



CPMR

BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

12th General Assembly Bodø, Nordland (Norway)

MINUTES June 14th 2007

Time 14 June 2007 at 10 am. – 1 pm

Venue Hotel Radisson SAS, Conference Area, BODØ (N)

Participants:

Roll call

1 §	Opening the Meeting	<i>Appendix 1 - Invitation</i>
Final decision	President Ms Liljeström opened the meeting wishing everyone welcome.	
	Welcoming Speech	
	- Christel Liljeström, President CPMR Baltic Sea Commission. 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.	
	Norway's engagement in the Baltic Sea region and challenges and opportunities in the High North	
	- Elisabeth Roderburg, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. Ms Roderburg demonstrated how Norway has taken a very active part in the Baltic sea Region work. Also, she noted, that though Norway is a major oil producer, Norway been engaged from early on in environmental issues.	

2 §	Adopting of the Agenda
Final decision	The agenda was adopted noting that CPMR Executive Secretary Mr Xavier Gizard, due to family reasons, will be represented by Mr Enrico Mayrhofer, CPMR Director responsible for media contacts and the Baltic Sea Commission contact.

CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE – BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

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3 §	CPMR Current Affairs Xavier Gizard, Secretary General of the CPMR	<i>Appendix 2 - CPMR Program of Work</i>
Presentation	Will be added to the minutes.	
Final decision	CPMR Current Affairs Presented by Mr Enrico Mayrhofer, Director responsible for communications and follow up of the BSC. Mr Xavier sent his greetings and wished for a successful conference. The focus of the speech lay on the Maritime Policy that has meant two year of hard lobbying work. Mr Mayrhofer informed about coming CPMR activities in particular the continuation of the Green and Book of the EU Maritime Policy, to be labelled the Blue Paper, and of the contacts with the EU Presidency of Portugal that are known to launch ambitious actions to further the Maritime Policy.	
4 §	Activity Report June 2006 (Karlskrona) – June 2007 (Bodø)	<i>Appendix 3 - Annual Report</i>
Final decision	The activity report was presented as in the appendix and was adopted.	
5 §	Visions and Objectives for the Baltic Sea Commission	
	<i>Appendix 4 - Visions & Objectives – final draft</i>	
	The “Vision and Objectives” strategic document of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission was adopted by the 9 th BSC General Assembly in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D) on 4 June 2004. The Executive Committee agreed in Murcia changing the “Visions and Objectives” document.	
	The discussion landed in the decision that a NEW kind of “Visions and Objectives” should be drafted. Simply stating:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the Baltic Sea Commission. • This we have achieved. • This is what we intend to do in the coming year. 	
	Short – Sharp – Simple	
	No amendment has arrived and the document should now be ready to be adopted by the Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly.	
Proposal	The “catchy” slogan is still not that impressive. The secretariat suggests a small competition is launched at the General Assembly. Suggestions should be delivered to the secretariat before ... and the presidium will form the jury with no appellate.	
Final decision	The new Visions and Objectives for the Baltic Sea Commission were unanimously adopted. The regions are invited to send in their suggestions for a catchy slogan to the secretariat. The Executive Committee will select “a winner” at the Riga Executive Committee meeting i September.	
6 §	Updating Statutes of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission	
	<i>Appendix 5 - BSC Statutes – final draft</i> <i>Appendix 6 - CPMR Statues</i>	
	At the Executive Committee meeting in Murcia the conclusion was that the statutes need to be update as there is now the need two Vice President in the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission. The statutes of the Geographical Commissions must be written in accordance with the CPMR statutes .	
	The decision was to ask the secretariat to draft a suggestion for new statues based on the CPMR statues. In 4 §, and were else applicable, the additions of adding she to existing he in the text	

should be made. It was also agreed, concerning 5 § that ***the right to vote should be the same as for CPMR that is “elected member”*** have the right to vote.

The document has been out to all members for amendment, including reminders, deadline 31st of May.

Final decision With a change of “two vice presidents...” shall to should the new Statutes of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission was unanimously adopted.

7 § Economic Report [*Appendix 7 - BSC Economy 2006*](#)
[*Appendix 8 - BSC Economy 2007 with budget*](#)

The financial report and money arrived to Visby from Lahti's in week 7, 2007.

