



## **BSSSC Board Meeting**

**Tallinn(Estonia), Meriton Hotel  
12 October 2010, 02.00 pm – 04.30 pm**

### **1. Opening of Board Meeting**

On behalf of the host, Mr. Arne Tilk welcomed the BSSSC Board in Tallinn/Estonia. Afterwards BSSSC Chairman Carsten-Ludwig Lüdemann formally opened the meeting and delivered an outlook on the upcoming BSSSC Annual Conference. A special welcome was given to the former BSSSC Chairman, Mr. Arne Ören.

The Board adopted the agenda of the meeting as well as the meeting minutes of the last Board meeting in Stockholm on 10 May 2010.

### **2. BSSSC Annual Conferences**

#### **2.1 BSSSC Annual Conference 2010**

Mr. Toivo Riima and Ms. Kersti Ludvig presented the programme and technical details concerning the following BSSSC Annual Conference.

Mr. Jan Thiele presented the final draft version of the Conference Resolution which was adopted by the board with one small amendment.

#### **2.2 BSSSC Annual Conference 2011**

Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek put forward the first ideas concerning the BSSSC Annual Conference 2011. This conference might focus on the topic of Cohesion Policy and/or Energy and Climate. It is planned to take place in Szczecin between 6 and 8 October 2011. A first exposé concerning the Annual Conference will be presented at the next Board meeting in Rovaniemi (Finland) on 10 December 2010.

### **3. Follow-up Work Plan 2009-2010**

#### **3.1 Science and Education**

Mr. Stefan Herms informed the Board about the establishment of secretariats in Hamburg (DESY) and Lund (ESS) in the framework of the Baltic Science Link. One of the main objectives is to develop an Interreg project in order to foster the cooperation between universities, scientific institutions and enterprises.

Concerning the priority area education and youth of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Mr. Stefan Herms announced that the responsible region Hamburg will organize a conference on the topic of education in summer 2011.

#### **3.2 Co-operation in the EU Baltic Sea Strategy**

In absence of the BSSSC rapporteur for the EUSBSR, Mr. David Hunt, Mr. Stefan Herms shared his general impression that the process of devising and implementing the EUSBSR had led to considerably improved relations between BSSSC and the EU Commission. The organization of the BSSSC Annual Conference back to back with the EU's first Annual Forum

on the EUSBSR as well as the responsibility of BSSSC regions for several priority areas and flagship projects of the EUSBSR could be seen as proof of this development.

It was widely seen as unfortunate in the Board that the High Level Group that has been set up to accompany the EUSBSR was not staffed with a political member of the Committee of the Regions.

### **3.3 Cohesion Policy**

Mr. Knud Andersen presented the final version of the BSSSC position paper on Cohesion policy which was approved by the Board unanimously. The Board agreed furthermore that it should be looked whether there are further organizations in the Baltic Seas Region (BSR) that might be willing to support the position paper in its current form. Mr. Knud Anderson will take over responsibility for this task.

### **3.4 Maritime Policy**

Mr. Stefan Musiolik informed the Board about the Interreg project Clean Baltic Sea Shipping that had just recently been approved by the monitoring committee and got the confirmation to contribute to the implementation of a flagship project of the Baltic Sea Strategy and as well got a stat of so-called strategic project in the framework of the Baltic Sea Region Programme.

A CBSS expert group on maritime policy has been installed and is equipped with an ambitious work plan by the new Norwegian presidency of CBSS. The BSSSC working group on maritime policy intends to become a strategic partner of this CBSS expert group.

The next meeting of the BSSSC working group will take place on 14 October 2010 in presence of two representatives of the EU Commission, DG Mare. Members of the working group will also represent BSSSC at the upcoming Annual Forum of the EU Commission.

### **3.5 Climate Change and Sustainable Development**

Mr. Stefan Herms reported that a representative of the Hamburg Ministry of Urban Planning and Environment has taken over the responsibility to represent BSSSC in the new founded CBSS expert group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21. Two meetings have already been taking place, the next meeting is foreseen for December. It was agreed in the Board that this Hamburg and BSSSC representative will present the latest developments of the CBSS expert group in the next BSSSC Board meeting

Concerning the Joint Platform on Energy and Climate Mr. Stefan Herms reported about his participation at a meeting in June 2010 and stated his impression that this institution focuses to a large extent on the exchange of information concerning upcoming meeting in the respective fields. Mr. Stefan Herms assessed that the Baltic Sea Energy Link Cooperation might be better suited to the needs of BSSSC. He proposed therefore to invite a representative of this cooperation to one of the next BSSSC Board meetings.

Mr. Jan Thiele informed the Board about the latest developments concerning the planned conference on the topic of “Adaptation to Climate Change – case Studies from the BSR” which will take place on 31 May in Hamburg. The focal point will be the exchange of experience and best practice in the field of adaptation to climate change. A flyer was distributed and the Board members were invited to contact Birgit Küstner from Hamburg in case they would like that their respective region is represented with a case study.

### **3.6 Public Health and Quality of Life**

This item was skipped as no representative of Stockholm County council attended the meeting.

