



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Executive Committee Solna, Stockholm region (S) Minutes

Time: 14 April 2004 at 2 pm – 5.50 pm

Venue: City Hall of Solna, Solna, Stockholm region, S

Participants:

Members:

Substitutes:

Roll call

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| (x) Mr Anders GUSTÅV, The
Stockholm President | |
| (x) Ms Bente NIELSEN, The Vice
Århus (DK) President | () Mr Jörgen KVIST,
Bornholm (DK) |
| () Dr Rainer KOSMIDER,
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) | () Mr Dirk FRASSMANN,
Mecklenburg-Vorp. (D) |
| () Ms Reet KOKOVKIN,
Hiiumaa (EST) | (x) Ms Valli LAAS,
Ida-Viru (EST) |
| (x) Mr Mikko RÖNNHOLM,
South-West Finland (FIN) | () Ms Pia-Noora KAUPPI,
Oulu Region (FIN) |
| (x) Mr Ilgonis STEINBERGS,
Riga District (LV) | () Ms Anita JEGERE,
Tukums (LV) |
| () Ms Virginija LUKOSIENE,
Klaipėda (LT) | () Ms Roma STUBRIENE,
Klaipėda (LT) |
| () Ms Kjersti MARKUSSON
Nordland (N) | (x) Mr Per STRØMHAUG,
Nordland (N) |
| () Mr Wojciech KWIATKOWSKI,
Podlaskie (PL) | () NN,
Podlaskie (PL) |
| (x) Mr Inge ANDERSSON,
Västerbotten (S) | () Mr Jan LUNDGREN, Gotland
(S) |

Secretariat:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| (x) Mr Marko MÄLLY | Executive Secretary |
| (x) Ms Maija ETU-SEPPÄLÄ | Assistant of the Executive
Secretariat |

Other participants:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| (x) Mr Patrick ANVROIN,
Director, CPMR | (x) Mr Tommy KARLSSON,
Stockholm County (S) |
| (x) Ms Annemarie ELVERUM,
Århus County (DK) | (x) Mr Tomas Gustafsson,
Västerbotten (S) |
| (x) Ms Grenada DEMAKINA,
Riga District (LV) | (x) Ms Monika ROSENQVIST,
Stockholm County (S) |

(x) Ms Cecilia KARLBERG,
Stockholm County (S)

(x) Mr Mattias ASK,
Sörmland County (S)

72 § Opening the meeting

Proposal: The President will open the meeting and welcome the guests in Solna.

Final decision: The President opened the meeting and welcomed the guests in Solna.

73 § Adopting of the agenda

Proposal: The Executive Committee will adopt the agenda.

Final decision: The agenda was adopted adding the following issues in point 88§ which the Executive Committee will discuss

- 1) the request of the Regional Council of Itä-Uusimaa/Finland on 25 March 2004 as a member of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission for statement from the Executive Committee of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission regarding the plans of the report initiated by the Ministry of Interior in Finland to develop the co-operation in the Helsinki area with possible needed legal changes which might influence on the administrative rights of the Region and Regional Council of Itä-Uusimaa. Additional appendix delivered to the Members of the Executive Committee in the meeting. **Additional appendix.**
- 2) the proposal of the Västerbotten Region/Sweden for statement from the Executive Committee on the restrictions on the free movement of labour in the enlarged European Union.

74 § Minutes of the previous meeting

The previous meeting was held in Lahti, Päijät-Häme, Finland on 15 October 2003. **Appendix 1**

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

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

75 § CPMR activities

Mr Patrick Anvrouin, Director, will give an account of the current CPMR activities.

