

#### Present:

Mr Alexander Wendt (SE), Ms Birgit Kuestner (DE), Mr David Hunt (DK / B7), Ms Ann Irene Saeternes (NO), Mr Raimo Holster (FI), Mr Pawel Maciejewski (PL), Ms Magdalena Anisko (PL), Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek (PL), Mr Olgierd Geblewicz (PL), Mr Krzysztof Barczyk (PL), Mr Sebastian Gojdz (Brussels Antenna), Ms Ingrid Klemp (NO), Ms Agita Kaupuza (LV), Mr Louis Hansen (DK), Ms Anne-Mette Jaspersen (DK), Ms Marlene Rothe (DE), Mr Stefan Musiolik (DE), Mr Janne Tamminen (FI), Ms Ulle Erman (EE), Ms Krystyna Wroblewska (PL), Mr Thore Westermoen (NO), Mr Jon Halvard Eide (NO), Mr Vladimir Svet (EE)

#### **Guests:**

Mr Kjell Nybacka (iBSG), Mr Jan Lundin (CBSS)

## 1. Opening of the BSSSC Board Meeting

Mr Olgierd Geblewicz, BSSSC Chairman, welcomed the BSSSC Board to Brussels and opened the meeting. A special welcome was given to the new BSSSC Board member, Mr Alexander Wendt from the Blekinge Region in Sweden and to Mr Jan Lundin Director General of the CBSS Secretariat.

The Board adopted the meeting agenda and the minutes of the BSSSC Board meeting in Szczecin on October 5, 2011.

# 2. Annual Conferences

### 2.1 Annual Conference 2011: Report from the Westpomeranian Region

On behalf of the conference host, the Westpomeranian Region, Mr Olgierd Geblewicz summed-up the 19th BSSSC Annual Conference in Szczecin which gathered around 200 participants, including BSR stakeholders, political representatives of the regions, scientific and academic communities and the major EU bodies. He underlined the perfect timing of the event in terms of the ongoing debate both: on the EU Strategy and the upcoming programming period.

Mr Geblewicz informed the Board that he had presented the results of the 19th BSSSC Annual Conference at the BDF Summit on 26 October 2011 in Gdańsk. Mr Geblewicz thanked to the BSSSC member regions for their involvement in the preparation of the conference.

Mr David Hunt added that the conference had gathered important politicians which was a great opportunity for networking.

### 2.2 Annual Conference 2012: Report from the Norwegian host

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes gave an overview about the ongoing activities concerning the preparation of the BSSSC AC 2012. Ms Saeternes presented to the BSSSC Board a draft programme of the conference and asked for comments and ideas for speakers who could be invited to take part in the conference. She confirmed that the conference will be moderated by Mr Udo Biss. Ms Saeterenes discussed the details concerning the exhibition which will concentrate on the BSR Programme's four priorities: sustainable energy, cleaning the Baltic Sea, transport and innovation. The exhibition aims to

present cluster projects co-financed by the BSR Programme so there will not be a single projects stand. There will also be a possibility for other Baltic organizations or European institutions to present themselves.

Ms Ingrid Klemp presented ideas for the youth event, which could concentrate on such themes as: transportation, recycling and energy saving. She gave a brief overview of the draft agenda of the youth conference. Another issue she mentioned was how to get youngsters from Sweden, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania to participate in the youth conference, as during the previous conference representatives of those countries were absent.

Mr Alexander Wendt suggested to invite the Euroregion Baltic (ERB) youth group as a observer to the BSSSC conference, as they deal with environmental and energy problems etc.

Mr Vladimir Svet posed the question, of whether it is possible to start the youth meeting one day earlier, to create the possibility for youth representatives to conclude and present the ideas of the youth to the BSSSC Board after the youth event. He stressed that due to the proposed draft conference programme there will not be a possibility for the youth representatives to present their suggestions because the youth conference will fall together with the BSSSC Board meeting.

Ms Saterenes informed the Board that the Youth Event next year will not be called the BSSSC youth event, because there is a plan to apply for funding from the Youth in Action Programme. It might be called: Youth Event for the Baltic Sea Region. There is the option that the results of the Youth Conference can be presented for instance, at the opening session of the BSSSC Annual Conference, where the BSSSC Board will also be present.