A sum of € 11.293:72 were transferred to the new Secretariat in Visby on Feb 5th. For the period November – December the cost was carried by the executive secretaries former unit as it took time before the financial report arrived from Finland. Thus the Financial report from Lahti is also the complete report of BSC 2006.

A financial report for the period Jan – May 2007 is presented along with a draft budget for 2007.

Final decision The Economy report was presented by the Executive secretary and unanimously adopted by the General Assembly.

8 § Work On the EU Green Paper On Maritime Policy

[*Appendix 9 - CPMR – PROPOSALS AND POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION*](#)
[*Appendix 10 - CPMR - REGIONAL INITIATIVES...*](#)
[*Appendix 11 - Final BSC declaration Karlskrona GA 2006*](#)
[*Appendix 12 - BSC Contribution*](#)

The EU green paper on Maritime policy is of major importance to the Baltic Sea region. The consultation period is running till the last of June 2007.

The CPMR has taken it up on them to deliver a joint Policy Position Paper on the content of the future EU maritime policy to be taken at the Political Bureau meeting in Poland 8th of June. See attached files Appendix 9 and 10. The document is made up of four sections. The geographical commission has contributed to section 3. The contribution had to be in the hands of the CPMR before the end of April.

At the Executive Committee meeting, in Murcia, it was decided that the BSC should work on the green paper for **Maritime Policy** in cooperation with others through the secretariat. This has been done through a joint seminar with the NSC and contact with the B7. The secretariat has also requested that the BSC WG make comments on the green paper from their own perspectives. From the co-operation with the NSC there is now a draft response to the green paper on maritime policy.

Time-plan

February

- The secretariat circulates to BSC WG and BSC member regions the draft response to the EU green paper on Maritime Policy, which came out of the joint NSC+BSC seminar in Stavanger and adopted by the NSC Executive Committee. – It is important that we have BALTIC SEA perspectives to the answers. Answers to be returned by the end of the month.

March

- The secretariat share input on the maritime policy from B7.
- The secretariat share input on the maritime policy with HELCOM.

April

- The NSC+BSC have a second technical preparation seminar on Gotland to finalise our joint opinions and circulated to member regions and Executive Committee members for

- adoption.
- A joint NSC+BSC text on the maritime policy is sent to the CPMR.

Actions:

The joint BSC+NSC draft has been circulated to all member regions and the Baltic Sea Organisations; B7 Baltic Islands Network, BSSSC Baltic Sea States Sub regional Co-operation, UBC Union of the Baltic Cities and Baltic Assembly.

Only the transport workgroup and the work group for fisheries have added direct contribution. No direct amendments have been made by the member regions to the draft document, however BSC regions have been sending in comments they have been drafting together with other organisations.

In the exchange with the North Sea Commission the secretariats has agreed that the joint structure and voice of the two organisations would only strengthen our course.

At the joint Baltic Sea Organisation meeting on Bornholm BSC was requested to hand in the amendments from B7 and BSSSC along with our own, though the CPMR in order to reach a higher degree of impact on the Maritime Taskforce.

The aggregated contribution of Baltic Sea Commission, North Sea Commission, BSSSC, B7 and other contributions cut and provided from sources like UBC, HELCOM and member regions was handed in to the CPMR in time for the CPMR to prepare their "proposals and points for consideration".

Proposal

The secretariat proposes that the Baltic Sea Commission aggregated document, with the declaration taken at the General Assembly in Kalmar 2006, is sent to the EU taskforce for Maritime Affairs, before June 30th, as an extra push for Baltic Sea issues and the Northern Dimension.

Final decision

The question brought forward a discussion on resolutions to be presented at the BSC General Assembly.

An agreement was reached about the necessity to set a time limit to when, at the latest, a draft resolution must be sent to the secretariat in order for the resolution to be circulated among the regions before the General Assembly. The CPMR North Sea Commission was mentioned as a model and the Secretariat will look into this.

The General Assembly unanimously decided that the Baltic Sea Commission aggregated amendments to the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy, with the declaration taken at the General Assembly in Kalmar 2006, is sent to the EU taskforce for Maritime Affairs, before June 30th, as an extra push for Baltic Sea issues and the Northern Dimension.

