

BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Policy Meeting on 14 October 2010 in Tallinn - Results

- Participants**
- Merten Barnert, Information Office Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to the EU
Sten Björk, Leadpartner of the INTERREG project CleanShip
Kurt Bodewig, Baltic Sea Forum
Izolda Bulvinaite, EU Commission
Peter Erlöv, Region Skane/Sweden
Lars Friedrichsen, BSSSC Brussels Antenna
Ivar Haug, Vestfold County/Norway
Hannele Luukkainen, Helsinki City Council
Liana Maximova, Kaliningrad Region
Stefan Musiolik, Head of BSSSC WG Maritime Policy (chair)
Dejan Panow, BSSSC Youth
Christer Pursiainen, CBSS Secretariat
Marlene Rothe, Land Schleswig-Holstein (minutes)
Haitze Siemers, EU Commission
- New member**
- Dejan Panow from the BSSSC Youth was welcomed as new members of the working group.
- CleanShip - State of affairs (report Sten Björk)**
- The INTERREG project runs with 21 formal partners, further 19 partners are involved as associated partners, e.g. shipping companies (private partners are not eligible), further partners take part as supporting partners, e.g. organizations like HELCOM.
 - A conference in concert with HELCOM is envisaged for the time first results are available.
 - The overall aim of the project is that in 2015 ships in the Baltic Sea are running with better fuels.
 - One main objective of the project is reducing ship borne emissions by fostering the use of LNG and biogas; respective pilot projects are planned in cooperation with the Port of Trelleborg and the Port of Klaipeda.
 - Hindrances for the use of LNG/biogas are not of technical nature but of strategic and political nature.

- Also safety problems and time-dependent problems by refueling ships have to be solved.
- For the latter cassette solutions (small rolling tanks adjusted to short voyages) and floating fuelling stations are under discussion.
- First pilot solutions are envisaged for cruise ships and ferries, further types of ships will follow.
- Sten Björk reported on the WAB project (Wetland Algae Biogas) the city and the region of Trelleborg are involved in. The project aims at generating biogas from algae and residues from wetlands and at the same time decreasing nutrients from farmlands and the sea.
- The use of biogas will be promoted in particular for ships cruising in ecologically sensible areas.
- On October 20/21 a first partner meeting of the CleanShip project takes place in Trelleborg. The official Kick off Seminar takes place on November 18/19 in Stockholm. Stefan Musiolik will participate as chairman of the BSSSC Working Group and representative of the State Chancellery of Land Schleswig-Holstein.
- A progress report on the CleanShip project will be tabled on the occasion of the Maritime Day in May 2011.

**Political Committee
to the CleanShip
project**

- Task of the body is to link the project with politics.
- In order to come to harmonized solutions and to implement these solutions in the whole Baltic Sea region it is necessary to involve the regional and national political level and the relevant stakeholders in the project development.
- Having this in mind it is recommended to acquire representatives from BSSSC, CBSS, BSPC, BPO, the ship owner's side and the EU Commission for the Political Committee.
- It is recommended to link the meetings of the Political Committee (approx. twice a year) with other important events in the region.

**The view of the EU
COM**

- Haitze Siemers/EU COM appreciated the project and its governance approach very much, it could serve – if successful – as a model of good governance also beyond the BSR; he will inform other COM colleagues on this project.

- From the COM's view the presented approach (involving all relevant levels) is exactly the way the EU Baltic Sea Strategy should work.
- In particular the involvement of the Member States via CBSS is strongly supported by the COM.
- A close link to the international rule making bodies is recommended (e.g. IMO).
- A link to the flagship project Short Sea Shipping is recommended.
- SECA in the Baltic could be marketed as a green label for cruises.
- Haitze Siemers will check the COM's participation in the Political Committee of the project, at least via participation in the BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Policy.

The view of the Baltic Sea Forum (BSF)

- Kurt Bodewig as Chairman of the BSF Board confirmed the project a unique quantity and quality of partners.
- The project could serve as communication platform for a more intensive discussion on the right solutions concerning low-emission technologies and suitable infrastructure and herewith generating a public climate for the necessity of quick and comprehensive solutions.
- An intensified debate has to be conducted also in the fields of science and economy.

