



BSSSC BOARD MEETING

20 September 2017

Potsdam, Germany

MINUTES

BSSSC Board meeting Potsdam, Germany – minutes (per 30.10.17)

Wednesday, 20 September 2017, 13.30-18.00

Meeting venue: Potsdam University, Am Neuen Palais 10, Potsdam, Germany

Present: Chairman Mr. Roger Ryberg (BSSSC), Mr. Jan Edøy (BSSSC), Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes (BSSSC), Mr. Lars Lund Godbolt (BSSSC), Ms. Hilde Aarø (BSSSC), Ms. Kari Lie (Eastern Norway County Network/Hedmark), Mr. Rune Bakkevoll (Akershus), Mr. Lars Salvesen (Akershus), Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp (Brandenburg), Ms. Anne Quarts (Brandenburg), Ms. Ulrike Assig (Scandria2Act Project), Mr. Jon Halvard Eide (Agder), Mr. Iisakki Kiemunki (Regional Council of Häme), Ms. Alla Ivanova (Kaliningrad Region), Mr. Ossi Savolainen (Helsinki Uusima Region) Ms. Krista Taipale (Helsinki Uusimaa Region), Ms. Marlene Rothe (Schleswig-Holstein), Mr. Stefan Musiolik (Schleswig-Holstein), Mr. Sebastian Magier (Euroregion Baltic), Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska (Pomorskie Region), Mr. Wiesław Byczkowski (Pomorskie Region), Mr. Toivo Riimaa (Association of Estonian Cities), Mr. Arne Tilk (Association of Estonian Cities), Mr. Sigurd Fjøre (independent), Janne Tamminen (CPMR-Baltic Sea Commission), Trond Myrland (Buskerud), Janne Buhaug (Buskerud), Stefan Biedermann (Brandenburg), Anne Weingart (Brandenburg)

1. Opening of the Board meeting

1.1 Opening of the meeting – Mr. Ryberg, BSSSC Chair

Mr. Roger Ryberg expressed his gratitude to Land Brandenburg for hosting the Board meeting and the Annual Conference and expresses a warm welcome to **Ms. Alla Ivanova** from Kaliningrad Region.

1.2 Welcome to Brandenburg by Anne Quart, State Secretary in Brandenburg Ministry of Justice, European Affairs and Consumer Protection

Ms. Anne Quart welcomed everyone to Potsdam, Brandenburg and is happy to host the 25th BSSSC Annual Conference. She presented the International Strategy of Land Brandenburg and emphasised that one of the aims of Land Brandenburg is to strengthen ties to the Baltic Sea Region. She is optimistic and confident that the Brandenburg Region and BSSSC will cooperate further in the future. The BSSSC focus on youth participation is of great value and she looked forward to meeting the participants of the youth network tomorrow at the Annual Conference.

Mr. Ryberg suggested a quick introductions of the participants of the Board meeting so everyone could introduce themselves to new participants.

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

1.4 Adoption of Board meeting minutes from Kuressaare, 12 May 2017

The Board meeting minutes from Kuressaare, 12 May 2017 was adopted



Mr. Ossi Savolainen informed that the regional reform in Finland will be implemented from 2020 instead of 2019.

2. Annual Conference

2.1 Status Annual Conference 2017

Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp informed that there were almost 200 participants registered for the Annual Conference. For Brandenburg the conference is used as a tool to promote and contribute to awareness of Baltic Sea Region cooperation. He thanked the coordinators of the workshops and the secretariat for the cooperation in the preparation of the conference. He especially mentioned **Mr. Stefan Biedermann** from his office as a key person in making the Annual Conference happen.

2.2 Adoption of Conference Resolution 2017

Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes presented the BSSSC Annual Conference resolution. There had been two rounds where members of the Board could come with input. A main message/summary has been proposed and presented. **Mr. Eide** suggested lifting some more aspects of the main message to the summary. **Ms. Taipale** showed support of the key message and suggested to highlight Innovation and Smart Specialisation a bit more. Other linguistic changes were discussed and changed accordingly. **Ms. Ivanova** pointed out that the financial agreement between EU and Russia is still not confirmed, and that an amendment must be added to the text under Northern Dimension.

The Conference Resolution 2017 was adopted with proposed changes.

