

	<p>CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS</p> <p><b>BALTIC SEA COMMISSION</b></p>
	<p>6, rue Saint-Martin – 35700 RENNES – F          Tel. + 358 94 76 74 11 – Fax. + 358 947 67 43 20          Email: <a href="mailto:janne.tamminen@uudenmaanliitto.fi">janne.tamminen@uudenmaanliitto.fi</a>          Web: <a href="http://www.balticseacommission.info">www.balticseacommission.info</a></p>

## 16TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CPMR BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

26–27 May 2011 – Stockholm (SE) – Helsinki (FI)

Venue: Stockholm – m/s Mariella – Helsinki

**THURSDAY 26 MAY 2011**

### **SEMINAR – Regional Development in the Archipelago of Stockholm**

14.00 SEMINAR – Regional Development in the Archipelago of Stockholm  
 (Stockholm County Council, Landstingshuset, Hantverkargatan 45, Stockholm)

*The General Assembly of CPMR Baltic Sea Commission started at 14.00 26 May at Stockholm by the seminar “Regional Development in the Archipelago of Stockholm”. Ms Inger LINGE, Chair of Stockholm County Council, opened the seminar and welcomed the participants to the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Baltic Sea Commission.*

The Stockholm Archipelago, by Mr Gustav ANDERSSON, Commissioner for Environment and the Archipelago

Baltic Sea Environmental - Time to act - Status and Prospects, by Professor Ragnar ELMGREN, Stockholm University

Experiences from the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme/Archipelago and Islands Subprogramme, Dr Philipp SCHWARTZ, Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat, Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013

*Ms Linge closed the seminar and pointed out the big challenges in protecting the Baltic Sea.*

### **The Early Years of the Baltic Sea Commission**

17.15 BSC Early Years (Onboard the ferry “m/s Mariella”)

The “The Early Years of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission” was presented by Mr. Tommy Karlsson. He made the presentation of the founding the Baltic Sea Commission 15 years ago on the ferry.

### **Session 1: Contributions of EU Regional Policy and the EUSBSR to regional development in the Baltic Sea Area**

**19.30** Session 1: Contributions of EU Regional Policy and the EUSBSR to regional development in the Baltic Sea Area (Onboard the ferry “m/s Mariella”)

Mr Erik BERGKVIST, President of CPMR Baltic Sea Commission opened the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. He welcomed the participants and the speakers.

Mr Bergkvist stressed that we are now living the very interesting and important period in the EU.

*Specific political contacts are being made with EU institutions, in coherence with the priorities of the BSC work program. In the last months, the BSC did, for instance, develop specific contacts in the European Parliament, with Dg Regio and Mare of the European Commission, and with the Committee of the Regions.*

*From the meeting in Brussels he had with Mr Tunne KELAM, Chair of the Europe Baltic Intergroup in the European Parliament, he could feel that our contribution to debates in the European Parliament concerning the Baltic Sea Strategy and other issues concerning the Baltic Area are appreciated and should be increased.*

*CPMR has no power itself, it has only a power of its member regions. That is on the same time the a weakness and a strength. Some of our regions has also a very strong role in the EUSBSR. For example Regions Västerbotten and Kalmar has very recently been confirmed as co-leader of a new horizontal priority of the EUSBSR on multi-level governance. Helsinki-Uusimaa Region has started the maritime issues working group and also we have very active transport working group. Energy and Climate working group will be recreated.*

*There is a lot of organizations on the Baltic Sea area. That is on the same time the good and bad thing, because many of them are working with rather similar issues. So Baltic Sea is not speaking with one voice. We need to have better coordination and cooperation between the different organizations.*

*BSC need new members to have more power. The members are needed from every country around the Baltic Sea.*

*EU must be strong in the regional policy. In the very next months, the European Commission will make its proposals concerning the regulations for the EU Regional policy.*

Mr Jean-Yves LE DRIAN, President of the CPMR and of the Region of Brittany (France)

