

Annual Report

May 2009 to May 2010

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission work for a sustainable society, promoting
democracy, exchanges, cooperation and solidarity between
Regions in the Baltic Sea Area

☞ Greetings from your President


Dear Friends of the Baltic Sea Region,

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On behalf of the Board, the Presidium and the Secretariat, I would like to thank all of you who have made these results possible.

With gratitude,

Christel Liljeström



President CPMR Baltic Sea Commission



Annual Report

May 2009 – May 2010

CONTENT

☞ Our mission		3
☞ Executive Summary	not ready	4
☞ BSC & Consultations		5
☞ Strategic Documents		6
☞ Executive Committee Themes		8
☞ Thematic Workgroups	not complete	9
☞ BSC & Project Support		14
☞ Accounts		16
☞ Board & Staff		19
☞ Our Member Regions		20
☞ Activity Plan 2010		22
☞ Activities May 2009 - May 2010 and beyond in 2010		22

Our Mission

The Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) is established to work for a sustainable society with the aim of promoting democracy, exchanges, cooperation and solidarity between the coastal zones and islands of the Baltic Sea including the Regions of the non-European Union Countries.

From Vision & Objectives of BSC

Executive Summary

The Baltic Sea Commission's main task is to promote the interest of our Baltic Sea member regions and speak with the voice of our member regions through the CPMR.

Lead words shall be: Result for regional development through cooperation.

Future work should also, where appropriate, always bring an environmental aspect on all issues, in particular regarding climate change impact on the Baltic Sea Region. The BSC shall also champion the cause of the Northern Dimension and Barents perspective.

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Financial cut - set BSC seminars to a halt

Two CPMR Seminars to be organised by Region Podlaskie, Employment and Training Working Group, and Region Skåne, Social Inclusion`Migration & Integration`, during the autumn were canceled at the last minute. Like other meetings they suffered from serious problems, as many CPMR member regions could not participate in the meetings due to the financial crisis and severe cuts in travel expenditures in the regions.

BSC & Consultations

The BSC have contributed to the following consultations during the year:

Territories with Specific Geographical Features - Working Paper

A sharp note were issued together with the "158"-group, the Island Commission, the North Sea Commission - stressing the importance to remember the additional cost implementations of EU regulation usually draw on less favored regions.

EU 2020 - Green Paper

BSC answered to the green paper in a positive way but stressing the importance to have regions as partners in the future dialogue.

Agenda for a Global Europe (Reforming the Budget, Changing Europe) - Communication

The BSC WG on Transport managed to produce an answer in very short notice.

Adapting to climate change - White Paper

Technical paper with CPMR

A joint answer, including arguments with bearing on the "158 group" and the Northern perspective, was sent in together with the North Sea Commission.

Technical papers - position-papers together with CPMR:

The following technical papers of the CPMR were influenced by the BSC through the work of our representatives in the appropriate work groups, direct contact with the BSC Executive Secretary and direct contacts with BSC member regions:

▶ Technical Paper from the CPMR General Secretariat « **Emerging Stronger from the Crisis: Territories at the Heart of Medium-term European Policies.** »

▶ Technical Paper from the CPMR General Secretariat "**Strengthening the European Cluster Policy by developing its regional dimension**"

(The challenges posed by the global crisis and their impact on the European political project was analysed at the CPRM General Assembly in Gothenburg. Prior to the meeting BSC regions took part in the inquiry "The Regions facing the crisis").

▶ Technical Paper from the CPMR General Secretariat "**Proposed areas of work for the CPMR in relation to the European Research Policy**"

▶ Technical Paper from the CPMR on **Employment, Training and Social Inclusion**

▶ Technical Paper from the CPMR – Objective 3 "**Territorial Cooperation**": **Targets, Structure and Running after 2013?** Points for discussion from the Working Group

►Issues Paper for information purposes: **Involvement of the Regions in European Neighbourhood and Partnership Policy**

►Technical Paper from the CPMR “**Implementation of the Integrated European Maritime Policy: prospects for the Regions**”

►Technical Paper and Opinion on the Green Paper “**Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy**”

►Technical Paper and Opinion from the CPMR on **Climate Change “The Action of the Regions”**

►In preparation for the CPMR Seminar on territorial cooperation in Valencia the 25th May 2010 - several BSC regions participated in the **questionnaire on the Baltic Sea Strategy - the Baltic Sea Region Programme**.

Strategic Documents

The direction of the BSC work is outlined in the documents presented below. These documents shall regularly be revisited and amended to reflect the priorities of the member regions.

Policy documents can be found on our website – www.balticseacommission.info.

Visions and Objectives

The BSC’s strategic document for day-to-day operations – “The Vision and Objectives”, was last amended in Visby (SE), 2009.

In the V&D the reader should find the answers to: What is the BSC? How does it work? What are the strong-points of the BSC? What has the BSC achieved? The focus of activities?

Statutes

In line with the effort of involving the member regions more actively in the BSC work and to better adapt to the statutes of the CPMR, new statutes were adopted at the BSC General Assembly in Bodø, 15 July 2007.

