



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Executive Committee Riga Riga District (LV) Minutes

Time: 25 February 2005, 1 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.

Venue: Hotel Konventa Seta, Riga (LV)

Participants:

Members:

Substitutes:

Roll call

(x)	Mr Inge ANDERSSON Västerbotten (S)	The President		
(x)	Ms Bente NIELSEN Århus (DK)	The Vice President	()	Mr Jørgen KVIST Bornholm (DK)
()	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)		()	Ms Christel LILJESTRÖM Itä-Uusimaa (FI)
()	Mr Ilgonis STEINBERGS Riga District (LV)		()	Mr Andris KAZINOVSKIS Balvi (LV)
()	Ms Virginija LUKOSIENE Klaipėda (LT)		()	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)
(x)	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:

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| (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) |
| (x) Ms Grenada DEMAKINA
Riga District (LV) | (x) Mr Marek MACIEJOWSKI,
Head of Unit,
Baltic 21 Secretariat |
| (x) Mr Hannu ELO,
South-West Finland (FI) | (x) Mr Claes KULLBERG,
Gotland (S) |
| (x) Mr Jörgen NIEMANN,
Västra Götaland (S) | |

28 § 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.

29 § Adopting of the agenda

Proposal: The Executive Committee will adopt the agenda.

Final decision: The Executive Committee did adopt the Agenda with amendment by the President, Mr Inge Andersson, concerning the support for the BalticMaster project application prepared by the Blekinge Region (S).

30 § Minutes of the previous meeting

The previous meeting was held in Visby, Gotland, Sweden, on 15 October 2004. **Appendix 1**

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

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

31 § 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. The presentation enclosed in the minutes.

32 § Activity report: autumn 2004 – winter 2005 (October 15 – February 24)

- 15 October, BSC Human Resources and Employment Working Group,

- Visby, Gotland (S)
- 21-22 October, Seminar on Inter-regional Co-operation, Sicily (I)
 - 4-5 November, HELCOM, Heads of Delegation, Helsinki (FI)
 - 23 November, Baltic Sea Region – Perspective 2010, Brussels (B)
 - 29 November, BSC Cross Border Co-operation Working Group, Bialystok, Podlaskie Voivodeship (PL)
 - 2-3 December, Seagull Conference: Actions for Sustainable Growth in Euroregion Baltic, Gdansk (PL)
 - 8-9 December, Midterm Conference Barents 2010, Kajaani (FI)
 - 14 January, Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Galicia (SP)
 - 19 January, CPMR/BSC information event for Swedish regions, Grand Hôtel, Stockholm (S)
 - 25 January, meeting of the partners of the Europe of the Sea project, Brussels (B)
 - 31 January – 3 February, CPMR/BSC Information Tour in Estonia, Tallinn, Pärnumaa, Hiiumaa and Ida-Virumaa (EST)
 - 18 February, BSC/NSC joint meeting, Århus (DK)
 - 24 February, BSC Human Resources and Employment Working Group, Riga, Riga District (LV)
 - 24 February, CPMR/BSC Information event for Latvian regions, Riga, Riga District (LV)
 - 24-25 February, Conference on the Democratic Role of the Regions, Riga, Riga District (LV)

Proposal: The persons responsible will inform about the above mentioned events during autumn 2004/winter 2005. The information will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The activity report autumn 2004/winter 2005 was recorded as information in the minutes.

33 § Membership fee of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

The current annual BSC membership fee for regions in EU member countries 1600 € and for regions in non-EU countries 400 € was decided in the General Assembly in Klaipeda (LV) in year 2002. In the year 2004 several Baltic Sea countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland have joined the European Union and due to this there is a need for changes in the membership fee for the regions in the new EU member states. The changes in the membership fee would concern the budgetary year 2006. The statutes of the BSC and CPMR enclosed as **appendices 2 and 3**

Proposal: The President of the Baltic Sea Commission proposes as the basis for the discussion for changing the BSC membership fee the current principle used in the CPMR statutes in defining the CPMR membership fee. Article 11 of the CPMR statutes says that “for regions of EU Member States with a GDP below 50% of the Community average, membership dues shall be equal to 50% of the fees normally payable.” If the annual BSC membership fee 1600 euros shall be maintained also in year 2006 unchanged, the regions of EU Member States with a GDP below 50% of the Community average should pay 800 euros in year 2006. The GDP level of regions of EU25 enclosed as **appendix 4**. The

Executive Committee will discuss the changes in the BSC membership fee and make a proposal to the BSC General Assembly in Naantali for a new rule regarding the BSC membership fee.

