



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Baltic Sea Commission GENERAL ASSEMBLY 27th May 2005 Naantali, Southwest Finland (FI) MINUTES

Time: Friday 27th May 2005, at 9 a.m.

Venue: Naantali SPA Hotel, Matkailijantie 2, Naantali (FI), meeting room Birgitta

Participants: Participants' list attached

Roll call

1 § Opening the meeting

Proposal: Welcome by Mr Ilkka Kanerva, Chairman, Regional Council of Southwest Finland.

Welcome by Mr Inge Andersson, President of the Baltic Sea Commission. The President will open the 10th General Assembly and welcomes the participants in Naantali and will give a President's Report about the BSC activities 2004 – 2005.

Final decision: The President opened the meeting at 9.00 a.m. Mr Ilkka Kanerva, Chairman, Regional Council of Southwest Finland did welcome the participants in Naantali. The President of the BSC did give his report about the BSC activities 2004-2005. The President's report was recorded as information in the minutes.

Mr Armas Lahoniitty, Mayor of City of Turku, did address the Conference on behalf of the Union of the Baltic Cities. The information about the current affairs and the co-operation with the UBC was recorded as information in the minutes. Mr Lahoniitty did welcome all participants of the General Assembly to the VIII UBC General Conference in Turku 29.9.-2.10.2005.

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 by including § 15 in §1.

3 § **Current CPMR activities**

Mrs Gunn-Marit Helgesen, First Vice-President of the CPMR, will have a presentation about the current CPMR activities.

Proposal: The presentation will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The presentation of the First Vice-President of the CPMR, Mrs Gunn-Marit Helgesen was recorded as information in the minutes.

4 § **Presentation of the new BSC member region**

Blekinge (S)

Proposal: Representatives from the new member region will have the floor for a short presentation. The presentation will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: Mr Bernth Johnson and Ms Catharina Blom (Blekinge, S) gave a short presentation.

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

5 § **BSC Activity Report 2004 – 2005**

The Executive Secretary will briefly present the BSC activity report 2004 – 2005 (Schwerin – Naantali). **Appendix1.**

Proposal: The BSC Activity Report 2004-2005 will be recorded in the minutes as information.

Final Decision: The proposal was adopted.

6 § **European territorial co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region (Final resolution)**

The 9th General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission adopted the resolution on European territorial co-operation – a tool for effective development of regional co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) on 4 June 2004. The General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission with this updated resolution support the European Cohesion Policy in order to promote the development in all European regions. **Appendix2.**

Proposal: The General Assembly will adopt the resolution on territorial co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region.

**Final
decision:**

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

7 §**BSC Working Groups – Activity reports****1) CBC Working Group (Mr Andris Kazinovskis, Balvi)**

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 on 6 September 2004 in Turku, Southwest Finland (FI), 29 November 2004 in Bialystok, Podlaskie Voivodeship (PL) and on 2 May 2005 in Brussels (B). **Appendix3.**

2) Transport Working Group (Mr Per Strømhaug, Nordland)

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 meeting in Uppsala (S) on 17 September 2004.

The BSC Transport Working Group has been actively preparing the idea of the Interreg III B project "Intermodality and Interoperability around the Baltic Sea - InterBaltic" – which is a result of the discussions on transport issues of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission. The Commission, representing the regional political level in the Baltic Sea area strongly feels the lack of a common transport strategy, especially when asked to express positions and priorities on issues like TEN-T, Motorways of the Sea and other international and national transport and regional development issues. The Baltic Sea Commission therefore aims through this project to work towards a Pan-Baltic master plan that focuses on coherent transport and communication solutions across regional and national borders and across modes of transport. In compliance with EU policy, the main focus is on shifting transport from road to railway and sea. The Baltic Sea Commission also emphasises that a common strategy and action plan for developing transport and communications within the Baltic Sea area, and in and out of the area, is essential for the economic development of the whole region.

The intention is to make a bid to finance the project within the Baltic Sea Interreg III B programme, for the 8. call for project proposals in the autumn 2005.

Appendix4a,b.

3) Human Resources and Employment (Ms Kjersti Markusson, Nordland)

Preceding the extension of the European Union 1. May 2004, some countries around the Baltic Sea introduced restrictions on the free movement of labour force within the enlarged Union. At their meeting 14 April 2004 in Solna, Sweden, the Executive Committee of the Baltic Sea Commission decided to make a statement opposing this, as they could see no serious problems in this connection. This was followed up by a proposal to establish a new working group for "Human Resources Development" to monitor the situation regarding any observed effects in the regions.

The discussions so far indicate that there is need for a working group, although a lot is done and being done both on national level and by other organisations. However, as the first step when starting our work we should make a survey on what tasks are within the responsibility of e.g. the national level or other organisations, and how can we influence the work done by others if not satisfactory in our opinion.

