



BSSSC Board Meeting

**Szczecin (Poland), West Pomeranian Regional Parliament
26 February 2010, 09.00 am – 01.00 pm**

Present:

Mr Olgierd Geblewicz (PL), Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek (PL), Mr Stefan Herms (DE), Ms Birgit Küstner (DE), Mr Pawel Grzadko (PL), Mr Sören Berg (S), Ms Sandra Swede (S), Mr Asger Larsen (DK), Mr Pawel Maciejewski (PL), Ms Ann Irene Sæternes (N), Mr Oddvar Skaiaa (N), Mr Ivar Haug (N), Mr Arve Höiberg (N), Mr Stefan Musiolik (DE), Ms Marlene Rothe (DE), Mr Toivo Riimaa (EE), Mr Arne Tilk (EE), Mr Gerd Tarand (EE), Ms Hannele Luukkainen (FI), Mr Esko Lotvonen (FI), Ms Krystyna Wroblewska (PL), Mr Hannes Maasel (B7), Mr Christer Pursiainen (CBSS), Ms Anja Gargulla (DE), Mr Lars Friedrichsen (DE), Mr Jan Thiele (DE)

1. Opening of Board Meeting

On behalf of the hosting region Western Pomerania, Mr Olgierd Geblewicz welcomed the BSSSC Board. BSSSC Secretary General Stefan Herms opened the meeting. A special welcome was given to the new B7 president Mr Hannes Maasel from the island of Hiiumaa. The Board adopted the agenda of the meeting. Due to the absence of Mr Uno Aldegren, the item *transport and infrastructure* was postponed to the next Board meeting in Stockholm in May. The Board adopted the meeting minutes of the Board meeting in Brussels on 4 December 2009.

2. Follow-up Work Plan 2009-2010

2.1 Science and Education

Mr Stefan Herms reported about the *kick-off meeting* for flagship projects on education of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy hosted by Hamburg as priority area coordinator on 23/24 February 2010. The presented projects deal with joint curricula and education resources, barriers hampering the mobility of researchers and students and partnerships of schools in the Baltic Sea region. The experiences of the projects and of Hamburg as priority area coordinator will be included in the workshop on education of the BSSSC Annual Conference in Tallinn.

2.2 Co-operation in the EU Baltic Sea Strategy

Mr Stefan Herms informed the Board about the efforts undertaken by BSSSC to express the interest of BSSSC to be represented in the *High Level Group* of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. The EU Commission acknowledged that not only national governments but also regions should be represented in this body. Therefore, the regional level will be presented by the

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Committee of the Regions, prospective by the *intergroup Baltic* of CoR chaired by Uno Aldegren. Herewith, a strong link to BSSSC would be ensured.

Mr Stefan Herms announced officially that the EU Commission is very much interested to interlink the *Annual Forum* of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy with the BSSSC Annual Conference in October in Tallinn. Further details on the cooperation will be discussed with the EU Commission, the Estonian hosts and the Hamburg Secretariat soon.

Due to the absence of BSSSC rapporteur David Hunt, the activities of the BSSSC Working Group on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy will be discussed in the Board meeting in Stockholm. As agreed in Brussels, B7 will take the initiative and invite to the group.

2.3 Cohesion Policy

On behalf of Mr Knud Andersen, Mr Asger Larsen confirmed the responsibility of the Danish regions for setting up a Working Group on Cohesion Policy to draft a position paper on the future budget of the EU Cohesion Policy after 2013. The regions were asked to appoint one representative to the WG that is supposed to work together entirely via e-mail.

Mr Tarand suggested that the planned working group also includes youth representatives.

2.4 Maritime Policy

Mr Musiolik gave a summary of the ongoing work of the Working Group on Maritime Policy.

He reported about the *kick-off meeting* of priority area 4 – *To become a model region for clean shipping* – of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy in Copenhagen on 27 February 2010. The priority area is coordinated by Denmark. The meeting identified lead partners for all five flagship projects. One of the next meetings will be held in Tallinn on 11-12 October back-to-back to the BSSSC Annual Conference and the Annual Forum of the EU Strategy.