Proposal: The presentation of Mr Patrick Anvrouin will be recorded for information in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. Additional appendix delivered to the Members of the Executive Committee in the meeting. **Additional appendix.**

76 § Activity report: autumn 2003 – winter 2004 (October 15 – April 14)

- 17 October, CBSS - 3rd Co-ordination Meeting of Heads of Baltic Sea Regional Organisations, Klaipėda (LT) (Virginija Lukosiene)
- 17–19 October, VII General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities, Klaipėda (LT) (Virginija Lukosiene)
- 23–25 October, 11th BSSSC Conference, St. Petersburg (RU) (Bente Nielsen)
- 6 November, CPMR Intercom Group on Transport: sessions on air and maritime transport, Brussels (B)
- 12-14 November, Seminar of the European Commission on Rural Development, Salzburg (A) **Appendix 2**
- 27–28 November, AEBR General Assembly and Annual Conference, Karlovy Vary (CZ), Euregio Egrensis (Marko Mälly)
- 4 December, CPMR InterCom Transport working group, Brussels (B) (Per Strømhaug)
- 13-14 January, Seminar of the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission on Motorways of the Sea, Bordeaux (F) (Per Strømhaug)
- 28 January, CPMR InterCom Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development, Brussels (B) (Marko Mälly)
- 6 February, BSC Cross Border Co-operation Working Group, Stockholm region (S) (Marko Mälly)
- 9-10 February, European Conference on "The Role of Baltic Local Authorities in Responding to Major Oil Spills" organised by CLRAE and Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Helsinki (FIN) (Marko Mälly)
- 23 February, First forum of organisations of regional and local authorities on cohesion policy by AEBR/CEMR/CPMR/EUROCITIES, Brussels (B) (Anders Gustâv)
- 27 February, CPMR/BSC information meeting for Danish regions, Århus (DK) (Bente Nielsen)
- 2-3 March, HELCOM, Heads of Delegation, Helsinki (FIN) (Marko Mälly)
- 4 March, Discussion on Interreg IIIC project plan based on non-agricultural rural development, Maison du Limousin, Paris (F) (Marko Mälly)
- 8-9 March, Joint seminar on "Sea Motorways" of the Baltic Sea and North Sea Commissions, Klaipėda (LT) (Per Strømhaug)
- 9 March, Transport Working Group meeting of the Baltic Sea Commission, Klaipėda (LT) (Per Strømhaug)
- 22-24 March, International HELCOM Conference to commemorate 30 years of the Helsinki Convention, Riga (LV) (Marko Mälly)
- 22-25 March, General Assembly of the Regional Government Network for Sustainable Development – NRG4SD, Cardiff (UK)

Proposal: The persons responsible will inform about the above mentioned events during autumn 2003 and winter 2004. The information will be recorded in the minutes.

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

77 § Maritime safety in the Baltic Sea Area

1. Exploitation of oil fields in the Baltic Sea Area

Mr Arunas Jievaltas from the Lithuanian Embassy in Finland representing the region of Klaipėda presented the position paper sent by the Klaipėda County Governor's administration in the BSC Executive Committee meeting in Lahti on 15 October 2003. The BSC Executive Committee fully supported the position paper of Klaipėda County and decided to take action in this by sending a supporting letter to the CPMR Secretariat and responsible ministers around the Baltic Sea concerning this issue.

The BSC Executive Secretariat did send the letter to the Ministers of the Environmental Affairs of the Baltic Sea States on 14 November 2003. The Executive Secretariat has received some response to the letter. Additionally Executive Secretary did represent this issue in the HELCOM meeting to the Heads of Delegation in Helsinki on 17 December 2003. **Appendix 3**

2. PSSA Status for the Baltic Sea Area

Ms Bente Nielsen, Vice-President of the BSC has proposed to the Executive Committee to discuss in its meeting the Maritime Safety in the Baltic Sea Area. There is every reason to give the Baltic Sea a special status; the waters are vulnerable, and Russia will have to understand that protecting the Baltic Sea is about much more than sea water or the right for uncontrolled carriage of cargo.

Russia is attempting to obstruct an agreement on increased safety of sailing, and thereby improved protection of *i.a.* the marine environment. The consequences of these issues are of major importance to the members of BSC, no matter how near or far they are from the Baltic Sea.

