



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Baltic Sea Commission GENERAL ASSEMBLY 4th June 2004 Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) MINUTES

Time: Friday 4th June 2004, at 9 a.m.

Venue: The Plenary Hall of the Land Parliament Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schwerin Castle, Lennéstraße 1, Schwerin, Germany

Participants: Participants' list attached

Roll call

1 § Opening the meeting

Proposal: Welcome by Dr. Harald Ringstorff, Minister-President of State Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Welcome by Mr Anders Gustâv, President of the Baltic Sea Commission. The President will open the meeting and welcomes the participants in Schwerin and will give a President's Report about the BSC activities 2003 – 2004.

Final decision: The President opened the meeting at 9.00 a.m. Dr. Harald Ringstorff, Minister-President of State Mecklenburg-Vorpommern did welcome the participants in Schwerin. The President of the BSC did give his Report about the BSC activities 2003-2004. The President's report was recorded as information in the minutes.

2 § Adopting of the agenda

Proposal: The General Assembly will adopt the agenda.

Final decision: The General Assembly adopted the agenda with changing the working order of points §12 and §10.

3 § 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 Cagliari, Sardegna (I) on 15-16 April 2004.

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.

4 § Presentation of a new BSC member region

Norrbottn (S)

Proposal: Representative from the new member region, Norrbotten, will have the floor for a short presentation. The presentation will be recorded in the minutes. The new updated map of the BSC member regions as attached document, **Appendix1.**

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

Mr Stefan Tornberg and Mr Kjell Åström (Norrbottn, S) gave a short presentation.

Norrbottn was warmly welcomed as a new BSC Member Region by the President.

5 § BSC Activity Report 2003 – 2004

The Executive Secretary will briefly present the BSC activity report 2003 – 2004 (Umeå - Schwerin), **Appendix2.**

Proposal: The BSC Activity Report 2003 - 2004 will be recorded in the minutes as information.

Final Decision: The proposal was adopted.

6 § Transnational interregional co-operation

The third report on economic and social cohesion by the European Commission proposes that the transnational interregional co-operation constitute the third priority of cohesion policy after 2006, and its annual budget should be more than doubled in relation to the current programming period.

The Commission proposes that cross-border co-operation, currently supported through Strand A of Interreg III, should be extended to cover the EU's maritime borders.

Transnational co-operation, currently backed by the Interreg IIIB, would continue to be supported through the future instrument, but under different conditions:

- no overlapping of co-operation areas
- co-operation themes to focus on a limited number of strategic priorities, i.e. research and development, environment, risk prevention and integrated water management.

CPMR has asked for the co-operation of the Geographical Commissions at this specific point, and more generally the different aspects of transnational co-operation.

The Executive Committee discussed this matter in its meeting on 14 April 2004 in Solna (S). The BSC Cross Border Co-operation Working group has been working with the above mentioned thematic in its meeting 9 October 2003 in Brussels with the EU Commission representatives. In its meeting on 6 February 2004 in Solna (S) this working group decided for working on a position concerning the New Neighbourhood Policy from year 2007 onwards.

Proposal: The General Assembly will adopt the resolution on transnational interregional co-operation in the Baltic Sea area, **Appendix3.**

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The Final Resolution may be found on the BSC web page on www.cpmr.org

7 § Maritime safety in the Baltic Sea Area

BSC has been highly committed to creating the framework for a sustainable development; BSC and CPMR have presented their demands to the EU, including via approaches to the Committee of the Regions. An oil or chemical spillage or accident at sea could have serious consequences even very far away from the site of the accident. This is literally a matter of safeguarding the living conditions of the people around the Baltic Sea which will be lost unless we take joint action to preserve the environment. This is of great importance to the Baltic Sea Region and its coasts and to the fisheries as well, which is already struggling with difficult conditions.

International Maritime Organisation (IMO) of the United Nations did approve the application by the eight Baltic Sea States for classification of the Baltic Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA).

Conclusion of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) of the United Nations of granting the PSSA status for the Baltic Sea is provisional pending additional proposals by its eight bordering states before finalisation possibly in autumn of 2005.

The Baltic Sea Commission strongly encourages all Baltic Sea States to work on environmental measures such as setting higher standards for transporting oil, crew training and ship quality. The consequences of an agreement on increased safety of sailing, and thereby improved protection of *i.a.* the marine environment are of major importance to the member regions of the BSC.

The waters are vulnerable, and all Baltic Sea States will have to understand that protecting the Baltic Sea is about much more than sea water or the right to carry

any cargo you like.

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission strongly encourages CPMR and the Baltic Sea States to notify the European Commission about its concern and this resolution in order to once again put the issue on their agenda, and underlines the importance of involvement of Russia to initiatives to increase the safety of navigation in the Baltic Sea and invites all the Baltic Sea States (including Russia) to co-operate within HELCOM to develop additional protective measures for the PSSA status.