Some further amendments to the document, including introducing two Vice Presidents, was presented and adopted by the BSC General Assembly in Herning (DK) 13 July 2008.

Working Guidelines

The internal work of the Executive Committee is formulated in 'Working Guidelines' - annually revisited and revised.

Work Group Directives

These are guidelines for the organisation and work of the BSC work groups. The document was adopted at the BSC General Assembly in Bodø, 15 July 2007.

Thematic Work groups

Thematic Work groups are the key to regional participation as well as the means to deliver input of good technical standard to consultations, in seminars and in cooperation with other CPMR commissions and external organisations, .

Organisation

The presidency has continued in the hands of Finland, Ms Christel LILJESTRÖM, Itä-Uusimaa/Östra Nyland (FIN).

The Secretariat resides in Sweden, Gotland, Visby, since November 2007, with Ms Anne STÅHL MOUSA as Executive Secretary.

Finance

- ▶The CPMR and the geographical commissions are financed through membership dues.
- ▶The organisation finances were balanced in 2007, 2008 and 2009.
- ▶All regions have made full payments in 2008 and 2009.
- ▶As member-dues are received at the CPMR they are transferred within a month to the commission.
- ▶Visby is strongly supporting the Secretariat financially, leaving a balanced budget for 2008.

There is a small threat on the horizon following in the wake of the deep global financial crisis that some member regions will not be able to pay the CPMR/BSC in full or may even have to leave the organisation entirely.

Also, the reshaping of the governmental system in some countries has already taken effect as former member regions cease to exist without being replaced by something else.

Website

The web service was created in 2008 is offering areas of shared workspace for thematic work group activities and joint paper writing among other things - www.balticseacommission.info.

The web services are now shared with the North Sea Commission.

Executive Committee Themes

The BSC Executive Committee has held four sessions in the period May 2009 – May 2010.

16-17/09/2009 Bialystok (PL)

Focus, to prepare for the CPMR General Assembly in Göteborg September 30 - October 2;

Special Theme: The Eastern Partnership of the EU

- Eastern Partnership, by Mr Marcin Zochowski, Polish MFA
- Podlaskie and its Eastern Partners, Mr M Podbielski, Podlaskie;

CPMR Director Mr Patrick Anvoin will give an orientation on CPMR Activities with Focus on the Maritime Policy Issues;

The 16th BSC General Assembly in Warnemünde, May 27-28th, 2010.

07/11/2009 Malmö (SE)

Special Theme: Region Skåne

- Developing the Öresund region, Mr Eskil Mårtensson, International coordinator, Dept. of Regional development, Region Skåne.
- The European Spallation Source, Mr Roger Eriksson, Communication Officer for ESS Scandinavia;

Follow-up on the outcome of the BSC General Assembly withdrawn revision of BSC statutes;

Consultation on the EU 2020;

Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA) report and meeting in Kiruna, December 2009;

The 16th BSC General Assembly in Warnemünde, May 27-28th, 2010.

10-11/03/2010 Brussels (BE)

Special Theme: Meeting with the new CPMR Secretary General Ms Eleni Marianou

Discussion on the future co-operation between CPMR and BSC ;

The 16th BSC General Assembly in Warnemünde, May 27-28th , 2010

Preparation for the GA – Adoption papers

Annual Report;

Activity Plan 2010

Financial Report 2009 and Budget 2010

Elections

CPMR Director Julie Gourden: How to monitor the Baltic Sea Strategy and how the BSC could feed the CPMR overall work on macro-regional approaches.

Thematic Work Groups

The BSC Thematic work groups opens up to regional involvement. The WG's enable the organisation to bring forth strong position papers and well founded technical amendments to Green Papers. The success of the BSC as a constructive lobbying organisation rest on the WG members and the knowledge they share in the interest of all members regions.

All WGs are very active in cooperating with CPMR and other commissions, particularly the NSC, but also with “external” experts and organisations.

Work Group - Transport

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern under **Mr .Sebastian Schröder**, Secretary of State Ministry for Transport, Building and Regional Development Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and with **Mr Wolf Born**, as the BSC Executive Committee contact, has taken the lead of the BSC thematic workgroup for Transport.

Contact for the chair **Mr. Karl Schmude**, (MV).

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CPMR Inter-Commission WG – TEN-T

One of the most important areas within the transport sector is TEN-T, now up for revision. Above, is already noted that this will be the prime focus for the Transport WG in the coming year. The importance of this revision is also captured at CPMR level where an Inter-Commission working group has been set up, inviting two member regions from each commission.

The Executive Committee decided that the most important was to have a good geographical spread. As BSC representatives, in addition to Mr Schmude the following representatives were elected:

Ms **Lilly Bäcklund**, member of the board of the **Regional Council of Västerbotten (SE)**, chair of the Blue Highway Association since 2004, chair of the E 12 Alliance since 2003 and more. Ms Bäcklund will be supported by Mr Bernt Vedin, Regional Council of Västerbotten (SE).

Mr **Janne Virtanen, South West Finland**, a long time member of the BSC's transport work group.