BSC has been highly committed to creating the framework for a sustainable development; BSC and CPMR have presented their demands to the EU, including via approaches to the Committee of the Regions. An oil or chemical spillage or accident at sea could have serious consequences even very far away from the site of the accident. This is literally a matter of safeguarding the living conditions of the people around the Baltic Sea which will be lost unless we take joint action to preserve the environment. This is of great importance to the Baltic Region and to the coasts of Sweden, Finland and Denmark. And to the fishing industry as well, which is already struggling with difficult conditions. **Appendix 4**

- Proposal:**
1. The Executive Secretary will inform about the response received from the Ministers of the Environmental Affairs of the Baltic Sea States and HELCOM meeting of Heads of Delegation on 17 December 2003.
 2. The agreement is negotiated through the UN, which means that the ministers from the different countries are involved. BSC should welcome the UN initiative and strongly encourage others to maintain

the demand that the Baltic Sea be given a special status. This may be done by approaching the different ministers as well as the UN directly. BSC should raise the issue within the CPMR and the EU.

Final decision:

1. The Executive Committee recorded the report by the Executive Secretary as information in the minutes.
2. The Executive Committee welcomed the decision taken by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in its meeting on 29 March to 2 April 2004 in London to give the Baltic Sea special status (PSSA) affording it greater environmental status. Russia refused to agree to the deal at all, exempting itself from environmental measures such as setting tighter standards for transporting oil, crew training and ship quality. The IMO Marine Environments Committee's conclusion that the Baltic Sea should be given PSSA is provisional, pending additional proposals by its eight bordering states before finalisation possibly in autumn of 2005.

The Executive Committee discussed the matter and also stressed the role and work of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) in the past years to enhance the protection of the marine environment in the Baltic Sea. The Executive Committee did welcome the decision of the IMO and strongly encouraged CPMR to notify the European Commission about our concern and statement in order to once again put the issue on their agenda, and thus to contribute to a change in the opinion of the Russian Federation insisting it to follow the regulations and measures connected to the PSSA status given to the Baltic Sea. The Executive Committee decided to present this issue in the Political Bureau meeting of the CPMR in Cagliari, Sardegna on 15 –16 April 2004 and also prepare a new statement on the maritime safety in the Baltic Sea area. Further the Executive Committee of the Baltic Sea Commission is going to send a letter concerning this matter to the Governments of the Baltic Sea States.

78 §

TEN-T revision and Motorways of the Sea in the Baltic Sea Area

The European Commission has opened for organisations and individuals possibility to give their comments on the priorities of the High Level Group of the TEN-T Revision. The Transport Working Group of the Baltic Sea Commission has produced a document which was included as a part in the CPMR position on the TEN-T revision. The CPMR InterCom Transport working group did meet in Brussels on 4 December 2003 with the representatives of the EU Commission on the TEN-T revision where the positions of the Geographical Commissions were represented. Due to the discussion concerning the Motorways of the Sea the Baltic Sea Commission organised a joint seminar in close operation with the North Sea Commission and the Klaipėda County Council in Klaipėda on 8-9 March 2004. Additionally Executive Secretary presented the position of the CPMR and BSC on the TEN-T review and the Motorways of the Sea in the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communication on 11 February 2004. **Appendix 5**

Proposal:

Mr Per Strømhaug, Chairman of the BSC Transport Working Group, Patrick Anvrouin, CPMR and Executive Secretary will give a report about the above

mentioned events and the current state of affairs of the TEN-T revision and the Motorways of the Sea.

Final decision:

The report by Mr Per Strømhaug, Chairman of the BSC Transport Working Group, Patrick Anvoin, CPMR and Executive Secretary was recorded as information in the minutes. The Executive Committee did stress in its discussion the need for enhancing the co-operation between the Baltic Sea Commission and the national level e.g. in the transport policy. Mr Per Strømhaug also delivered in the meeting to the Members of the Executive Committee as an additional appendix the draft final declaration of the Seminar on "Motorways of the Sea", Klaipėda 8 - 9 March 2004. **Additional appendix.**

79 §

Transnational interregional co-operation

The third report on economic and social cohesion by the European Commission proposes that the transnational interregional co-operation constitute the third priority of cohesion policy after 2006, and its annual budget should be more than doubled in relation to the current programming period.

