



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Baltic Sea Commission GENERAL ASSEMBLY 28th May 2002 Klaipeda, Klaipeda County (LT) Minutes

Time: Tuesday 28th May 2002 at 14.30 – 18.20

Venue: Hotel "Klaipeda", Klaipeda, Lithuania

Participants: Participants' list attached

Roll call

1 § Opening the meeting

Proposal: The President will open the meeting at 14.30.

Final decision: The President opened the meeting at 14.30.

2 § Adopting of the agenda

Proposal: The General Assembly will adopt the agenda.

Final decision: The General Assembly adopted the agenda adding the discussion and vote on the draft Final Resolution (24 §) that was distributed on site.

3 § The EU Convention and the CPMR – *What kind of Europe Do the Regions Want?*

A presentation of Ms Sandra Mezzadri, a director from the CPMR General Secretariat, Rennes (F). She also has an account of the other current activities of the CPMR

Proposal: The presentation will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: **The presentation was recorded in the minutes.**

4 § **A Presentation of the Observer region City of Saint-Petersburg**

Mr Kirill V. Avdeyev, Head of Division for external economic co-operation, St Petersburg Foreign Relations Committee

Proposal: The presentation will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: Mr Avdeyev was not present in Klaipeda.

5 § **Presentations of new BSC member regions**

Balvi District (LV)
Västra Götaland Region (S)
Västernorrland (S)
Nordland (N)

A new observer region:
Podlaskie (PL)

Proposal: Representatives from the new member regions will have the floor for short presentations. The presentations will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

Mr Andris Kazinovskis (Balvi District, LV), Mr Lars Bergsten (Västra Götaland Region, S), Ms Ewa Back (Västernorrland County, S) and Mr Per Strömhaug (Nordland County, N) gave short presentations. Ms Grazyna Szajstek (Podlaskie Voivodship, PL) told that this first Polish observer region in the CPMR intends to apply for a full membership later.

New member regions and the observer region were warmly welcomed by the President.

6 § **BSC Activity Reports 2000 – 2001 – appendix 1**

1) The President of the BSC will give a President's Report.

2) The Executive Secretary will briefly present the BSC activity report 2000 – 2001 (Tallinn – Klaipeda), appendix 1.

Proposal: The BSC Activity Reports will be recorded in the minutes as information.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

7 § **Developing the BSC Executive Committee, appendix 2**

A suggestion paper has been written under the guidance of the BSC President about the future approaches and ways of work in the BSC Executive Committee. The paper is enclosed as appendix 2.

In the suggestion part there are proposals how to

- 1) promote the Baltic Sea perspective within the CPMR,
- 2) promote the CPMR towards the national level,
- 3) inform about the CPMR and the BSC to other regions and
- 4) take responsibility for thematic groups and fields.

The suggestion paper would give guidelines to the work of the new BSC Presidency, Executive Committee, Executive Secretariat, new thematic working groups and the suggestions would raise the willingness to join the actions and promote activity in our member regions.

Proposal: The General Assembly will have a discussion on the enclosed suggestion paper entitled "Developing of the Baltic Sea Commission" which was adopted with one amendment in the Executive Committee in Porvoo (FIN) on 20 March 2002.

Final decision: In the discussion it was suggested to make a list of eligible names of experts for the further use of new working groups (Ms Eeva Rautamaa) and support was given for promoting the CPMR towards the national level (Mr Harri Helminen). The meaning of polycentrism was emphasised (Mr Tapio Välinoro).

The suggestion paper entitled "Developing of the Baltic Sea Commission" was adopted, appendix 2.

8 § **Financial statement of 2001 (2002) and membership fees for the following calendar year 2003, appendix 3**

The financial statement is included in the working documents as appendix 3. As for budget 2003 the state of expenditures will grow because of increasing activities, also in the form of establishing new working groups.

Proposal: 1) The financial statement of the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso indicating the CPMR costs in the calendar year 2001 and also partly 2002 will be recorded in the minutes.

2) As a President's proposal (Porvoo 20 March 2002, 105 §) it was suggested to raise the annual BSC membership fee for regions in EU member countries from 1100 € to 1600 € and for regions in non-EU countries from 275 € to 400 €. This concerns the budgetary year 2003.

Final decision:

The Executive Secretary suggested the addition of Norway in the same category with the EU member countries when raising the membership fees because the lowered one quarter fee was originally meant to concern only the EU candidate countries around the Baltic Sea and Russia.

Ms Annemarie Elverum (Århus) strongly supported the suggestion of raising membership fees.