Energy & Climate Change Working Group

Chair **Dr. Erik Bergkvist, Regional Council of Västerbotten (SE)**

Coordinator **Mxxxx**, Regional Council of Västerbotten (SE)

The Energy Work Group, EWG, was founded in October 2006 and is chaired by Erik Bergkvist, Regional Council of Västerbotten (SE). The EWG has since then held and participated in several meetings and workshops.

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Fisheries Working Group

Chair **Mr Kjell Nybacka, West Finland European Office (B)**

Mr Rolf Gidemo, Gotland (S)

Status of the Baltic Sea Fisheries

The situation for the Baltic cod eastern stock ...

The salmon quota was....

The return to the salmon rivers were in general smaller than anticipated with regard to the

The seal-problem is increasing with the growth of the seal population and cormorants are also an increasing problem in fisheries.

The pelagic fishery is in good standing, in particular the sprat stock.

Activities

The strategy for the Baltic Sea region was finally adopted in October. In June iBSG (Informal Baltic Sea Group) was arranging a seminar in Brussels on the future contents of the strategy. Kjell Nybacka as a member of the management committee of iBSG followed the seminar closely. It reached about 200 participants.

During Open Days in October Kjell Nybacka representing West Finland Alliance, organized together with the Baltic Sea Group 6 seminars and meetings, during three days, dealing with the implementation of the Baltic Sea regional strategy. During these events we reached about 650 persons and were given a possibility to largely discuss the implementation of the strategy.

All seminars were arranged in cooperation between the regional offices' network and DG Regio and were thereby based on a broad regional perspective at the same time including the perspective of fisheries.

Kjell Nybacka is also rapporteur in the WG Salmon of the Baltic Sea RAC, where much work was devoted to an additional paper from the working group to DG Mare which was preparing a recommendation for a new Salmon Action Plan. The WG held a two day meeting in Copenhagen last spring for this purpose. The WG delivered a common paper to the Commission. The WG also participated in a stakeholder meeting in Brussels in April. Kjell Nybacka made the presentation of the WG paper at this occasion.

As a member of the Baltic Sea RAC Nybacka also participated in a meeting with DG Mare early December.

The green paper on a future Common Fisheries Policy activated the group which held several meetings on the subject (virtual ones, and real ones amongst others in Gothenburg during the General Assembly and in Brussels late autumn). The group could finally agree on a unanimous paper late 2009.

Small scale and near-shore fisheries continued to be an issue of particular interest in the Fisheries Intercom Group where there was a unanimous agreement on the similarity of the problems in the different regions represented.

The group is indirectly represented in the Baltic Sea Commission RAC via Kjell Nybacka who is appointed rapporteur in the salmon working group. It would however be helpful if Baltic Sea WG Fisheries could have a clear mandate by the BSC to participate as representatives and observers or members.

During the year focus was on the reform of the CFP and the Salmon Action Plan. The importance of the reform and of the participation in the process for the future fisheries as well as coastal development in the Baltic Sea still calls for extra efforts.

We encourage, as every year, other member regions to take a more active part in the Fisheries working group.

Our rapporteur: Rolf Gydemo, Länsstyrelsen Gotland,
Rolf.Gydemo@lansstyrelsen.se

Our rapporteur: Mr Kjell Nybacka, Director, WEST FINLAND EUROPEAN OFFICE, Tel. +32-(0) 2-286.90.80,
GSM +358-50-349.47.19, kjell.nybacka@westfinland.be

CPMR Working Group on future Objective 3 (WGO3) Territorial Cooperation

AIM

To draft proposals for improving strategic contents and managing organisation of the ETC instruments after 2013. Present a technical paper to a CPMR seminar in Valencia 2010-05-25. Experienced Regions share their respective expertise acquired as project partners or coordinators, in programming and managing bodies (Technical Secretariats, managing and control Authorities, Monitoring Committees).

PARTICIPANTS

LEAD REGION: Nord-Pas de Calais (FR)

REGIONS: Aquitaine (FR), Balears (ES), Campania (IT), Canaries (ES), East of England (UK), Friuli Venezia Giulia (IT), Midtjylland (DK), Norte (PT), PACA (FR), Päijät-Häme (FI), Shetland (UK), South West UK (UK), Västra Götaland (SE)

CPMR secretariat: Julie Gourden, Clare Booth

ACTIVITIES

The group will have its 5th and last meeting on march 10, and after that a technical paper will be drafted by the secretariat. All meetings are at CPMR premises in Brussels

1 2009-06-04 Introduction meeting. Strong and weak points of ETC territorial cooperation instrument 2007/2013, evolution after 2013

2 2009-07-07 Three scenarios on TC 2013+. Afterwards a technical not was drafted, included in the conference pack for the CPMR General Assembly Göteborg , oct 1-2

3 2009-11-16 Macro-regional strategies or integrated maritime policies?

4 2010-01-13 Interregional cooperation within regional operational programmes (art 37.6.b), multiregional operational programmes

5 2010-03-10 (to be) "Between centralisation and decentralisation: What regulatory, administrative and governance choices for more effective territorial cooperation?"

- Towards a unique regulatory framework for cooperation actions?

- An adaptation of administrative and financial requirements to the nature of projects and partnerships?