The Commission proposes that cross-border co-operation, currently supported through Strand A of Interreg III, should be extended to cover the EU's maritime borders.

Transnational co-operation, currently backed by the Interreg IIIB, would continue to be supported through the future instrument, but under different conditions:

- no overlapping of co-operation areas
- co-operation themes to focus on a limited number of strategic priorities, i.e. research and development, environment, risk prevention and integrated water management.

Mr Xavier Gizard, Secretary General of the Conference asks in his letter to Mr Anders Gustâv, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission on 26 February 2004 for the co-operation of the Geographical Commissions at this specific point, and more generally the different aspects of transnational co-operation.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee will discuss this matter. The BSC Cross Border Co-operation Working group has been working with the above mentioned thematic in its meeting 9 October 2003 in Brussels with the EU Commission representatives. In its last meeting on 6 February 2004 in Solna (S) this working group decided for working on a position concerning the New Neighbourhood Instrument from year 2007 onwards.

Final decision:

The Executive Committee discussed this matter of interregional co-operation in the Baltic Sea area, and decided to take this issue also on the agenda in the coming Executive Committee meetings and stressed the notification of own aspects like e.g. maritime borders in interregional co-operation in the Baltic Sea area. The Executive Committee did support the work made in the BSC Cross Border Co-operation working group and also decided to take this issue on the Agenda of the BSC General Assembly in Schwerin on 4 June

2004.

80§

BSC and CPMR Working Groups – a follow-up

The Baltic Sea Commission has at the moment two active working groups:

1) CBC Working Group (Mr Andris Kazinovskis)

The BSC Cross Border Co-operation Working Group was established for exchanging ideas and solutions along the new (2004) external borders of the EU. It has had meetings in Riga (LV) on 6-7 March, Porvoo (FIN) on 9 May, Balvi (LV) on 22-23 August, Brussels (B) on 9 October 2003 and Solna (S) on 6 February 2004. In the Solna meeting the theme was how to make better projects. **Appendix 6**

2) Transport Working Group (Mr Per Strømhaug)

The BSC Transport Working Group will increase the importance of transport issues around the Baltic Sea in the whole CPMR. The Transport Working Group has had its meetings in Lahti (FIN) on 27 February, Sigulda (LV) on 2-3 July, Sundsvall (S) on 20-21 August 2003 and in Klaipėda on 9 March 2004. This working group has just organised a joint seminar on Sea Motorways in close co-operation with the North Sea Commission and the Klaipėda County Council in Klaipėda (LT) on 8-9 March 2004.

These working groups will all report their Final Reports / Action Plans in the 9th BSC General Assembly in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) in June 2004. The results of these Final Reports / Action Plans will be presented in the 32nd CPMR General Assembly in Stavanger, Rogaland (N) in September 2004.

3) CPMR InterCom Working Group on Human Resources (Tommy Karlsson)

It seems predictable that the new Objective 2, at least the suggestion from the commission, will be in accordance to the proposal of the CPMR InterCom Working Group on Human Resources. It is suggested that the present working group should end its work for this reason. Instead it will be proposed in the CPMR Political Bureau meeting on 15 April 2004 in Cagliari, Sardegna (I) that the CPMR should set up a new thematic group to concentrate upon Lisbon strategy and what the regions have done in order to fulfil the goal of Lisbon. The intention is to see how the regions have been able to impact on the Lisbon strategy and in what they have done to support the fulfilling of this.

4) CPMR InterCom Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development

The CPMR General Assembly of September 2001, held in Oporto, decided to set up an Inter-Commission working group to prepare initiatives and draft positions to be adopted by the organisation's executive bodies (General Assembly, Political Bureau). The group is chaired by Mr Robert Savy, President of the region of Limousin. The first meeting was held in Paris on 23 April 2002. Since then there have been regular meetings throughout the period leading up to the reform.