2.3 Annual Conference 2018

Deputy Marshall Byczkowski of Pomeranian Region officially confirmed that the next BSSSC Annual Conference would take place in Gdansk 10-12 September 2018. He warmly welcomed everyone. **Mr. Ryberg** thanked the Pomeranian Region for taking on this task.

3. Thematic focus: Transport and accessibility

Mr. Ryberg welcomed **Mr. Eide**, rapporteur on transport to present the session on Transport and Accessibility. **Mr. Eide** explained how the rapporteurship has changed from oral reports at Board meetings to written reports in 2017. He expressed that in order to work more systematically it was important to map which regions that are involved in core network corridors involving the Baltic Sea Region. Further **Mr. Eide** gave a presentation on the work done in 2013-2016. Please see the enclosed presentation. He continued with recommendations on how the BSSSC could address issues concerning transport and accessibility in the future. There is a learning potential among the participants in the BSSSC where exploring best practice has great potential. He called for a broader involvement from other Members of the Board, and emphasised that this could be related to other policy areas as well. The projects on transportation that the regions in the Baltic Sea Region are directly or indirectly involved in, represent a valuable resource for further knowledge. **Mr. Kneifel-Haverkamp** highlighted the challenge to develop the transport corridors across national borders exemplifying it to the German/Polish border, and raised the question how the regions could contribute to easing that process. **Mr. Edøy** mentioned a new EU-Commission initiative for cross-



border cooperation that will be launched one of these days. This might also support the area of transport in border regions. **Mr. Eide** noted that exchange of best practises could also include experiences from bilateral cooperation.

3.1 Scandria2Act project. Presentation by Dr. Ulrike Assig, Lead Partner Scandria2Act. Joint Spatial Planning Department Berlin-Brandenburg

Ms. Assig presented Scandria2Act; Connecting regions and innovative transport strategies. They are currently in their second stage of what is known as the Scandria project, and the approach is how to strengthen and implement co-operation between Scandinavia and the Adriatic Sea. For more information please see the enclosed presentation.

3.2 NSB CoRe project. Presentation by Helsinki-Uusimaa Region

Mr. Savolainen presented the mission, aims and project area of the NSB CoRe project, where Helsinki-Uusimaa is a lead partner. For more information please see the enclosed presentation.

3.3 Questions and dialogue/ how can BSSSC cooperate with these projects?

Mr. Eide opens for input for the questions raised in the introduction. **Ms. Sæternes** mentioned that there will be a new call in the Interreg BSR programme for project platforms - opening on 5 October. Maybe it could be interesting for the BSSSC to become an associated partner in one of these platforms. Further, the BSSSC should discuss how to follow up on the MAMBA-project (approved in May 2017) where it is indicated that BSSSC should cooperate with the project in organising a transport conference. In addition, she raised the question of whether the BSSSC should seek to cooperate to a larger extent with the Baltic Sea Commission WG Transport. These questions should be discussed further at the next Board meeting. **Mr. Musiolik** mentioned the Fehmern Belt Fixed Link and the STRING cooperation. Green transport is in focus within this cooperation in the South West Baltic Sea area. Practical exchange of experience could be of mutual interest. **Mr. Bakkevoll** informed that the County Councils of Østfold, Akershus and Halland (in Sweden) have ambitions of joining STRING (<http://www.stringnetwork.org/>) and they are hoping that also Region Vestra Götaland (Sweden) will participate. The work earlier facilitated through the Scandinavian arena will be closed. The platform has lacked content and commitment in the aftermaths of the 8 million-city project (Interreg ØKS). **Mr. Magier** mentioned the work of Interact where they are looking at how to capitalise on projects within the same topic from different Interreg programmes. It was also mentioned that CEF (Connecting Europe Facility) is an important instrument for transport projects.

