the White Paper on European Governance, **appendix 9**, a technical note from the CPMR General Secretariat, **appendix 10**, and the answering form sent by the BSC Secretariat and approved by the President, **appendix 11**.

**Proposal:** The Executive Committee will discuss the White Paper on European Governance and the letter signed by Mr President will be presented and recorded in the minutes.

**Final decision:** The proposal was adopted.

#### **40 § Next meetings**

The next decided BSC Executive Committee meeting will be in connection with the 6<sup>th</sup> BSC General Assembly in Tallinn in the Estonian Ministry of Interior, address Pikk 57, Tallinn, on 30 May 2001 at 9.00 – 1.00 a.m.

**Proposal:** The next BSC Executive Committee meetings in autumn time will be the following:

1) 12 September 2001 in Uppsala, Uppsala County, Sweden

2) 29-30 November in Riga, Latvia, in connection with the planned BSC Seminar, suggested by Mr Ilgonis Steinbergs (33 §).

**Final decision:** The proposal was adopted.

#### **41 § The name of the BSC Executive Committee**

By CPMR recommendation made in Vaasa 1999, all the geographical commissions should have a political Bureau analogous to CPMR Political Bureau. So far only the Intermediterranean Commission has changed the name Executive Committee to a Political Bureau.

**Proposal:** The BSC Executive committee will keep its name as an Executive Committee

**Final Decision:** The proposal was adopted.

#### **42 § Co-operation with the North Sea Commission**

**Proposal:** A brief commentary on this theme will be orally given.

**Final decision:** The Executive Secretary will take part in an Interreg III C day organised by the North Sea Commission (Västra Götalandsregion, S) in Brussels on 2 April 2001.

It was decided to continue actively co-operation with the NSC.

#### **43 § Any other business**

**Proposal:**

1) Ms Pia Renlund from the BSC Secretariat, Kotka, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the BSC and CPMR in general. Comments were given concerning the proposed slides.

2) Mr Philippe Cichowlaz from the CPMR General Secretariat, Rennes, gave an account of different and current CPMR issues:

- Vasab 2010 Plus Spatial Development Action Programme
  - A call for comments and contributions to this programme is asked till 10 May 2001. The Spatial Development Group (network) will prepare a comment on the paper in its meeting in Stockholm on 24 April 2001.

- The Cohesion Forum will be held in Brussels on 21 May 2001.

- Under Belgian Presidency there will be a Spatial Planning

Seminar in Belgium on 13-14 July.

- Nordregio has a good reputation in the studies on polycentrism.
- All CPMR regions will be called to Turkey (Trabzon) on 29-30 March 2001 to launch the new Black Sea Commission.

**Final decision:** The PowerPoint presentation of Ms Renlund and the account of Mr Cichowlaz were recorded as information in the minutes.

**44 § Closing the meeting**

**Proposal:** The President will close the meeting.

**Final decision:** Mr President thanked the participants for an active meeting closed the session at 17.30.