Ms Ingrid Klemp proposed another solution, suggesting that the Youth meeting could start earlier on Sunday and then the first session can start on Sunday and the second on Monday morning. Ms Saeternes confirmed that the conference host will consider those proposals.

Mr Jan Lundin informed that the CBSS will try to provide a speaker from the Russian Chair for the conference. He proposed the Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 as a partner of the conference, as the group is engaged in climate adaptation issues.

Mr Stefan Musiolik stressed that the political level should be more integrated and involved in the conference. Politicians should be present not only during the INTERREG section, but also during the main BSSSC conference. Mr Musiolik proposed several representatives for example from the European Parliament: Mr Carl Haglung – vice-president of the Baltic Sea Intergroup (Finland); Mr Tunne Kelam (Estonia) or from the Committee of the Regions: Mr Uno Aldegren – President of the Intergroup for the Baltic Sea Region.

Mr Musiolik proposed to invite representatives of the European Commission, as it could form a very promising bridge between the project idea level and the policy field. He suggested to stressed in the conference resolution the issue of energy within the EUSBSR. What is more, Mr Musiolik recommended the following speakers: Mr Klaus Rave (Germany) – President of the Global Wind Energy Council; Mr Frank Jensen – Mayor of Copenhagen or the City of Copenhagen representative (Copenhagen has an aim to be CO2 neutral by 2025). Concerning parallel sessions Mr Musiolik proposed to invite, for instance a representative of the Port of Stockholm or a representative of the RENREN Project. Regarding the closing session on September 18, Mr Musiolik supported the idea to invite a Russian representative to this panel and also proposed Mr Colin Wolfe from the European Commission. In regards to the invitation for representatives from other organizations Mr Musiolik proposed to consider

representatives of WWF or Green Peace. Mr Musiolik stressed that representatives from the EU's institutions should be invited not only not to make speeches but also to participate in the conference debates. Mr Musiolik proposed to close the conference on 18 September.

Mr David Hunt proposed to summarize the remarks presented by Mr Musiolik and place them on the webpage, which could help other Board members to add their comments.

Mr Wendt stressed that it is important to identify a clear goal of the conference, which would encourage people to participate in this event. He proposed to place the expected outcomes of the conference in the description of the programme and asked for the explanation of the idea standing behind the national delegation meeting.

Ms Saterenes clarified the ideas of the conference and explained the purpose of a national delegation meeting, which is an opportunity for people coming from the same country to meet and to get to know each other.

Mr Westermoen agreed with the statement of Mr Wendt that the goal of the conference should be more clear and asked about the final resolution of the conference.

Mr Geblewicz explained that the normal practice is for the BSSSC's conferences to end with a resolution presenting its outcomes and proposed to discuss, during the next BSSSC board meeting, how such a declaration should be worked out.

Mr Hunt suggested a new way of working on the conference resolution. He proposed to form a working group which will work on this document in advance and then during the conference will update it.

### 3. Follow-up Work Plan 2011-2012

#### 3.1 Cohesion policy

Mr Geblewicz informed the Board that the "BSSSC Statement on Cohesion Policy in the Multi Annual Financial Framework 2014-2020", was disseminated by the BSSSC Secretariat to the EU, national and regional institutions. He asked the BSSSC member regions to distribute this document to as many institutions and national governments as possible.

Ms Saeternes proposed to send the document to the CBSS which could further distribute it through its ministries

Mr Alexander Wendt informed the Board about his discussion with the Chairman of SALAR, Mr Knape, who noted that SALAR and the BSSSC statements on cohesion policy are in agreement on the majority of points.

Mr Musiolik proposed that the BSSC should comment on the European Commission's legislative package for the Cohesion Policy for 2014-2020, which were presented on 6 October 2011. Mr Musiolik noted that in the Commission's document several topics are not in line with the BSSSC's previous resolutions. Therefore he proposed to update the BSSSC statement with comments concerning the Commission provisions from 6 October and asked whether the Danish regions could continue this task.

Ms Anne Mette Bæk Jespersen could not confirm whether the Danish regions will coordinate the update of the paper. She promised to come back with an answer later on.

