

Minutes from the Board Meeting

0 Opening of the Board Meeting

Chairman Arne Øren opened the meeting and warmly welcomed all Board members. A special welcome was given to Mr Esko Lotvonen from the region of Lapland, a new Board Member from Finland. Mr Øren also informed that the Board member from St. Petersburg City Administration, Mr Vladislav Balsky could not come due to the changes in his work plans.

1 Adoption of the Minutes from the Board Meeting in Kaunas, 9 March 2007

The Board adopted the Minutes from the Board Meeting in Kaunas 9 March 2007 with some minor changes proposed by Mr Günther Schulz and Ms Inge Hyldebrandt.

2 Adoption of the Agenda

The Board adopted the agenda

3 Annual Conference 2007

Mr Risto Ervelä informed that the preparation for the Annual Conference 2007 is well taken care of by the Council of Southwest Finland and the BSSSC Secretariat. The draft invitation brochure/flyer with the preliminary programme was distributed in the Board Meeting. The flyer will also be distributed at the conference in Hamburg 10-11 May, gathering some 500 participants.

Ms Ann Irene Sæternes presented the draft program of the Annual Conference. Most of the speakers at the Annual Conference are confirmed by now. Partner Search will include Intelligent Energy programme in addition to the Baltic Sea programme. The detailed and updated Conference invitation and programme will be sent to the contacts on the "Baltic Sea" list of BSSSC, on the list of the Interreg Secretariat in Rostock and if possible the Hamburg Conference participants list (in week 21). Ms Sæternes also stressed that it is important that the BSSSC Board members are active in the sessions - BSSSC should be visible. Baltic Sea Commission will be given a possibility for political intervention in one of the sessions and the Youth voice will be included in all parallel sessions.

The question of conference fee was raised, and Ms Sæternes confirmed that the Conference fee is 100 Euro.

The Board thanked for the information and approved the draft program.

The draft key points of the Conference Resolution were discussed. The cooperation with other organisations should be included into the text of the resolution. Mr Günther Schulz and Ms Ann Irene Sæternes will prepare a first draft for comments among the board members in a written procedure before the summer break. A final draft resolution will be sent out by end of August.

Annual Conference 2008

Mr Knud Andersen informed the Board that due to the administrative reform in Denmark, his coun-

try could not host the Annual Conference in 2008.

Mr Günther Schulz suggested arranging the Annual Conference together with CoR (referring to the agreement with CoR). The BSSSC Secretariat will work further to find a host for the Annual Conference 2008.

5 Reports from meetings and events

The Chairman, Arne Ören informed the Board about the Baltic Sea Day 22-23 March in St. Petersburg, Russia, some other meetings with Russian regions and organisations and the meeting in Bornholm, Denmark, 16 - 17 April - Cooperation with other organisations.

At the Bornholm meeting the BSR organisations agreed to identify 1 to 3 possible cooperation areas. The BSSSC Board proposed the three following areas:

1. Transport and infrastructure
2. Energy and climate change
3. Maritime innovation and safety

The Board underlined that it would be of importance to promote the BSR in the rest of Europe and find good ways to deal with the rest of the world.

The Board asked the Chairmanship to continue the work with other organisations.

The Secretariat will provide Schleswig-Holstein with its Russian contacts in St. Petersburg in connection with Mr. Dörings visit to Russia.

6 Follow-up of Work Plan 2006 – 2008

6.1 Report from consultations with BSR sub-regions - BSSSC Chairman

The BSSSC Chairmanship visited The Administration of St. Petersburg 21 March. The meeting was successful, and Mr Vladislav Balsky will take part in the next Board meeting in Turku. There are also possibilities to get onboard a second Board member from Russia, who will be nominated by the North-West Association.

The next meetings with BSR sub-regions are scheduled for 21 May in Gdansk, Poland and 22 May in Hamburg, Germany. Before the summer break the BSSSC Chairmanship also intends to visit Latvia and Estonia.

A paper for discussion about BSSSC and the future of the organisation will be drafted before the Board Meeting in Turku in September 2007.

6.2 Transport and Infrastructure

The next meeting of the High Level Group on Transport for Sustainable Growth in the BSR will take place in Bodö, Norway in June. Mr Uno Aldegren informed the Board about the ongoing work on the project development. Right now there are discussions with possible partner regions. The project idea will be introduced in Hamburg 10 May 2007. Mr Uno Aldegren will report to the Board in Turku.

6.3 Maritime Policy

Mr Stefan Musiolik informed the Board about the ongoing work on Maritime Policy. Mr. Musiolik handed out the discussion paper on the subject in the meeting

There are two components in the ongoing work: 1. A BSSSC Work Group on Maritime Policy and 2. A High Level Group on Maritime Policy in cooperation with the other BSR organisations. The Board was encouraged to identify members to the Work Group on Maritime Policy.

