



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Executive Committee Visby Gotland (S) Minutes

Time: 14 October 2004, 10 a.m. – 3.20 p.m.

Venue: Wisby hotel, Erlanderska rummet, Visby, Gotland (S)

Participants:

Members:

Substitutes:

Roll call

(x)	Mr Inge ANDERSSON Västerbotten (S)	The President		
(x)	Ms Bente NIELSEN Århus (DK)	The Vice President	(x)	Mr Jørgen KVIST Bornholm (DK)
(x)	Mr Dirk FRASSMAN Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)		()	Mr Wolf BORN Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)
(x)	Ms Valli LAAS Ida-Virumaa (EST)		()	Ms Reet KOKOVKIN Hiiumaa (EST)
(x)	Mr Mikko RÖNNHOLM South-West Finland (FI)		(x)	Ms Christel LILJESTRÖM Itä-Uusimaa (FI)
(x)	Mr Ilgonis STEINBERGS Riga District (LV)		()	Mr Andris KAZINOVSKIS Balvi (LV)
()	Ms Virginija LUKOSIENE Klaipėda (LT)		(x)	Ms Dalia MAKUSKIENE Klaipėda (LT)
(x)	Ms Kjersti MARKUSSON Nordland (N)		(x)	Mr Per STRØMHAUG Nordland (N)
()	Mr Wojciech KWIATKOWSKI Podlaskie (PL)		()	Ms Grazyna SZAJSTEK Podlaskie (PL)
()	Ms Inger LINGE Stockholm(S)		(x)	Mr Jan LUNDGREN Gotland (S)

Secretariat:

(x)	Mr Marko MÄLLY	Executive Secretary
(x)	Ms Kati Oja	Assistant of the BSC Secretariat

Other participants:

- | | |
|--|--|
| (x) Mr Patrick ANVROIN,
Director, CPMR | (x) Mr Tommy KARLSSON,
Stockholm County (S) |
| (x) Mr Tomas GUSTAFSSON,
Västerbotten (S) | (x) Ms Annemarie ELVERUM,
Århus County (DK) |
| () Ms Grenada DEMAKINA
Riga District (LV) | (x) Mr Saulius CIPARIS,
Klaipeda (LT) |
| (x) Mr Pau Puig I SCOTONI,
Catalonia (SP) | |

11 § Opening the meeting

Proposal: The President will open the meeting.

Final decision: Mr Inge Andersson, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission opened the meeting. Mr Jan Lundgren did welcome the guests warmly to Gotland.

12 § Adopting of the agenda

Proposal: The Executive Committee will adopt the agenda.

Final decision: The Executive Committee did adopt the Agenda with amendment by Ms Bente Nielsen, Århus (DK) concerning the E-health in the Baltic Sea Area.

13 § Minutes of the previous meeting

The previous meeting was held in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, on 4 June 2004. **Appendix1**

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

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

14 § 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. Ms Bente Nielsen, Århus (DK) did introduce the problematic especially touching the Danish and Norwegian regions on the drafted map on transnational co-operation.

15 § Activity report: summer 2004 – autumn 2004 (June 4 – October 14)

- 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)
- 8 October, Seminar on Transnational Co-operation and Maritime Safety, Poitiers (France), organised jointly by Poitou-Charentes Region and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) **Additional Appendix1.**

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

Final decision: The activity report summer/autumn 2004 was recorded as information in the minutes.

16 § Implementing Visions and Objectives of the Baltic Sea Commission

The BSC General Assembly did adopt the new Action Plan “Visions and Objectives” of the Baltic Sea Commission in the 9th BSC General Assembly in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern on 4 June 2004. President and Executive Secretary of the Baltic Sea Commission have prepared a plan for the implementation of the BSC Action Plan. Mr Inge Andersson, President of the Baltic Sea Commission, has introduced this document for discussion in the Pre-General Assembly of the Baltic Sea Commission in Stavanger, Norway on 22 September 2004. **Appendix2**

Proposal: The Executive Committee of the Baltic Sea Commission will discuss the document of implementation.

Final decision: The Executive Committee did have a discussion on the implementation of the new Action Plan “Visions and Objectives” of the Baltic Sea Commission. Mr President and Executive Secretary did represent the implementation plan. It was decided that the BSC Secretariat will draft a list of organisations of co-operation for sharing the responsibilities among the BSC Executive Committee members to observe these organisations. This list will be represented in the next Executive Committee meeting in Riga (LV) on 25 February 2005. This list of priority will also be delivered to the Executive Committee members in advance. The Executive Committee adopted the implementation plan with some small adjustments that were put forward under the meeting.