- Which sort of governance system should there be for territorial cooperation programmes at the time of the EU2020 strategy and the Lisbon Treaty?

Our rapporteur: Mr Hans-Åke Persson, Region Västra Götaland, Tel +46 31 63 09 85, Mobile +46 705 28 18 93, hans-ake.persson@vgregion.se.

CPMR Working Group – Social Inclusion`Migration & Integration´

Ms Annika Annerby Jansson, Region Skåne

At the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne it was decided that BSC's Region Skåne shall head the working group on Social Inclusion under the umbrella of the Inter-Commission Employment and Training working group.

The WG haven't, for various reasons, started its work yet.

CPMR Employment and Training Working Group

Participating on behalf of the BSC is Podlaskie Region (PL).

The WG experienced some serious problems last year, as many of its member regions could not participate in the meetings due to the financial crisis and severe cuts in travel expenditures in the regions. However, during the CPMR GA in Gothenburg, it was decided that the WG should be divided into two WGs – namely the Employment and Training WG and the Social Inclusion WG. The membership in WGs has been renewed and a call for new members has been issued. The groups have planned a series of workshops to be held throughout 2010. One of them will be held in Podlaskie, its theme shall be Life Long Learning Strategies.

Our rapporteur: Mr Michał Podbielski, Podlaskie Region, michal.podbielski@gmail.com

Project Aquamarina

The decision to set up this group was taken by the CPMR General Assembly 2007 in Florence. The group is chaired by Brittany. The Aquamarina group is a means of maintaining a pressure on the EU as to how the Maritime Policy is implemented. The task is to prepare points of view (resolutions, technical memos, reports etc.) for the CPMR's executive bodies (General Assembly, Political Bureau, Presidency) on all issues relating to the integrated European Maritime Policy.

Ad hoc Group Maritime Surveillance

Chair **Mr. Bo Löfgren** Region Blekinge (SE)

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CPMR Intergroup: "Mountains, Islands and Sparsely Populated Regions: BSC is represented through the Executive Secretary

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states at Article 2 that “ the Union shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, and solidarity among Member States”, and makes specific provisions to that effect in its Chapter XVIII, and most notably in Article 158. In that framework, Article 158 stresses that certain categories of regions will require “particular attention”; among which those which “suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps”. The northernmost regions with very low population density, the islands, and mountain regions are explicitly mentioned.

To that effect an umbrella alliance named “Group 158” is set up which will: jointly articulate the compelling rationale for the addition of ‘territorial cohesion’ to the Treaty and the insertion in Article 158 of the references handicaps referred to above. Monitor whether the provisions of article 158 regarding territories with permanent natural or demographic handicaps are being satisfactorily implemented by the European Union.

Make representations to the EU Institutions and to the Member States to ensure that they are so.

The BSC has been active in this group preparing a critical working paper on Territories with Specific Geographical Features sent to the commissions.

The group also sent in questions to the hearing of new commissioners regarding “Mountains, Islands and Sparsely Populated Regions”.

The group has also urged the CPMR member regions to alert their MPs to support the critical note on Territories with Specific Geographical Features sent to the commissions.

Our rapporteur: Anne Ståhl Mousa, BSC Executive Secretary.

CPMR Inter- Commission WG - CAP

The BSC have nominated **Dr Jürgen Buchwald**, Head of the Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection of **Mecklenburg Vorpommern (D)** and **Mr Henrik Ingo, Österbottens Förbund (FI)** to be the geographical commission’s representatives within this group.

BSC Project Support

Baltic Master II

TRANSBALTIC PROGRESS INFORMATION

The Baltic Sea Commission of CPMR is an associated partner to the TransBaltic project, led by the BSC member region of Skåne. TransBaltic was approved as a strategic project within the framework of the

Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 and is regarded an important implementation tool for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Chapter 11 ('To improve internal and external transport links').

TransBaltic gathers 20 financial partners and 30 associated organisations from 11 countries around the Baltic Sea in an effort to contribute to an integrated multimodal transport system in the Baltic Sea area. This will be done by means of joint transport development measures and jointly implemented business concepts.

TransBaltic also aspires to create a meeting place for decision-makers and stakeholders to share views on the transport and regional development issues of relevance for the Baltic Sea area. Therefore, on 17-18 March 2010, the project hosts a conference addressed to all public and private actors interested in discussing transport development trends in the Baltic Sea Region as a result of natural, socio-economic and regulative processes on the global and European arenas. Also, first findings will be presented on preparedness measures to enhance a gateway function of the Baltic Sea area for intercontinental freight flows.

The conference is arranged in cooperation with the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications and two transnational transport corridor projects, EWTC II and Scandria. Such an alliance gives evidence of shared national and regional level interest in recognising the challenges and responding to them through adequate measures.

Conclusions from the conference will be taken up at forthcoming transport foresight debates planned by the project in 4 different venues around the Baltic Sea (Vilnius, Stockholm, Bodö and Saint Petersburg). They will aim to raise awareness of future developments among politicians, officials and private enterprises active in the area of transport and logistics, and to inspire them for launching relevant policy actions.

