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| () Mr Krzysztof TOLWINSKI,
Podlaskie Voivodeship | () Mr Karol TYLENDĄ,
Podlaskie Voivodeship |
| (x) Mr Zbigniew KRZYWICKI,
Podlaskie Voivodeship | (x) Mr Aleksander USAKIEWICZ,
Podlaskie Voivodeship |
| (x) Ms Grazyna SZAJSTEK,
Podlaskie Voivodeship | (x) Ms Magdalena LYZNICKA-
SANCZENKO,
Podlaskie Voivodeship |
| (x) Ms Maciej ZAJAC,
Podlaskie Voivodeship | (x) Mr Jan SYCZEWSKI,
Podlaskie Voivodeship |
| (x) Mr Mr Claes KULLBERG,
Gotland | (x) Mr Andris KAZINOVSKIS,
Balvi |
| (x) Mr Sven KINNANDER,
Stockholm Region | (x) Mr Juris ANNUSKANS,
Balvi |
| (x) Ms Monika ROSENQVIST,
Stockholm Region | (x) Mr Valentis KUZINS,
Riga District |
| (x) Mr Tommy KARLSSON,
Stockholm County | (x) Ms Annemarie ELVERUM,
Århus County |

11 § **Opening the meeting**

Proposal: The President will open the meeting. Mr Janusz Krzyzewski, Marshal of the Podlaskie Voivodeship and President of the Voivodeship Board, will welcome the guests.

Final decision: Mr President, Anders Guståv, opened the meeting. Mr Zbigniew Krzywicki, President of the Podlaskie Regional Council (Sejmik) welcomed the participants to Białystok, Podlaskie Voivodeship.

12 § **Adopting of the agenda**

Proposal: The Executive Committee will adopt the agenda.

Final decision: The agenda was adopted.

13 § **Minutes of the previous meeting – appendix 1**

The previous meeting was held in Sundsvall, Västernorrland County, Sweden on 4 October 2002.

Proposal: The minutes of the Sundsvall meeting will be adopted.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

14 § **The appointment of Executive Secretary**

The General Assembly of the Baltic Sea Commission on 28 May 2002 in Klaipėda, Lithuania, decided for the continuation of the Secretariat another two

years in the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso (2002 – 2004). Mr. Jaakko Mikkola was nominated to the Executive Secretary of the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Secretary Mr Jaakko Mikkola was elected on 21 October 2002 to the Executive Director of the Regional Council of Itä-Uusimaa (Östra Nyland) in Finland he is not be able to continue as the Executive Secretary.

Mr Marko Mälly in the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme (FIN) is prepared to substitute as the Executive Secretary and Ms. Maija Etu-Seppälä to assist him until the next BSC General Assembly in Umeå, Västerbotten (S) on 27 May 2003 when the General Assembly will nominate the new Executive Secretary.

The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme announces that it is interested and prepared to host the Secretariat of the Baltic Sea Commission until to the General Assembly in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, in 2004 (Decision of the Board of the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme on 9 December 2002).

Proposal: The Executive Committee expresses its gratitude towards the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme for its willingness to host the Secretariat until the General Assembly in May 2003 and notices the offer from the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme to continue to host the Secretariat until the General Assembly in 2004. The Executive Committee welcomes Mr Marko Mälly and Ms Maija Etu-Seppälä and wish them good luck with the Secretariat.

Final decision: The Executive Committee appointed the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme to host the BSC Secretariat, Mr Marko Mälly as the Executive Secretary and Ms Maija Etu-Seppälä as the Assistant of the BSC Secretariat until the next General Assembly in Umeå 27 May 2003. The General Assembly will nominate the Executive Secretary on the recommendation of the Executive Committee and in conjunction with the Secretary General of the Conference (BSC Statutes, Article 5) in Umeå 2003. Mr Marko Mälly thanked the Executive Committee for the confidence.

15 § CPMR Political Bureau meeting in Poitiers on 2-3 December 2002

Proposal Mr Anders Guståv and Mr Inge Andersson will give a report of the meeting. The information will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The worrying maritime safety situation in the Baltic Sea aroused a lively discussion in the aftermath of the accident of the Prestige vessel off the Spanish coast. It was decided

- 1) the Executive Committee announces a resolution “Maritime Safety in the Baltic Sea” because of the very worrying maritime safety situation in the Baltic Sea. **Appendix 2.**
- 2) the Executive Committee will actively take part in the work of the new CPMR working group on Maritime Safety. The new working group will be established in conference on this subject in June 2003. The date will be

confirmed by the CPMR Secretariat in March. The Conference will be open to all CPMR member regions.

16 § CPMR activities

Mr Xavier Gizard, Secretary General, will give an account of the current CPMR activities and welcomes Podlaskie Voivodeship the first Polish region as a member to the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission.

Proposal: The presentation of Mr Xavier Gizard will be recorded for information in the minutes.