# 3.2 EU Startegy for the Baltic Sea Region

Mr Geblewicz referred to the Council's conclusions on the review of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (published on 15 November) where references to the BSSSC and to some of the recommendations from the BSSSC Position Paper on the EUSBSR, have been included. Mr Geblewicz mentioned also the meeting of the Baltic Sea Regional Organisations, which took place during the BDF in Gdańsk. The BSSSC Board was represented there by Mr Knud Andersen. The general proposal coming from the meeting, was to conduct joint actions concerning the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region with other Baltic organizations. Mr Geblewicz asked the BSSSC Board to approve the involvement of the BSSSC, in the work on the joint position paper with a message from the regions of the BSR. The BSSSC Board approved this proposal.

Ms Małgorzata Ludwiczek informed the Board that the BSSSC Secretariat will take part in the work on this joint position paper. The results of the work will be sent out and consulted with the BSSSC Board.

Ms Jespersen informed the Board that next year the 3rd Annual Forum on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will take place in June, in Copenhagen.

#### 3.3 Maritime policy

Mr Stefan Musioilk, Chairman of the Maritime Policy Working Group, informed the Board about the political meeting of the Clean Baltic Sea Shipping project which took place at the end of October, in Gdańsk. Mr Musiolik reported about the pilot project of clean shipping, which is an Onshore Power Supply in Oslo (it aims to reduce 3000 tons of CO2 in Oslo).

He gave the report on the Clean Baltic Sea Shipping project development. A lobby list will be created, defining concrete political demands to improve the conditions for clean shipping in the legal and financial framework.

Mr Musiolik also informed the Board that in order to support clean shipping, the Baltic Sea Forum indicated the wish to develop a Baltic Clean Marine Award. There is an idea that the prize can be financed from the Integrated Maritime Policy budget.

Concerning joint activities of the BSSSC, the BSPC and the CBSS there is a wish to organize a common event during the European Maritime Day 2012 in Gothenburg. A first preparatory meeting will take place in Kiel on 9th December. At the beginning of January a common workshop will be organised with the BSSSC, the BSPC and the CBSS maritime working groups, along with HELCOM, the Baltic Sea Commission and other Baltic groups from the maritime field.

Mr Musiolik presented issues which the EMD 2012 should include: a joint event of the BSSSC, the BSPC and the CBSS; a maritime stakeholder meeting aimed also at project representatives; a cluster meeting in the field of better usage of LNG; a Baltic Clean Marine Prize to be awarded during the EMD 2012.

The next meeting of the BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Policy will take place in Rovaniemi, in February 2012.

Mr Jon Eide asked Mr Musiolik whether the BSSSC's WGMP addresses the resolution of the IMO (the International Maritime Organization) on reducing the sulphur content of marine fuels of 1.0% by 2015

and if the maritime working group deals with the maritime spatial planning and other issues which try to balance the different interests, such as fishing or windmills.

Mr Musiolik replied that the BSSSC supports the line to implement the regulations of the IMO, for example the North Sea Commission which has a resolution is voting for implementing those strict limits. Mr Musiolik stressed that the strict rules should not only be in regards to the Baltic countries, but also to the Mediterranean. The direction concerning this subject should be lobbying for stricter rules in the Mediterranean Sea. Mr Musiolik invited Mr Jon Eide to join the BSSSC maritime working group and tackle the issue of maritime spatial planning.

Mr Eide commented on the resolution of the North Sea Commission, which stressed that this kind of regulation should be introduced in all waters of Europe and not only in the Baltic or the North Sea. He added that due to the anticipated resistance from other areas of the CPMR this resolution was withdrawn from the CPMR General Assembly, so it could be an idea to coordinate it with the CPMR.

Mr Hunt informed that the BSSSC WGMP is prepared to discuss all issues related to the maritime environment.

Mr Westermoen emphasized the importance of such issues as clean shipping or other questions concerning the environment, which are not national but truly international problems and that it is significant that the BSSSC has those aspects on its agenda.

### 3.4 Climate policies and energy security

The information about the meeting of the Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 on 15 November in Gdynia, Poland - was attached to the Board meeting agenda.

#### 3.5 Science and education

Ms Birgit Kuestner reported on the organization of a Baltic Sea Conference on Education which will take place in the framework of the EUSBSR and the German CBSS Presidency between 31.5.-01.06.2012 in Hamburg. The details of this event were enclosed in the Board meeting agenda.

