



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Executive Committee Brussels (B) Minutes

Time: 16 February 2006, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. (first part), lunch 12.10-12.45 a.m.; continued 12.45 p.m – 2 p.m. (second part)

Venue: CPMR Office in Brussels, 14, Rond-Point Schuman, 1040 BRUXELLES

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) |
| (x) | Ms Melanie WÜRZ
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) | | () | Mr Wolf BORN
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) |
| () | NN
(EST) | | () | Ms Reet KOKOVKIN
Hiiumaa (EST) |
| () | Mr Mikko RÖNNHOLM
South-West Finland (FI) | | (x) | Ms Christel LILJESTRÖM
Itä-Uusimaa (FI); arr. 10.40 a.m. |
| (x) | Mr Ilgonis STEINBERGS
Riga District (LV) | | () | NN
(LV) |
| () | Ms Virginija LUKOSIENE
Klaipėda (LT) | | () | Ms Dalia MAKUSKIENE
Klaipėda (LT) |
| (x) | Mr Geir-Ketil HANSEN
Nordland (N) | | () | Ms Sonja A Steen
Nordland (N) |
| () | Mr Wojciech KWIATKOWSKI
Podlaskie (PL) | | () | Ms Grazyna SZAJSTEK
Podlaskie (PL) |
| (x) | Ms Inger LINGE
Stockholm (S); dep. 1.55 p.m. | | () | Mr Jan LUNDGREN
Gotland (S) |

Secretariat:

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|-----|----------------|----------------------------------|
| (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) |
| () Mr Tomas GUSTAFSSON,
Västerbotten (S) | (x) Ms Annemarie ELVERUM,
Århus County (DK) |
| () Ms Grenada DEMAKINA,
Riga District (LV) | (x) Ms Cecilia KARLBERG,
Norrtälje (S); arr. 9.55 a.m. |
| (x) Mr Per STRØMHAUG,
InterBaltic project | (x) Mr Thomas G. FRIIS KONST,
Stockholm Brussels EU-Office (S) |
| (x) Ms Silja KASSMAN,
CPMR Brussels Office | (x) Ms Anne BERG,
North Norway EU-Office |
| (x) Mr Jörgen NIEMANN,
Västra Götaland (S) | |

68 § 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 at 9.00 a.m.

69 § Adopting of the agenda

Proposal: The Executive Committee will adopt the agenda.

Final decision: The Executive Committee did adopt the agenda.

70 § Minutes of the previous meeting

The previous meeting was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 7 October 2005.
Appendix1

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

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

71 § CPMR activities

Mr Patrick Anvoin, Director, will give an account of the current CPMR activities including preparations for the green paper of the European maritime policy and white book on European transport policy. **Appendix2-5**

Proposal: The presentation of Mr Patrick Anvoin will be recorded for information in the minutes. The Executive Committee will discuss the draft documents on these European policy issues and the measures how the Baltic Sea Commission may influence on them.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. Ms Inger Linge, Stockholm (S) did stress that also in the future CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission should stress the role of islands and ultra peripheral regions, also taking in account their harsh natural conditions especially during the winter time in the Baltic Sea Area.

72 § Activity report: autumn 2005 – winter 2006 (October 7 – February 16)

- 20-22 October, BSSSC Annual Conference, Stettin (PL)
- 2 November, BSC Pre-General Assembly, Ursa Menor Room, Floor-1 (16.00-17.00), Madeira (P)
- 2-4 November, 33rd CPMR General Assembly, Madeira (P)
- 25-26 November, Barcelona +10 process, EUROMED, Regional Conference, Barcelona (SP)
- 28-29 November, Euroregio Baltic Annual meeting, Klaipėda (LT)
- 1 December, B7 Annual Conference, Visby (S)
- 12-13 December, Heads of Delegation, HELCOM, Helsinki (FI)
- 31 January, the preparation meeting of the Baltic Sea Day in St. Petersburg on 22-23 March 2006, Helsinki (FI)
- 2 February, Extended Management Committee of the CPMR, Marseille (F)
- 3-4 February, Seminar: "The Coast under Threat. How will the maritime regions adapt to the future climate?", Marseille (F)

Proposal: The persons responsible will inform about the above mentioned events during autumn 2005/winter 2006. The information will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The activity report autumn 2005/winter 2006 was recorded as information in the minutes. The President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission did stress regarding the Barcelona +10 process that in the future also the representation of the Mediterranean regions in various BSC events would be important to further the North-South dialogue. The speech of Mr Inge Andersson in the EUROMED Regional Conference in Barcelona on 26 November 2006 enclosed. **Additional Appendix1**

73 § HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and the task force for the development of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Baltic Sea Marine Environment Commission (The Helsinki Commission) invites stakeholders from all riparian countries and international organizations to participate in the kick-off Stakeholder Conference on the development of the strategic Baltic Sea Action Plan, which will be held on the 7th March 2006 in Helsinki, Finland.