For more information please see www.transbaltic.eu

Our rapporteur: Wiktor Szydarowski, Project Manager TransBaltic - Towards an integrated transport system in the Baltic Sea Region, +46 768 54 20 20, wiktor@szydarowski.com

Accounts

Below are the financial report for 2009 and the preliminary budget for 2010

In 2009 all membership fees were paid up in full. Gotland is giving a substantial financial support to the Secretariat.

Financial Result 2009

	Budget	Result	Result
Euro (9,41-2008) (10,2048 - 2009)	2009	2008	2009
Revenues			
Gotland Regional Contribution	81 443	64 727	57613
Membership Fee 2009	38 400		38615
Membership Fee 2008		37 800	0
Membership Fee Not Paid 2007		1 000	0
Membership Fee Not Paid 2006	557	1 043	0
Total	120 400	104 570	96 228
Costs			
Executive Sec. inc. wage, PO and OH	-78 000	-73 960	-77 630
Fax, Phone, Mobile, Modem	-2 500	-2 240	-1 323
Conference fees, Travels	-29 000	-27 310	-13 620
Special events	-9 000	-1 10	-574
Website and domain	-1 500	-680	-2 594
Office and printing	-400	-270	-487
Total	-120 400	-104 570	-96 228
Deficit/Surplus	0	0	0
	Summary EURO		
	2009 January – December		2009-12-31

Balance Sheet 2009, January – December in €

Revenue 2009, €	2007	2008	2009	
Euro (9,41-2008) (10,2048 - 2009)				
Gotland Regional Contribution	55 407	64 727	57 613	
Membership Fee 2009			38 615	
Membership Fee 2008		37 800		
Membership Fee 2007	35 995	1 000		
Membership Fee 2006		1 043		
From Old Secretariat	11 294			
Total income	102 616	104 570	96 228	
Costs 2009, €				
Executive Secretary	-80 229	-73 960	-77 630	*
Secretariat	-4 189	-3 190	-4 404	**
Meetings, Conference fee and travels	-14 895	-27 310	-13 620	***
Events	-3 302	-110	-574	****
Total costs	-102 616	-104 570	-96 228	
Deficit/Surplus	0	0	0	
* Budget line; Secretariat wage including PO and OH				
** Budget line; Administration Gotland, Fax, Phone, Mobile, Internet, Website, Office & Printing				
*** Participation in conferences, seminars, work group activities and CPMR and BSC meetings				
**** Secretariat cost for organising and participating, with extra personnel in events				
2009-12-31				

Budget for 2010, in €

Euro (9,41-2008) (10,2048 - 2009)	Outcome 2007	Outcome 2008	Outcome 2009	Budget 2010
Revenues				
Gotland Regional Contribution	55 407	64 727	57 613	80 400
Membership Fee 2010 BSC Have lost one member but gained two new member regions in the fiscal year 2010.				35 200 4 800
Membership Fee 2009			38 615	
Membership Fee 2008		37 800		
Membership Fee 2007	35 995	1 000		
Membership Fee 2006		1 043		
From Old Secretariat	11 294			
Total	102 616	104 570	96 228	120 400
Costs				
Executive Sec. inc. wage, PO and overhead cost	-80 229	-73 960	-77 630	-78 000
Fax, Phone, Mobile, Modem	-2 596	-2 240	-1 323	-2 200
Conference fees, Travels	-14 895	-27 310	-13 620	-28 800
Special events	-3 302	-110	-574	-6 500
Website and domain	-1 108	-680	-2 594	-4 500
Office and printing	-485	-270	-487	-400
Total	-102 616	-104 570	-96 228	-120 400
Deficit/Surplus	0	0	0	0
Amounts in EURO				

BSC Membership Fee

The membership fee for the budgetary year 2009 is 1600 € for regions with GDP above the 50% of EU average and 800 € for regions below the 50% of EU average.

Board & Staff

Members of the Executive Committee 2009-2010

MEMBERS

Ms Christel LILJESTRÖM Itä-Uusimaa/Östra Nyland (FI) PRESIDENT

Mr Poul MÜLLER Central Denmark (DK) VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Jaroslaw DWORZANSKI, Podlaskie (PL) VICE PRESIDENT

Ms Elke ORDING Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) /

Ms Reet KOKOVKIN Hiiumaa (EST)

Mr Jari SAINO, Uusimaa (FI)

Ms Raisa MINCINAUSKIENE Klaipėda (LT)

Mr Arve KNUDSEN, Nordland (N)

Ms Annika ANNERBY JANSSON Region Skåne (SE)

SUBSTITUTES

Mr Poul WEBER, South Denmark (DK)

Mr Michał PODBIELSKI Podlaski (PL)

Mr Wolf BORN Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) // (Mr Dr Merten BARNERT)

Mr Indrek NARUSK, IdaViru (EST)

Mr Harri HELMINEN, Kymenlaakso (FI)

Ms Dalia MAKUSKIENE Klaipėda (LT)

Ms Maj VALLE, Nordland (N)

Mr Erik BERGKVIST Regional Council of Västerbotten

Ms Anne STÅHL MOUSA, Executive Secretary CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

The Secretariat is located at the Region of Gotland Executive Office in Visby. The Executive Secretary is also a member of the Gotland Municipal Executive Office.