3.4 What do we want to achieve within policy area transport and accessibility in the framework of the BSSSC work plan?

Mr. Ryberg asked if there was an interest in preparing a BSSSC message on transport. **Ms. Taipale** highlighted that the question of methodology in relation to the transport and accessibility discussion and that this also can be related to all the BSSSC policy areas. **Mr. Kneifel-Haverkamp** pointed out that as the representatives in the BSSSC are mainly generalists it is essential that an overview on the relevant topics are presented and that it might be best if the rapporteurs present them. Rapporteurs can ask for input on transport development from all regions (create a list of contact persons) and the BSSSC Board could capitalise on sharing this information. **Mr. Ryberg** called for a more frequent interaction with the rapporteurs to ensure a more continuous dialogue. **Ms. Taipale** asked for



BSSSC BOARD MEETING

20 September 2017

Potsdam, Germany

MINUTES

reminders to the rapporteurs from the secretariat. **Ms. Sæternes** underlined the importance of mapping best practises. **Ms. Wróblewska** proposed that the Board meetings could be used to dive deeper into the various policy areas. **Mr. Ryberg** concluded that it would be important to look at the methodology of the BSSSC work in the next Board meeting in December.

The Board thanked for the presentations and took note of the discussion. Concrete proposals and follow up actions to be put on the agenda in the next Board meeting.

4. Implementation of the work plan

4.1 Presentation by Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes

Ms. Sæternes presented a draft action plan - based on the BSSSC Work Plan 2017 - 2018 - which could be used as a working tool to ensure more efficient followed up and give direction to the BSSSC work. She encouraged all Rapporteurs to fill in actions/activities within their respective policy areas. The Secretariat will welcome this input by 13 October 2017. A reminder will be sent out after the meeting. **Mr. Musiolik** and **Mr. Kneifel-Haverkamp** expressed that it would be beneficial to have such an approach. However due to limited resources, a simplified more prioritised version could prove more sufficient. This should be taken up and decided upon in the next Board meeting when the final draft action plan will be on the agenda.

4.2 Presentation of rules and tasks of the secretariat by Ms. Hilde Aarø

Ms. Aarø presented the rules and tasks of the secretariat.

4.3 Presentation of communication plan by Mr. Lars Godbolt

Mr. Godbolt presented the communication plan.

4.4 Questions and comments

Ms. Wróblewska stated that she liked the communication plan and added that since the BSSSC are observers at the BSPC (Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference) they should be included in the communication plan as well. Further, she raised the question if there should be a specific reference to the youth in the plan specifying the cooperation with CBSS. **Ms. Taipale** asked if it could be useful to have a section on how to engage with the Brussels offices - for example through the Informal Baltic Sea Group. **Mr. Eide** asked about an overview of which organisations/institutions that are on the BSSSC mailing list. A mapping of these could better visualise our network.

5. BSSSC paper on subsidiarity and democracy?

5.1. Introduction by Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes

Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes gave a resume of a proposal to draft a paper on subsidiarity and democracy in Europe. In connection with the agenda-point "Tour the table" in several Board meetings over the past two years - the BSSSC members have shared information and concerns about the regional and local reforms and the political situation in their countries. The principle of *subsidiarity* is an important part of a well-functioning democracy by bringing the decision-makers closer to the people. The Chairmanship therefore proposes to develop a common paper stressing the BSSSC concern for the



tendencies that are working against the principle of subsidiarity in the countries around the Baltic Sea.

The Board supported the idea and the following persons will take part in working with this paper:

Ms. Krista Tapiale

Ms. Krystyna Wróblewska

Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp

Mr. Toivo Riimaa

The Board noted that the newly elected youth Board Members should also be involved in the process.

5.2. Discussion

Ms. Wroblewska asked regarding the next years AC and suggested that the main theme or one of the key themes could be democracy and rules of law, as well as nationalization. This paper could be the start of this work.

Mr. Kneifel-Haverkamp asked if it would not make more sense to start the work now and rather present it as a conference resolution next year.

Ms. Wroblewska suggested then that it might be a preliminary paper to start the work.

Ms. Sæternes commented that the regional reforms are ongoing so maybe we should have some step stones. We need to continually feed in on the draft.

Ms. Taipale commented that this is a perfect timing with the release of the EU paper on the future of Europe.

Mr. Magier said EuroRegion Baltic is doing similar things in a project on civic participation and the future of Europe.

The Board agreed to prepare a paper as suggested and a draft will be presented at the next Board Meeting.

6. Short reports from policy areas

6.1. Culture, creative industries and regional identity

Mr. Stefan Musiolik presented his report on Culture (see enclosed report). He particularly mentioned two things.