*Mr LE DRIAN wanted to thank BSC for the invitation and emphasizing the importance of maritime issues and accessibility to have a meeting on the ferry. He also mentioned the strong supporter of BSC, Mr Välinoro, who passed away a short time ago.*

*Mr Le Drian stressed the signifigance of the macro-regions to highlight the notion of solidarity, which will also be the main issue in the forthcoming meeting of the Political Bureau. "We need a strong political solidarity"*

*In this debate about the European Budget it is very important to focus on the regional points. That demands of all of us. Social intervention policy should be activated and it should be seen as an investment from the member states. This part of Europe 2020 Strategy will be very important. Territorial solidarity is also a growth strategy for all areas, not only the support to the poor ones. This is the part of the Single European Act and the strengthened voice of European Regions is strongly needed to support this. Mr Le Drian reminded that the Cohesion policy is also the part of the European Treaty.*

Mr Alain ROGGERI, Head of Unit (Estonia, Finland and Latvia) DG Regio

*Mr Roggeri's presentation focused on the importance of European Strategy of the Baltic Sea Region. There is a strong potential for strengthening the cooperation inside the macroregion area.*

*EUSBSR is the good example for the other macroregions. We have used to think on the regional and national level and now we need to learn to think on the macroregional level too.*

*The EUSBSR clearly shows the need of coordination on the macro-regional level. The strategy stimulates new working methods and gives a possibility to cooperate between different sectors like transport, environmental and maritime issues.*

*Mr. Roggeri reminded that there is also beg differences between states and regions in the Baltic Sea Area. There is big differences of GDP. There is also regions who are on very high level in high technology and R&D. On the other hand there is less developed areas. Educational mobility program and the lifelong learning programs could be a one solution for that.*

*The strategy should be more visible. Too much time is spend to find the right information. The benefits of cooperation should be more clear for the different regions and stakeholders.*

Mr Ulf SAVBACK, Head of Section, Division for Regional Growth  
Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications (Sweden)  
*Mr Savback's presentation concentrated on three issues: Cohesion Policy and the BSR for Sweden, EU Baltic Sea strategy and the next financial perspective. (Power Point)*

### **Working paper: BSC Political Paper on EU Cohesion Policy and the EUSBSR**

*The Political Paper was adopted unanimously with the following amendments*

*Mr. Marko Mälly (Region Päijät-Häme) presented the proposal of the Finnish delegation*

2. To guarantee the firm and stabile economic and regional development in the Baltic Sea Area the role of the regions managing and coordinating the Cohesion Policy instruments should be further strengthened during the next programming period. Focusing in the post-2013 Cohesion Policy with the objectives of the 2020 Strategy is strongly supported. \_

Mr. Ingvar Thell (Region Skåne) proposed that the second sentence should be removed

7. Call for a strong territorial cooperation objective keeping the current 3 strands (cross-border, trans-national and inter-regional). While the cross-border strand could be made more strategic if defined at NUTS 2 level instead of NUTS 3 as is the case today, the trans-national strand shall be envisaged as a support for coordination of macro-regional strategies where they exist. In the Baltic Sea Region context, the Interreg B Baltic Sea Region Programme could serve as a support for coordination in the framework of the EUSBSR.

*Mr. Jerker Johnson (Region Ostrobothnia) presented the proposal of the Finnish delegation to add the ninth chapter to the Political Paper*

9. Recognizes that regional innovation systems play a pivotal role in the dynamic development of the regions creating more focused measures within the cohesion policy and contributing to a dynamic development and excellence. Hence the regional innovation systems should be supported by the research measures decided and implemented by the regions.

### **Amended document: What role of the regions in the Baltic Sea Strategy? Summary of the Enquiry**

*Adopted unanimously*

## **Session 2: Internal issues**

Mr Erik BERGKVIST, the President of BSC opened the session 21.30 (m/s Mariella).

There was a roll call in the beginning of the session. Mr. Bergkvist stated there were 20 member regions represented at the General Assembly.