17 § Conference on Maritime Safety in Brussels

Proposal: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has introduced in the BSC Executive Committee meeting in Schwerin on 4 June 2004 a plan of organising a conference on Maritime Safety in Brussels. The main objectives of the conference are to raise awareness for the need to apply and to enforce effectively EU legislation on maritime safety (Erika Packages); take stock of successes and deficits in this field; analysis of existing structures and activities (international, EU, regional). Set priorities in further actions to be taken and identify the best method/instruments and the appropriate forum and level (EU-IMO-regional...) to

do so.

Maritime safety is a question of vital interest not only for the North German Länder and its neighbours in the Baltic Sea Region, but for maritime regions all over Europe. The need for action on the international or European level is evident for the citizen: People living in coastal areas are more and more concerned about the danger they are facing and therefore they are right in claiming rapid and efficient action to improve maritime safety. Accidents are damaging the environment as well as the economy, in particular fisheries, aquaculture and tourism in the affected regions. Following the Erika and Prestige accidents, activities have increased in different fora and on different levels such as IMO, ILO, EU, HELCOM and national bodies. Several conferences have taken place (the most recent ones in Nantes, Kiel, Trelleborg and Poitiers, state: Sept. 2004) where a number of abstract or concrete problems have been identified and actions proposed. There is a vast amount of existing regulations and new demands for more maritime safety on different levels (international, European, regional, national). Some aspects, nevertheless, need a closer consideration, and the conference should give the opportunity to do so.

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern asks from the Executive Committee of the Baltic Sea Commission:

- a declaration from the Executive Committee to support organizing the conference
- a recommendation of the Executive Committee to the member regions to supply their regions logos for the conference material. **Appendix3**

Final decision:

Mr Dirk Frassmann from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern did represent the draft programme of the Maritime Safety Conference in Brussels on 16 March 2005. The BSC Executive Committee did give its declaration and its full support for organising this conference and recommended its member regions to supply their regions logos for the conference material. The BSC Secretariat will collect these logos for the use of this conference.

18 §

Information meetings for Estonian and Latvian regions. BSC seminar in Riga in connection to the BSC Executive Committee meeting in February 2005.

The Riga District Council has proposed a seminar to be organised in connection to the BSC Executive Committee meeting in Riga in February 2005. It is also planned to organise an information meeting about the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission for Latvian regions in connection to this meeting. A similar information meeting is also planned to be organised in Estonia before the meetings in Latvia.

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss these coming meetings in Estonia and Latvia.

Final decision: Mr Ilgonis Steinbergs from Riga District (LV) did make a kind offer to organise a seminar in connection to the next Executive Committee meeting with title "The role of the democratic regions in the new EU member states". The Cross Border Co-operation working group of the Baltic Sea Commission will help the Riga District Council in organising this seminar. In connection to the Executive Committee meeting and the above mentioned seminar on 24-25 February 2005, an information event about the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission will also be organised for the Latvian regions. A similar information event will also be organised earlier in February 2005 in Estonia for Estonian regions.

19 § **Reports from the BSC Working Groups**

1) Cross Border Co-operation 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 European Union.

In its first meeting of the period 2004-2006 on 6 September 2004 in Turku, South-West Finland, the Cross Border Co-operation Working Group discussed about its working plan. The working group discussed the future tasks and came to a conclusion to

- monitor the development of the new programmes (Neighbourhood Policy/Interreg) and organise a working group meeting in Brussels with the EU Commission representatives in spring 2005.
- organise a seminar for the role of the democratic regions in the new EU Member States during the year 2005 in Latvia.
- promote the co-operation on external borders
- plan to the BSC Member Regions a common project including project information/exchange, organising events/conference, training of specialists, taking into consideration the role of Euroregions, help to strengthen the role of regions in general and especially on the EU external borders as well as working out a strategy for cross border co-operation.

The BSC Cross Border Co-operation working group asks for the support and advice from the BSC Executive Committee to organise a seminar for the role of the democratic regions in the new EU Member States in Latvia and starting the planning of a common project for the BSC Member regions.

The BSC Cross Border Co-operation working group will organise the coming meetings in the border regions of the Baltic Sea Commission. The next meeting

will be organised in Bialystok, Podlaskie Voivodeship (PL) in November 2004.