The BSSSC supported a project called CreativePorts – but the project failed to get financial support in the second call of the Intereg BSR programme . The aim of this project was to enhance creative entrepreneurship and creative startups. They will try again in the third call. If they have a good development maybe they can have a presentation for the BSSSC Board? Then the Board can decide if BSSSC will support them in the third call or not.



BSSSC BOARD MEETING

20 September 2017

Potsdam, Germany

MINUTES

The EUSBSR PA Culture would like to develop a position paper where they want to underline the importance of culture for a sustainable democracy and for attracting people to the EU. We should rethink the European approach - one missing ingredient in the European project is the reference to its culture and cultural heritage. Therefore, there should be better funding opportunities for culture. In Interreg, for example, there are very limited funding opportunities for culture projects. In the paper we want to underline the need for more funding for cultural projects. Anna Enemark, new advisor for culture, education and youth in the CBSS Secretariat, wants to be the lead institution to lead this paper. When there is a draft for it we will send it to the BSSSC – and if the Board likes this paper it can be supported by the BSSSC.

Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp added that it is a key point that in the European policies we cannot contend ourselves at only promoting growth. We also need to look at the basis of growth. With this tide of nationalism across Europe, looking at cultural areas and personal stories becomes more important. We cannot only invest in businesses and growth, we need to invest more in cultural projects to include all people across Europe. We need to highlight this more.

Ms. Krista Taipale added that culture means creativity. Creativity leads to innovation. And innovation leads to economic growth. These areas are not exclusive, she argued. We should link culture to creativity and especially creative industries. This is one of the most increasing industries across Europe. These potentials for economic growth could also be highlighted.

Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska emphasized storytelling. The project Let's Communicate is also about story telling. Reach the people with a simple idea – sell what we are doing. We must remember to have a vision. Start thinking of having new ideas to bring people together.

Mr. Jon Halvard Eide proposed that the BSSSC should try to map projects under EU programmes lead by actors in the BSR. There may be large projects that have BSR-actors. Creative Europe can be used to fund projects.

Mr. Stefan Musiolik We will try to deliver a draft for a paper. And perhaps for the next BM we have something to discuss upon.

6.2. Maritime policy and HELCOM

Ms. Krista Taipale gave a short update on Maritime Policy.

The EU member states gave good marks on the importance of integrated maritime policy and blue growth. If the member states see blue growth as very important it is very likely that there will be funding available for different maritime projects to come. Not any remarkable open calls for funding this summer. She suggested looking at the Horizon 2020 calls.

The European Maritime Days (EMD) is the biggest annual blue growth event in Europe. She asked if there is an interest for BSSSC to be visible there in 2018? Have a stand or likewise? A preparatory meeting for the European Maritime Days will be held in Brussels October 9. **Ms. Taipale** will be there and can give a report.

European Commission is setting up a 'Blue Bioeconomy Forum' that will bring together a partnership of industry, public authorities, academia, and finance in order to strengthen Europe's competitive position in the emerging blue bioeconomy. This will start beginning of next year.



BSSSC BOARD MEETING

20 September 2017

Potsdam, Germany

MINUTES

Mr. Janne Tamminen gave a short report on HELCOM and VASAB.

After the previous board meeting there has been a couple of important events of HELCOM. Amongst others, meeting of the heads of delegation. They had a meeting end of June under the chair of the EU. Most important issue was the next Ministerial meeting in March 2018. The Ministerial meetings are arranged every three or four years. The meeting discussed the Baltic Sea Action Plan. The new version should be valid until 2021. The Sustainable Development Goals provide the overall background for this action plan. The State of the sea report was also adopted. They approved the publication of the HELCOM core indicator of nutrients to the sea. Delegations also agreed on the publication of Maritime evaluation report on 2017. This will be a comprehensive evaluation based on a range of sea activities.

The HELCOM Maritime Sub-group on Green Technology and Alternative Fuels for Shipping (GREEN TEAM) arranged a seminar with several stakeholders. The session highlighted efficient information exchange and reporting, economic incentives such as green shipping indices as among the key issues and stressed that even if cooperation between intergovernmental entities such as HELCOM and CBSS is important, the role of the industry is central. This event was arranged in corporation with CBSS. A large amount of the business sector were present at the seminar.