Finally the proposal with the amendment concerning Norwegian member regions was adopted with the abstention of Mr Dirk Frassmann (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern). The final decision was as follows:

1) The financial statement of the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso indicating the CPMR costs in the calendar year 2001 and also partly 2002 was recorded in the minutes.

2) It was decided to raise the annual BSC membership fee for regions in EU member countries and Norway from 1100 € to 1600 € and for regions in non-EU countries except Norway from 275 € to 400 €. This concerns the budgetary year 2003.

9 §**Election of the President and of the Executive Committee and the nomination of a Vice-President, appendix 4**

The statutes of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission which were amended in Bornholm 2000 are enclosed (appendix 4). The election of the President and of the Executive Committee will take place every second year following the procedure outlined in the Article 4. The General Assembly shall elect a President, a Vice-President and an Executive Committee.

1) 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 president / political leader of their respective authority.

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.

2) Then the election of **the Executive Committee** takes place. Each member country shall appoint one representative and one substitute representative. **A Vice-President** shall be nominated, who must be of a different nationality than the President. In case of absence of the President during the period of his mandate, the Vice-President assumes his functions.

Proposal: 1) The election of the President will be carried out by the Executive Secretary by the Article 4 of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Statutes (Stockholm 1996; amendments Bornholm 2000).

2) The election of the Executive Committee will be carried out by the elected President. Each member country shall appoint one (1) representative and one (1) substitute representative. A Vice-President shall be nominated. The procedure is explained in details in Article 4 of the BSC Statutes.

Final decision: 1) The Executive Secretary explained the election procedure outlined in the Article 4 of the BSC Statutes. Mr Harri Helminen (Kymenlaakso) suggested the nomination of Mr Anders Gustâv to the post of President. Ms Ewa Back (Västernorrland) seconded the nomination. Also other seconders gave their support to Mr Gustâv. There were no other nominations. A vote by show of hands was taken. Mr Anders Gustâv was unanimously declared the President of the BSC for 2002-2004. There were no abstentions. Mr Gustâv thanked the General Assembly for trust and support.

2) Mr President asked each CPMR member country one (1) Representative and one (1) substitute representative. The following people were elected according to the national nominations:

Members:

Substitutes:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ms Bente Nielsen, Århus (DK) | Mr Jörgen Kvist, Bornholm (DK) |
| Mr Mikko Rönholm, S-W Finland (FIN) | Ms Marjatta Keisu, N Ostrob. (FIN) |
| Dr Rainer Kosmider, Meckl.-V-p (D) | Mr Dirk Frassmann, Meckl.-V-p (D) |
| Mr Ilgonis Steinbergs, Riga (LV) | Ms Anita Jegere, Tukums (LV) |
| Ms Virginija Lukosiene, Klaipeda (LT) | Ms Roma Stubriene, Klaipeda (LT) |
| Mr Inge Andersson, Västerbotten (S) | Mr Jan Lundgren, Gotland (S) |
| Mr Alf I Samuelson (tbc) Nordland (N) | Mr Per Strömhaug, Nordland (N) |
| Mr/Ms NN (EST) (to be nominated) | Mr/Ms MM (EST) (tbn) |

The nominations of Estonian regions and the confirmation for the nominations of the Norwegian region were left open.

Mr President suggested Ms Bente Nielsen to be nominated the Vice-President. She was unanimously nominated the Vice-President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission.

After the General Assembly, in the beginning of June 2002 the Executive Secretary received the following names from Estonia and Norway:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ms Reet Kokovkin, Hiiumaa (EST) | Ms Valli Laas, Ida-Viru (EST) |
| Mr Geir Knutson, Nordland (N) | Mr Per Strömhaug, Nordland (N) |

10 § **Nomination of the Executive Secretary, appendix 5**

By the BSC Statutes, Article 5, 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. His mandate is renewed every 2 years.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting which was held in Porvoo, Region of Itä-Uusimaa (FIN) 20 March 2002 is enclosed as **appendix 5**. In the final decision of the respective point (Porvoo 105 §) it was decided to propose a continuation of the Secretariat another 2 years in the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso and recommended the nomination of Mr Jaakko Mikkola as the Executive Secretary to the General Assembly.

In the Organisational Charter of the CPMR (Florence 2000), 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. Mr Xavier Gizard has said in Rennes in March 2002 that he has nothing against the suggested procedure where the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso would continue hosting the BSC Secretariat another 2 years.

Proposal: The proposal and the recommendation of the Executive Committee made in its meeting in Porvoo (FIN) on 20 March 2002 which is enclosed as **appendix 5** and also explained above will be adopted as a decision by the General Assembly.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The Regional Council of Kymenlaakso will host the Secretariat another two (2) years and the recommendation of the Executive Committee concerning the nomination of Mr Jaakko Mikkola as the Executive Secretary was accepted. Mr Jaakko Mikkola thanked the General Assembly for confidence.