Then, the question is why and how we ourselves as regional (county) politicians and administrations best can contribute with our resources and actions to get results to "make the world better". Our answer might be that the regional level in most cases is closer to the individual citizens than the national level, and therefore is better qualified to appreciate the requirements of the population regarding health services, employment, education and so on our respective regions. Therefore, we are best qualified to decide what policy in different issues is best for our region - for our population and our business life.

On this background, if each of us as relatively small regions and countries agree to develop the Baltic Sea Region, we can best do it together. By sharing experience and utilizing our human and natural resources as well as our scientific capacities. **Appendix5.**

Proposal: Mr Andris Kazinovskis, Chairman of the Cross Border Co-operation Group; Mr Per Strømhaug, Chairman of the Transport Working Group and Ms Kjersti Markusson, Member of the BSC Executive Committee, will report about the current working situation and the future activities of the working groups. The presentations will be recorded as information in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. Mr Andris Kazinovskis was not present in Naantali but he had delivered to the General Assembly a written report on the activities of the Cross Border Co-operation Working Group. The presentations were recorded as information in the minutes.

8 § CPMR Intercommission Working Groups

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

Energy Intercom Group

The Political Bureau of the CPMR decided on 14 January 2005 in Santiago de Compostela to set up a working group on energy issues. The working group on energy is led by the Navarra region and the establishing meeting has been organised in April 2005 in Brussels. **Appendix6a,b.**

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. **Appendix7a,b.**

Proposal: Mr Patrick Anvoin, Director, CPMR (Energy) and Mr Tommy Karlsson, Stockholm region (Human Resources and Employment) will report about the work of the Intercom working groups. The work done by the CPMR Intercom working groups will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. Reports given by Mr Patrick Anvoin, Director, CPMR (Energy) and Mr Tommy Karlsson, Stockholm region (Human Resources and Employment) were recorded as information in the minutes.

9 §

Presentation of the “Europe of the Sea” project

“Europe of the Sea” is at the core of the CPMR’s strategy. In the context of the preparation of the Green Paper towards a European maritime policy, this interregional cooperation project should enable the CPMR to contribute towards the drafting of the Green Paper and the implementation of its conclusions.

The project is aimed at running a network, comprised of regional authorities, associations of European cities and specialised Research Institutes, and divided into several focus groups.

The objectives of the project are as follows:

- 1) To contribute to provide the European Commission with strategy and policy proposals, before and after the publication of its Green Paper on “Europe of the Sea”;
- 2) To contribute to create a database on European maritime activities (measurement of the impact of these activities in terms of economy and employment, and taking into account social and human dimensions);
- 3) To identify, through the exchange of experiences and best practices, relevant cooperation themes for the Interreg III programme, and for the “cooperation” objective of the 2007-2013 period, in which bilateral maritime cooperation is set to be quite important.

The project will deal with different maritime related issues in five different work packages: 1. transport, logistics, maritime safety, research, 2. research, development, innovation, 3. sustainable territorial development, 4. governance and 5. data on maritime activities – economy and employment. **Appendix8a,b.**

Proposal: Mr Patrick Anvroin, Director, CPMR will give a report about the ongoing project.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. Mr Patrick Anvroin, Director, CPMR did report about the ongoing project and gave a short report about the current affairs of the CPMR Secretariat in Rennes, France. The report was recorded as information in the minutes.

10 §

Presentation of the “BalticMaSTER” project (Blekinge)

The Baltic Sea is one of the world’s most heavily trafficked waters. In spite of this, there has up until now, not existed any larger EU-supported initiative with a local and regional perspective on how to improve maritime safety.

On March 7, an important step was taken towards such a joint effort. Then an international partnership of 43 bodies representing local and regional organisations, national authorities and institutes of higher education forwarded an application to the Interreg III B Secretariat in Karlskrona, Sweden. The project has been named Baltic MaSTER (Maritime Safety - Transport and Environment in the South Baltic Sea Region). If accepted, the project will deal with maritime safety from a local and regional point of view, with focus on the southern Baltic Sea area. The project will also be a contribution to EU’s green paper discussion.

Baltic MaSTER will last for two and a half years with an estimated budget of 4.4 million Euro. The southern Swedish organisation SydSam has given Region Blekinge, a coast region in the southeast part of Sweden, the task to coordinate the application process. **Appendix9.**

Proposal: Mr Bo Löfgren, Deputy Chairman of the Baltic and European Affairs Committee, Region Blekinge, will give a report about the project plan.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The presentation was recorded as information in the minutes.

11 § Presentation of Baltic eHealth project

Baltic eHealth will promote the use of eHealth in rural areas of the Baltic Sea Region by creating a large transnational infrastructure for eHealth, the Baltic Sea Healthcare Network.