There was a meet in the Expert group on maritime policy on the CBSS. The first EG meeting under the chairmanship of Sweden. They informed on the ongoing Swedish programme which has a very strong focus on the SDGs. How to improve the wider area of corporation in the BSR.

VASAB will take active part in the MSP (Maritime Spatial Planning) conference in Brussels in October.

Mr. Janne Tamminen will participate.

6.3. Northern Dimension

Mr. Janne Tamminen said that the Northern Dimension is less discussed and that there is now more focus on the Arctic. The Finnish chair of the Arctic Council will focus strongly on mitigation and climate change.

Ms. Ivanova informed about the opening of a new wastewater treatment plant in Kaliningrad, Russia - supported by the Northern Dimension Partnership on Environment.

New contact in the EEAS is **Mr. Aaretti Siitonen**.

6.4. Sustainable development and climate change - Baltic 2030

Mr. Lars Godbolt gave a summary. The BSSSC are a part of the CBSS Baltic 2030 Expert group on sustainable development and have been giving input to *The Baltic 2030: Realizing the vision action plan*. This was endorsed in June by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Baltic Sea Region and a representative of the EU. The workshop aims to inform the participants of the CBSS Baltic 2030 work on the Sustainable Development Goals, through work such as their recently approved Action Plan (Baltic 2030: Realizing the vision) 2017. Six priority areas:

Partnerships for Sustainable Development (SDG 17)

Transition to a Sustainable Economy (SDGs 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 14)



BSSC BOARD MEETING

20 September 2017

Potsdam, Germany

MINUTES

Climate Action (SDG 13 and aspects of SDGs 2, 3, 15 and 16)

Equality and Social Wellbeing for All (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 and 16)

Creating Sustainable and Resilient Cities and Communities (SDG 11)

Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for All (SDG 4)

Now, with the new Swedish chairmanship, the CBSS wants to focus on going from talk to work and has therefore initiated a project where they want to address the implementation challenges towards the achievement of the SDGs – both on a national and Baltic Sea Region level. They are, amongst other things, creating an open learning platform for sharing knowledge, best practices and raising awareness on SDGs and Baltic 2030.

Mr. Godbolt also informed that he has been admitted to the CBSS' Baltic Leadership programme (BLP). The BLP on 2030 Agenda is organized in cooperation between the Swedish Institute, the CBSS Baltic 2030 and the EUSBSR HA Capacity. It is a capacity building programme specifically designed for the leaders of national and macro-regional implementation of SDGs in the Baltic Sea Region. The BLP targets two stakeholder groups: 1) national coordinators together with the city and sub-regional decision-makers; 2) EUSBSR Coordinators.

The three modules will increase participants' skills for Sustainability Leadership by providing tools for implementation and cross-sectorial cooperation, expert training on communication, monitoring, and links between national and macro-regional stakeholders. The BLP will also support the implementation of the Baltic 2030 Action Plan to realize a common vision of sustainable development for the BSR and to strengthen the connections between the BSR and the European and global trends on sustainability. The BLP on 2030 Agenda aspires to become a pilot initiative for the BSR, which will result in a multi-stakeholder collaborative model also at European and global levels.

Mr. Lars Godbolt said that related to the former discussion on mapping our regions work on different policy areas: We should do a mapping of the regions work on sustainable development goals to support their work.

Mr. Sebastian Magier informed that CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and EuroRegion Baltic are working on a project on regions and the SDGs financed by the Swedish Institute (SI). The project is about raising awareness and creating a platform for sharing of best practices. He will update the BSSSC more when he has more information.

6.5. Working group on youth policy

Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek started by thanking the Brandenburg Region for being the hosts of the youth event in Trebnitz. They were not a very big group, 20-30 including civil servants. The young people were discussing the same topics as the adults will do in the Annual Conference. There were representatives from Norway, Finland, Poland, Germany and Russia.

Ms. Kari Lie informed that two new youth board members are elected. They are Martin Rummelein from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, and Timo Nikolaisen from Buskerud Norway. Olga Zuin from CBSS was there to present the Baltic2030. The young people have many interesting inputs on how to



BSSSC BOARD MEETING

20 September 2017

Potsdam, Germany

MINUTES

interlink the SDGs with BSR policy. Youth are strongly involved in the Annual Conference, they are in two workshops and also in program 5.1 practical experiences with the projects. **Ms. Kari Lie** encouraged the Board to include the youths in the discussions at this AC.