Proposal: The General Assembly will adopt the new resolution on maritime safety in the Baltic Sea, **Appendix4**.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted with amendments presented by Västra Götaland (S). The Final Resolution may be found on the BSC web page on www.cpmr.org

8 § Election of the President and of the Executive Committee and the nomination of a Vice-President

The statutes of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission which were amended in Bornholm 2000 are enclosed (**Appendix5**). 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 1) The Executive Secretary explained the election procedure outlined in the

decision: Article 4 of the BSC Statutes. Mr Jorma Pitkälä (Päijät-Häme) suggested the nomination of **Mr Inge Andersson** to the post of President. The nomination of Mr Inge Andersson was also handed in written form to the BSC Secretariat before the General Assembly by several BSC member regions. There were no other nominations. A vote by show of hands was taken. Mr Inge Andersson was unanimously declared the President of the BSC for 2004-2006. There were no abstentions. Mr Andersson thanked the General Assembly for trust and support.

Mr President asked for nominations to the post of the Vice-President of the Baltic Sea Commission. The nomination of **Ms Bente Nielsen** was handed in written form to the BSC Secretariat before the General Assembly by Västernorrland. There were no other nominations. A vote by show of hands was taken. Ms Bente Nielsen was unanimously declared the Vice-President of the BSC for 2004-2006. There were no abstentions.

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

Members/substitutes:

Denmark: Ms Bente Nielsen, Århus/ Mr Jörgen Kvist, Bornholm

Estonia: Ms Valli Laas, Ida-Virumaa/ Ms Reet Kokovkin, Hiiumaa

Finland: Mr Mikko Rönholm, South-West Finland/ Ms Christel Liljeström, Itä-Uusimaa

Germany: Mr Dirk Frassmann, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern/ Mr Wolf Born, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Latvia: Mr Ilgonis Steinbergs, Riga District/ Mr Andris Kazinovskis, Balvi

Lithuania: Ms Virginija Lukosiene, Klaipėda/ Ms Dalia Makuskiene, Klaipėda

Norway: Ms Kjersti Markusson, Nordland/ Mr Per Strømhaug, Nordland

Poland: Mr Wojciech Kwiatkowski, Podlaskie Voivodeship/ Ms Grazyna Szajstek, Podlaskie Voivodeship

Sweden: Ms Inger Linge, Stockholm region/Mr Jan Lundgren, Gotland

9 §

Nomination of the Executive Secretary

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 Solna, Stockholm Region (S) 14 April 2004 is enclosed as **Appendix6**.

In the final decision of the respective point (Solna 85 §) it was decided to propose a continuation of the Secretariat another 2 years in the Regional Council of Pääjät-Häme and it was recommended the nomination of Mr Marko Mälly as the Executive Secretary to the General Assembly. In the Organisational Charter of the CPMR (St. Malo 2003), 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 2004 that he has nothing against the suggested procedure where the Regional Council of Pääjät-Häme would continue hosting the BSC Secretariat another 2 years.

Proposal: The proposal and the recommendation of the Executive Committee made in its meeting in Solna (S) on 14 April 2004 and also explained above will be adopted as a decision by the General Assembly.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The Regional Council of Pääjät-Häme will host the Secretariat another two (2) years (2004-2006) 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.

10 § BSC Working Groups – Final/activity reports

1) CBC Working Group (Mr Andris Kazinovskis)

The BSC Cross Border Co-operation Working Group was established for exchanging ideas and solutions along the new (2004) external borders of the EU. It has had meetings in Riga (LV) on 6-7 March, Porvoo (FI) on 9 May, Balvi (LV) on 22-23 August, Brussels (B) on 9 October 2003, Solna (S) on 6 February and Oulu (FI) on 10 May 2004, **Appendix7**.

2) Transport Working Group (Mr Per Strømhaug)

The BSC Transport Working Group will increase the importance of transport issues around the Baltic Sea in the whole CPMR. The Transport Working Group has had its meetings in Lahti (FI) on 27 February, Sigulda (LV) on 2-3 July, Sundsvall (S) on 20-21 August 2003 and in Klaipėda on 9 March 2004.

The European Commission opened for organisations and individuals possibility to give their comments on the priorities of the High Level Group of the TEN-T Revision. The Transport Working Group of the Baltic Sea Commission has produced a document which was included as a part in the CPMR position on TEN-T revision. The CPMR InterCom Transport working group did meet in Brussels on 4 December 2003 with the representatives of the EU Commission on TEN-T revision where the positions of the Geographical Commissions were represented.

Due to the discussion on Motorways of Seas the BSC Transport Working Group

organised a joint seminar on Sea Motorways in close co-operation with the North Sea Commission and the Klaipėda County Council in Klaipėda (LT) on 8-9 March 2004.