Final decision: Unfortunately Mr Xavier Gizard was not able to attend the meeting. Mr President welcomed Podlaskie Voivodeship the first Polish region as a member to the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and gave a short report of the current CPMR activities e.g. on the new Convention of the European Union and stressed how successfully subnational level and many regional organisations (AEBR, CEMR, CPMR, EURO CITIES) have spoken together with one voice on this theme.

17 § Updated situation after the Polish municipal elections in Podlaskie Voivodeship and other 15 new Voivodeships in Poland. Short presentation about the de-centralisation of the Polish Regional Administration

Mr Krzyzewski will have an account of the political situation after the Polish municipal elections on 27 October 2002. Mr. Kwiatkowski will also give a short presentation about the de-centralisation in the Polish regional administration as an example Podlaskie Voivodeship with a special aspect to the Polish EU-membership in year 2004.

Proposal: The report will be recorded for information in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. Mr. Zbigniew Krzywicki, President of the Podlaskie Regional Council (Sejmik) had an account of the political situation after the Polish municipal elections. The speech of Mr. Zbigniew Krzywicki as **appendix 3**. Mr. Jan Syczewski, Member of the Podlaskie Voivodeship Board, gave a short presentation about the de-centralisation in the Polish regional administration – **appendix 4**.

18 § Activity report: winter 2002-2003 (October 4 – February 6)

- 16-18 October, AEBR General Conference, Papenburg, Emsland, Lower Saxony (D) (Marko Mälly);
- 24-25 October, BSSSC Conference, Lillehammer (N) (Bente Nielsen);
- 29 November, Baltic Palette (Int IIIB), Riga (LV) (Marko Mälly);
- 2-3 December, CPMR Political Bureau, Poitiers, Poitou-Charentes (F) (Anders Gustâv);
- 10 December, Seaperspective (Int IIIC), Brussels (B) (Marko Mälly);
- 17 December, CPMR Agriculture and Rural Development Group, Brussels (B) (Marko Mälly);
- 13-14 December, CPMR Transport Intercom Group, Toulouse, Midi-Pyrénées (F);
- 16 January, North Sweden Forum, Östersund (S)

Proposal: The President, the Vice-President and the Executive Secretary will tell about the above mentioned events during winter 2002-2003. The information will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The Executive Committee recorded the above mentioned events as information.

19 § Application for status as special participant in CBSS (Council of Baltic Sea States)

CBSS has announced the interest by third parties participating in its work. The status of a special participant gives a certain standing for exchange of information and experiences. Today BSSSC, UBC and BSPC (Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference) have already this status in the CBSS and B7 is expected to receive this status shortly.

Proposal: The Executive Committee will decide to apply the status of a special partner for the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission in the CBSS and will give the President authority to formalised participation.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

20 § New BSC Working Groups – a follow-up

Two new BSC Working Groups were established in Sundsvall, Västernorrland on 4 October 2002 and they are

1) CBC Working Group (Mr Andris Kazinovskis)

The so-called **CBC Working Group** which would be of importance to Balvi, bordering Russian Federation, might awaken our member regions' interest in exchanging ideas and solutions along the new (2004) external borders of the EU. Currently we have five such regions bordering Russian Federation (Oulu Region, Kymenlaakso, Ida-Viru, Balvi and Klaipeda). There is one new member region bordering Belarus (Podlaskie). We also have two regions bordering Norway (Västerbotten and Västra Götaland Region).

2) Transport Working Group (Mr Per Strömhaug)

The Transport groups on different levels (BSC and CPMR) should work in close co-operation. There is an evident need for the group within our own geographical commission as well. This new group will increase the importance of transport issues around the Baltic Sea in the whole CPMR.

Also other groups may be established later. They will all get later specified targets elaborated by themselves and to be accepted by the Executive Committee. They will all report their Final Reports / Action Plans in the 9th BSC General Assembly in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) in May 2004. The results of these Action Plans will be presented in the 32nd CPMR General Assembly in Telemark (N) in September 2004.

New similar issue orientated groups can be established later during the current mandate period 2002-04.

Proposal: The persons responsible and the Executive Secretary will report about the current working situation of the new working groups. The working situation of the new working groups will be recorded for information in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The Transport Working Group (TG) will start its work in Lahti (FIN) on 27 February 2003 and the Cross Border Co-operation Working Group (CBC) in Riga (LV) on 6-7 March 2003. All BSC member regions are warmly welcome to these new working groups.

The Executive Committee stressed that these new working groups should co-operate closely with other similar working groups in the CPMR and other CPMR geographical commissions and emphasised the important role of the working groups in the BSC.

The Baltic Sea Commission will also be active in the CPMR Intercom Human Resources Working Group. This working group concentrates on questions of employment and regional development. The next meeting of this working group will be organised in Rhodos (GR) in May 2003 (tbc).

21 § BSC Spatial Development Group

The BSC SDG Working Group under the chairmanship of **Mr Esa Halme** will finish its work during winter 2002/03. The report of this working group will be presented in a written form to the Executive Committee and then later to the 8th BSC General Assembly in Umeå, Västerbotten, on 27 May 2003.

