



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

CPMR Baltic Sea Commission 11th GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2nd June 2006 Karlskrona, Blekinge (S) MINUTES

Time: Friday 2nd June 2006, at 9 a.m. – 12.50 a.m.

Venue: First Hotel Statt, Ronnebygatan 37-39, Karlskrona (S)

Participants:

Roll call

1 § Opening the meeting

Proposal: Welcome by Mr Bernth Johnson, Chairman, Region Blekinge.

Welcome by Mr Inge Andersson, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission. The President will open the meeting and welcome the participants in Karlskrona and will give a President's Report about the BSC activities 2005 – 2006.

Final decision: The President opened the meeting at 9.00 a.m. Mr Bernth Johnson, Chairman, Region Blekinge did welcome the participants in Karlskrona. The President of the BSC did give his Report about the BSC activities 2005-2006. The President's report was recorded as information in the minutes.

A minute's silence was held in commemoration of Mr Anders Gûstav, the former President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission in 2000-2004.

2 § Adopting of the agenda

Proposal: The General Assembly will adopt the agenda.

Final decision: The General Assembly adopted the agenda.

3 § European Maritime policy – Green Paper

“Europe of the Sea” is at the core of the CPMR’s and its member regions’ strategy. In the context of the preparation of the Green Paper towards a European maritime policy, this interregional cooperation project has enabled the CPMR to contribute towards the drafting of the Green Paper and the implementation of its conclusions. The project runs a network, comprised of 50 regional authorities, associations of European cities and specialised Research Institutes, and is divided into several focus groups.

The “Europe of the Sea” project has aimed at the following 3 main objectives; to influence the consultation process of the Green Paper on the future European Maritime Policy, presenting the essential viewpoint of the coastal regions and cities; to identify relevant themes for cooperation in view of the territorial cooperation objective for the period 2007/2013 as well as to build the foundations of a database on European maritime activities, identifying the main indicators and data required, most of which are unavailable at the present time.

The project structure has followed five thematic approaches: Economy and Employment; Transports, Logistics and Maritime Safety; Research Development and Innovation; Sustainable Development and Governance.

The 11th BSC General Assembly will be informed about the preparation of the Green Paper on the European Maritime Policy and the results of the “Europe of the Sea” project for giving impetus for the public debate in preparation and after the publication of the Green Paper. **Appendix1**.

Proposal: Mr Patrick Anvroin, Director, CPMR Secretariat will give a presentation on the preparation of the Green Paper on European Maritime Policy. The General Assembly will record the report as information in the minutes.

Final decision: The presentation of Mr Patrick Anvroin, Director, CPMR Secretariat, was recorded as information in the minutes.

4 § HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

In order to ensure that all possible measures are taken to reduce pollution in the Baltic Sea and to repair the damage done to the marine environment, the HELCOM Member States and the EU resolved to develop an innovative HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan in 2005. This plan is based on Ecological Objectives, which are defined to reflect a common vision of a healthy Baltic Sea. The Ecological Objectives and their associated indicators will be used to evaluate the efficiency of existing environmental measures and to provide guidance for the development of future management measures for the region. The development of the Action Plan will involve all the Baltic Sea coastal countries. Input and active participation from all major stakeholder groups in the region will also be required, to ensure that the Action Plan is relevant and can be effectively implemented in practice. The Helsinki Commission held a Kick-off Stakeholder Conference on the development of the environmental Baltic Sea Action Plan on 7th March 2006 in Helsinki, Finland. The overall aim of the

Conference was to inform on the purpose and foreseen activities within the strategic HELCOM plan to restore the Baltic marine environment, and to get input and commitments to its development at the local, national, and regional levels as well as from the private sector.

Preparation of the HELCOM action plan must be open-ended and transparent and to make it as comprehensive and, at the same time, as realistic and action-oriented as possible. The Conference was considered as the starting point for the process to elaborate the environmental Baltic Sea Action Plan with active participation of all major stakeholder groups in the region.