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 application for seed money for the Interreg-project "Intermodality and operability in the Baltic Sea area" was approved in spring 2004. A small task force of the BSC Transport Working Group members has been established for planning the project process ahead and the group has had one meeting in Riga on 17 May and a working group meeting in Uppsala on 17 September 2004. A draft report of the transport challenges in the Baltic Sea Area has been prepared by the working group. **Appendix4**

3) Human Resources and Employment Intercom Group

Nordland County Council has been willing to take the responsibility to establish a working group dealing with Human Resources and Employment issues. In practice the task will be handled by the Employment office of Nordland County, who has expressed positive interest to take on the job and also has good experience with international employment issues and labour exchange. They have also been taking part in Interreg-projects in the Barents area and through this obtained experience in working internationally in this field, including co-operation with Russian employment organisations.

Nordland has taken initiative to work out a draft description of the possible mandate for a such working group and organise a meeting to discuss the mandate, organisation and other matters with relevant partners within the Baltic Sea Commission. At this first meeting it is very important to have broad representation from the regions both from political and administrative level, but also other regional partners like employment offices, educational institutions, employers and employees organisations (including associations of regional and local authorities) etc. If this meeting confirms the interest and need for a such group, it seems relevant to try to establish a project financed by Interreg- or EEA-money.

The work of this group should of course be seen in close relation to the CPMR "Human Resources and Employment Intercom Group" and also have links to the Baltic Sea Commission "Cross Border Co-operation Working Group". The first working group meeting will be organised in Visby, Gotland (S) on 15 October 2004.

Proposal: The persons responsible will report about the current working situation of the BSC working groups.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The reports about the current working situation of the BSC working groups was recorded as information.

20 § **Fisheries co-operation in the Baltic Sea area and the nominations to the CPMR Fisheries InterCommission Working Group**

Mr Rolf Gydemo has sent the enclosed report about the status of fisheries in the Baltic Sea Area. **Appendix 5**

The CPMR has asked its Geographical Commissions to nominate two members and two substitute members to the new InterCom Fisheries working group. Mr Rolf Gydemo from Gotland (S) and Mr Kjell Nybacka from Ostrobothnia (FIN) have expressed their interest to become members in this working group. Both of them have also worked in the previous CPMR InterCom Fisheries working group as the representatives of the Baltic Sea Commission. There are no candidates so far to the substitute members.

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss the fisheries situation in the Baltic Sea Area and will make nominations to the CPMR InterCom Fisheries working group.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The BSC Executive Committee did nominate Mr Rolf Gydemo from Gotland (S) and Mr Kjell Nybacka from Ostrobothnia (FIN) as members representing the Baltic Sea Commission in the new CPMR InterCom Fisheries working group. No substitute members were nominated.

21 § **The SEAPLANE Project**

The Seaplane Project of the EU Interreg III B programme has introduced a resolution to the Commission of the European Union, DG TREN, dated 14 May 2004 in the 32nd CPMR General Assembly in Stavanger, Rogaland, Norway on 22-24 September 2004. Though the CPMR Political Bureau in its meeting on 23 September 2004 did decide to postpone this resolution to be discussed in the next Political Bureau meeting in Galicia, Spain, on 14 January 2005 to receive possible comments of the CPMR Geographical Commissions. The material of the resolution on the Seaplane Project enclosed. **Appendix 6**

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss the resolution and make decision on making possible amendments.

Final decision: The BSC Executive Committee did discuss the resolution and did decide to give it over for the discussion in the BSC transport working group for receiving comments on this resolution and for forming the common statement from the Baltic Sea Commission until mid of November.

22 § **North – South Dialogue**

Mr Pau Puig i Scotoni will make a presentation of a discussion under way in the Secretariat for International Relations of Catalonia on the need of formulating a coherent policy for the Baltic Sea region ("Towards a Catalan policy for the Baltic Sea Region"). His starting point is that the discussion on the Baltic is determined by Catalonia's interest in a stable and prosperous Mediterranean region. In Catalonia, namely, it is believed that -if the Barcelona Process is ever

to succeed- Northern Europe must get more directly involved in it.

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss the subject and record the presentation as information in the minutes.

Final decision: The presentation was recorded as information in the minutes. Mr President thanked Mr Pau Puig i Scotoni for his very interesting speech and supported the idea of strengthening the North-South dialogue in the Baltic Sea Commission.

23 § The 10th BSC General Assembly in Naantali, South-West Finland (FIN) on 26-28 May 2005

The region of South-West Finland will kindly organise the 10th BSC General Assembly in Naantali (FIN) on 26-28 May 2005. The Regional Council of South-West Finland has started the planning of the General Assembly. The first day will be devoted to a seminar and the Regional Council of South-West Finland has proposed "the Motorways of Seas and the environmental protection of the Baltic Sea" as the seminar themes.