**Final
decision:**

The Executive Committee did decide to propose to the 10th General Assembly of the Baltic Sea Commission that the membership fee of the Baltic Sea Commission shall be maintained unchanged in 1600 euros in year 2006. For the regions of EU Member States with a GDP below 50% of the Community average, membership dues shall be equal to 50% of the fees normally payable. Though the Executive Committee did decide to propose to the 10th BSC General Assembly that the membership fee of the regions with a GDP below 50% of the Community average should rise gradually only with 100 euros annually. In other words the regions with a GDP below 50% of the Community average will pay 500 euros in year 2006 and 600 euros in year 2007 etc. up to the 50% of the annual membership fee normally payable.

34 §

Co-operation with other Baltic Sea organisations

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission states in its Action Plan “Visions and Objectives of the Baltic Sea Commission” to strengthen exchange of information and recognition from other actors in the Baltic Sea Area. Various organisations in the Baltic Sea Area are working with regional and local co-operation. It is important to co-operate closely with them, especially as many regions are members of different organisations. It is important for the Baltic Sea Commission to be benchmarking and exchanging information with other Baltic Sea organisations.

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission is at the moment observer in HELCOM – the Baltic Marine Environment Commission and CBSS – Council of Baltic Sea States. It has also been closely following the work of the BSPC – Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, VASAB 2010, UBC – Union of Baltic Cities, BSSSC – Baltic Sea States Subregional Conference, Baltic 21 Process and B7 - Baltic Sea Seven Islands. Further there are important organisations in the Baltic Sea area like e.g. BCCA - Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association, BDF - Baltic Development Forum, Baltic Sea NGO Forum and Baltic Sea Trade Union Network. **Appendices 5 and 6.**

Proposal:

The Executive Committee will discuss the list prepared by the BSC Secretariat about the priority of the organizations to be observed and nominate among its members contact persons for respective Baltic Sea organizations.

Final decision:

1) The Executive Committee did discuss the list prepared by the BSC Secretariat about the priority of the organizations to be observed. The Executive Committee did choose eight organizations to be observed more closely, and in the next meeting in Naantali, Southwest Finland (FI) contact persons for these respective Baltic Sea organizations will be nominated among the BSC Executive Committee members (please note in the minutes enclosed the priority list of organizations).

2) On 18 February 2005 a joint meeting was organised between Baltic Sea and North Sea Commissions in Århus, Denmark. (Please see the additional appendix 1). Mr President did report about the results of this meeting, and the Executive Committee did nominate two persons (one politician and one official) responsible from the Baltic Sea Commission on each of the following co-operation areas for further discussions and development of co-operation between Baltic Sea and North Sea Commissions:

Transport: Ms Bente Nielsen, Århus (DK)
Mr Per Strømhaug, Nordland (N)

Demographic change: Ms Inger Linge, Stockholm (S)
Mr Tommy Karlsson, Stockholm (S)

Environment: Ms Valli Laas, Ida-Virumaa (EST)
NN, to be nominated

35 §**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, Southwest 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 on 10 May 2005.
- organise a seminar for the role of the democratic regions on 24-25 February 2005 in Riga, 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 next meeting will be organised in on 10 May 2005 in Brussels. This meeting will be devoted on the financial instruments of the European territorial co-operation.

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. The working group is now in the process of producing a project description and application. The deadline for applications for the next round is 7 March 2005. Draft project description as **appendix 7.**

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

It is very important to have broad representation in the working group 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.

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 working group meetings were organised in Visby, Gotland (S) on 15 October 2004 and in Riga on 24 February 2005.

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.

36 § Nominations to the CPMR Energy InterCommission Working Group

The Stavanger conference in September 2004 confirmed that CPMR member regions are interested in renewable energy issues and sustainable

development. It is important to respond to this interest by identifying the areas where the CPMR could act most usefully and by preparing an action programme.

The CPMR's two traditional fields of action are the promotion of interregional cooperation between its members on the one hand, and political lobbying of national and EU authorities on the other hand. The expertise on energy issues of the members of this new working group is stressed by the CPMR.

Several Baltic Sea Regions are interested to take part in the work of this working group. The CPMR Secretariat has informed on 10-11 February 2005 the Executive Secretaries in Rennes about the establishment of this new working group.

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss the possible nominations of the Baltic Sea Commission to this working group on the basis of information received in Rennes on 10-11 February 2005.

Final decision: Five member regions of the Baltic Sea Commission: Southwest Finland (FI), Norrbotten (S), Nordland (N), Gotland (S) and Århus (DK) have expressed their interest to participate in the new CPMR InterCom working group on energy. The Executive Committee did not nominate a specific region to represent Baltic Sea Commission in this working group.

37 § Membership in the Baltic 21 process

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

Proposal: Mr Marek Maciejowski, Head of Unit of the Baltic 21 Secretariat will have a short presentation about the Baltic 21 process. The Executive Committee will discuss the possible membership in the Baltic 21 process.