### **3.7 Youth Policy**

The new BSSSC Youth representative Ingrid Klemp introduced herself to the Board. Afterwards Mr. Pawel Grzadko presented the results from the Youth event "Youth on the Labour Market" and reported about the work of the working group in 2010. No objections were raised by the Board to his question to intensify the cooperation with the AER youth team.

Mr. Stefan Herms explicitly thanked Gerd Tarand for his work for BSSSC.

### **3.8 Transport and Infrastructure**

On behalf of region Skane, Mr. Ingvar Thell distributed a written report on the project TransBaltic. He informed the Board members that a TransBaltic Stakeholder meeting would take place on 15 October.

### **3.9 Co-operation with Russia and Northern Dimension**

Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes highlighted the fact that the Northern Dimension steering group had progressed in its last meetings towards a cultural partnership that will be endowed with own means of funding. A discussion is taking place concerning the participation of Belarus as a observer to this partnership. The next ministerial meeting of the Northern Dimension is planned on 2 November 2010.

Mr. Stefan Herms added that Hamburg supports the efforts to further intensify the cooperation with Russian partners. A potential partner from the Kaliningrad region for the project TransBaltic was for instance found recently.

## **4. Baltic Sea Region Programme**

Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes reported that at the last two meetings of the monitoring committee (June in Finland and September in Kiel) 19 new projects were adopted. Among those 19 projects were 8 flagship projects of the EUSBSR which underlines the importance of the programme as important funding source for the EUSBSR. Furthermore, Ms. Saeternes informed about the starting external evaluation of the programme which will be concluded by a Latvian company.

It is planned that Norway will host the BSSSC Annual Conference in 2012. As Norway will host in the same year as well the Baltic Sea Region Programme Conference, it is intended to organize those two conferences back to back.

Mr. Stefan Musiolik informed the Board about the fact that the project Baltic Sea History Book was not accepted. He considered the given reasons for this decision as not convincing.

## **5. Report from Brussels Antenna**

Mr. Friedrichsen pointed out that the co-operation between BSSSC and the European Commission for the two conferences in Tallinn (Annual Conference and Annual Forum of the Baltic Sea Strategy) was a big success for our organisation. Most of the important players from Brussels including Commissioner Hahn and CoR President Mercedes Bresso) are present in Tallinn. This would be an excellent possibility to get in contact with Brussels representatives from all levels. BSSSC is at this point in the heart of the process. The idea of a Baltic Sea Strategy was originally brought up in the European Parliament by a group of

MEPs including the now Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves and now the idea comes back to Tallinn Estonia.

BSSSC has become a much sought-after source of information when it comes to macroregional policy-making in Brussels in general. The CoR contacted Mr. Friedrichsen to profit from the organisation's experience in this process. One of the results of this co-operation with the CoR was the editorial piece of President Bresso on macroregional policy making in the last edition of our BSSSC Newsletter.

He pointed out that as from November 2010 Brussels will be busy discussing the future of the regional policy after 2013. The 5<sup>th</sup> cohesion report would be published on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November and many discussions would be organized on this topic in November and December. He stressed the fact that this period of time would be perfect to disseminate our own BSSSC paper on the future of regional policy post 2013.

## **6. Reports from Meetings and Events**

CBSS Summit, 1 + 2 June 2010, Vilnius

BDF-Summit, 1 + 2 June 2010, Vilnius

First meeting of the joint project group BSSSC / Plan Baltic, 3 June 2010, Hamburg

6th Study Conference on BALTEX, 14 – 18 June 2010, Miedzyzdroje, Island of Wolin

BSSSC Midsummer Festival, 24 June 2010, Hamburg

Summer Seminar of the Baltic Sea Group, 29 June 2010, Brussels

19. Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), 29 -31 August 2010, Mariehamn, Aaland Islands

First meeting of NDPHA project drug prevention among youth, 30 + 31 August

## **7. Coming events**

BSSSC Annual Conference and 1<sup>st</sup> Forum on EUSBSR, 12 -15 October 2010, Tallinn

Green Capital 2010 Conference, 20 October 2010, Stockholm

2<sup>nd</sup> Northern Dimension Ministerial meeting, 2 November 2010, Oslo

General Assembly of European Regions (AER), 11+12 November 2010, Istanbul

BSSSC Board Meeting, 9 + 10 December 2010, Rovaniemi, Finland (*Early booking of flights and hotels is highly recommended*)

European Maritime Day, 20 May 2011, Gdansk

Conference: Adaptation to Climate Change, BSSSC, BALTEX, GKSS, 31 May 2011, Hamburg

## **8. BSSSC Board Meetings in 2011**

The following meetings are envisaged:

15 + 16 March 2011, Oslo (Parallel to meeting of CSO of the CBSS)

Around 20 May 2011, Gdansk (before or after the European maritime Day)

October 2011, Szczecin (before BSSSC Annual Conference 2011)

December 2011, Brussels (or another region)

The final decision about the venues for the BSSSC Board meetings in 2011 will be taken at the next Board meeting in Rovaniemi.

**9. Any other business**

The Estonian hosts gave some final technical remarks concerning the National Delegations Meetings and the departure for the get-together Dinner.

BSSSC Secretariat