Involvement of Russia

- The participation of Russia is considered as of high relevance for the project.
- Liana Maximova stressed that Rosmoport (port of Kaliningrad) is involved as associated partner, but that this contribution is only limited.
- As Russia is not eligible within the current INTERREG period and only partly involved in the EU Baltic Sea Strategy via the Northern Dimension financing is a problem.
- The dialogue between the EU and Russia on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy led to concrete agreements on cooperation in projects of common interest but not in the field of maritime policy.

Activities of the

- The CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP) was es-

**CBSS Expert
Group on Maritime
Policy (report
Christer Pursiainen)**

established in June 2009 and got a mandate from the CBSS for three years, in November 2009 the 1st meeting took place under Lithuanian chairmanship. The chairmanship is connected with the CBSS chairmanship and thus changes every year.

- The EGMP strives at cooperating with other Baltic Sea organizations dealing with maritime policy like BSSSC, BSPC, VASAB etc. There is a close cooperation with HELCOM also as both secretariats are situated in Helsinki.
- Christer Pursiainen (member of CBSS Secretariat in the EGMP) mentioned the role of Schleswig-Holstein and the BSSSC as initiator of the EGMP and outlined its tasks according to its Terms of Reference (ToR) and the current priorities under Norwegian chairmanship:
- A communication platform on maritime policy is established on the CBSS website. Link:
<http://www.cbss.org/Economic-Development/virtual-communication-platform-on-maritime-policy>

During the Norwegian chairmanship it is planned to expand it into a virtual communication platform with interactive tools. A cooperation with the online European Maritime Forum of the EC is envisaged.

- According to the ToR the EGMP is involved in creating a maritime economy cluster in the BSR. A first workshop on this topic took place in May in Klaipeda. During the Norwegian chairmanship a focus will be laid on LNG.
- Activities to increase the use and distribution of LNG are a priority of the Norwegian chairmanship. A specific seminar will take place early in 2011, perhaps in cooperation with the BDF.
- Another priority of the EGMP is science cooperation. According to the ToR the EGMP is to initiate a network for marine science, R&D in the BSR. A focus is on the cooperation with BONUS. Also in this connection Norway sets a focus on the LNG-related scientific and R&D community in the BSR.
- According to the ToR the EGMP wants to initiate and accompany projects. The problem is financing, the EGMP is only able to give some seed money. Thus the dialogue with projects like CleanShip comes first, but the Norwegian chairmanship strives at concrete participation.

- One priority of the resolution of the CBSS Ministerial meeting in June 2011 in Oslo will be maritime policy.

European Maritime Day 2011 in Gdansk

- Awareness raising about maritime issues is another priority of the EGMP. Christer Pursiainen reports that a side event is planned on the Maritime Day 2011 in Gdansk, perhaps in co-operation with BDF or BSPC.
- Stefan Musiolik proposed a joint event of the maritime working groups of CBSS, BSSSC and BSPC in order to demonstrate strong and joint action.
- Haitze Siemers outlined the preparations for the European Maritime Day 2011 which will be organized by the COM and Poland on May 19/20. The main motto of the conference will be the “human factor” of integrated maritime policy. Links between the European Maritime Policy and the EU Baltic Sea Strategy will be an important aspect the CBSS and BSSSC could contribute to.

Further points of interest

- Lars Friedrichsen reported on the report on Integrated Maritime Policy of MEP Gesine Meissner (meanwhile adopted by the EP on 21 October) which comprises the EP position on shipping emissions. The EP calls for a European-wide solution for sulphur emission control areas (SECAs) in order to protect all European coasts similarly and to avoid a modal shift from sea to road. Link to the report: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2010-0386+0+DOC+XML+V0//en>
- He further referred to a study the COM recently published on the consequences of, inter alia, the MARPOL Annex VI regulations on the competitiveness of the shipping industry in the North and Baltic Sea Region. The study concludes that fears the additional costs for low-sulphur fuels will lead to competitive disadvantages and in the following to a trend from sea to road are not justifiable. Link to the study: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/transport/pdf/sss_report.pdf
- He further pointed out that the problem was also discussed on the informal meeting of the European Transport Ministers in Antwerp mid September. The Ministers agreed to monitor developments and evaluate possible responses which should be based on increasing efficiency, including port efficiency, and

innovation. Advanced technical solutions should be assessed and promoted from the view of the Ministers. They agreed to assess the present geographical coverage of the SECAs in Europe with a view to its possible extension.