11 § **Northern Dimension Intercom group – appendix 6**

The group finished its work in summer 2001. The results were presented in the form of the Final Report by the chairman Mr Roger Jansson, Åland, FIN, in the CPMR General Assembly in Porto in September 2001.

The Action Plan of the Northern Dimension Intercommission group (ND-ICG) is included in the working documents, **appendix 6**.

CPMR Baltic Sea Commission member regions were requested to join the

project proposals by a letter from the Executive Secretariat when the reports were distributed in autumn 2001 but there was no big response to the request.

Proposal: The implementing of the Northern Dimension Action Plan will be discussed and future measures which will be taken.

Final decision: Mr Tapio Välinoro (Kymenlaakso, FIN) gave an account of the Action Plan which includes many ongoing Interreg III B projects. The Action Plan was recorded in the minutes.

12 § **Transport Intercom group – appendices 7 and 8**

The CPMR Transport Intercom group was set up by the initiative of Région Midi-Pyrénées (F) in 2001. The group has held two meetings in Toulouse (December 2001) and in Rennes (February 2002) in order to prepare a position paper commenting the EU White Paper on Transport.

There was a CPMR seminar entitled “The Regions in Favour of a European Transport Policy at the Service of the Territory” which was held in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia (E) on 22 March 2002. The Commissioner Ms Loyola de Palacio had also a presentation there.

The representatives of the BSC in this group have been Ms Inger Linge (Stockholm County, S) and Mr Aimo Ahti (Kymenlaakso, FIN).

The Baltic Sea Commission also prepared a position paper commenting the EU White Paper on Transport (**appendix 7**).

Proposal: The work done by the CPMR Transport Intercom group will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The President Mr Anders Gustâv presented the draft Final Declaration concerning European transport policy made in the County Council of Stockholm (**appendix 8**).

Mr Esa Halme (Itä-Uusimaa, FIN) suggested an addition in the paper prepared in Stockholm. The addition was a new paragraph on page 2 as follows: *“The Commission should together with most peripheral regions prepare a flight transport policy to ensure well functioning service and accessibility.”* This addition was approved.

The Final Declaration was then unanimously adopted and it was decided to be presented in the forthcoming CPMR General Assembly in Ioannina (GR) on 18-20 September 2002.

13 § **Research & Development Intercom group**

The Research and Development Intercom Group was set up in the autumn of 2001.

The group has had so far two meetings in Brussels. The secretary in their group is Mr Pascal Gruselle.

The representative from the area of the Baltic Sea Commission has been Mr Pasi Vallivaara, (Northern Ostrobothnia, FIN).

Proposal: The account of this new group will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: Mr Pasi Vallivaara (Northern Ostrobothnia, FIN) gave an account of the work going on in the R&D Intercom Group. The account was recorded in the minutes.

14 § **Agriculture Intercom group**

The CPMR Agriculture Intercom group was set up by the initiative of Région Limousin (F) in 2001. The group has held one meeting in April 2002 in Paris. The group deals with Integrated Rural Development policy (IRD) which includes not only agriculture but also environmental, economic development, community development, social inclusion, fishing and forestry actions.

This IRD policy has many links with ICZM policy (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) that has been so far better known in the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission.

The representative of the BSC will be Ms Bente Nielsen (Århus, DK).

Proposal: The Executive Secretary will have an account of the recently started work of the Agriculture (IRD) Intercom group.

Final decision: Mr Jaakko Mikkola told about this new CPMR Intercom Group which had its first meeting in Paris on 23 April hosted by the President of Région Limousin (F) Mr Robert Savy. The Group also had a meeting with the EU Commission DG AGRI with Director Mr Dirk Ahner in Brussels on 16 May 2002.

15 § **Other CPMR Intercom groups which have representatives from the area of the Baltic Sea Commission – appendix 9**

- Fisheries Intercom group

The next meeting of the fisheries Partnership (an Interreg III B project) will be held in Stockholm on 8-9 July 2002. The CPMR Fisheries Intercom Group was supposed to meet in Brussels but the meeting was postponed because the announcement on the CFP Reform White Paper was delayed. Mr. Rolf Gydemo, Gotland (S), is still representing the Baltic Sea on the CPMR Fisheries Intercom Group. Ms Ann Bell, Aberdeenshire (UK), is the contact person of the NSC in this group.