The aim of the project is to illustrate that eHealth is an effective mean in increasing access to healthcare of high quality in rural areas and thereby contribute to counteracting rural migration. **Appendix10.**

Proposal: Mr Tomas Gustafsson, Head of International Affairs, County Council of Västerbotten, will give a report about the ongoing project.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The presentation was recorded as information in the minutes.

12§ Membership in the Baltic 21 process

CPMR Baltic Sea Commission has received a membership in the Baltic 21 process. The decision was taken by the Senior Official Group on 9 May 2005 in Sopot, Poland.

Baltic 21 has been established following decision taken by the heads of government of the Baltic Sea States during their summit in 1996. It is the Baltic Sea Region multistakeholder forum for sustainable development. Its members are the CBSS states, the European Commission and a number of intergovernmental organisations, international financial institutions and international networks of regional and local authorities, businesses and NGOs – all on equal footing. Baltic 21 focuses on eight sectors: Agriculture, Energy, Fisheries, Forests, Industry, Tourism, Transport and Education, as well as Spatial Planning

The membership criteria is as following: An organization wanting to become a member of the SOG shall:

- Be active in at least half of the Baltic 21 countries
- Have competence relevant for the Baltic 21 process
- Be willing and able to contribute to the sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region and the implementation of Baltic 21.

If the organization does not participate in three consecutive SOG meetings, the organization will be given the opportunity to explain its absence. In case the organization does not participate at the following meeting, it will be excluded from the SOG.

The Senior Officials Group (SOG) is the steering group for the Baltic 21 process. It works in accordance with the Terms of Reference as set out in the main Baltic 21 document (para. 10.2.1.3). It consists of representatives of the governments of the eleven countries of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

Virhe. Kirjanmerkkiä ei ole määritetty., Intergovernmental Organizations, International Financial Institutions, International Sub-state and City Networks, International Business Networks, International Academic Network, International Environmental Non-governmental Organisations, Baltic 21 Sector and Spatial Planning Lead Parties and Responsible Actors for Joint Actions are also members of the Senior Officials Group. The membership in the SOG is open to all organisations that meet the SOG Membership Criteria. The SOG elects the SOG Chairman; the chairmanship rotates between countries and the European Commission with a period of two years. The SOG also elects the SOG Bureau. For more information please visit the web pages of Baltic 21 on www.baltic21.org

Proposal: Mr Marek Maciejowski, Head of the Baltic 21 Unit, will address the Conference on behalf of the Baltic 21. The presentation about the co-operation in the Baltic 21 process will be recorded as information in the minutes.

Final decision: Mr Marek Maciejowski, Head of the Baltic 21 Unit, did address the Conference on behalf of the Baltic 21. The presentation about the co-operation in the Baltic 21 process was recorded as information in the minutes.

13 § Co-operation with CBSS (Stockholm)

The Council of the Baltic Sea States was established at a conference of the foreign ministers of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden and a member of the European Commission in Copenhagen in March 1992. Iceland joined the CBSS in 1995. The CBSS serves as an overall regional forum for intergovernmental cooperation, focusing on the need for intensified coordination of activities in virtually every field of government, (with the notable exception of military defence, which is explicitly excluded as a potential area of cooperation in the Council's Terms of Reference), among the Baltic Sea States.

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission has a status of a Special Participant in the Council of Baltic Sea States since May 2003.

Proposal: Mr Philipp Schwartz, Senior Advisor, will address the Conference on behalf of the CBSS Secretariat. The information about the current affairs and the co-operation with the CBSS will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: Mr Philipp Schwartz, Senior Advisor, did address the Conference on behalf of the CBSS Secretariat. The information about the current affairs and the co-operation with the CBSS was recorded as information in the minutes.

14 § Co-operation with BSSSC (Malmö, Skåne)

Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (called BSSSC) was established in 1993, based on the Stavanger declaration as a result of the establishment of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) in 1992. Its members are regional authorities (level directly below the national level authorities) of the 10 Baltic Sea littoral states.

The BSSSC is a political network whose main organisational bodies are: The Chairperson (who is elected by the Board on a rotational basis for a two-year period), the Board consisting of two representatives of each of the BSR countries, the secretariat which follows the Chairperson and ad hoc Working Groups (currently these are: WG on Agenda 21, WG on Transport and Infrastructure and WG on Northern Dimension). The BSSSC has also established a BSSSC Youth Co-ordinators Network.

The main BSSSC event is the annual conference held each year last week in October. The BSSSC co-operates closely with other key Baltic Sea Region and European organisations and institutions.

Proposal: Mr Uno Aldegren, Chairman, BSSSC, will address the Conference. The information about the current affairs and the co-operation with the BSSSC will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: Mr Uno Aldegren, Chairman, BSSSC, did address the Conference. The information about the current affairs and the co-operation with the BSSSC was recorded as information in the minutes.