#### 3.6 Youth policy

Chairman Geblewicz informed the Board that the report from the BSSSC Working Group on Youth Policy was sent by the Secretariat before the meeting and it is attached to the documentation.

Ms Ingrid Klemp informed the Board about the establishment of the youth website: <a href="www.bsssc-youth.eu">www.bsssc-youth.eu</a> and that currently the working group is focusing on the preparation for the next annual conference. Ms Klemp informed also that most probably the topics of mobility and youth democracy will be on the agenda in 2012.

Mr Svet expressed his concern regarding the solidity of the tasks assigned to the youth representatives to the BSSSC Board, which is difficult to measure. He asked for the youngsters to be added to the science and education working group, as it is the topic which touches young people the most.

Mr Wendt informed the Board that for two last years he has been working with students from various areas and currently he is seeking sponsorship and moral support. This kind of think-tank should serve as a platform for those who will create the Baltic Sea Region's reality in the future – he added. Mr Wendt also asked if the idea could be spread among the universities in the member-regions.

Ms Kuestner answered the request of Mr Svet saying that there is no working group on education and science and that only Hamburg keeps the position of the rapporteur within the organization. But she said that she's open to cooperation in this matter.

Mr Svet said that he will try to figure out other ways of communication as it is rather difficult to cover the travel expenses for young people.

Ms Ludwiczek add that she can forward this request to the youth coordinators in Tallinn and that the meeting of youngsters will be organized on May in Tallinn. She suggested also to discuss the role of youth in the Board during that meeting.

Mr David Hunt referred to the request of Mr Wendt and asked for brief information about the mentioned venture.

## 3.7 Cooperation with Russia

Ms Birgit Kuestner said that the report was distributed among the Board members before the meeting. In her short statement she focused on the cooperation between Hamburg, Turku and St. Petersburg, with the support of the EU. This gives an effective platform for the discussion about the involvement of Russia in BSR issues. She added that the DG Regio approached Hamburg and Turku in order to start a pilot project. Ms Kuestner informed also that the main points of interest are: environment (water pollution and agriculture especially), the innovation sector and labour market. In December there will be the next meeting, since Mr Ahner will retire in January. She will inform the Board about the developments in this particular matter. Ms Kuester also informed the Board about Hamburg's representative of the Chamber of Commerce in St. Petersburg who can also be a valuable contact person in BSR matters for the BSSSC too.

Chairman Geblewicz thanked her for the report and invited all for a coffee break.

### [COFFEE BREAK]

After the break Chariman Geblewicz welcomed the Latvian representative – Ms Agita Kaupuza – Adviser to the Chairman of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments on EU Issues, Head of Brussels Office and Mr Kjell Nybacka – Director of the West Finland European Office and a Chairman of the Informal Baltic Sea Group.

### 4. Baltic Sea Region Programme

Ms Ann-Irene Saeternes updated the Board on the recent developments within the area of the BSR Programme. The task force meeting took place a week before in Berlin. It's been decided that four clusters are to be established, one of them is already working – energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. 8 projects are involved in the cluster (those will be part of the BSSSC Annual Conference on 20 September). The 3 others are: "Saving the Baltic Sea waters", "Multimodal cross-border transport corridors" and "Tools supporting SMEs as innovation sources". Ms Saeternes also informed the Board that the 5th call will soon be decided upon, which is already known to be small one. It will be open on 9 January and closed on 29 March, with a budget of 4.4 million Euro left. All funds will be concentrated on a narrow topic – horizontal actions which correspond to the EU Strategy for the BSR (for example: building the identity - branding). In this scenario there is, once again, a chance for the INVOLVE project - Ms Saeternes added. There is a general condition: all projects which want to apply have to be already ongoing. There is also some money for the extension stage (for 1st and 2nd call), which will be opened on February 2012. Regarding the next programming period, in January 2012 there will be an open call for tenders from companies which will conduct the evaluation. She also informed the Board that the members of the Joint Programming Committee for the upcoming period will be appointed. She advised the Board to contact the national points to make sure that the regions will be represented in this body. The first meeting will be held in Riga on March, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Lillestrøm, Norway.

Chariman Geblewicz thanked her for the report.