Proposal: The accounts will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The report of Mr Rolf Gydemo concerning the Fisheries Intercom Group was distributed on site (**appendix 9**) and it was recorded in the minutes.

16 § **BSC working groups: Spatial Development Group (SDG)**
 – **appendix 10**

The BSC Spatial Development Group has had three meetings during the current working year 2001/2002 (Jurmala, LV, 16-17 October 2001, Umeå, S, 13-14 January 2002 and Porvoo, FIN, 5-6 May 2002).

The Spatial Development Group (SDG) was originally launched in the 27th CPMR General Assembly in Vaasa in September 1999. The main objectives of the group were decided to be observation and monitoring important spatial development initiatives which have impact on the member regions. The other objective was to launch and elaborate new project ideas and proposals.

In the BSC Executive Committee meeting in Florence in October 2000 the SDG was changed from a nominated group to a network of contact people. Each region can choose its representative depending on the current issue to be handled in the SDG meeting. This was an amendment to the charter of SDG that was originally adopted in a BSC Executive Committee in Mariehamn in November 1999.

The first chairman of this group was Mr. Ulf Johansson, Gotland County Council, S, and the secretary Mr. Jaakko Mikkola, BSC Executive Secretary. Mr Esa Halme, Itä-Uusimaa Regional Council, FIN, was chosen to chair this group in Tallinn on 29 May 2001.

Under the new chairman Mr Esa Halme a draft for a working document has been done by the group members.

Proposal: The chairman Mr Esa Halme will present a new paper, the working document of the Spatial Development Group called "*Action Plan for Spatial Development Around the Baltic Sea*" (**appendix 10**). The presentation will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

17 § Co-operation with UBC Secretariat (Gdansk)

The UBC had its 10th Anniversary in connection with their General Conference in Rostock in October 2001. The next UBC General Conference will be held in Klaipeda in 2003, hosted by Mr Rimantas Taraskevicius, Mayor of the City of Klaipeda.

Proposal: The Mayor of the City of Klaipeda Mr Rimantas Taraskevicius will have the floor to give a brief presentation of UBC and the expectations with the co-operation with CPMR Baltic Sea Commission.

Final decision: The Mayor of Klaipeda Mr Taraskevicius was compelled to leave before the presentation but his assistant gave the presentation instead. The General Conference of the UBC will be in autumn 2003 in Klaipeda. The presentation was recorded in the minutes.

18 § Co-operation with BSSSC Secretariat (Gdansk)

Many of the CPMR member regions are participating in BSSSC annual conferences.

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission so far lacks a Polish member region.

Proposal: The President of the BSSSC Mr Brunon Synak will have the floor for a brief presentation.

Final decision: Mr Brunon Synak or anyone representing the BSSSC Presidency or Secretariat was not present in Klaipeda.

19 § Co-operation with HELCOM Secretariat (Helsinki)

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission has been invited as an observer in the "HELCOM meetings of heads of delegations". The Executive Secretary has attended them in Warsaw (2001) and in Helsinki (2002).

In March 2002 the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission was chosen by HELCOM to the group of those organisations which were granted a continued observer status for the next 5 years.

Proposal: The representative of HELCOM in Klaipeda, Mr Algirdas Stankevicius who is the Head of the Maritime Research Center in Klaipeda will have the floor for a brief presentation.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

20 § CPMR Baltic Sea Commission projects; a follow-up

a) Interreg III B projects

The Executive Committee selected in its meetings in Uppsala (12 September 2001) and in Riga (30 November 2001) the following five (5) Interreg III B projects to be politically supported and followed up (persons with special responsibility in brackets):

- 1) Baltic Palette (Mr Anders Gustâv, Stockholm)
- 2) E18 (Mr Mikko Rönholm, South-west Finland)
- 3) Via Nordica – Via Baltica (E12) (Mr Inge Andersson, Västerbotten)
- 4) Eurovelo (Ms Roma Stubriene, Klaipeda)
- 5) Coastplan (Mr Dirk Frassmann, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Ms Annemarie Elverum, Århus)

b) Interreg III C projects

The Interreg III C proposal “Seaperspective” launched by the CPMR, Västra Götaland Region being the lead partner has been under preparation for months but not started yet because of the continued postponements of starting the whole Interreg III C programme by the EU Commission. It is scheduled to be started in October 2002. “Seaperspective” has 5 sub-themes and 7 participating regions, i.e.