In 2005, the HELCOM Member States and the EU resolved to develop an innovative Baltic Sea Action Plan, to ensure that all possible measures are taken to reduce pollution in the Baltic Sea and to repair the damage done to the marine environment.

This plan is based on Ecological Objectives, which are defined to reflect a common vision of a healthy Baltic Sea. The Ecological Objectives and their associated indicators will be used to evaluate the efficiency of existing environmental measures and provide guidance for the development of future management measures for the region.

The development of the Action Plan will involve all the Baltic Sea coastal countries. Input and active participation from all major stakeholder groups in the region will also be required, to ensure that the Action Plan is relevant and can be effectively implemented in practice.

The overall aim of the Conference is to inform on the purpose and foreseen activities within the strategic HELCOM Action Plan to restore the Baltic marine environment, and to get input and commitments to its development at the local, national, and regional levels as well as from the private sector.

The Conference is considered as the starting point for the process to elaborate the environmental Baltic Sea Action Plan with active participation of all major stakeholder groups in the region. After a series of thematic meetings and a final Stakeholder Conference in March 2007 which will look into and review a first draft of a single Baltic Sea Action Plan the finalized environmental strategy will be adopted at a Ministerial HELCOM meeting currently planned for late 2007.

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss the actions of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission to be undertaken regarding the Baltic Sea Action Plan and nominate the representation of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission in the Kick-off Conference on 7 March 2006 and as well as in the task force for the development of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. **Appendix6**

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The invitation to the kick-off Stakeholder Conference on the development of the strategic HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan has been sent to the BSC Executive Committee. Ms Christel Liljeström, Vice-Member of the BSC Executive Committee and BSC contact person on HELCOM, Itä-Uusimaa/Östra Nyland (FI) was nominated as the representative of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission to the task force for the development of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

74 § High Level Group on the Extension of Major trans-European Transport Axes to Neighbouring Countries and Regions - Public Consultation

Ms Loyola de Palacio, Chair of the High Level Group on the Extension of Major trans-European Transport Axes to the Neighbouring Countries and Regions delivered its final report to Commissioner Jacques Barrot on 7 December 2005. The deadline for the public consultation on this final report had originally the date of 17 February, but is now postponed to 10 March 2006. As two of the four major axes defined in this report have direct influence for the Baltic Sea area, it could be very relevant for the Baltic Sea Commission to produce an answer to this public consultation. Please see for more information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/ten/transport/whatsnew/index_en.htm

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss this issue and asks the BSC transport working group to prepare an answer that could be given after a hearing among the members of the BSC to the European Commission.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The BSC Secretariat will send the answer prepared by the BSC Transport Working Group and commented by the BSC Member Regions and Executive Committee further to the European Commission.

75 § InterBaltic IIIB Interreg project

By initiative of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission a proposal has launched the project proposal on "Intermodality and Interoperability in the Baltic Sea area" to be financed under the Interreg III B Baltic Sea programme. The project period is 2 years ending 31 December 2007, and the main objective of the project is to promote shift of cargo transport from road to efficient intermodal sea/railway corridors.

Deadline for the 8. and last call for applications in the present Interreg-programme was 23 September 2005, and the project application included 43 partners from 10 countries and a total budget of 3 524 666 EUR.

The BSR INTERREG III B Steering Committee approved the project at its meeting in Øyer, Norway 9. December 2005 with a maximum amount of 1.883.333 EUR from ERDF, making the total budget just above 3 mill. EUR. The approval was made with some conditions and requests for clarification of some issues in the application. One condition was related to the budget that had to be reduced according to the figures above. For more information, please click www.cpmr.org (Geographical Commissions/Baltic Sea/Transport Working Group)

Proposal: Mr Per Strømhaug, project manager of the InterBaltic project, will present the working plan and new information regarding the InterBaltic project.

Final decision: The presentation of Mr Per Strømhaug, project manager of the InterBaltic project, was recorded as information in the minutes.

76 § Reports from the BSC Working Groups

Cross Border Co-operation Working Group (Ms Cecilia Karlberg)

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. Ms Cecilia Karlberg has started as the new chairperson representing the Stockholm region. The main objective of the working group is to concentrate on monitoring new EU cohesion policy and new programmes (Neighbourhood Policy/Interreg) during the year 2006. The last meeting was organised on 14 February 2006 in Stockholm Region's Brussels Office.

Appendix7

Proposal: Ms Cecilia Karlberg will report about the current working situation of the BSC Cross Border Co-operation working group.

Final decision: The report by Ms Cecilia Karlberg, Chairperson of the BSC Cross Border Co-operation working group, was recorded as information in the minutes. Presentation enclosed. **Additional Appendix2**

77 § Nominations to the working groups

a) 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.