The Executive Secretary can draw upon services from the Executive Office and from other experts within the Regional organisation.

☞ Our Member Regions

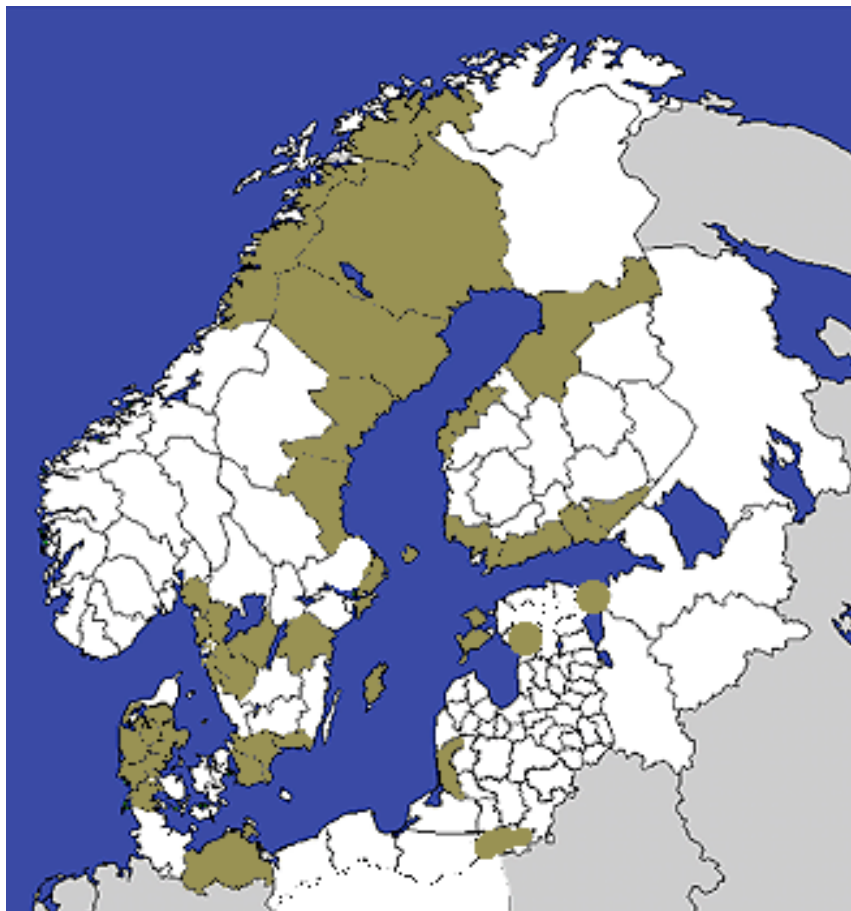
Baltic Sea Commission wish to welcome new member **Örebro Regional Development Council** (as from the CPMR General Assembly 2010). With our new member BSC is organising 28 regions in eight countries around the Baltic Sea, including Nordland in Norway. The BSC count several national capitals as members and the organisation also has the majority of the Baltic Sea Islands as members. The BSC voices the word of approximately 15 million inhabitants.

In the Baltic area, reforms are being conducted on the national structure of governance. A result of this was that long stand member Riga, Latvia, was forced to leave the organisation in 2009 as they no longer exist as a region. Likewise Itä-Uusimaa will be merged with Uusimaa Region in 2011.

The BSC members make up a strategic important mix of welfare states and rapidly developing states around one of Europe's most dynamic and innovative maritime basins – the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea Commission members share the belief that the Baltic Sea is a strategically important region. The experience from the consultation period of the Baltic Sea Strategy has reinforced the belief that regions should take an active part in the shaping of EU policies. Likewise the financial crises have given evidence of how frail economic- and social progress is in the small Baltic states and that the crisis have serious effects on Baltic Sea regions.

Sustainability is a lead word in our work. The BSC goal is to ensure that the imprint of our member regions opinion is found in the EU policies that we, together, choose to act on during the consultation periods.

FINLAND	SWEDEN	GERMANY	NORWAY
Uusimaa	Stockholm	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	Nordland
Itä-Uusimaa	Blekinge		
Kymenlaakso	Gotland	LATVIA	POLAND
Päijät-Häme	Gävleborg	-No regional level -	Podlaskie
Oulu Region	Norrbotten		
Ostrobothnia	Skåne	LITHUANIA	ESTONIA
South-West Finland	Regional Council of Västerbotten	Klaipeda	Hiiumaa/Dagö
Åland	Västragötaland	DENMARK	Pärnumaa
	Västernorrland	Central Denmark	Saaremaa/Ösel
	Örebro Regional Development Council	Southern Denmark Region	Ida-Viru



Activity Plan 2010-2011

The BSC should:

- Make our Baltic Sea input on open EU consultations that have relevance to our region and organisation;
- Develop BSC through the work of our thematic work groups, drawing together our regions ability to present papers that bring new perspectives;
- Further develop the co-operation with Baltic Sea organisations as well as with other CPMR commissions;
- Review a possible solution for alternative membership in countries where the regional level is disappearing. Target: The BSC should be able to have members from all regions around the Baltic Sea;
- Lift forward the **Northern Dimension** in our answers;
- Strive to include **Russia** in the development of the Baltic Sea Region;
- **Disseminate how the financial situation** could be strengthened;
- **Follow-up on the implementation of the Baltic Sea Strategy Action Plan (BSSAP)** BSC should be prepared to present a regional evaluation of the first 9 months of the BSS period at the first BSS follow-up meeting in the Autumn of 2010;
- **Influence the Territorial Cohesion Policy;**
- **Influence the TEN-T;**
- **Influence the neighbouring policy** – specially noting the importance of include none EU-member regions in Eastern Europe;

Activities May 2009 - May 2010 and beyond in 2010

May 18-21	The European Maritime Days, from 18 to 21 May 2009 in Rome (IT)
May 19	BSSSC Board Meeting, Malmö (SE)
May 19	Workshop on Maritime Clusters – Aquamarina, Rome (IT)
May 19-20	CPMR Employment& Training/Social Inclusion WG Workshop, Podlaskie, (PL)
May 18-19	NSC Maritime Week, Aberdeen, (UK)
May 18-22	EU Maritime Policy Week (20 Maritime Day)
May 24-25	Europeaid regional seminar, (Mexico)
May 28	Meeting of Swedish CPMR member regions, Stockholm (SE)

May 29	Regions and Development: the role of regions in a new global framework, Marseille (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) (FR)
June 2-3	Meeting of the CPMR Management Committee CODIR + CPMR Executive Secretaries, Brussels, (BE)
June 2-4	Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit, Copenhagen (DK)
June 4	Territorial Cooperation work group meeting, Brussels (BE)
June 3-4	SOG21, CBSS meeting in Tallinn (EST)
June 10	Presentation of the Baltic Sea Strategy in Stockholm and Helsinki
June 11	CPMR Tourism working group meeting, Odessa, Ukraine
June 11	General Assembly of the Balkan & Black Sea Regional Commission, Odessa, (Ukraine)
June 12	Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Odessa (Ukraine)
June 10-11	DG Regio: EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region - "Regions and Cohesion Policy in Action", Visby
June 11-12	DG Regio Baltic Sea Strategy – Financing, Visby, (SE)
June 11-12	CPMR Employment & Training/Social Inclusion WG Workshop, Uusimaa, (FI)
June 12	Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Odessa (Ukraine)
June 15-16	5th Competitiveness Forum, Hämeenlinna (FI)
June 22-23	Eurisy, Regions and Cities implementing Sustainable Energy Strategies, Hague (NL)
June 17	CPMR Aquamarina Sub-group on mobility of young people in maritime professions, Brussels (BE)
June 18	Stralsund Opening Conference of the Baltic Sea Plan, Stralsund (D)
June 24	A preparatory meeting to the Commissions conference on conference Decentralised Cooperation in early December 2009, Brussels (BE)
June 24	The Informal Baltic Sea Group (iBSG) - New EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – What does it mean for the regions?, Brussels (BE)
June 24-26	North Sea Commission General Assembly, Harlem (NL)
June 29	European Maritime Day: Commissioner Joe Borg invites associations of regions and local authorities to debate the future of fisheries policy, Brussels (BE)
June 29	EU Baltic Sea Strategy, the roll of local and regional level, Seminar host Region Blekinge, Almedalsveckan, Visby (SE)
July 3	Meeting of the CPMR "Research" Working group, Brussels (BE)
July 6	Brainstorming on EU maritime policy with the participation of Mr Joe Borg, Commissioner for Maritime affairs and fisheries, Azores, (PT)
July 7	Territorial Cooperation work group meeting (WGO3), Brussels (BE)
July 16	Political Workshop: "The Regions facing the crisis", Brussels (BE)
July 20-21	Renewable Energy and Clean Tech - Tools for Regional Development, Östersund (SE)
Aug 26-27	Expert conference - "The Future of the Baltic Sea Region In Europe", Hamina (FI)
Sep 1	FOGAR Executive Committee meeting, Yukon, (Canada)
Sep 15-17	Innovation In Mind, Lund (SE)
Sep 16-17	CPMR BSC Executive Committee Meeting in Bialystok (PL)
Sep 18	CPMR BSC Finish member regions and BSC Executive Secretary meeting in Helsinki (FI)
Sep 24	Meeting of Swedish CPMR member regions, Stockholm (SE)