- Stockholm (S)
- Västra Götaland Region (VGR) (S), lead partner
- Kymenlaakso – Itä-Uusimaa (FIN)
- Telemark (N)
- Aberdeen (UK)
- Norte Portugal (P)
- Tuscany (I)

Proposal:

- a) The short presentations of the persons bearing special responsibility for the Interreg III B projects will be recorded in the minutes.
- b) The short account of Ms Cecilia Nilsson (VGR, S) or the Executive Secretary concerning “Seaperspective” will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision:

- a) Mr Anders Gustâv (Baltic Palette), Mr Mikko Rönholm (E18), Mr Peter Hedman (Via Nordica – Via Baltica), Mr Vytautas Krisciunas (Eurovelo) and Mr Dirk Frassmann (Coastplan) had short presentations on the Interreg III B projects.

b) Mr Jaakko Mikkola gave a short account on Seaperspective which is the

Interreg III C project inside the CPMR. Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (F) will be the eighth (8th) member region in this large project which will not be only a project but a Regional Framework Operation (RFO) as a mini-programme containing several projects.

21 § 8th BSC General Assembly in May 2003

The 8th BSC General Assembly will be held in May – June 2003. The geographical commissions will hold their General Assemblies in early summer and the CPMR General Assemblies will take place in the autumn time, September – October. The 30th CPMR General Assembly will be held in Ioannina, Epeiros County, Greece, on 18 - 20 September 2002 and the 31st CPMR General Assembly with CPMR 30 year celebrations (1973 – 2003) will be held in St. Malo, Brittany Region, France on 17 – 19 September 2003 (see also 22 § below).

The BSC General Assemblies have been held as follows:

- 1st, 1996 Silja Line, on board from Helsinki to Stockholm
- 2nd, 1997 Riga, Riga District, Latvia
- 3rd, 1998 Oulu, Northern Ostrobothnia, Finland
- 4th, 1999 Borgholm, Öland, Sweden
- 5th, 2000, Rønne, Bornholm, Denmark
- 6th, 2001, Tallinn, Harju, Estonia
- 7th, 2002, Klaipeda, Klaipeda County, Lithuania

Proposal: The 8th BSC General Assembly will be held in Umeå, Västerbotten (S) by the kind invitation of Mr Inge Andersson, a member in the BSC Executive Committee. A preparatory date for the 8th General Assembly will be Tuesday, 27 May 2003.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. Mr Peter Hedman (Västerbotten, S) welcomed the participants to Umeå in 2003.

22 § Coming events - a calendar for 2002 – 2003 (only major CPMR or BSC events listed) – appendix 11

Year 2002:

18-21 June, North Sea Commission General Assembly (Norfolk, UK)

20-21 June, Atlantic Arc Commission General Assembly (Bordeaux, Aquitaine, F);

18-20 September, XXXth CPMR General Assembly (Ioannina, Epeiros, GR)

N.B. There will be a renewal of both the Presidency of the CPMR and the Political Bureau of the CPMR in Ioannina, Greece. The reminder explaining the procedure by the Organisational Charter of the CPMR is enclosed as **appendix 11**.

18 September, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission pre-general assembly (Ioannina, Epeiros, GR; room 2 on site at 17.00 – 18.30);

28 October, BSC Spatial Development Group (Pärnu, Pärnumaa, EST);

Year 2003:

27 May, 8th BSC General Assembly (Umeå, Västerbotten, S, tbc)

17 – 19 September, XXXIth CPMR General Assembly – 30th CPMR Anniversary (Saint-Malo, Brittany, F).

Proposal: The coming events will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

23 § 9th BSC General Assembly in 2004

Mr Dirk Frassmann has informed the Executive Secretary about the kind invitation of Mr Rainer Kosmider, a member in the Executive Committee, to hold the 9th BSC General Assembly in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) in May or June 2004. There has been no BSC meetings in Germany before. The CPMR Political Bureau recently held its meeting in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, on 14 May 2002.

Proposal: The General Assembly will thank Mr Kosmider and Mr Frassmann for the kind invitation and decide to have the 9th BSC General Assembly in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, in the early summer of 2004 (dtbc).

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. Mr Dirk Frassmann (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, D) welcomed the participants to Germany in 2004.

24 § Vote on the Final Resolution – appendix 12

The draft for the Final Resolution was distributed on site (**appendix 12**). It emphasised the importance of developing the Executive Committee as suggested earlier (7 §) and encourages the players of the Baltic Sea Commission to restart the suggested co-operation with the Intermediterranean Commission (“MedBalt”).

Proposal: The draft Final Resolution will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

25 § Closing the 7th BSC General Assembly

The President thanked the County Council of Klaipeda and all the participants and finally closed the 7th BSC General Assembly in Klaipeda at 18.20 Lithuanian time.

Jaakko Mikkola
Executive Secretary
CPMR Baltic Sea Commission