In addition, Mr Musiolik reported about the BSSSC participation in the *Baltic Sea Action Summit* in Helsinki in February. As regards the *European Maritime Day* in Gijón on 20 May 2010, the WG is not able to participate due to an overlap in time between the event and the BSSSC Board meeting in Stockholm. Ms Wroblewska informed the Board that Gdańsk will be presented in Gijón as host of the *European Maritime Day* in 2011. Ms Wroblewska follows up a possible link to BSSSC.

Mr Musiolik presented the latest developments of the project *Clean Baltic Shipping* which is in the preparation stage for applying for funds from the Baltic Sea Region Programme. The project can be seen as a contribution to the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. BSSSC was asked for its support.

Ms Saeternes asked Mr Pursainen for the support of CBSS. Mr Pursainen recommended approaching the national representatives of the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy. They can introduce the project to the CBSS. Mr Musiolik seized the suggestion. Sweden (lead partner *Trelleborg Harbour and Community*) and Norway will be asked to promote the project in CBSS.

Mr Höiberg added information about the project *Clean North Sea Shipping* applying for funds from the North Sea Region Programme. The project can contribute to reduce eutrophication of the North Sea and to mitigate climate change by the use of climate friendly energy solutions like shore side electricity and natural gas.

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2.5 Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Ms Saeternes informed the Board that the new Norwegian Board member Tom Holthe will follow the work on maritime policy in BSSSC. She expressed her hope that another region takes the responsibility for the *Joint Platform on Energy and Climate* on behalf of BSSSC in 2010. Mr Thiele reported about the last meeting of the *JPEC* on 15 December 2009 in Copenhagen. The work of *JPEC* will be coordinated by UBC till June 2010. He added that the Danish regions might be interested in the platform. Mr Skaiaa also announced a possible interest of his region. It was suggested to combine efforts.

Mr Herms briefly informed the Board about the 6. *Study Conference on BALTEX* in June with the regional focus on the Baltic Sea region. As outcome of the BSSSC seminar in Hamburg in 2009 and in preparation of a possible BSSSC conference on the topic of adaptation of regional and local authorities in the Baltic Sea region to climate change, BALTEX is interested to develop a questionnaire to evaluate how research findings and research knowledge are transferred to decision makers in policy. The Board was asked for its cooperation.

Furthermore, Mr Herms informed about the kick-off conference of the BSSSC supported project *plan B:altic*.

2.6 Youth Policy

Mr Grzadko gave a short summary on the activities of the BSSSC Working Group on Youth Policy. The Working Group and the Youth Team will meet on 26-28 February in Szczecin to discuss their plans and objectives for the year 2010 and to prepare the BSSSC Youth Event in Tallinn in October. An issue of special interest of the meeting is the topic of youth unemployment.

It is envisaged to intensify the cooperation with the Assembly of European Region (AER) regarding youth policy.

2.7 Public Health and Quality of Life

Mr Berg highlighted the fact that public health and the topic communicable diseases and multi resistency was taken into account by the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. He proposed to the Board the idea of Stockholm County to focus the BSSSC Seminar in May on this topic and to organize an expert-oriented seminar on communicable diseases the day before. The Board was asked to forward the invitation to interested and responsible persons and institutions in their regions.

2.8 Co-operation with Russia and Northern Dimension

Ms Saeternes presented her summary paper on Northern Dimension (**see attachment**) highlighting that the Northern Dimension partners adopted the idea to include a sub-regional/sub-national dimension within the ND policy framework. She stressed the challenge to fill this opportunity with concrete proposals to the ND decision making organs. As rapporteur she asked the BSSSC Board how to proceed.

The Board noted that many regions of BSSSC are already implementing ND policy by pursuing active partnerships with Russia. The Board agreed to keep the topic on a permanent watch list and to work with the Northern Dimension on a case-by-case basis. If there are partnerships of interest, BSSSC will join them. The ministerial work lies with the CoR.

