



STATUTES

Revised charter to be adopted by the General Assembly in Herning June 13th 2008

Article 1: Preamble

This charter sets out the internal regulations of the Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR). It is a text for which the Organisational Charter of the CPMR makes provision and is in conformity with the provisions of the latter. In the event of differences of interpretation, the provisions of the CPMR Organisational Charter shall take precedence over the BSC regulations.

The BSC is established to work for a sustainable society¹ with the aim to promote democracy and exchanges, co-operation and solidarity between the regions in the coastal zones and the islands of the Baltic Sea including the Regions of the non-European Union Countries.

Article 2: Objectives

The BSC is established to further partnership between member regions in the Baltic Sea Area. The BSC shall strive to manage the challenges and opportunities, existing and emerging, in the Baltic Sea area.

Through dialogue and formal partnership it will promote common interests, especially in relation to the institutions of the European Union, national governments and other Baltic Sea organisations and in neighbouring regions.

The aim of the Geographical Commissions is regulated in CPMR Charter Article 9. 2 where it states: "...Their aim shall be to facilitate decentralisation and carry out more efficiently work which applies to large geographical areas which share common interests. In this respect, each Commission has the right to initiate actions concerning the specific problems of the geographical area it represents, subject to keeping the CPMR Secretary General systematically informed. ..."

Article 3: Constitution

Regions apply to, and are accepted as members, by the CPMR according to CPMR Organisational Charter, Article 1. The CPMR will prior to decision obtain advice from the

¹ In accordance with the addition in the BSC Visions and Objectives.

relevant *Geographical Commission* according to *CPMR Organisational Charter Article 2*. If accepted by the *CPMR* the new region will also be a member to the appropriate *Geographical Commission*.

Note. Only the elected Member Regions belonging to the European Union may vote on resolutions concerning the internal functioning of the Single Market.

The *Baltic Sea Commission* brings together the Presidents of the Member Regions. The Presidents, who may delegate their own representative, should be appointed by the Regional Authorities immediately below the level of the Central Government.

Members of the Executive Committee should be office-holding elected members from the member regions.

Organisations concerned by the work of the *Baltic Sea Commission* may be invited to discuss common topics or called as experts.

Article 4: The election of the President and of the Executive Committee

The *Baltic Sea Commission* will be organised through the institutions of:

- An annual *General Assembly*,
- A President and two Vice-Presidents.
- An Executive Committee.

In accordance with *CPMR Charter, Article 6*, each member of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a period of two years. The members shall be office-holding representatives of the Member Regions. If a member loses his/her position within the region, this implies ipso facto withdrawal from the Executive Committee, on which he/she shall be replaced at next coming *BSC General Assembly*. The member may be replaced before the end of his/her term of office by the regions of the country that elected him/her at the next coming *BSC General Assembly*.

A *General Assembly* of all Member Regions will be held once a year, or more frequently if required.

The elections of the President, the two vice-presidents and the Executive Committee will take place every 2nd year, following the procedure outlined below:

- *General Assembly* shall elect a President, two Vice-Presidents and an Executive Committee.
- The Executive Secretary asks the Assembly if there are any nominations to the post of President of the *Baltic Sea Commission*. Each nomination must be seconded by a region other than the region represented by the nominee.
- Once the nominations are known, a vote by show of hands will be taken. However, if any of the regions so request, the vote will be by secret ballot. If there is more than one candidate, the vote will also be by secret ballot. The candidate having obtained an absolute majority of the votes of the delegates present will be declared elected.

• Then the election of the Executive Committee takes place. Each member country shall appoint one representative and one substitute representative. Two vice-Presidents shall be elected, who must be from different countries in between themselves and of the President. In case of absence of the President during the period of his/hers mandate, the Vice-Presidents assumes his/her functions.

Article 5: The Executive Secretary

The Baltic Sea Commission has an Executive Secretary whose responsibility is to ensure the day-to-day organisation of its work and implementation of its decisions. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee the General Assembly shall nominate the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary appointed should be from another country than the President. His/her mandate is renewed every 2 years.

The Executive Secretary of the Baltic Sea Commission assists the President in his/her task and acts under his/her authority.

Article 6: Financing

The activities of the Baltic Sea Commission will be supported by the CPMR budget regulated in CPMR Charter Article 2 and Article 11.2.

If necessary the General Assembly will create a specific budget for the Baltic Sea Commission, supported through annual subscription payable by each Member Region.

A specific budget is called for on a proposal from the Executive Secretary to the annual General Assembly and monitored at meetings of the Executive Committee.

Article 7: Amendments to the charter

Amendments to the Baltic Sea Commission charter can only be made by the General Assembly and will normally be based on the recommendations of the Executive Committee.