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss the preparations of the 10th BSC General Assembly.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The President did stress the importance of media contacts in preparation of the 10th BSC General Assembly.

24 § Substitute to the President of the Baltic Sea Commission in the CPMR Political Bureau meetings

Proposal: Mr Inge Andersson, President of the Baltic Sea Commission, gave, at the previous meeting, a proposal that Mr Kwiatkowski from the Podlaskie Voivodeship in Poland would be his substitute at the CPMR Political Bureau meetings. Mr Kwiatkowski had to confirm his possibility to attend the CPMR Political Bureau meetings as the substitute of the President of the Baltic Sea Commission. At the time of this Baltic Sea Commission meeting no confirmation has been received from Mr Kwiatkowski.

Final decision: The Executive Committee discussed the matter and did nominate Ms Valli Laas, Ida-Virumaa (EST) as the substitute of the President of the Baltic Sea Commission in the CPMR Political Bureau meetings. Ms Valli Laas is also a member of the BSC Executive Committee.

25 § Coming events 2004

- 15 October, BSC Human Resources and Employment Working Group, Visby, Gotland (S)
- 21-22 October, Seminar on Inter-regional Co-operation, Sicily (I)
- 3-4 November, HELCOM, Heads of Delegation, Helsinki (FIN)
- 14 January, Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Galicia (SP)
- 25 February, Executive Committee meeting of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Riga, Riga District (LV)

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

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

26 § Any other business

1) Application for membership in the Baltic 21

Baltic 21 has been established following decision taken by the heads of government of the Baltic Sea States during their summit in 1996. It is the Baltic Sea Region multistakeholder forum for sustainable development. Its members are the CBSS states, the European Commission and a number of intergovernmental organisations, international financial institutions and international networks of regional and local authorities, businesses and NGOs – all on equal footing. Baltic 21 focuses on eight sectors: Agriculture, Energy, Fisheries, Forests, Industry, Tourism, Transport and Education, as well as Spatial Planning

The membership criteria is as following:

An organization wanting to become a member of the SOG shall:

- Be active in at least half of the Baltic 21 countries
- Have competence relevant for the Baltic 21 process
- Be willing and able to contribute to the sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region and the implementation of Baltic 21.

If the organization does not participate in three consecutive SOG meetings, the organization will be given the opportunity to explain its absence. In case the organization does not participate at the following meeting, it will be excluded from the SOG.

The Senior Officials Group (SOG) is the steering group for the Baltic 21 process. It works in accordance with the Terms of Reference as set out in the main Baltic 21 document (para. 10.2.1.3). It consists of representatives of:

- The governments of the eleven countries of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)
- The European Commission
- Intergovernmental Organizations
- International Financial Institutions
- International Sub-state and City Networks
- International Business Networks
- International Academic Network

- International Environmental Non-governmental Organisations

Baltic 21 Sector and Spatial Planning Lead Parties and Responsible Actors for Joint Actions are also members of the Senior Officials Group. The membership in the SOG is open to all organisations that meet the SOG Membership Criteria. The SOG elects the SOG Chairman; the chairmanship rotates between countries and the European Commission with a period of two years. The SOG also elects the SOG Bureau. For more information please visit the web pages of Baltic 21 on www.baltic21.net **Additional Appendix2.**

2) Baltic E-Health and telemedicine

Ms Bente Nielsen, Århus (DK) did represent the importance of the Baltic E-Health and telemedicine to be discussed in the Baltic Sea Commission.

Proposal:

1) The Executive Committee will discuss the possible membership in the Baltic 21 process. The BSC Secretariat is prepared to hand in application to the Baltic 21 Secretariat. New membership applications will be discussed early spring next year 2005 in the Baltic 21 process and the next SOG meeting where the Baltic Sea Commission could participate will be organised in the beginning of May 2005. The BSC Executive Committee is also able to choose its representatives to Baltic 21 process in its next meeting in Riga on 25 February 2005.

2) An expert on Baltic E-health and telemedicine will be invited to the next Executive Committee meeting in Riga on 25 February 2005.

Final decision:

1) As pointed out in the 16§ the BSC Secretariat will draft a list of organisations of co-operation for sharing the responsibilities among the BSC Executive Committee members to observe these organisations. Due to this the Executive Committee did decide to carry over the question of applying the membership in the Baltic 21 process to the next BSC Executive Committee meeting in Riga on 25 February 2005.

2) The proposal was adopted.

27 §

Closing the meeting

Proposal:

The President will close the meeting.

Final decision:

The President did close the meeting at 3.20 p.m. The Executive Committee will meet next time in Riga (LV) on 25 February 2005.