The application for seed money for the Interreg-project "Intermodality and operability in the Baltic Sea area" has been approved. A small task force of the BSC Transport Working Group members has been established for planning the project process ahead and the group did have its first meeting in Riga on 17 May 2004. A full partner meeting is expected to be held in the beginning of September 2004, **Appendix8.**

Proposal: Mr Andris Kazinovskis, Chairman of the Cross Border Co-operation Working Group and Mr Per Strømhaug, Chairman of the Transport Working Group will present the Final/Activity Reports and the future activities of the working groups. The Executive Committee recommends that the General Assembly supports the continuation of the work of these two BSC working groups. The presentations will be recorded as information in the minutes.

Final Decision: The proposal was adopted. The presentations were recorded as information in the minutes.

11 § Fishery Partnership in the Baltic Sea Region

The Regional Municipality of Bornholm presented a project-idea concerning Fishery Partnership in the Baltic Sea Region to the BSC General Assembly in Umeå on 27 May 2003. The Executive Committee supported the project idea and project work of the Regional Municipality of Bornholm. The BSC Secretariat has offered information about the project plan to the BSC member regions to encourage the interested regions to take part in this project. The Regional Municipality of Bornholm has sent a report to the BSC Executive Committee about the current situation of the project work. **Appendix9.**

Proposal: Executive Secretary will give a short project report concerning Fishery Partnership in the Baltic Sea Region.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The short project report given by the Executive Secretary was recorded as information in the minutes.

12 § 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 five meetings during 2002 – 2003 in Rennes (February 2002), Ioannina (September 2002), Marseille (December 2002), San Sebastian (March 2003) and Brussels (December 2003).

The representatives of the BSC in this group are Mr Aimo Ahti (Kymenlaakso, FIN) and Ms Inger Linge (Stockholm County, S). The Baltic Sea Commission has also been represented by Mr Per Strømhaug, Chairman of the BSC Transport Working Group.

Agriculture and rural development Intercom group

The CPMR General Assembly of September 2001, held in Oporto, decided to set up an Inter-Commission working group to prepare initiatives and draft positions to be adopted by the organisation's executive bodies (General Assembly, Political Bureau). The group is chaired by Mr Robert Savy, President of the region of Limousin. The first meeting was held in Paris on 23 April 2002. Since then there have been regular meetings throughout the period leading up to the reform.

In this working group also an Interreg III C project plan was initiated by the French Limousin Region on non-agricultural rural development. Several Baltic Sea Regions have shown their interest to this project plan. **Appendix10.**

The BSC representative in this working group, BSC Vice-President Ms Bente Nielsen, Århus (DK) informed in the Executive Committee meeting on 15 October 2003 in Lahti (FI) that she will not continue her work in this working group. Mr Paavo Myllymäki from the provincial MTK union of South-West Finland of the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) in Finland has expressed his interest to start his work as one BSC representative in this InterCom group.

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.

It seems predictable that the new Objective 2, at least the suggestion from the EU-Commission, will be in accordance to the proposal of the CPMR InterCom Working Group on Human Resources. It was decided in the CPMR Political Bureau meeting on 15 April 2004 in Cagliari, Sardegna (I) that the CPMR will set up a new thematic group to concentrate upon Lisbon strategy and what the regions have done in order to fulfil the goal of Lisbon. The intention is to see how the regions have been able to impact on the Lisbon strategy and in what they have done to support the fulfilling of this. **Appendix11.**

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

Fisheries InterCom Group (FIG) (Rolf Gydemo and Kjell Nybacka)

The CPMR Fisheries Intercom Group (FIG) held meetings in Brussels in July and in Santiago, Galicia in December 2003. The July meeting focused on discards, fisheries and regional policy, and Regional Advisory Committees

(RAC's). At the Santiago meeting, the main topic was RAC's, where the North Sea Commission is ahead. A proposal for a Baltic Sea RAC has been put forward. Furthermore, socio-economic impact of regional policy was discussed to produce input to DG FISH Conference in 2004.

BSC representatives in FIG will attend the DG FISH conference "Steering towards 2007-2013: What support for the common fisheries policy and coastal zone development" **Additional appendix1.**

Proposal: Mr Patrick Anvrouin and Mr Tommy Karlsson will give their reports on the work done by the CPMR Intercom working groups. These reports will be recorded as information in the minutes.

Final decision: Mr Rolf Gydemo and Kjell Nybacka informed the General Assembly with a written report about the activities in the Fisheries Intercom Group. Reports given by Mr Patrick Anvrouin (Transport Intercom Group, Agriculture and Rural Development Intercom Group), Mr Tommy Karlsson (Human Resources and Employment Intercom Group) and Executive Secretary were recorded as information in the minutes.