15 § Co-operation with UBC (Gdansk)

The Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) was established in Gdansk on 20 September 1991. The UBC has a network of over 100 member cities from 10 Baltic Sea countries. Article 1 of the UBC Statute reads: The Union's aim is to promote and strengthen cooperation and exchange of experience among the cities in the Baltic Sea Region, to advocate for common interests of the local authorities in the region, and to act on behalf of the cities and local authorities in common matters towards regional, national, European and international bodies, as well as achieving sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region with full respect to European principles of local and regional self-governance and subsidiarity.

Proposal: Mr Mikko Lohikoski, Director for Communications and International Affairs, City of Turku, will address the Conference on behalf of the UBC. The information about the current affairs and the co-operation with the UBC will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: This point was included in the § 1 of the agenda.

16 § Membership fee of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

The current annual BSC membership fee for regions in EU member countries 1600 € and for regions in non-EU countries 400 € was decided in the General Assembly in Klaipeda (LV) in year 2002. In the year 2004 several Baltic Sea countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland have joined the European Union and due to this there is a need for changes in the membership fee for the regions in the new EU member states. The changes in the membership fee would concern the budgetary year 2006. The statutes of the BSC and CPMR enclosed as **appendix11a,b,c,d.**

Proposal: The Executive Committee proposes to the 10th General Assembly of the Baltic Sea Commission that the membership fee of the Baltic Sea Commission shall be maintained unchanged in 1600 euros in year 2006. For the regions of EU Member States with a GDP below 50% of the Community average, membership dues shall be equal to 50% of the fees normally payable. Though the Executive Committee decided to propose to the 10th BSC General Assembly that the membership fee of the regions with a GDP below 50% of the Community average should rise gradually only with 100 euros annually. In other words the regions with a GDP below 50% of the Community average will pay 500 euros in year 2006 and 600 euros in year 2007 etc. up to the 50% of the annual membership fee normally payable.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

17 § Financial statement of 2004

The financial statement 2004 of the BSC Secretariat in the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme is included in the working documents as **appendix12.**

Proposal: The financial statement of the working year 2004 will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

18 § 11th BSC General Assembly in May 2006

The 11th BSC General Assembly will be held in May – June 2006. 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 33rd CPMR General Assembly will be held in Madeira, Portugal on 26-28 October 2005.

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, Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany
 10th, 2005, Naantali, Southwest Finland

Proposal: The 11th BSC General Assembly will be held in May/June 2006. County of Nordland by the kind invitation of Ms Kjersti Markusson and Mr Per Strømhaug has expressed the interest to host the 12th BSC General Assembly in Norway in 2007.

Final decision: Mr Bernth Johnson welcomed the participants to the 11th BSC General Assembly in Karlskrona, Blekinge (S) in May/June 2006. The President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission did thank for the kind invitation of the Swedish Blekinge Region. The President also thanked Ms Kjersti Markusson and Mr Per Strømhaug for the kind invitation to the 12th BSC General Assembly in Nordland, Norway in 2007.

19 § Coming events – a calender for 2005 (only major CPMR or BSC events listed)

- 15-17 June, 14th General Assembly of the CPMR North Sea Commission, Zeeland (NL)
- 24-25 June, CPMR Political Bureau, Galati and Tulcea (RO)
- 26-28 October, 33rd CPMR General Assembly, Madeira (P)

Proposal: The coming events will be recorded in the minutes

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

20 § Withdrawals from the Baltic Sea Commission

The CPMR Political Bureau meetings had to unfortunately note the withdrawals of two regions from the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission: on 14 January 2005 in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia (SP) of Ölands Kommunalförbund (Öland Local Federation of Local Authorities) (S) on the grounds of budgetary difficulties and on 9 July 2004 in Umeå, Västerbotten (S) of Södermanland Region (S) due to a change in its powers. The total number of CPMR member regions is currently 150 of which we have in the BSC currently 29 member regions. The new updated map of the BSC member regions as attached document, **appendix13.**

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

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

21 § Any other business

Proposal: Ms Annelie Stark, Västra Götaland (S) had floor and referring to the speech of Mrs Gunn-Marit Helgesen in §3 expressed her gratitude for the developing co-operation between Baltic Sea Commission and North Sea Commission of the CPMR. She wished for a report about this co-operation in the next General Assembly.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

22 § Closing the 10th BSC General Assembly

Proposal: The President will thank the participants and close the 10th BSC General Assembly in Naantali, Southwest Finland (FI).

Final decision: The President thanked Region of Southwest Finland and all participants and closed the 10th BSC General Assembly in Naantali at 12.55 a.m.

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