The latest meeting of this working group was organised in Paris on 4 March 2004 on the Interreg III C project plan by the French Limousin Region on non-agricultural rural development. Partners to this project are urgently searched in the Baltic Sea area. **Appendix 7**

The BSC representative in this working group, BSC Vice-President Ms Bente Nielsen, Århus (DK) informed in the Executive Committee meeting on 15 October 2003 in Lahti (FI) that she will not continue her work in this working group. Mr Paavo Myllymäki from the provincial MTK union of South-West Finland of the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) in Finland has expressed his interest to start his work as one BSC representative in this InterCom working group.

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

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The working groups will present their final reports/activity reports to the BSC General Assembly in Schwerin on 4 June 2004. The Executive Committee did support the continuation of the work of the two BSC working groups in the future and also thanked the excellent work made in the BSC working groups. The BSC Executive Committee thinks that the working groups are a very good example of effective working methods in the Baltic Sea Commission. Mr Patrick Anvroin, CPMR, did stress the importance of follow-up, practical measures and projects in the work of working groups. The political papers should also be presented to the national governments. Mr Per Strømhaug and Mr Tommy Karlsson also delivered the activity reports of their working groups to the Executive Committee members in the meeting. **Additional Appendices.**

81 § Interreg IIIB seed money application “Intermodality and interoperability around the Baltic Sea”

Mr Per Strømhaug, Chairman of the BSC Transport Working Group, presented in the Executive Committee meeting in Lahti on 15 October 2003 an application made by the Nordland County Council to the Baltic Sea Interreg IIIB programme for seed money. Central objectives of this Interreg IIIB project is to promote development of a resilient intermodal transport corridor around the Baltic Sea, linked up to short sea shipping services and efficient logistic centres in order to contribute to modal shift of cargo transport from road to rail and sea and to increased trade and economic development for businesses in the regions around the Baltic Sea, further to develop documentation on the significance of transport systems in the Baltic Sea area and to create European awareness about the economic importance of the northern areas as part of the European society.

The lead partner in this project will be Nordland County Council and several BSC regions have shown interest to participate this project as partners.

Unfortunately the decision of the Interreg IIIB Baltic Sea Secretariat on the first application was negative because the first application was showing too

weak links to the national level (vertical co-operation links). Nordland County Council has submitted now a new application for seed money in which the mentioned links are now strengthened by having established quite close co-operation with CBSS and directly to some national transport ministries.

Appendix 8

Proposal: Mr Per Strømhaug will inform the Executive Committee about the new project application. The Executive Committee will record the project report by Mr Per Strømhaug for information in the minutes.

Final decision: The project report by Mr Per Strømhaug was recorded for information in the minutes.

82 § Fishery Partnership in the Baltic Sea Region

The Regional Municipality of Bornholm presented a project-idea concerning Fishery Partnership in the Baltic Sea Region to the BSC General Assembly in Umeå on 27 May 2003. The Executive Committee supported the project idea and project work of the Regional Municipality of Bornholm. The BSC Secretariat has offered information about the project plan to the BSC member regions to encourage the interested regions to take part in this project. The Regional Municipality of Bornholm has sent a report to the BSC Executive Committee about the current situation of the project work.

Appendix 9

Proposal: The Executive Committee will record the project report from the Regional Municipality of Bornholm for information in the minutes.

Final Decision: The proposal was adopted.

83 § Updating the BSC Action Plan

The BSC General Assembly decided in Umeå, Västerbotten, on 27 May 2003, that the BSC Action Plan "Visions and Objectives" will be rewritten and renewed for the next General Assembly in June 2004 in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The first version for the new BSC Action Plan "Visions and Objectives" has been now on round for comments among the BSC Executive Committee Members. **Appendix 10**

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss and comment the renewed BSC Action Plan. The BSC Executive Secretariat will prepare the second version on the basis of the comments received by the Executive Committee. The second version will be sent to all BSC Member regions for comments and on the basis of the received response the final version will be prepared for the next BSC General Assembly 2004 in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)