### 5. Report from Brussels

Mr Sebastian Gojdz thanked Mr Nybacka for coming to the meeting and he moved on to the topic of the Declaration of Common Interest between the Committee of the Regions and the BSSSC. He reminded

the Board that the document is valid only until the end of 2011. He presented some of his proposal for the document, keeping in mind the debate on the shape of the BSSSC papers, which should be – short sharp and to the point (all suggestions were marked red). He pointed out that points 4 and 5 are in his opinion "dead articles": point 4 "Joint activities in the field of communication and the mutual publicity of key events" and point 5 "Joint activities in relation to the CoR's responsibility for safeguarding local and regional interests and for monitoring the application of the Protocol on the principle of subsidiarity". He proposed to add a point concerning the Strategy (in the context of aligning with the Europe 2020). Mr Gojdz suggested that the inclusion of the regional response to the economic crisis and common market should be considered. He asked the Board for comments.

Chairman Geblewicz opened the discussion on the document.

Mr Vladimir Svet asked about the procedure concerning the adaptation of the document. The Chairman informed him that the discussion on the declaration will be continued via e-mail, because it requires deeper consideration. Afterwards, it could be adopted at the next meeting in Rovaniemi – he added.

Ms Saeternes referred to the point concerning the Northern Dimension and proposed to develop it in line with what has been said recently in this area. She declared to send the proposal to the Secretariat.

Chairman Geblewicz proposed to give 2 weeks for submitting the contribution to the declaration. Then the Secretariat will put all the inputs together and disseminate them once again, as well as to the CoR.

In February the paper could be adopted.

Mr Alexander Wendt asked whether the Euroregion Baltic could be included in the document and whether it had already been decided to include the ERB

Mr Gojdz explained that at that point he didn't wanted to interfere with the involvement of potential partner-organizations and co-signers to the document.

Ms Saeternes explained the procedure (since the previous declaration was signed under the Norwegian presidency). She referred to the status of the BSSSC, where other Baltic organizations such as the B7, the UBC and the CPMR BSC have delegated members to the BSSSC Board, whereas the CBSS representative has the status of an observer. She pointed out that cooperation with the ERB has been done so far only on practical resolutions and political statements.

Mr Wendt suggested to invite the ERB and asked if it has to be done in a formal proposal. Chairman Geblewicz confirmed and proposed to come back to this issue in the point 7 of the meeting's agenda.

Mr David Hunt informed the Board that he had sent an e-mail to the Secretariat concerning the inclusion of the Euroregion Baltic because practically they have been involved in some of the crucial works related to the Baltic Sea Region lately.

Chairman Geblewicz pointed out that the formula of the network has fundamental importance, including organizing the work. Then he underlined that in the Baltic area there are many Euroregions and they should be treated equally, for example: Euroregion Pomerania.

Ms Krystyna Wróblewska wanted to clarify whether the current discussion is on the declaration or the BSSSC's status. She pointed out that there is no representative of the UBC and if there is a discussion on the declaration and eventual involvement of the UBC, the presence of its representative is crucial.

She also mentioned that these kind of organizations have quite long procedures when it comes to the adoption of such documents. She pointed out that there are differences between the profile of the Euroregions, one is project-oriented, second political etc. Among others, the Euroregion Baltic is the most similar to what the BSSSC does. This is a good reason why we should address them – Ms Wróblewska added.

She has some doubts concerning Mr Gojdz's proposal to remove point no. 4. Ms Wróblewska stated that this actually, could be one of the things that we could do jointly with the Committee and the fact that this "tool" wasn't used by the BSSSC is our weakness. Therefore we should use this to promote the BSSSC – she added.

Mr Chairman agreed with Ms Wróblewska, that this article of the declaration is a good tool to promote the organization. Then he proposed to open the discussion concerning directly the number of entities signing the final document.

Ms Saeterenes pointed out that the previous declaration was co-signed by the BSSSC, the B7, the UBC and the CoR.

Mr Chairman said that if there is a will to invite other Baltic organizations, we can do it and the invitation should be sent.

Mr Hunt mentioned that if we decide to add actions to this paper, then there should be somebody to follow it up and that there should be a point on this in our agenda. Referring to point 4. of the declaration, Mr Hunt said that the B7 has not been following this request. He also mentioned that the previous paper had a notification, a short description of the B7. The BSSSC provides a platform for the B7 and we accepts the hospitality and we are grateful for this – he added. Mr Hunt stated that the declaration should be signed by the BSSSC on behalf of the B7. It should be explained in the document what the B7 is and what is its role.