Sep 30	CPMR Employment& Training/Social Inclusion WG Seminar, Göteborg, (SE)
Sep 30	CPMR BSC WG Transport, working session, Göteborg (SE)
Sep 30	CPMR BSC Pre General Assembly Meeting, Göteborg (SE)
Sep 30	Meeting of Swedish CPMR member regions, Göteborg (SE)
Sep 30	Meeting of Finnish CPMR member regions, Göteborg (SE)
Oct 1	Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Göteborg (SE)
Sep 30 - Oct 2	37 th CPMR General Assembly, Göteborg, Västra Götaland, (SE)
Oct 1	BDF Forum - State of the Region Report", Copenhagen (DK)
Oct 6	Brussels Ope Days - "Sparsely Inhabited Regions", Brussels (BE)
Oct 7	Global Challenges, European Responses, the Baltic Sea Group, Brussels (BE)
Oct 13-15	BSSSC Annual Conference, Ringsted (DK)
Oct 16	VASAB 7th Ministerial Conference, Vilnius (LIT)
Oct 22-23	Seminar on Energy: How can the EU, through its policies, ensure that innovation in maritime energy technologies increasingly benefits peripheral maritime regions?, Fairmouth (UK)
Nov 20	Meeting of the "Territorial Cooperation" working group, Brussels (BE)
Nov 27	Seminar "Leading Europe out of the Crisis: initial proposals from the Regions for the future of the EU Budget and Policies", Marseille, (FR)
Dec 1	B7 Annual Conference, Borgholm (SE)
Dec 7	CPMR BSC Executive Committee Meeting in Malmö (SE)
Dec 8	Meeting of the CPMR "Research" Working group, Brussels (BE)
Dec 10	A DAY FOR CARTOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS TO MANAGE COASTAL ZONES: - Coastal and maritime data: a common heritage, a capital to be shared, a challenge for innovation in Europe - Meeting of the Aquamarina sub-group, Brussels (BE)
Dec 10	Meeting of the CPMR's CAP working group (for its members only), Brussels (BE)
Dec 14-15	COTER, Sustainable Development – Regions facing Extraordinary Geographical Challenges, Kiruna, (SE)
2010	
Jan 10-11	Meeting of the CPMR Management Committee CODIR + CPMR Executive Secretaries, Brussels, (BE)
Jan 13	Meeting of the "Territorial Cooperation" working group, Brussels (BE)
Jan 18-19	Summit of the world's regions on food security, Dakar, (Senegal)
Jan 20-22	Ankara 4seas (BSC on Transport), Ankara, Turkey
Feb 4	CPMR BSC Finish member regions and BSC Executive Secretary meeting in Helsinki (FI)
Feb 16-17	Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Gijon (SP)
March 10	Meeting of the "Territorial Cooperation" working group, Brussels (BE)
March 10-11	CPMR BSC Executive Committee Meeting in Brussels (BE)
March 12	Seminar on the Future of Cohesion Policy organized by DG Regio (Brussels)
March 17-18	North Sea Stakeholder Conference "Working Together to Manage the Resources of the North Sea and the Channel" (Newcastle, UK)
March 18	Conference on Research organised by the EC & the Spanish Presidency, Granada (SP)

March 25	Aquamarina Working Session on maritime employment and training, Brussels (BE)
March 26	Meeting of the Employment and Training working group on “The Revision of the ESF”, Brussels (BE)
April 13	Europe’s macro-region: Integration through territorial cooperation, NSC Event, Committee of the Regions, Brussels (BE)
April 13-14	Baltic 21 - New strategy, Vilnius, (LIT)
April 15-16	Conference on Marine Renewable Energies: Towards a European Atlantic Strategy, Santander (SP)
April 20-22	nrg4SD Summit, Montevideo, (Uruguay)
April 26-27	Meeting of the NSC Executive Committee (Nörre Vosborg, Denmark)
April 29-30	Meeting of CPMR Executive Secretaries + CPMR Management Committee CODIR, Brussels (BE)
May 03-07	UNESCO Conference Oceans-Coast-Islands, Paris (FR)
May 7	Seminar on the future of the CAP: «The New CAP: The vision of European Regions», Almeria (SP)
May 20-21	30th General Assembly of the CPMR Islands Commission, Azores (PT)
May 25	CPMR Seminar on Territorial Cooperation in the European Union and at its borders: what contribution can be made to the EU's strategy objectives for 2020?, Valencia (ES)
May 27-28	CPMR Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly, Warnemünde, (D)
June 7	Meeting of CPMR TEN-T Inter-Commission Working Group – members only, Zaragoza (SP)
June 15-19	General Assembly of the CPMR North Sea Commission, Stavanger (N)
TBC	Workshop on “Young People’s Access to the Labour Market” . Helsinki (FI)
TBC	Workshop of the CPMR Social Inclusion Working Group (East Midlands (UK)
TBC	Seminar on “Employment and Qualifications of the future”, Brussels (BE)
June 11	Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Troms, (N)
June 15-19	General Assembly of the CPMR North Sea Commissions, Stavanger, (N)
Sep 16-17	Seminar on Innovation for the Baltic Area, Lahti, Päijät-Häme, (FI)
Sep 29	Meeting of the CPMR Social Inclusion Working Group, Aberdeen, (UK)
Sep 29	Meeting of the CPMR Employment and Training Working Group, Aberdeen (UK)
Sep 29-Oct 1	38 th CPMR General Assembly, Aberdeen, (UK)
Oct 14-15	First follow-up meeting of the Baltic Sea Strategy, Tallinn (EST)
Nov TBC	International Seminar “Social Innovation or Knowledge Clusters – Conditions for Developing 21st Century Social Capital, Aquitaine (FR)

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The website is our shop-window towards members, associates, the press and the world.

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