Proposal: The working situation of the Spatial Development Group will be recorded for information in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. Mr. Esa Halme was not able to attend the meeting but he did send to the Executive Committee information on the working situation of the SDG group – **appendix 5**. The SDG working group will have its last

meeting in Lahti (FIN) on 28 February 2003 and the SDG group will present its proposal of the Action Plan for Spatial Development around Baltic Sea to the General Assembly in Umeå in May 2003.

22 § Updating the BSC Action Plan

There have been many changes in the Baltic Sea Commission after the last BSC Action Plan was adopted at the General Assembly in Tallinn on 29 May 2001; in the BSC General Assembly in Klaipeda 28 May 2002 the Executive Committee was new elected and Baltic Sea Commission has also received during last years several new members. In the Executive Committee meeting in Klaipeda 29 May 2002 a new e-mail working group was established on site to renew the Action Plan on the annual basis in the future. The Executive Secretariat will try to get ready a printed edition of the updated Action Plan before the BSC General Assembly in Umeå in May.

Proposal: In the Executive Committee meeting in Klaipeda 28 May 2002 established e-mail working group will continue its work and the renewed Action Plan for 2003-2004 should be ready before the 8th BSC General Assembly in Umeå.

Final decision: The proposal of the updated Action Plan will be prepared by the BSC Secretariat and commented by the Executive Committee. The updated Action Plan will be presented to the General Assembly in Umeå in May 2003.

23 § Coming events 2003

- 21 February, Integrated Rural Development Intercom Group, Brussels (B)
- 27 February, BSC Transport Working Group, Lahti (FIN)
- 28 February, BSC Spatial Development Working Group, Lahti (FIN)
- 6-7 March, BSC Cross Border Co-operation (CBC) Working Group, Riga (LV)
- 27 March, Executive Secretaries and leaders of the CPMR thematic groups, Prato, Tuscany (ITA)
- 27-28 March, CPMR Seminar on Regional Policy with Commissioner Barnier, Prato, Tuscany (ITA)
- 31 March or 1 April (tbc), CPMR Transport Intercom Group, Basque Country
- 9 May, BSC Cross Border Co-operation (CBC) Working Group, Porvoo (FIN)
- May (tbc), CPMR Intercom Human Resources Working Group, Rhodos (GR)
- 16-17 May, CPMR Political Bureau, Thessalonika (GR)
- 26-27 May, 8th BSC General Assembly, Umeå, Västerbotten (S)
- 28 May, BSC Executive Committee, Umeå, Västerbotten (S)
- 18-20 June, 12th General Assembly of the CPMR North Sea Commission Cuxhaven, Niedersachsen (D)
- 19-20 June, Bureau and General Assembly of the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission, Inverness, Scotland (UK)
- 10-12 September, XXXI CPMR General Assembly – 30th CPMR Anniversary, Saint-Malo, Brittany (F)
- 17–19 October, VII General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities, Klaipeda (LV)

- 23–25 October, 11th BSSSC Conference, St. Petersburg (RU)
- tbc November, CPMR Political Bureau, Sardegna (ITA)
- 27–28 November 2003, AEBR General Assembly and Annual Conference, Karlovy Vary (CZ), Euregio Egrensis

Proposal: The Executive Committee will record the coming events as information.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The updated list of the coming events 2003 above.

24 § Withdrawals from the Baltic Sea Commission – appendix 6

The CPMR Political Bureau meeting held on 2 and 3 December 2002 at the Futuroscope in Poitiers (France) had to unfortunately note the withdrawal of two regions from the Baltic Sea Commission: Laanemaa (EE) and Jurmala (LV) on the grounds of budgetary difficulties and territorial coherence. The total number of CPMR member regions is currently 150 of which we have in the BSC currently 30 member regions. The new updated map of the BSC member regions as attached document.

Proposal: The withdrawals will be recorded for information in the minutes.

Final Decision: The proposal was adopted.

25 § BSC General Assembly 27 May 2003 in Umeå, Västerbotten (S), The proposal on the seminar on 26 May 2003.

Proposal: Mr. Inge Andersson will give a proposal on the seminar to be held 26 May 2003 in connection with the BSC General Assembly 27 May 2003 in Umeå.

Final Decision: The proposal was adopted. The BSC General Assembly will be held on 27 May 2003 programme starting with a whole day seminar on 26 May 2003 in Umeå. Mr. Inge Andersson gave a proposal on the seminar – appendix 7.

26 § Any other business

Proposal:

Final decision: There was no other business.

27 § Next meeting

Proposal: The next BSC Executive Committee meeting will be held on 28 May 2003 in Umeå, Västerbotten, in connection with the BSC General Assembly.

Final decision:

28 § Closing the meeting

Proposal: The President will close the meeting

Final decision: The President closed the meeting at 6.55 pm.