



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Baltic Sea Commission GENERAL ASSEMBLY 27th May 2003 Umeå, Västerbotten (S)

Time: Tuesday 27th May 2003

Venue: NOLIA, Signalvägen 3, UMEÅ, SWEDEN

Participants:

1 § Opening the meeting

Proposal: The President will open the meeting at 9.00 and welcomes the participants in Umeå. The President of the BSC will give a President's Report about the BSC activities 2002-2003.

Final decision: The President opened the meeting at 9.20 a.m. The President of the BSC did give his Report about the BSC activities 2002-2003. The President's report was recorded in the minutes.

2 § Adopting of the agenda

Proposal: The General Assembly will adopt the agenda.

Final decision: The General Assembly adopted the agenda.

3 § Nomination of the Executive Secretary

The General Assembly of the Baltic Sea Commission on 28 May 2002 in Klaipeda, Lithuania, decided for the continuation of the Secretariat another two years in the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso (2002 – 2004). Mr. Jaakko Mikkola was nominated to the Executive Secretary of the recommendation of the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary Mr Jaakko Mikkola was then elected on 21 October 2002 to the Executive Director of the Regional Council of Itä-Uusimaa (Östra Nyland) in Finland and he was not able to continue as the Executive Secretary his renewed two years term.

The Executive Committee appointed in its meeting in Bialystok, Podlaskie Voivodeship (PL) on 6 February 2003 the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme to host the BSC Secretariat, Mr Marko Mälly as the Executive Secretary and Ms Maija Etu-Seppälä as the Assistant of the BSC Secretariat until the next General Assembly in Umeå 27 May 2003. The General Assembly will nominate the Executive Secretary on the recommendation of the Executive Committee and in conjunction with the Secretary General of the Conference (BSC Statutes, Article 5).

The Executive Committee in its meeting in Bialystok, Podlaskie Voivodeship (PL) expressed its gratitude towards the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme for its willingness to host the Secretariat until the General Assembly in May 2003 and noticed the offer from the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme to continue to host the Secretariat until the General Assembly in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) in 2004.

Proposal: The proposal and the recommendation of the Executive Committee made in its meeting in Bialystok (PL) on 6 February 2003 which is enclosed as **appendix1** and also explained above will be adopted as a decision by the General Assembly.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme will host the Secretariat until the General Assembly in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in June 2004 and the recommendation of the Executive Committee concerning the nomination of Mr Marko Mälly as the Executive Secretary was accepted. Mr Marko Mälly thanked the General Assembly for confidence.

4 § Presentations of new BSC member regions

Podlaskie (PL)
Päijät-Häme (FIN)

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 Jorma Pitkälä (Päijät-Häme, FIN) gave a short presentation. The representative of the Podlaskie Voivodeship (PL) was not present in Umeå.

New member regions were warmly welcomed by the President.

5 § BSC Activity Report 2002 – 2003 and summary of the Seminar Day 26 May 2003 – A Baltic Sea Region with four new member states of the European Union – a challenge ahead! – discussion

The Executive Secretary will briefly present the BSC activity report 2002 – 2003 (Klaipeda – Umeå), **appendix2**.

The summary of the Seminar Day and the possibility for discussion about the seminar results.

Proposal: The BSC Activity Report 2002-2003 and the feedback discussion about the Seminar Day will be recorded in the minutes as information.

Final Decision: The proposal was adopted.

6 § Current CPMR activities

The CPMR General Secretary Mr Xavier Gizard will have a presentation about the current CPMR activities including report from the latest CPMR Political Bureau meeting in Thessaloniki (GR) on 16-17 May 2003.

Proposal: The presentation will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The presentation of the CPMR General Secretary Mr Xavier Gizard was recorded as information in the minutes.

7 § New nominations in the BSC Executive Committee: Podlaskie Voivodeship, Poland.

Podlaskie Voivodeship has informed their nominations to the BSC Executive Committee:

- 1) The representative of Podlaskie Voivodeship will be NN;
- 2) The substitute member will be NN;

The new Polish members are warmly welcomed to join the work of the BSC Executive Committee.

Proposal: The new nominations above will be accepted and recorded in the minutes. NN and NN will be warmly welcomed.

Final decision: There was not yet decisions available from Podlaskie Voivodeship (PL) concerning the nominations to the BSC Executive Committee. The names of the nominated persons will be expected as soon as possible.

8 § New BSC Working Groups – a follow-up

Two new BSC Working Groups were established in Sundsvall, Västernorrland on 4 October 2002 and they are

1) CBC Working Group (Mr Andris Kazinovskis)

Cross Border Co-operation Working Group for exchanging ideas and solutions along the new (2004) external borders of the EU had its first meetings in Riga (LV) on 6-7 March 2003 and in Porvoo (FIN) on 9 May 2003. The CBC Working group is also expanding its co-operation with other CPMR border regions on EU's external borders for exchanging experiences and also in this way strengthening the Northern Dimension co-operation.