Final decision: On the basis of the comments received by the Members of the Executive Committee the Executive Committee adopted the draft version of the Visions and Objectives –document as the proposal of the BSC Executive Committee for the new Visions and Objectives –document of the Baltic Sea Commission. This document will be sent by the BSC Secretariat to all BSC Member regions for comments and on the basis of the received response the final

document will be prepared for the next BSC General Assembly 2004 in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)

84 § Coming events 2004

- 15-16 April, Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Cagliari, Sardegna (I)
- 30 April, CPMR Seminar on Rural Development, Florence, Tuscany (I)
- 10 May, BSC Cross Border Co-operation Working Group, Oulu (FIN)
- 13-14 May, Seminar "Maritime Safety and Environment in the Southern Baltic Sea area", organised by SydSam and Euregio Baltic in co-operation with the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Trelleborg (S)
- 3 June, CPMR Seminar on Enlargement, Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)
- 4 June, 9th General Assembly and Executive Committee meeting of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)
- 16-18 June, General Assembly of the CPMR North Sea Commission, Gothenburg, Västra Götaland (S)
- 9 July, Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Umeå, Västerbotten (S)
- 29-31 August, 13th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Bergen (N)
- 22-24 September, 32nd CPMR General Assembly, Stavanger, Rogaland (N)

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

Final decision: The coming events were recorded as information in the minutes.

85§ Nominations and elections in Schwerin on 4 June 2004

The 9th BSC General Assembly will be held in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) on 4 June 2003. The election of the President and of the Executive Committee will take place every second year following the procedure outlined in Article 4 of the BSC Statutes. The General Assembly shall elect a President, a Vice-President and an Executive Committee. The BSC statutes (Bornholm 2002) are enclosed. **Appendix 11**

The Executive Secretary asks the Assembly if there are any nominations to the post of President. Each nomination must be seconded by a region other than the region represented by the nominee. The President of the BSC will be the president/political leader of their respective authority.

Each member country shall appoint one representative and one substitute representative to the Executive Committee. A Vice-President shall be nominated, who must be of a different nationality than the President. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee the General Assembly shall nominate the Executive Secretary. His mandate is renewed every 2nd years.

In the Organisational Charter of the CPMR (Saint Malo 2003), Article 9, it is said that the appointment of the Executive Secretary "shall be made in conjunction with the Secretary General of the Conference, who shall be kept regularly informed".

All 30 BSC member regions have been informed by the BSC Executive Secretariat in February 2004 with a letter about this above mentioned

procedure. **Appendix 12**

The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme (FI) announces that it is interested and prepared to host the Secretariat of the Baltic Sea Commission until to the General Assembly in 2006 (Decision of the Board of the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme on 15 March 2004).

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss

- the Presidency for 2004 – 2006
- the Vice-Presidency for 2004 – 2006
- the nominations in each CPMR member country. Currently there are nine CPMR BSC member countries.

Also the recommendation of the Executive Committee (BSC Statutes: Bornholm 2002, Article 5) concerning the nomination of the Executive Secretary for 2004 – 2006 will be discussed. There will not be any other Executive Committee meeting before the 9th BSC General Assembly in Schwerin on 4 June 2004.

The Executive Committee notices the offer from the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme (FI) to continue to host the Secretariat until the General Assembly in 2006.

Final decision:

The Executive Committee discussed the Presidency for 2004-2006, the Vice-Presidency for 2004-2006 and the nominations in each CPMR BSC member country. The Executive Committee did make a note that there is a nomination for the Presidency of the Baltic Sea Commission for 2004 – 2006, Mr Inge Andersson, Västerbotten (S) and a nomination for the Vice-Presidency for 2004-2006, Ms Bente Nielsen, Århus (DK).

The Executive Committee has been satisfied with the work of the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme in hosting the BSC Secretariat and did adopt and support the offer from the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme (FI) to continue to host the BSC Secretariat until the General Assembly in 2006. The Executive Committee recommends that the BSC General Assembly nominates Mr Marko Mälly as the Executive Secretary of the Baltic Sea Commission for 2004-2006 in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) on 4 June 2004.