After a series of thematic meetings and a final Stakeholder Conference in March 2007 which will look into and review a first draft of a single Baltic Sea Action Plan the finalised environmental strategy will be adopted at a Ministerial HELCOM meeting currently planned for late 2007. The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission is taking part in the work of the task force in creating the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. **Appendix2.**

Proposal: Ms Christel Liljeström, Chairman of Council of Itä-Uusimaa/Östra Nyland (FI), Vice-Member of the BSC Executive Committee and the BSC contact person on HELCOM will report about the work of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission in the task force for creating the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. The report will be recorded as information in the minutes.

Final decision: The presentation by Ms Christel Liljeström, Chairman of Council of Itä-Uusimaa/Östra Nyland (FI), Vice-Member of the BSC Executive Committee and the BSC contact person on HELCOM was recorded as information in the minutes.

5 § Final resolutions of the 11th BSC General Assembly:

Sustainable Accessibility in the Baltic Sea Region

Northern Dimension Policy from 2007 onwards

Cooperation and European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument in the Baltic Sea Region

Maritime Policy Challenges in the Baltic and North Sea Regions

Proposal: The General Assembly will adopt the resolutions on “Sustainable Accessibility in the Baltic Sea Region” which is based on the work of the Conference “How to improve sustainable accessibility in the Baltic Sea Region?” organised on 1 June 2006 in Karlskrona, Blekinge (S) **Appendix3**, “Northern Dimension Policy from 2007 onwards” which is based on the contribution of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission (31 October 2005) to the survey organised by the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) on the future Northern Dimension Policy **Appendix4**, “Cooperation and European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument in the

Baltic Sea Region” which is based on the work of the Cross Border Co-operation Working Group of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission **Appendix5** and “Maritime Policy Challenges in the Baltic and North Sea Regions” which is based on the co-operation between CPMR Baltic and North Sea Commissions **Appendix6**. These resolutions have been on round for comments among the BSC Member Regions and BSC Executive Committee during May 2006. Resolutions on “Northern Dimension Policy from 2007 onwards” and “Maritime Policy Challenges in the Baltic and North Sea Regions” are planned to become joint resolutions of the Baltic Sea and North Sea Commissions in the 34th CPMR General Assembly in Murcia, Spain on 25-27 October 2006.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The Final Resolutions of the 11th BSC General Assembly may be found on the BSC web site www.cpmr.org (Geographical Commissions/Baltic Sea – Current affairs).

6 § Election of President, Vice-President and Executive Committee

The statutes of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission which were amended in Bornholm 2000 are enclosed (**Appendix7**). The election of President, Vice-President and Executive Committee will take place every second year following the procedure outlined in the Article 4. The General Assembly shall elect President, Vice-President and 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 **Vice-President** and **Executive Committee** takes place. **A Vice-President** shall be elected, 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. Each member country shall appoint one member and one substitute member to the Executive Committee of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission.

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 Vice-President and Executive Committee will be carried out by the elected President. Each member country shall appoint one (1) member and one (1) substitute member to the Executive Committee. The procedure is explained in details in Article 4 of the BSC Statutes.

Final**decision:**

1) The Executive Secretary explained the election procedure outlined in the Article 4 of the BSC Statutes. Mr Mikko Rönholm, South-West Finland, suggested the nomination of **Ms Christel Liljeström**, Itä-Uusimaa/Östra Nyland (FI) to the post of President. The nomination of Ms Christel Liljeström 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. Ms Christel Liljeström was unanimously declared the President of the BSC for 2006-2008. There were no abstentions. Ms Liljeström 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. Mr Henrik Eybye Nielsen, Bornholm (DK), suggested the nomination of **Mr Poul Müller**, Mid-Jylland (DK) to the post of Vice-President. The nomination of **Mr Poul Müller** was handed in written form to the BSC Secretariat before the General Assembly. There were no other nominations. A vote by show of hands was taken. Mr Poul Müller was unanimously declared the Vice-President of the BSC for 2006-2008. There were no abstentions.

