

PM Thematic Work Group Report

To: Executive Committee Meeting June 14<sup>th</sup> and General Assembly at 15<sup>th</sup> of June in Bodö

From: CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Secretariat, Anne Ståhl Mousa  
Executive Secretary, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Tel. +46 498 263444, Mobile +46 70 540 88 58, Fax. +46 498 205120, E-mail: [anne\\_stahlmousa@msn.com](mailto:anne_stahlmousa@msn.com), [www.crpm.org](http://www.crpm.org)

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Subject: ENERGY

Author: Linnéa Lundström

## Baltic Sea Commission Energy Working Group

### Background:

At the BSC meeting in connection to the CPMR General Assembly in Murcia 2006, the County Council of Västerbotten expressed a will to chair a working group on energy. The focus of the WG will be on **renewable energy sources**, in particular on those coming from agriculture and forestry sector. However, the WG is open to all BSC members and the issues they would like to raise, which means that other questions can come into focus as well if the members so desire. Chairman is Dr. Erik Bergkvist, County Councillor and Chairman of the Board of Regional Development in Västerbotten. Ms. Linnéa Lundström will be coordinating the WG.

### Meetings:

A first meeting was held in Stockholm on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to draw the guidelines for this year's work and priorities. The main objective is to compile a position paper to the CPMR General Assembly in October 2007. A **workshop** will therefore be held at the BSC General Assembly in Bodo, Norway, in June 2007. A **seminar** will also take place in Umeå on September 11.

The BSC EWG was also represented at the **CPMR EWG steering committee** meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

The County Council of Västerbotten has established a **reference group** consisting of public and private actors in the field of renewable energy in their region (the main energy companies, the university, the Farmers' association, the Biofuel region network, the County administrative board, other politicians etc), and other regions are encouraged to do the same. They held their first joint meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>, where it was decided to **answer the public consultation** on "*Biofuel issues in the new legislation on the promotion of renewable energy*" from the Commission.

**Cooperation:**

At the reference group meeting in May, Mr Lars Sandström from the County Council of **Norrbottn** held a presentation of their strategies and activities in CPMR and also in **AER**, where they are chairing the EWG in committee 1. Common interests and cooperation were discussed. Norrbotten and Västerbotten are also members of the new **RENREN** network, which met Commissioner Piebalgs in April.

On April 12 a joint meeting between the BSC and North Sea Commission was held at Copenhagen Kastrup Airport in Denmark to enhance the cooperation between the two commissions. Both the BSC EWG and the **NSC Sustainable Development Group** were present. The NSC SDG expressed a wish to meet separately to discuss future cooperation, especially concerning a conference in the spring of 2008, and this meeting has been set to take place at Stockholm Arlanda Airport on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**The work ahead:**

May 10: CPMR EWG steering committee, Brussels (BSC cannot attend, unfortunately).

May 25: Joint meeting with the NSC SDG at Stockholm Arlanda airport.

June 4: Deadline to hand in the response to the public consultation on biofuel issues.

June 14: EWG workshop at the BSC General Assembly in Bodo, Norway.

September 11: Seminar on renewable energy sources in Umeå, Sweden.

September 27: BSC steering committee meeting in Riga (TBC).

October 17-19: CPMR General Assembly.

Secretariat

CPMR Baltic Sea Commission