9 §

BSC Thematic Work Group Directives

Appendix 13 - BSC Thematic WG Directives

Following a general discussion on Workgroups it was agreed in Murcia that:

- The Baltic Sea Commission is a small organisation and thus have to overcome the limited resources by actively seek so-operation with other organisations and to make **joint papers**.
- The form for **co-operation** with other organisations: An executive committee member together with the co-ordinator of workgroups.
- On a direct question, it was made clear that anyone may **join a workgroup** if the Chairman of the workgroup invites him/her.
- Within the Executive Committee it has been decided that the working groups in general should have a **politician as Chairman** (and also a Vice-Chairman) - preferably elected by and from the Executive Committee - for the groups according to the same model as in the North Sea Commission. This to secure contact with the Executive Committee and also secure better political dialogue when presenting issues e.g. to national and international politicians (National ministries, EU, CPMR etc.).
- The day to day work like organising meetings, producing agendas and minutes from meetings, preparation of papers for political decisions etc. should in this case be lead by a "**Working Group Co-ordinator**" who also will take part in external meetings when needed.
- **Meetings of more technical character** within the working group could however be lead by the co-ordinator, and the co-ordinator should also represent the working group in external meetings of more

technical character.

A discussion at the Executive Committee meeting and the joint Baltic Sea – North Sea Commission meeting in Copenhagen on thematic work group co-operation has added to the need for Work Group Directives.

A draft directive has been prepared by the secretariat and circulated to all member regions for amendment, including reminders, deadline 31st of May. - No amendment has arrived and the document should now be ready to be adopted by the Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly.

Final decision The new Work Group Directives for the Baltic Sea Commission was unanimously adopted without amendments.

10 § BSC Thematic Work Group - Reports

Report A) Transport Working Group (Mr Geir-Ketil Hansen, Mr Per Strømhaug) *WG Report - A*

After a long search and many rejections the group has finally found a new co-ordinator, Mr Per Strømhaug.

There will be good connections between the transport working group and the project "InterBaltic" since the project really is initiated by the working group. Contact is also taken with the NSC on Transport. VASAB has also asked to have a co-operation as soon as the WG is established.

The WG is to a large part responsible for the work shops and transport oriented agenda at the Bodø meeting.

The WG has contributed to the BSC response to the Maritime Policy through participation in the joint meetings with the NSC and with their own amendment to the green book on Maritime Policy.

The meeting that was to be held in Malmö on March 7th was cancelled as the number of delegates was very low. The WG is in need of new directions a rekindling. As Mr Geir-Ketil Hansen will not run for another period at his present office the chair is also to be vacant.

Final decision The core of the report follow that of the WG Report – A.

Mr Geir-Ketil Hansen will not be candidate for another term. Nordland has thus decided to step down from the position as lead partner for the Transport Working group.

On leaving his position as Work Group Leader Mr Hansen shared some of the hardships that next workgroup leader will have to come to terms with. The transport workgroup never manage to take flight after that Ms Öberg, former project co-ordinator, left for maternity leave.

The InterBaltic, led by Mr Per Strømhaug, Nordland, is now closing. A new project may follow, possibly with Blekinge region as lead partner.

The new Interreg period may offer new opportunities and Mr Hansen point at the question of Regional Air Transport as good topic for a joint application. The BSC is urged to take a more active part in a follow up project.

The discussion of what will follow, if anything, the Transport Workgroup will continue at the Riga meeting in September that will hold focus on Thematic Workgroups.

Report B) Energy Working Group (Dr. Erik Bergkvist, Ms. Linnéa Lundström)

WG Report - B

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.

Main objective: To compile a position paper to the CPMR General Assembly in October 2007. Seminar in Umeå, September 11.

Proposal The working progress of the BSC working groups will be reported at the next Executive Committee meeting in Riga and the activities could be followed at the Baltic Sea Commission homepages at www.balticseacommission.com .

Final decision The core of the report follows that of the WG Report – B.

The group is planning a joint seminar with North Sea Commissions energy workgroup in 2008.

The goal is to have a draft resolution on Energy and Climate Change to be presented at the CPMR General Assembly in Florence.