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

Members/substitutes:

Denmark: Mr Poul Müller, Mid-Jylland/ Mr Jörgen Kvist, Bornholm

Estonia: NN/NN

Finland: Ms Talvikki Koskinen, South-West Finland/ Ms Marjatta Vehkaoja, Pohjanmaa/Österbotten

Germany: Ms Melanie Würz, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern/ Mr Wolf Born, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Latvia: Mr Ilgonis Steinbergs, Riga District/ NN

Lithuania: Ms Irina Rozova, Klaipėda/ Ms Dalia Makuskiene, Klaipėda

Norway: Mr Geir-Ketil Hansen, Nordland/ Ms Sonja A Steen, Nordland

Poland: Ms Magdalena Lyznicka-Sanczenko, Podlaskie Voivodeship/ Ms Grazyna Szajstek, Podlaskie Voivodeship

Sweden: Ms Inger Linge, Stockholm region/Mr Jan Lundgren, Gotland (Nominations will be confirmed after the Swedish parliamentary election in September 2006)

7 § **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. 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.

The BSC Executive Committee in its meeting in Brussels on 16 February 2006 did decide to recommend unanimously that the new hosting region for the BSC Secretariat will be nominated from one of the Swedish member regions. The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme had informed the BSC Executive Committee already earlier that it will not any more continue to host the Secretariat to the following period 2006-2008 but is prepared, if needed, to host the Secretariat until the end of the year 2006 during the transition period.

Proposal: The proposal and the recommendation of the Executive Committee will be adopted as a decision by the General Assembly.

Final decision: Mr Inge Andersson, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, announced on behalf of the Swedish BSC member regions that Region of Gotland will host the BSC Secretariat during the period of 2006-2008.

The 11th BSC General Assembly was also informed that the new Executive Secretary will be nominated after the Swedish parliamentary election in September 2006. The nomination will be confirmed by the BSC Executive Committee in its meeting on 24-25 October 2006 in Murcia, Spain. The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme had informed already earlier that it is prepared, if needed, to host the Secretariat until the end of the year 2006 during the transition period.

8 § **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 Malta on 5 May 2006. **Appendix8.**

Proposal: The presentation will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The CPMR General Secretary Mr Xavier Gizard was not able to arrive in Karlskrona, and the presentation was made by Mr Patrick Anvrouin, Director, CPMR Secretariat. The presentation was recorded as information in the minutes.

9 § **Presentation of a new BSC member region**

Skåne (S)

Proposal: Mr Karl Löfmark, Head of the International Secretariat of Skåne, will have the floor for a short presentation of the new member region of Skåne. The presentation will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

10 § **BSC Activity Report 2005 – 2006**

The Executive Secretary will briefly present the BSC activity report 2005 – 2006 (Naantali - Karlskrona). Appendices9a, b.

Proposal: The BSC Activity Report 2005 - 2006 will be recorded in the minutes as information.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

11 § **BSC Working Groups – Final/activity reports**

1) **CBC Working Group (Ms Cecilia Karlberg)**

The BSC Cross Border Co-operation Working Group was established for exchanging ideas and solutions along the new (2004) external borders of the European Union. Ms Cecilia Karlberg has chaired the working group since June 2005. The main objective of the working group was to concentrate on monitoring new EU cohesion policy and new programmes (Neighbourhood Policy/Interreg) during the working year 2005-2006. It has had meetings on 23 September 2005 in Norrtälje (S), 14 February 2006 in Stockholm Region's Brussels Office and on 18 April 2006 in Oulu (FI). Appendix10.

2) **Transport Working Group (Mr Geir-Ketil Hansen)**

a) The BSC Transport Working Group will increase the importance of transport issues around the Baltic Sea in the whole CPMR. The BSC Executive Committee did nominate in its meeting in Brussels on 16 February 2006 Mr Geir-Ketil Hansen, Member of the BSC Executive Committee, Nordland (N) as a new chairman as the former chairman has started as the project manager of the InterBaltic Interreg IIIB project. Ms Maria Öberg, Norrbotten (S) was nominated as a new co-ordinator of the BSC Transport Working Group.