Mr Musiolik proposed that the Chairman should send a letter to CBSS as a follow-up of the BSSSC Declaration from the Kiel Conference in September 2007.

The Board thanked Mr Musiolik for the information and supported the further work on Maritime Policy lead by Schleswig-Holstein.

Mr Günther Schulz informed about the Maritime conference in Bremen 2-4 May. There were 500 participants at the conference. BSSSC was mentioned by Uwe Döring in his intervention. One of the main conclusions was to support the integrated approach of the EU Green Paper.

6.4 **Sustainable Development**

Energy Production and Energy Efficiency

Mr Risto Ervelä informed the Board that Finland so far had not appointed a person to chair the WG on Sustainable Energy.

Mr. Inge Brörs informed the Board that the Secretariat would try to make a proposal about the work on Sustainable Energy before the next Board Meeting.

HELCOM Action Plan

The HELCOM Action Plan with inputs and amendments will be adopted at the Ministerial Meeting in Krakow 15 November. Eutrophication of the Baltic Sea is one of the most important issues of this document. BSSSC will give input to the ongoing work. Mr Alfred Eberhardt as rapporteur on B21 will be asked to prepare some proposals to the Action Plan, which will be handled by the Board at its next meeting. The resolution of the Annual Conference in Turku should also contain a statement on the Action Plan.

6.5 **Quality of Life and Public Health**

The Chairman concluded on the Seminar on Public Health, which took place the day before. The Board discussed establishment of a Work Group and asked Denmark to lead a Work group on Public Health.

Danish regions representatives will take responsibility for making a tasks list for WG on Public Health.

The Board also agreed to apply for a partnership with NDPHS. The Danish Board members together with the Secretariat will discuss and shape the form of partnership.

6.6 **Youth Policy**

Mr Oddvar Skaiaa, Chairman of the ad hoc working group for Youth Policy, reported from the ongoing work in the Youth network. A Youth for Youth conference took place in March in Lillehammer, Norway. The next meeting in the Youth Workgroup is scheduled for 10 – 12 May in Gdansk. The issues of Annual Conference in Turku and Public Health with focus on trafficking will be discussed in the meeting.

Mr Skaiaa was pleased that the focus on Youth and its participation is taken well care of in connection with the Annual Conference in Turku and encouraged all BSSSC sub-regions to secure the youth participation at the conference.

The Board thanked Mr Skaiaa for the information

7 **Northern Dimension (ND)**

Information on ND and list of Russian project proposals

The list of the Russian project proposals was earlier obtained and distributed among the Board

members.

Mr Musiolik informed the Board that Schleswig-Holstein could not be responsible for the rapporteurship on ND anymore. Mr Thomas Pfannkuch has got other assignments and will not be responsible for BSSSC questions any longer. Mr Stephan Musiolik gave best regards from Mr Pfannkuch.

The Board asked Mr Musiolik to thank Mr Thomas Pfannkuch for the excellent work and wished him every success in his new assignments.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would take responsibility for the rapporteurship on ND until further.

8 European Charter of Regional Democracy

Mr Knud Andersen informed the Board about the ongoing process of adoption of the European Charter of Regional Democracy. There are two ways to continue the discussion – either to accept the Charter in its present form or amend it, leaving just some principles of regional democracy. He underlined that a Charter that does not give any guidelines will be of no use. Three fundamental principles of regional self-government were listed:

- Directly elected regional assemblies
- Appropriate regional finance
- The rights of regional assemblies to freely dispose and make their priorities in the execution of their tasks and the use of financial resources.

The Board actively discussed the issue and decided to bring the discussions further to the regions.

Mr Knut Andersen (DK) and Inger Linge (S) shall take responsibility to follow up the further work with the Charter. The discussion on the Charter will continue at the next Board meeting.

9 BSSSC Information Network

Ms Tone Stenberg, Information officer at The Östfold County Council presented the concept of the BSSSC Information Network. The Board members were encouraged to appoint information officers in their regions to join the network.

The Board thanked for the presentation. The BSSSC secretariat will follow up with a reminder.

10 Coming events of importance for BSSSC

- CBSS Annual meeting, Malmö, Sweden, 13 June
- General Assembly of CPMR/BSC, Bodö, Norway, 14 – 15 June
- Next Board meeting and Annual Conference, Turku, Finland, 13 – 14 September 2007
- Board meeting in Gdansk, Poland, 15 - 16 November

The Board thanked for the provided information. Regarding the CBSS Annual meeting the Chairman mentioned that he would be a part of the Norwegian delegation and try to get some minutes for the intervention on the maritime issue, raised by Mr Musiolik in his discussion paper.

11 Any other business

Mr Stefan Musiolik informed the Board about the “Bread & Fish Days” to be held 24-25 August in Lübeck, Germany, and invited the Board members to participate.

The Chairman thanked the Board members for a constructive meeting and closed the meeting.