The draft resolution will be circulated among BSCs member regions by the end of August and be on the agenda at the Executive Committee meeting in Riga in September.

Report C) **Fishery Working Group (Mr Kjell Nybacka, Mr Rolf Gidemo)** ***WG Report - C***

At the Executive Committee meeting it was concluded that fishery is an important issue to the BSC. A lot of work is already undertaken in a North Sea Commission WG led by the Shetlands and also in the joint expert group held between the CPMR, Mr Francois Desrentes and DG Fishery in which the Baltic Sea Commission have long been represented by Mr Kjell Nybacka of Finland and Rolf Gydemo of Gotland.

Mr Kjell Nybacka is now informed of his appointment at the last meeting as chair of the BSC fishery group and a dialogue is established between the secretariat and Mr Nybacka and Mr Gidemo.

The group is indirectly represented in the Baltic Sea Commission RAC via Kjell Nybacka who is appointed rapporteur in the salmon working group. It would however be of benefit if the BSC is an official member of the BSRAC.

Proposal The working progress of the BSC working groups will be reported at the next Executive Committee meeting in Riga and the activities could be followed at the Baltic Sea Commission homepages at www.balticseacommission.com .

Final decision The core of the report follows that of the WG Report – C and was presented by the secretariat.

The groups is small, only two persons, and will welcome more participants.

A new report will be given at the BSC Executive Committee meeting in Riga in September.

Report D) **CPMR Work groups – Human Resource Group** ***WG Report - D1***
WG Report - D2 - Minutes Oviedo March 26-27

Stockholm region is active in the Human Resource Group.

The group held its last meeting in the Asturias on March 26-27th with political representatives present.

A report from the conference in Oviedo is expected this summer.

Proposal The working progress of the BSC thematic work group will be reported at the next Executive Committee meeting in Riga and the activities could be followed at the Baltic Sea Commission homepages at www.balticseacommission.com .

Final decision The project is coming to its end with two remaining seminars, one during the autumn and the final during the spring of 2008.

The project has been successful and generated a lot of interest. A presentation will be made at the BSCs Executive Committee meeting in Riga and at CPMR General Assembly in Florence.

Report E) CPMR Intercommission WG – TN-RIS Project

*WG Report – E1
WG Report – E2 - TN-RIS Project
WG Report – E3 - TN-RIS Methodology*

The Baltic Sea Commission proposal for an intercommission work group on innovation, made at the CPMR General Assembly in Murcia, has been well received. The CPMR together with, in particular the Stockholm Region together drawn up the intercommission WG named the TN-RIS project 'Toward a New Regional Innovation System'.

Stockholm Region with Ms Inger Linge is the lead partner together with the CPMR General Secretariat, in the person of Philippe Cichowlaz, Director, who shall be in charge of the technical coordination

Proposal The working progress of the BSC work group will be reported at the next Executive Committee meeting in Riga and the activities could be followed at the Baltic Sea Commission homepages at www.balticseacommission.com.

Final decision According to the Cordis ranking Stockholm and Helsinki region are Europe's leading regions when it comes to innovation. The TN-RIS project, a BSC Intercommission project, aim at finding what conditions in the society does promote a innovative behaviour. By scanning a regions, or two, in each geographical commission the project hope to bring back concrete factors for the success. A new report will be presented at the Executive Committee meeting in Riga in September.

11 § Final resolutions of the 12th BSC General Assembly

Resolutions will be delivered as a result of the workshops in Bodø. Resolutions

Final decision 11a §

Two resolutions were put forward one on Energy and the other on Transport. The resolutions had previously been discussed among interested member regions at the Bodø workshops and distributed on the table.

Response from the Baltic Sea Commission to the Energy and Transport Directorate-General, European Commission on "Biofuel issues in the new legislation on the promotion of renewable energy". The WG is led by Västerbotten region.

In the resolution BSC like to point the way towards the use of sustainable energy referring to the green book on Climate Change. The Baltic Area has state-of-the-art technology in these new types of technologies like biofuel. It is important that measures are taken now – towards being less dependent on fossil fuel. The resolution also notes that for earlier developers of sustainable technology this could be a very important industrial sector with great growth potential.