The BSC transport working group also answered to the European Commission on the Public consultation on the report: "Networks for peace and development – Extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the Neighbouring

countries and regions” in March 2006. **Appendix11a, b.**

b) By initiative of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission a proposal has launched the project proposal on “Intermodality and Interoperability in the Baltic Sea area” to be financed under the Interreg III B Baltic Sea programme. The project period is 2 years ending 31 December 2007, and the main objective of the project is to promote shift of cargo transport from road to efficient intermodal sea/railway corridors.

The BSR INTERREG III B Steering Committee approved the project at its meeting in Øyer, Norway 9. December 2005 with a maximum amount of 1.883.333 EUR from ERDF, making the total budget just above 3 mill. EUR. The approval was made with some conditions and requests for clarification of some issues in the application. One condition was related to the budget that had to be reduced according to the figures above. For more information, please click www.cpmr.org (Geographical Commissions/Baltic Sea/Transport Working Group).

Proposal: 1) Ms Cecilia Karlberg, Chairman of the Cross Border Co-operation Working Group will present the Final Report as the working group will finish now its activities. 2a) Mr Geir-Ketil Hansen, Chairman of the Transport Working Group and the co-ordinator Ms Maria Öberg will present the Activity Report and the future activities of the working group. 2b) Mr Per Strømhaug, Project Manager of InterBaltic Interreg IIIB project will report about the current affairs of the project. The presentations will be recorded as information in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted. The presentations by Ms Cecilia Karlberg, Chairman of the Cross Border Co-operation Working Group and Ms Maria Öberg, Co-ordinator, Transport Working Group, were recorded as information in the minutes.

12 § Co-operation with Council of Baltic Sea States - CBSS (Stockholm)

CPMR 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 CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and Council of Baltic Sea States since the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission has received the status of a special participant.

Proposal: Ambassador Christer Persson, incoming Swedish Chairman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, will address the Conference. The presentation about the co-operation with the CBSS will be recorded as information in the minutes.

Final decision: Ambassador Christer Persson, incoming Swedish Chairman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, was not able to arrive in Karlskrona. Mr Eskil Renström, Senior Adviser, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, did address the

Conference on behalf of the CBSS.

13 § **Co-operation with Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference - BSPC (Copenhagen)**

According to its objectives BSPC shall aim at strengthening the common identity of the Baltic Sea Region by close co-operation between national and regional parliaments. BSPC shall initiate and guide political activities in the region and further regional co-operation especially towards the Council of Baltic Sea States. The Parliamentary Conference shall be a forum for debate and information exchange between Parliaments and other organizations in the region both on international and interregional levels. The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission observes the work and activities of the BSPC.

Proposal: Ms Päivikki Lindroos, Senior Adviser, Nordic Council - Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference will address the Conference. The information about the current affairs and the co-operation with the BSPC will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: Ms Päivikki Lindroos, Senior Adviser, Nordic Council - Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference did address the Conference. The information about the current affairs and the co-operation with the BSPC was recorded as information in the minutes.

14 § **Financial statement of 2005**

The financial statement 2005 of the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme/ Secretariat of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission is included in the working documents as **Appendix12.**

Proposal: The financial statement of the working year 2005 will be recorded in the minutes.

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

15 § **Membership fee 2007**

The 10th General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission did decide for the membership fee of the Baltic Sea Commission in year 2006 for 1600 euros. 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. The membership fee of the regions with a GDP below 50% of the Community average should rise gradually 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.

Proposal: The Executive Committee based on its decision on 16 February 2006 proposes to the 11th BSC General Assembly that the membership fee of the CPMR Baltic

Sea Commission shall be kept unchanged of 1600 euros in year 2007. The regions of EU Member States with a GDP below 50% of the Community average shall pay 600 euros in year 2007 based on the decision of the 10th General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission. **Appendix13.**

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

16 § **12th BSC General Assembly in 2007**

The 12th BSC General Assembly will be held in May/June 2007. 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 34th CPMR General Assembly will be held in Murcia, Spain on 25-27 October 2006.

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
- 10th 2005, Naantali, South-West Finland, Finland
- 11th 2006, Karlskrona, Blekinge, Sweden**

The Region of Nordland has kindly expressed its interest to host the 12th BSC General Assembly in Nordland, Norway in 2007.