The region of Norrbotten has informed the BSC Secretariat that Lars Sandström, Senior Advisor of County Council of Norrbotten was interested to join the CPMR Energy working group Steering Committee. As Norrbotten is very active in energy issues, this would improve the representation of the Baltic Sea area in the CPMR energy working group.

b) Reorganisation of the BSC Transport Working Group

The working group has unfortunately not been very active with regard to meetings in the period of preparations for the project "InterBaltic", and as the chairman now will be working full time on the project he suggests that the Executive Committee will find a replacement for the project period in order to secure organising of meetings and other activities in this period. Within the Executive Committee it has also been decided that the working groups in general should have a politician as Chairman (and also a Vice-Chairman) - preferably elected by and from the Executive Committee - for the groups according to the same model as in the North Sea Commission. This to secure

contact with the Executive Committee and also secure better political dialogue when presenting transport issues e.g. to national and international politicians (National transport ministries, EU, CPMR etc.). The day to day work like organising meetings, producing agendas and minutes from meetings, preparation of papers for political decisions etc. should in this case be lead by a "Working Group Co-ordinator" who also will take part in external meetings when needed. Meetings of more technical character within the working group could however be lead by the co-ordinator, and the co-ordinator should also represent the working group in external meetings of more technical character.

At the same time there should be good connections between the transport working group and the project "InterBaltic" since the project really is initiated by the working group. It is therefore suggested that the co-ordinator is appointed as member of the project's "Strategy Group" where also other pan-Baltic organisations like CBSS, BSSSC, VASAB, UBC, HELCOM and others will be invited. The project will also establish a High Level Group to which the Chairman could be appointed if also member of the Executive Committee.

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss the nominations to these working groups. The Executive Committee nominates a Chairman for the transport working group, and also appoints a co-ordinator. The present Chairman has suggested Ms Maria Öberg (former transport director in Västerbotten County Administration and now employed in Norrbotten County Council) as candidate for this position in his absence. She has been asked, and is willing to take this position.

Final decision:

- a) The BSC Executive Committee did unanimously support the membership of Mr Lars Sandström, Senior Advisor of County Council of Norrbotten, in the Steering Committee of the CPMR Energy working group.
- b) The BSC Executive Committee did unanimously nominate Mr Geir-Ketil Hansen, Member of the BSC Executive Committee, Nordland (N) as a new Chairman and Ms Maria Öberg, Norrbotten (S) as a new co-ordinator of the BSC Transport Working Group.

78 § Nominations and elections in Karlskrona, Blekinge (S) on 2 June 2006

The 11th BSC General Assembly will be held in Karlskrona, Blekinge (S) on 2 June 2006. 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.

Appendix8

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 27 BSC member regions will be informed by the BSC Executive Secretariat in February 2006 with a letter about this above mentioned procedure. **Appendix9**

Proposal: The Executive Committee will discuss

- the Presidency for 2006 – 2008
- the Vice-Presidency for 2006 – 2008
- 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) regarding the nomination of the Executive Secretary for 2006 – 2008 will be discussed. The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme will not any more continue to host the Secretariat to the following period 2006-2008. The Finnish CPMR Member Regions after their internal discussions express their wish that the BSC Secretariat could be transferred for the next period 2006-2008 to Sweden. During the transition period, if needed, the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme is prepared to host the Secretariat until the end of the year 2006.

Final decision:

Mr Inge Andersson, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, did inform that he will leave his post as the BSC President after the current period 2004-2006. Ms Bente Nielsen, Vice-President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, also did inform that she will leave her post as the BSC Vice-President after the current period 2004-2006. The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme had informed the BSC Executive Committee already earlier that it will not any more continue to host the Secretariat to the following period 2006-2008 but is prepared, if

needed, to host the Secretariat until the end of the year 2006 during the transition period.

The BSC Executive Committee did discuss nominations and elections in the 11th BSC General Assembly and recommends unanimously that the new BSC President will be elected from one of the Finnish member regions, the new BSC Vice-President will be elected from one of the Baltic or Polish member regions and the new hosting region for the BSC Secretariat will be nominated from one of the Swedish member regions. Ms Inger Linge, Stockholm Region (S) stated on behalf of the Swedish BSC member regions that the Swedish member regions support the candidacy of Ms Christel Liljeström, Itä-Uusimaa/Östra Nyland, for a new President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission for the period 2006-2008.

79 § Membership fee of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission 2007

The 10th General Assembly of the Baltic Sea Commission did decide for the membership fee of the Baltic Sea Commission in year 2006 for 1600 euros. 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. The membership fee of the regions with a GDP below 50% of the Community average should rise gradually 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.