Mr Alexander Wendt proposed to ask the ERB if they want to be part of the declaration. Another question is, if they should become a member of the BSSSC Board. Mr Wendt proposed to do it later this day personally, because the Head of the Secretariat will be present at the seminar in the Committee of the Regions

Mr Janne Taminnen said that the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission would be pleased to be invited to join the declaration.

Ms Saeternes: The CoR has to decide who will be the co-signer and she recalled the previous declaration when the CPMR already had a declaration signed with the CoR and they couldn't have an extra agreement. She supported Mr Hunt by saying that everyone can be included even the BSC in an annex.

Chairman Geblewicz concluded by saying that the BSSSC will sign the document on behalf of other Baltic organizations which are supporting the declaration.

Mr Thore Westermoen aksed who on behalf of the Committee should sign it? President Bresso or Secretary General – Mr Gerhard Stahl. As the BSSSC is a political organization, the second side should also be a political representative.

Chairman Geblewicz agreed that the document should be signed by a politician.

A short presentation from Kjell Nybacka from the Informal Baltic Sea Group was given. Apart from introducing the nature of the work of the network, he presented the idea of the Summer Reception – an event organized in May/June for the last couple of years. This opened the discussion on the event and the eventual participation of the BSSSC in this venture.

Ms Krystyna Wroblewska commented on this by saying that the role of the offices in Brussels is to represent the regions, whose authorities set the priorities.

Mr Stefan Musiolik asked about the timing of the seminar. In April there is a Baltic Sea Day in Berlin, in June, Denmark will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum on the Implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and yet before that in May there will be the European Maritime Day. In regards to financing the event, Mr Musiolik pointed out that the Clean Baltic Sea Shipping has money left for these organizational purposes. One of its partners is a Baltic Sea Forum. He proposed to ask them for support, to spread the cost among a few bodies. The condition is to link the theme with maritime issues – he added.

Mr Hunt added that the B7 appreciates and follows the work of the Group.

Mr Jon Eide asked if there is a chance to join (as a South Norway Europe Office) the iBSG.

Mr Nybacka referred to Ms Wroblewska's question: the group is an informal network, rather a technical instrument to communicate with the DG Regio. He added that the steering committee consists of the officials who have a mandate from their home region.

Mr Gojdz referred to the issue of timing by saying that the events organized in Brussels have lobby purposes and are always excellent ways to influence the EU decision-makers.

Chairman Geblewicz suggested to move the discussion on the Summer Reception for the future.

#### 6. Partner organizations

Mr Jan Lundin – Secretary General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States gave a short presentation on the current activities undertaken by the CBSS under the German presidency.

Chairman Geblewicz thanked him for the presentation and proposed to move the discussion about the political aims and goals to the next Board meeting.

### 7. Politcal aims and goals of the BSSSC

This point was moved to the next meeting.

### 8. BSSSC Board meetings 2012

Chairman Geblewicz pointed that only the date and place of the last meeting in 2012 is still unknown and asked the Board for proposals. Mr Stefan Musiolik suggested to meet in Brussels, perhaps even to organize a "Winter Reception" together with the Informal Baltic Sea Group in Brussels in December. Mr Raimo Holster informed the Board that the draft programme of the next BSSSC Board meeting has already been distributed. Mr Raimo offered to organize a special event for those who will arrive on 22 February, in the evening. He informed the Board that the hotel has already been booked.

## 9. Reports from meetings and events

The events were listed on the agenda.

# 10 Coming events

The events were listed on the agenda.

# 11. Any other business

Mr Stefan Musiolik informed the Board members about the meeting with Mr Collin Wolfe from the DG Regio, scheduled later for that day about culture and regional identity in the Baltic Sea Region. The goal is to upgrade the issue on the agenda of the Strategy. The position paper from the Ars Baltica will be delivered personally, hoping for the support from the European Commission. He informed the Board that he will develop the idea in Rovaniemi.

Chairman Geblewicz thanked everybody for their participation in the meeting and the fruitful discussion.

# **BSSSC Secretariat**