Proposal: The General Assembly kindly accepts the kind offer of Nordland County to host the 12th BSC General Assembly in Nordland, Norway in May/June 2007. Mr Geir-Ketil Hansen, Executive of Finance, Member of the BSC Executive Committee, will welcome BSC member regions and observes to the 12th BSC General Assembly in Nordland in 2007.

Final decision: Mr Geir-Ketil Hansen, Executive of Finance, Member of the BSC Executive Committee, did welcome BSC member regions and observes to the 12th BSC General Assembly in Bodø, Nordland in 2007. A short film presenting the Nordland County was shown for the 11th BSC General Assembly.

17 § **Coming events – a calender for 2006 (only major CPMR or BSC events listed)**

- 14-16 June, 15th General Assembly of the North Sea Commission, Highland (UK)

- 23-24 June, Discussion Seminar on "Regions and Globalisation", Acores (P) – Ponte Delgada
- 5-6 October, CPMR Conference "Energy for the periphery", Navarra, Spain
- 25-27 October, 34th CPMR General Assembly, Murcia, Spain

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

For further events please see the calendar on the BSC web site, www.cpmr.org (Geographical Commissions/Baltic Sea).

Proposal: The coming events will be recorded in the minutes

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

18 § Withdrawals from the Baltic Sea Commission

The CPMR Political Bureau meeting on 24-25 June 2005 in Galati/Tulcea (Romania) had to unfortunately note the withdrawals of the regions of Balvi (Latvia) and Ida Virumaa (Estonia) for budgetary reasons linked to institutional changes. The total number of CPMR member regions is currently 154 of which we have in the BSC currently 28 member regions. The new updated map of the BSC member regions as attached document. **Appendix15.**

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

Final decision: The proposal was adopted.

19 § **Any other business**

1) **CPMR Fisheries Intercommission Group (FIG)**

The FIG has held 4 meetings: Visby in September 2005, Madeira in November, Brest in February and in Ancona in May 2006. Representatives from the Baltic Sea Commission attended the meetings in Visby, Madeira and Brest. Representatives from more CPMR member regions have become involved in the FIG which has improved the interregional work and brought new issues of common importance in focus.

The Baltic Sea RAC has been formed. The regional councils are intended to increase the involvement and say of stakeholders. Other interest organisations are welcome to participate. Representing Baltic Sea regions, it is suggested that BSC should be participating as observer. An information letter with this request has been addressed to the secretariat. With the approval, BSC should seek membership. It is though apparent that more input than is available today is needed from the Baltic Sea member regions since although there are large similarities in the Baltic Sea fisheries, there are also regional differences that need to be highlighted. It is therefore proposed that member regions are encouraged to introduce candidates for participation or as contacts in fisheries related issues. **Additional Appendix1.**

2) Mr Jorma Pitkälä, Päijät-Häme (FI), has taken floor and proposed to the 11th General Assembly that the BSC statutes may be changed in that way that a second Vice-President could be elected to the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission. This would also encourage regions in the new EU member states to join the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission.

Proposal: 1) The fisheries report will be recorded as information in the minutes. The 11th General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission asks the BSC Executive Committee to take actions due to the request from the authors of the report.

Final decision: 1) The proposal was adopted. The BSC Executive Committee will take actions due to the request from the authors of the report.

2) The 11th General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission decided to transfer the proposal by Mr Jorma Pitkälä to the BSC Executive Committee for further discussion.

20 § **Thanking the President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Mr Inge Andersson and the Vice-President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Ms Bente Nielsen**

Proposal: CPMR Baltic Sea Commission will thank for their work Mr Inge Andersson as President (2004-2006) and Ms Bente Nielsen as Vice-President (2000-2006).

Final The proposal was adopted.

decision:

21 § Closing the 11th BSC General Assembly

Proposal: The President will thank the participants and close the 11th BSC General Assembly in Karlskrona, Blekinge (S).

Final decision: The President warmly thanked Region of Blekinge and all the participants and closed the 11th BSC General Assembly in Karlskrona at 12.50 a.m.

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