Proposal: The Executive Committee proposes that the membership fee of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission shall be kept unchanged of 1600 euros in year 2007. The regions of EU Member States with a GDP below 50% of the Community average shall pay 600 euros in year 2007 based on the decision of the 10th General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

80 § The 11th BSC General Assembly in Karlskrona, Blekinge (S) on 1-2 June 2006 and the next BSC Executive Committee meetings.

The region of Blekinge (S) will kindly organise the 11th BSC General Assembly in Karlskrona (S) on 1-2 June 2006.

Proposal: The BSC Secretariat will inform about the draft programme for the seminar and the 11th BSC General Assembly. The Executive Committee will discuss the preparations of the 11th BSC General Assembly. The Executive Committee will also decide the possible date for an Executive Committee meeting for spring 2006. **Appendix10**

Final decision:

The BSC Secretariat did inform the Executive Committee about the draft programme for the Seminar and the 11th BSC General Assembly on 1-2 June 2006 in Karlskrona, Blekinge (S) and this was recorded as information in the minutes. The next BSC Executive Committee meeting will be held in Karlskrona on 2 June 2006.

81 §**Coming events 2006**

- 17 February, CPMR Seminar on "Europe of the Sea" Brest, Brittany (F)
- 18 February, CPMR Political Bureau, Brest, Brittany (F)
- 7 March, The Kick-off Stakeholder Conference on the development of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, Helsinki (FI)
- 22-23 March, VII International Environmental Forum Baltic Sea Day, St. Petersburg (RU)
- 20-21 April, the joint meeting of the CPMR Baltic Sea and North Sea Commissions in Aberdeen (UK)
- April (tbc), Seminar on Maritime Safety and Transport, Canakkele (TR)
- 5 May, CPMR Political Bureau, Gozo, Malta
- 15 May, Seminar on Motorways of the Sea, Andalucia, Sevilla (SP)
- 31 May, Co-ordination meeting of the Baltic Sea organisations, Karlskrona, Blekinge (S)
- 1-2 June CPMR-BSC Seminar and General Assembly, Karlskrona, Blekinge (S)
- 14-16 June CPMR-NSC General Assembly, Highlands (UK)
- 23-24 June, CPMR Study Seminar on "The place of Regions in globalization", Ponta Delgada, Acores (P)
- **July, BSC Seminar in Almedalsveckan, Visby, Gotland (S) is postponed to July 2007**
- 5-6 October, CPMR Conference on Energy, Navarra (SP)
- 25-27 October, CPMR General Assembly, Murcia (SP)

Proposal: The Executive Committee will record the coming events as information. The Executive Committee will additionally discuss the following events and nominate representatives to these events:

- 1) The CPMR North Sea Commission has proposed the joint meeting of the CPMR Baltic Sea and North Sea Commissions in Aberdeen (UK) on 20-21 April 2006. There is also the wish to progress in this meeting to a concrete level of co-operation. The Executive Committee will discuss proposals for thematic discussions of this meeting. As one possible common co-operation thematic area could be the Northern Dimension Policy from the beginning of year 2007 including e.g. transport and environmental issues.
- 2) The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission will host on 31 May 2006 the co-ordination meeting of the Baltic Sea organisations in Karlskrona, Blekinge (S) in connection to its next General Assembly. The Executive Committee will discuss proposals for thematic issues of this meeting and the ways of improving co-operation with the other Baltic Sea regional organisations in general.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The BSC Seminar during the Almedalsveckan has been postponed to July 2007, and the needed reservations for accommodation and seminar venue have been made by the Gotland region.

1) The Executive Committee did discuss the joint meeting of the CPMR Baltic Sea and North Sea Commissions in Aberdeen (UK) on 20-21 April 2006. It was stressed to develop practical co-operation between these two Commissions. The Northern Dimension has been proposed as a framework for the co-operation activities between the Commissions, and this will be introduced in the common meeting in April. The Baltic Sea Commission will be represented in Aberdeen by the President, Vice-President, Executive Secretary, BSC contact persons on NSC as well as by the Chairman and Co-ordinator of the BSC Transport Working group.

2) The Executive Committee did discuss the thematic of the co-ordination meeting of the Baltic Sea organisations in Karlskrona on 31 May 2006. In the discussion it was stressed that it is very relevant to discuss in the meeting the roles and responsibilities of different organisations as well as how to improve the concrete co-operation between the different Baltic Sea organisations. It is of outmost importance that the Presidents and Secretaries of the respective organisations are present in this meeting.

82 § Any other business

Proposal:

Final decision: There was no other business.

83 § Next Executive Committee meeting date and closing the meeting

Proposal: The President will close the meeting

Final decision: The President did close the meeting at 2 p.m. The new elected Executive Committee will meet in Karlskrona, Blekinge (S) on 2 June 2006.

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