13 § BSC Action Plan "Visions and Objectives"

The BSC General Assembly decided in Umeå, Västerbotten (S), on 27 May 2003, that the BSC Action Plan "Visions and Objectives" will be rewritten and renewed for the next General Assembly in June 2004 in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D). The BSC Secretariat has prepared with the Executive Committee and BSC Member Regions a proposal for the new BSC Action Plan "Visions and Objectives". **Appendix12.**

Proposal: The BSC General Assembly will adopt the proposal prepared by the Executive Committee (Solna, 14 April 2004) and BSC Member Regions as the new BSC Action Plan.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

14 § Co-operation with CBSS Secretariat (Stockholm)

Baltic Sea Commission received the status of a special participant in the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) on 27 May 2003. The status of a special participant gives a certain standing for exchange of information and experiences.

There has been active co-operation between Baltic Sea Commission and Council of Baltic Sea States since the Baltic Sea Commission has received the status of a special participant.

Proposal: CSO Chairman, Ambassador Tiit Naber will address the Conference on behalf of the CBSS. The presentation about the co-operation with the CBSS Secretariat will be recorded as information in the minutes.

Final decision: CSO Chairman, Ambassador Tiit Naber did address the Conference on behalf of the CBSS. The presentation about the co-operation with the CBSS Secretariat was recorded as information in the minutes.

15 § **Co-operation with HELCOM Secretariat (Helsinki)**

The role and work of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) in the past years has been of great importance to enhance the protection of the marine environment in the Baltic Sea with the most recent example of granting the PSSA status (Particularly Sensitive Sea Area) by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to the Baltic Sea.

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission has the status as an observer in the "HELCOM meetings of Heads of Delegations". The Executive Secretary has attended them in Helsinki (October and December 2003). The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission has the continued observer status of five years in HELCOM until 2007.

Proposal: The representative of HELCOM will have the floor for a brief presentation (tbc).

Final decision: The representative of HELCOM was not able to attend the General Assembly. Executive Secretary did give a short report about the co-operation with the HELCOM Secretariat.

16 § **Financial statement of 2003/2004**

The financial statement 2003 of the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme is included in the working documents as **Appendix13.**

Proposal: The financial statement of the working year 2003 will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

17 § **10th BSC General Assembly in June 2005**

The 10th BSC General Assembly will be held in June 2005. 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 32nd CPMR General Assembly will be held in Stavanger, Rogaland (N) on 22-24 September 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, Rönne, Bornholm, Denmark
- 6th, 2001, Tallinn, Harju, Estonia

7th, 2002, Klaipėda, Klaipėda County, Lithuania

8th, 2003, Umeå, Västerbotten, Sweden

9th, 2004, Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

The Region of South-West Finland has kindly expressed its interest to host the 10th BSC General Assembly in Turku, Finland in 2005.

Proposal: The Executive Committee (Solna, 14 April 2004) recommends the General Assembly to accept the kind offer of South-West Finland to host the 10th BSC General Assembly in Turku, South-West Finland (FI) on 2-3 June 2005.

Final decision: Mr Mikko Rönholm welcomed the participants to the 10th BSC General Assembly in Naantali, South-West Finland (FI) on 26-27 May 2005. The 28 May 2005 will be an excursion day for the participants of the General Assembly.

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

- 16-18 June, 13th General Assembly of the North Sea Commission, Gothenburg, Västra Götaland (S)
- 9 July, Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Umeå, Västerbotten (S)
- 22-24 September, 32nd CPMR General Assembly, Stavanger, Rogaland (N)

22 September, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Pre-General Assembly, Stavanger, Rogaland, (N); Room B on site at 16.00 – 17.00

17.30/19.30, meetings of the national delegations to appoint their representatives to the Political Bureau (Please contact the CPMR Secretariat if your national delegation wishes to meet in private room).

N.B. There will be a renewal of both the Presidency of the CPMR and the Political Bureau of the CPMR in Stavanger, Rogaland, Norway. The reminder explaining the procedure by the Organisational Charter of the CPMR is enclosed as **Appendix14**.

- 21-22 October, CPMR Seminar on Inter-regional Co-operation, Sicily (I)
- Autumn 2004, Meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau, Galicia (SP)

Proposal: The coming events will be recorded in the minutes

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

19 § Thanking the President of the Baltic Sea Commission, Mr Anders Gustâv

Proposal: The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission will thank Mr Anders Gustâv, Mayor of Solna, for his work as President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission in years 2000-2004.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

20 § Any other business

Proposal:

Final decision: There was no other business.

21 § Closing the 9th BSC General Assembly

Proposal: The President will thank the participants and close the 9th BSC General Assembly in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D).

Final decision: The President thanked State Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and all the participants and closed the 9th BSC General Assembly in Schwerin at 12.50 a.m.