2) Transport Working Group (Mr Per Strømhaug)

The Transport groups on different levels (BSC and CPMR) should work in close co-operation. There was an evident need for the group within our own geographical commission as well. This new group will increase the importance of transport issues around the Baltic Sea in the whole CPMR. The Transport Working Group (TG) had its first meeting in Lahti (FIN) on 27 February 2003.

These working groups will all report their Final Reports / Action Plans in the 9th BSC General Assembly in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) in May 2004. The results of these Final Reports / Action Plans will be presented in the 32nd CPMR General Assembly in Telemark (N) in September 2004.

New similar issue orientated groups can be established later during the current mandate period 2002-04.

Proposal: Mr Andris Kazinovskis, Chairman of the Cross Border Co-operation Group and Mr Per Strømhaug, Chairman of the Transport Working Group will report about the current working situation of the new working groups. The working situation of the new working groups will be recorded for information in the minutes.

Final Decision: The Executive Secretary gave an account of the work going on in the BSC Cross Border Co-operation Working Group on the basis of the Activity Report prepared by Mr Andris Kazinovskis, Chairman of the CBC Working Group. Mr Per Strømhaug, Chairman of the BSC Transport Working Group gave an account concerning the activities of the Transport Working Group. These accounts were recorded for information in the minutes.

9 § BSC Spatial Development Group (SDG)

The BSC SDG Working Group under the chairmanship of **Mr Esa Halme** is finishing its work. The Final Report of this working group "the Action Plan for Spatial Development around Baltic Sea" will be presented to the 8th BSC General Assembly.

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 could 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 the BSC Executive Committee in Mariehamn in November 1999.

This working group had four meetings in Baltic Sea Area in Jurmala (LV), Umeå (S), Porvoo (FIN) and Lahti (FIN). The first chairman of this group was Mr Ulf Johansson, Gotland County Council (S). Mr Esa Halme, Päijät-Häme Regional

Council (FIN), was chosen to chair this group in Tallinn on 29 May 2001.

Proposal: The Chairman of the SDG group, Mr Esa Halme will present the Final Report “*Action Plan for Spatial Development Around Baltic Sea*”. The presentation will be recorded in the minutes. **Appendix3.**

Final decision: Mr Esa Halme presented the Final Report “*Action Plan for Spatial Development Around Baltic Sea*”. The presentation was recorded in the minutes.

10 § Fishery Partnership in the Baltic Sea Region – a new possible BSC working group

The Regional Municipality of Bornholm will present a project-idea concerning Fishery Partnership in the Baltic Sea Region. This could also be a start for a new working group in the area of fisheries. **Appendix4.**

Proposal: Mrs Karen-Margrethe Hansen Bager will present the project plan concerning Fishery Partnership in the Baltic Sea Region. The BSC General Assembly will have a discussion about the need for possible new working groups.

Final decision: Mrs Karen-Margrethe Hansen Bager presented the project plan concerning Fishery Partnership in the Baltic Sea Region. The presentation was recorded in the minutes.

11 § CPMR Intercommission Working Groups

In the CPMR there are several Intercom Working Groups where Baltic Sea Commission also has its representatives.

Transport Intercom Group

The CPMR Transport Intercom Group was set up by the initiative of Région Midi-Pyrénées (F) in 2001. The group has held four meetings during 2002 – 2003 in Rennes (February 2002), Ioannina (September 2002), Marseille (December 2002) and San Sebastian (March 2003)

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

Agriculture and Rural Development Intercom Group

The CPMR Agriculture Intercom Group was set up by the initiative of Région Limousin (F) in 2001. 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 group has met during 2002 and 2003 in Paris (April 2002) and three times in Brussels (May 2002, December 2002 and February 2003). In these meetings the working group has met several representatives from the EU Commission DG AGRI.

The representative of the BSC in this working group is Ms Bente Nielsen (Århus, DK)

Human Resources and Employment Intercom Group

On the initiative of Stockholm County Council the CPMR regions have taken action by setting up an ad hoc working group to take forward the considerations on Human Resources and Employment and produce an initial set of positions to be presented to the states and the European Commission.

The representative of the BSC in this working group is Tommy Karlsson (Stockholm County, S)

Proposal: The work done by the CPMR Intercom Working Groups will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: Ms Sandra Mezzadri (Transport Intercom Group, Agriculture and Rural Development Intercom Group) and Mr Tommy Karlsson (Human Resources and Employment Intercom Group) gave short accounts of the work going on in the CPMR Intercom Working Groups. Mr Rolf Gydemo informed the General Assembly with a written report about the activities in the Fisheries Intercom Group. These accounts were recorded in the minutes.