After a discussion on whether or not other forms of none fossil technologies should be added to the resolution – the conclusion came to not to do so.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

"CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Resolution on Transport Bodø, June 15 2007"

The resolution came out of the workgroup on transport held in Bodø on June 14, and led by Nordland region, were a number of member regions participated. The aim is to stress the importance of transport and communication for regional development. There will be an increased need for infrastructure development for cargo and passengers in the Baltic Sea region and at the same time the environmental challenges will be even more demanding. Initiatives to promote intermodal transport solutions and safety and security will all have high priority. The CPMR

initiative to address air transport is also welcome.
 One important conclusion of the work group meeting is that efficient cross border transport is important for development. Today bottlenecks like border crossings with Russia need to find future solutions for trade and development to flourish. Transport corridors between east and west should be made available.

In the discussion it was pointed out by Blekinge region that a paragraph on Motorways of the Sea was needed.

The BSC General Assembly adopted the resolution with the amendment suggested by Blekinge region and left to representatives of Blekinge and Nordland to finalize the document.

11b §

Region Västra Götaland presented a draft resolution on the future of the cohesion policy and the common agricultural policy (CAP) 2014-2020 and beyond. The cohesion policy and must reflect and consider these challenges.

In essence the resolution noted that the future program period should focus on economic growth, competition, innovation and sustainable development so they become an investment in regional development. The resolution suggested that these keywords also should apply to the common agriculture policy (CAP).

A discussion followed ending with the decision that there hadn't been enough time for the regions to study the resolution and Västra Götaland was asked to bring it to the Executive Committee meeting in Riga in September were a decision could be made if the BSC liked to put the draft resolution on the table at the CPMR General Assembly.

12 §	Coming Major Events – A Calendar for 2007	<i>Appendix 3 Annual Report</i>
Proposal	Decisions on who should participate where are decided at the Executive Committee meeting on June 15 th 2007.	
Final decision	Closed without comments.	
13 §	General Reports	
Reports	<p>A) <u>BSC seminar during the Almedalsveckan in July 2007 in Visby, Gotland (S)</u> This is to be the major event in 2007 for the Baltic Sea Commission aiming at making us known. It was decided that the theme for the BSC Seminar during the Almedalsveckan would be the "Environmental Impact Assessment of the Baltic Sea Gas Pipeline". In order to attract attention it is important that a few but high-ranking representatives of the various aspects of the subject will present the 2-3 hour session.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>General Report – A - Invitation</i></p> <p>B) <u>Nomination of Lamor Group Ab to 2007 Swedish Baltic Water Award</u> CPMRs Baltic Sea Commission has nominated Lamor Ab to the prestigious environmental award. The winner will be announced in June.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>General Report - B1 - Nomination General Report - B2 – Lamor Ab</i></p>	
Final decision	Closed without comments.	
14 §	Candidate To Host the 13th BSC General Assembly 2008	
	<p>A candidate is to be announced at the Bodø General Assembly for the 13th General Assembly 2008.</p> <p>If possible the candidate should be accommodating the General assembly of the Baltic Sea and North Sea Commission at the same location and in the same time offering joint activities.</p>	
Final decision	BSC Vice President Mr Poul Müller and Aarhus County (DK) invite the BSC General Assembly to Herning 2008. The meeting will be co-localised with the North Sea commission General Assembly. The idea is to have joint "off-meeting" activities to further the good co-operation. The meeting is scheduled to take place 12-13 of June.	

The presentation was supported by a tempting slide show and the decision to accept the invitation was done with acclamation by the General Assembly.

Decision was made to ask the Executive Secretaries to start plan for the General Assembly after the summer holidays.

15 § **New Member Region**

The Uusimaa Region is officially a member of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission as from the General Assembly in Bodø June 15th, 2007.

Final decision The new membership was noticed and welcomed by the President.

It was noted that Region South Denmark has now decided to join the CPMR family and the region is most welcomed to join the BSC.

16 § **Any Other Business**

Final decision Closed without comments.

17 § **Closing the Meeting**

Proposal The President will close the meeting.

Final decision The President warmly thanked Region of Nordland and all the participants and Closed the 12th BSC General Assembly in Bodø.

NOTE In total 65 regional Baltic Sea Commission representatives took part in the Bodø General Assembly meeting and adjoined work group meetings.

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