The BSC Secretariat will send a second notice to all Member Regions of the Baltic Sea Commission regarding the election procedure in the General Assembly in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) on 4 June 2004.

86§

Changes in the Baltic Sea Commission member region list

The CPMR Political Bureau warmly welcomed 21 January 2004 **Norrbottn (S)** which is the northernmost region of Sweden with its capital Luleå as a new CPMR member.

Unfortunately the Estonian region of Harjumaa has been withdrawn from the member list of the Baltic Sea Commission. A letter was sent to Mr Valtson, Executive Director of the Harjumaa region, by the President of the Baltic Sea Commission concerning the membership issue on 29 September 2003 but no answer was received.

The total number of CPMR member regions is currently 150 of which we have in the BSC 30 member regions. **Appendix 13**

Norrbottn will be presented in an issue of BSC Newsletter later this year.

Proposal: The changes in the Baltic Sea Commission member region list will be recorded for information in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The Executive Committee also invites Norrbotten as a new BSC member region to present itself in the next BSC General Assembly in Schwerin on 4 June 2004.

87 § **The 9th BSC General Assembly on 4 June 2004 in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D), Seminar on Enlargement on 3 June 2004 and the 10th BSC General Assembly in 2005**

The 9th BSC General Assembly will be held in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D). On the proposal of Mr Xavier Gizard, Secretary General of the CPMR, in the BSC Executive Committee meeting in Umeå on 27 May 2003 the Seminar Day on 3 June 2004 connected to the 9th BSC General Assembly will be devoted to the new member states of the European Union. The seminar programme as **appendix 14**

The Region of South-West Finland has kindly expressed its interest to host the 10th BSC General Assembly in Turku, Finland in 2005.

Proposal: The Executive Secretary will give the latest information to the Executive Committee concerning timetable and programme of the 9th BSC General Assembly in Schwerin. The Executive Committee notices the kind offer of the region of South-West Finland to host the 10th BSC General Assembly in Turku, Finland in 2005.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The Executive Committee thanked the kind offer of South-West Finland presented by Mr Rönholm and recommends the General Assembly to accept the offer of South-West Finland to host the 10th BSC General Assembly in Turku, South-West Finland (FI) on 2-3 June 2005.

88 § **Any other business**

Proposal: Two following issues were added which the Executive Committee will discuss

1. the request of the Regional Council of Itä-Uusimaa/Finland on 25 March 2004 as a member of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission for

statement from the Executive Committee of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission regarding the plans of the report initiated by the Ministry of Interior in Finland to develop the co-operation in the Helsinki area with possible needed legal changes which might influence on the administrative rights of the Region and Regional Council of Itä-Uusimaa. Additional appendix delivered to the Members of the Executive Committee in the meeting. **Additional appendix.**

2. the proposal of the Västerbotten Region/Sweden for the statement of the Executive Committee on the restrictions on the free movement of labour in the enlarged European Union.

Final decision:

- 1) The Executive Committee decided to make a statement regarding the administrative rights of the regions and address the letter to the Regional Council of Itä-Uusimaa.
- 2) The Executive Committee decided to make a statement opposing the restrictions on the free movement of labour in the enlarged European Union. The Executive Secretariat will make a press release on the statement and also send the statement to the all governments of the Baltic Sea States.

89 §

Next meeting

Proposal:

Next meeting will be held with the new BSC Executive Committee on 4 June 2004 in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) in connection with the 9th BSC General Assembly.

Final decision:

The proposal was adopted.

90 §

Closing the meeting

Proposal:

The President will close the meeting

Final decision:

The President closed the meeting at 5.50 pm. Mr Anders Gustâv, President of the Baltic Sea Commission, stressed in his closing words that the Executive Committee of the Baltic Sea Commission has found the right working methods. He also said that the enlargement of the European Union with its new Member States creates a very new situation for the Baltic Sea Commission. He also stressed that the regions of the new EU Member States in the Baltic Sea area should be encouraged to become members and more active in the Baltic Sea Commission and also reminded of the importance to activate St. Petersburg to become a member in the Baltic Sea Commission.