12 § BSC updated Action Plan

BSC Action Plan has been updated by the BSC and CPMR Secretariats and commented by the BSC Executive Committee, **appendix5**. Changes, deletions and additions have been made in the text preserving the structure of the previous Action Plan. Objectives for 2003 – 2004 belong to the part which must be updated frequently also in the future.

Proposal: The BSC General Assembly will have a discussion on the updated BSC Action Plan called “Visions and Objectives” and adopt it as a new BSC Action Plan in its updated form.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. BSC Action Plan “Visions and Objectives” will be rewritten and renewed for the next General Assembly in June 2004 in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

13 § Co-operation with CBSS Secretariat (Stockholm)

CBSS has announced the interest by third parties participating in its work. The status of a special participant gives a certain standing for exchange of information and experiences. Today BSSSC, UBC and BSPC (Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference) have already this status in the CBSS and B7 is expected to receive this status shortly.

In Bialystok, Podlaskie Voivodeship, in its meeting on 6 February 2003 the Executive Committee decided to apply the status of a special partner for the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission in the CBSS and will give the President authority to formalised participation.

Proposal: The information about the co-operation with the CBSS Secretariat will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: Mr Philipp Saprykin from the CBSS Secretariat gave a short presentation about the CBSS and announced that the Committee of the Senior Officials of the Council of Baltic Sea States had accepted the application of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission for special status in CBSS in its meeting in Mariehamn (Åland, FIN) on 26 May 2003. The information was recorded in the minutes.

14 § Financial statement of 2002/2003

The financial statements 2002/2003 of the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso 2002 (May-December) and of the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme 2003 (January-April) are included in the working documents as **appendix6**.

Proposal: The financial statements of the working year 2002/2003 will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

15 § 9th BSC General Assembly in May 2004

The 9th BSC General Assembly will be held in May – June 2004. 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 31st CPMR General Assembly – 30th CPMR Anniversary, will be held in St. Malo, Brittany (F) on 10-12 September 2003 and the 32nd CPMR General Assembly will be held in Telemark, Norway, in autumn 2004.

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

8th , 2003, Umeå, Västerbotten, Sweden

9th, 2004, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

Proposal: The 9th BSC General Assembly will be held in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) by the kind invitation of Mr Kosmider and Mr Frassmann. The General Assembly will discuss the issue of the hosting region for the 10th General Assembly in 2005.

Final decision: Mr Frassman welcomed the General Assembly to Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) in June 2004. The Region of South-West Finland announced its interest for organising the 10th BSC General Assembly in 2005.

16 § Coming events – a calender for 2003 - 2004 (only major CPMR or BSC events listed)

- 16-17 June, CPMR Seminar on Maritime Safety, Nantes (F)
- 19-20 June, 12th General Assembly of the CPMR North Sea Commission Cuxhaven, Niedersachsen (D)
- 19-20 June, Bureau and General Assembly of the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission, Inverness, Scotland (UK)
- 21 July, CPMR Political Bureau, Napoli (I)
- 10-12 September, XXXI CPMR General Assembly – 30th CPMR Anniversary, Saint-Malo, Brittany (F)
- (dtbc) November, CPMR Political Bureau, Sardegna (ITA)

Year 2004

- (dtbc) June, 9th General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)
- (tbc) September, 32nd CPMR General Assembly, Telemark (N)

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

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

17 § Withdrawals from the Baltic Sea Commission

The CPMR Political Bureau meeting held on 2 and 3 December 2002 at the Futuroscope in Poitiers (France) had to unfortunately note the withdrawal of two regions from the Baltic Sea Commission: Läänemaa (EE) and Jurmala (LV) on the grounds of budgetary difficulties and territorial coherence. The total number of CPMR member regions is currently 150 of which we have in the BSC currently 30 member regions. The new updated map of the BSC member regions as attached document, **appendix7.**

Proposal: The withdrawals will be recorded for information in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

18 § Thanking the former Executive Secretary, Mr Jaakko Mikkola

Proposal: The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission will thank Mr Jaakko Mikkola, Executive Director of the Regional Council of Itä-Uusimaa, for his work as Executive Secretary of the Baltic Sea Commission in years 2000-2002.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

19 § Any other business

Proposal:

Final decision: There was no other business.

20 § Closing the 8th BSC General Assembly

Proposal: The President will thank the participants and close the 8th BSC General Assembly in Umeå, Västerbotten (S).

Final decision: The President thanked the Region of Västerbotten and all the participants and closed the 8th BSC General Assembly in Umeå at 1.00 p.m.