### **Election of the Vice-President**

*There was no need for election.*

### **Changes (if any) to the BSC Executive Board**

*There was no changes. Mr. Peder Bang (Central Denmark) informed that there will be a new Danish alternate member of Executive Committee and his/her name will be confirmed later.*

### **Annual Report**

*Mr Janne Tamminen, Executive Secretary of the BSC, presented the Annual Report. There was mentioned the main topics of the last year. The Annual Report will be finalized by the Executive Committee. (Power Point)*

*Mr Jaakko Mikkola (Helsinki-Uusimaa) mentioned the importance to have Russian participants as observers in the BSC working groups. That would be the most practical way to develop the cooperation between CPMR and Russian regions.*

*Ms Marianou wanted to Baltic Sea Region to tell the good examples to the other macro regions.*

*Adopted unanimously*

### **Work Programme for 2011**

*Mr Tamminen presented the Work Programme for 2011. (Power Point)*

*Adopted unanimously*

### **Financial Report**

Accounts considering the period May 2009-2010 and the Budget for 2011 were presented by Mr Tamminen.

*Adopted unanimously*

*Mr Bergkvist stated that probably the next host for BSC General Assembly will be Region Nordland, but that will be confirmed later. He also expressed his thanks for Region Gotland and Ms Anne Ståhl Mousa for the ended period of hosting the secretariat and Helsinki-Uusimaa Region for the new period.*

*22.00 Mr Bergkvist, Chair, closed the session 2*

**FRIDAY 27 MAY 2011**

### **Session 3: Helcom Baltic Sea Action Plan, the maritime dimension of the EUSBSR and the Regions**

**11.00** Session 3: Helcom Baltic Sea Action Plan, the maritime dimension of the EUSBSR and the Regions (Scandic Grand Marina, Helsinki)

*Mr Erik BERGKVIST opened the second day of the General Assembly.*

*Mr Jari SAINIO, the vice-president of the Uusimaa Regional Council, welcomed the participants to the session hosted by Helsinki-Uusimaa Region.*

Speakers:

Mr Jaakko MIKKOLA, Director, International Affairs, Uusimaa Regional Council (Power Point)

Ms Anne Christine BRUSENDORFF, Executive Secretary, the Helsinki Commission HELCOM (Power Point)

Ms Hanne-Grete NILSEN, DG Environment, European Commission (Power Point)

Working paper: **BSC Technical Paper on Links between Helcom Baltic Sea Action Plan, the maritime dimension of the EUSBSR and the Regions**

*Adopted unanimously*

Mr Mikkola presented the working paper and told how the Maritime Issues working group has started its work (Power Point). Ms Brusendorff explained the role of Helcom in the MSP and ICZM (Power Point). Ms Nilsen's presentation focused on the maritime dimension of the EUSBSR and the Regions (Power Point).

*Mr Le Drian wanted that the best practices from the Baltic Sea Strategy could be copied for example to the Black Sea area.*

*12.30 Mr Bergkvist, Chair, closed the session 3.*

### **Session 4: Cooperation between the CPMR, BSC and Russia**

**13.00** Session 4: Cooperation between the CPMR, BSC and Russia

Chair: Mr Erik BERGKVIST, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and of Region Västerbotten (Sweden)

Speakers:

Mr Jussi PAJUNEN, Mayor of Helsinki

Ms Hanna SMITH, researcher, Aleksanteri –institute

Mr Jan Lundin, Director General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

**Working paper: BSC Technical Paper on links between Regions of the Baltic Sea Area and Russia**

Mr Pajunen's presentation focused on the role of Helsinki in the Baltic Sea Area and the linkages between Helsinki and Russia, especially St. Petersburg. (Power Point)

Ms Smith presentation concentrated on the Russian policy on the Baltic Sea Area and what role the Russian will have in the future. (Power Point)

Mr Lundin had a presentation about his organization, CBSS. He told about its work and main issues. (Power Point)

*BSC Technical Paper on links between Regions of the Baltic Sea Area and Russia was adopted unanimously.*

**14.35:** End of proceedings

*Mr. Bergkvist thanked the speakers, participants and organizers in Stockholm and Helsinki and closed the General Assembly.*