Final decision: Mr Marek Maciejowski, Head of Unit of the Baltic 21 Secretariat did have a short presentation about the Baltic 21 process. The Executive Committee did decide to apply membership in the Baltic 21 process.

38 § The 10th BSC General Assembly in Naantali, South-West Finland (FIN) on 26-28 May 2005 and the next BSC Executive Committee meetings.

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 preparing the programme for the seminar "Motorways of the Baltic Sea and Nature Conservation" and for the coming General Assembly Day.

Proposal: The BSC Secretariat will inform about the draft programme for the seminar and the 10th BSC General Assembly. The Executive Committee will discuss the preparations of the 10th BSC General Assembly. The Executive Committee will also decide the dates for the coming Executive Committee meetings for spring 2005 and discuss the hosting region of the BSC General Assembly in year 2006.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. Mr Hannu Elo, Senior Advisor, Regional Council of South-West Finland did give a report about the preparations for the 10th BSC General Assembly. The next Executive Committee meeting will be organised in connection to the 10th General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission on 27 May 2005 in Naantali, Southwest Finland. A member region is searched for hosting the 11th BSC General Assembly in 2006. Nordland region (N) kindly expressed its interest for hosting the 12th BSC General Assembly in 2007.

39 § **Coming events 2005**

- 1 March, HELCOM Conference on Maritime safety and Response Issue, Helsinki (FI)
- 1-2 March, HELCOM, Heads of Delegation, Helsinki (FI)
- 11 March, CPMR Seminar on the Regional Dimension in Research, Valencia (SP)
- 16 March, “Erika, Prestige, Baltic Carrier – Is Maritime Safety under Control?- Example of the Baltic Sea Region” – Seminar organised by the North German Länder in co-operation with the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Brussels (B)
- 18 April, CPMR Seminar on Regional State Aid and Territorial Cohesion, Oviedo, Asturias (E)
- 10 May, BSC Cross Border Co-operation working group, Brussels (B)
- 25 May, BSC Human Resources and Employment Working Group, Turku/Naantali, South-West Finland (FI)
- 26 May, BSC Seminar on Motorways of the Baltic Sea and Nature Conservation, Naantali, South-West Finland (FI)
- 27-28 May, 10th General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Naantali, South-West Finland (FI)
- 15-17 June, NSC General Assembly, Middleburg, Zeeland (NL)
- 24 June, CPMR Political Bureau, Galati –Tulcea (RO)
- 6 July, Almedalsvecka – BSC Seminar, Visby, Gotland (S)
- 26-28 October, 33rd CPMR General Assembly, Madeira (P)
- 25-26 November, CPMR seminar on “Consequences of Climate Change on the Regions”, Marseille, PACA (F)

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

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. Mr Claes Kullberg, Gotland (S) told that the preparations for the BSC Seminar on 6 July 2005 during the Almedalsvecka in Visby, Gotland, have been started. The Executive Committee discussed the theme of this seminar and proposed the research dimension and the environmental state of the Baltic Sea as a theme.

40 § **Changes in the Baltic Sea Commission member region list**

The CPMR Political Bureau warmly welcomed 14 January 2005 South-Swedish region **Blekinge (S)** with its capital Karlskrona as a new CPMR member.

Unfortunately the Ölands Kommunalförbund (Öland Local Federation of Local Authorities) has withdrawn from the member list of the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission. In the letter from the political board of the Ölands Kommunalförbund was stressed that the cancellation of the membership of CPMR has nothing to do with any kind of dissatisfaction with the organisation, on the contrary Ölands Kommunalförbund has found it most useful and interesting, the decision is only based upon an extremely difficult and urgent financial situation.

The total number of CPMR member regions is currently 150 of which we have in the BSC 29 member regions. **Appendix 8**

Blekinge 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 and the Executive Committee will invite Blekinge as a new BSC member region to present itself in the next BSC General Assembly in Naantali on 27 May 2005.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

41 § Any other business

Mr Inge Andersson, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, did propose to the agenda the request from the Blekinge region (S) that the BSC Executive Committee would support the Baltic MaSTER project application with a Letter of Intent. The Baltic MaSTER (Maritime Safety - Transport and Environment in the South Baltic Sea Region) project represents an international partnership of 43 bodies representing local and regional organisations, national authorities and institutes of higher education. This project will deal with maritime safety from a local and regional point of view, with focus on the southern Baltic Sea area. The project will also be a contribution to EU's green paper discussion.

Proposal: The Executive Committee will support the Baltic MaSTER project with a Letter of Intent without any financial responsibilities.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

42 § Closing the meeting

Proposal: The President will close the meeting

Final decision: The President did close the meeting at 3.45 p.m. The Executive Committee will meet next time in Naantali, South-West Finland (FI) on 27 May 2005.