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3. Annual Conferences

3.1 Annual Conference 2010

Mr Riimaa gave an overview about the planned programme of the conference (**see attachment**). The new title *Qualifying the Region for the Future – Implementing the EU Baltic Sea Strategy* reflects the link to the Baltic Sea Strategy as wished by the Board. To link the conference to the Annual Forum of the EU Commission, the dates of the conference changed to 12-14 October. Further details on the cooperation will be discussed with the EU Commission, the Estonian hosts and the Hamburg Secretariat soon.

The *Joint Technical Secretariat* of the Baltic Sea Region Programme also signaled its interest to continue the cooperation.

The Board members announced their respective contributions.

3.2 Annual Conference 2011

On behalf of Mr Geblewicz, Ms Ludwiczek announced that Western Pomerania is willing to host the BSSSC Annual Conference in 2011.

4. Baltic Sea Region Programme

Ms Saeternes reported about the Baltic Sea Region Programme and presented an overview of BSSSC supported projects (**see attachment**). Ms Saeternes suggested strengthening the cooperation by inviting supported projects to Board meetings and by presenting the implementation process of the projects at the BSSSC website and newsletter. Mr Herms announced that the project TransBaltic will be presented at the next Board meeting.

The 3rd call for project applications is open till 22 March 2010. The Monitoring Committee will meet in June and September.

Mr Musiolik presented the latest developments of the project *Baltic Sea Identity – Facilitating Regional Development through strengthening commons and overcoming barriers* based on the idea of a Baltic Sea History Book introduced to the Board in Brussels in December 2009. Mr Thiele presented the project *Cool Bricks* (**see attachment**), and Ms Küstner the *Baltic University Programme (BUP)*. BUP is a network of about 225 universities and other institutes of higher learning in the Baltic Sea region. The network is coordinated by the Baltic University Programme Secretariat at Uppsala University. The programme focuses on questions of sustainable development, environmental protection, and democracy in the Baltic Sea region. The aim is to support the key role that universities play in a democratic, peaceful and sustainable development. This is achieved by developing university courses, and by participation in projects in cooperation with authorities, municipalities and others.

The Board agreed that BSSSC will support the projects *Clean Baltic Shipping*, *Baltic Identity*, *Cool Bricks* and the *Baltic University Programme* as associate partner. BSSSC supports the project application and the implementation process. BSSSC's *Letters of Support* will be prepared by the BSSSC Secretariat.

5. Report from Brussels Antenna

Mr Lars Friedrichsen informed the Board about current developments in Brussels:

- On December 2009, the *Treaty of Lisbon* entered into force with a strengthened role

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- for the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions.
- The new EU commission took office. Two new Directorates-General have been created: DG Energy and DG Climate Action. Johannes Hahn took on responsibilities as new EU Commissioner for regional policy.
 - Chairman of the newly formed European Parliament's *Baltic Europe Inter-Group* is Tunne Kelam, Estonian MEP.
 - Vice President of the Interregional Group "Baltic Sea Regions" at the CoR is Heinz Maurus, State Secretary for Europe and Federal Affairs of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.

6. Reports from Meetings and Events

All events were already mentioned.

7. Coming events

Mr Friedrichsen announced the Forum *Europe's macro-regions: Integration through territorial co-operation* at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels on 13 April 2010. BSSSC will be represented by David Hunt.

Furthermore, Mr Friedrichsen announced the 8th *OPEN DAYS – European Week of Regions and Cities* that will be held in Brussels between 4 and 7 October 2010.

Mr Herms invited the BSSSC Board to the Midsummer-Reception of the Senate of Hamburg on 24. June 2010. The reception is dedicated to BSSSC.

8. Any other business

Mr Pursiainen suggested a meeting between the BSSSC Board and the CBSS, possibly back-to-back to the CBSS CSO meeting. The Board welcomed the idea.

BSSSC Secretariat