7. Report from Brussels antenna

Mr. Jan Edøy started presenting **Mr. Sigurd Fjose** (observer in the meeting). Mr. Fjose used to work in Buskerud County Administration, but is now retired and will be based in Brussels the next year. He might be used as a consultant for BSSSC actions under the Norwegian Chairmanship.

Mr. Edøy attended the Informal Baltic Sea Group (IBSG) conference about the cohesion policy in the Baltic Sea Region on May 30. He said it was a good conference with an interesting analysis made from the OECD which he should provide to the Board. They also discussed the future of cohesion policy - without any conclusions of course.

Mr. Edøy also attended a Cohesion forum in June. This time about the future of Cohesion Policy. He underlined that it is important to understand that the discussions on the cohesion policy is integrated with discussions on the future of Europe.

He also mentioned that the commission has launched a communication called "Boosting growth in the EU border regions". This afternoon there is a conference in Brussels discussing this initiative on a very high level - among others on border focal points for giving input to the future of Interreg and territorial border regions.

European week of regions and cities (EWRC) Starts the 9th of October. 130 workshops going on. Still open for registration. Oslo Region European Office will carry out one seminar in cooperation with EU Commission.

Mr. Edøy informed the Board on Junker's speech to the European Parliament. Junker believes that over the months to come we should involve national parliaments and civil society and regional level more in the future of Europe. In addition, **Mr. Edøy** mentioned another element from Junker's speech with particular relation to Future of Europe "one leader, one currency, one speed" giving input to the work programme of the European Commission 2018. Brexit was not much in focus in the speech.

8. Reports from other organizations, programmes and networks

8.1. Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme

Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes informed that next week there will be a Monitor Committee meeting. They will launch a third call. There will be an info meeting in Riga 18-19 October.

8.2. EuroRegion Baltic (ERB)

Mr. Sebastian Magier sends warm greetings from the EuroRegion Baltic (ERB) board. They had their meeting two days ago where they approved their own cohesion policy paper. Quite similar to the BSSSC paper on cohesion policy in terms of what we would like to achieve.

Next year it is the 20th anniversary of ERB. Topic will be democracy in Europe- engaging citizen in discussing the future of Europe. The tools for the civil participation debate. The first meet will be in



BSSSC BOARD MEETING

20 September 2017

Potsdam, Germany

MINUTES

February 2018.

He furthermore informed that the Municipality of Klaipeda, Lithuania, applies as: European Youth Capital 2020. It is the first time we have a city from the BSR applying. Klaipeda wants support from ERB – and **Mr. Magier** asked if the BSSSC want to support it also? If they are successfully elected, there will be several events throughout the year – and some of them could be arranged together.

The next meeting in the Casypot project will take place 12 December in Slupsk. BSSSC are warmly welcome to take part. We will present the results from the Casypot survey.

The ERB youth board are willing to continue our cooperation with the BSSSC. The youth are very open to a joint project with youth. They now have two Erasmus + projects, they do exchanges, etc.

The European Commission has published a call for proposals for information for cohesion policy. These are projects that help people promote cohesion projects. It could be used to promote BSR organizations to apply. ERB has already started the preparation of the application. The deadline is October 16.

8.3. Union of Baltic Cities (UBC)

Mr. Toivo Riimaa said UBC organizes a general conference every second year. A conference takes place this year 24-27 October. The topic is Leadership for the future – cities as leaders for global sustainable development. There are three plenary sessions called 1, “25th anniversary of UBC”, 2, same title as title for conference. 3, “Listening to the voices of tomorrow”.

Executive board meeting will take place 24 October.

8.4. CPMR Baltic Sea Commission (BSC)

Mr Janne Tamminen said that the President of BSC could unfortunately not participate in our AC. BSC had their General Assembly last June back to back with EUSBSR annual forum in Berlin. BSC was one of the co-organizers of this year’s forum. The updated work plan continues to put focus on transport issues, maritime affairs and renewable energy. They have working groups on these issues. BSC are also working with smart specialization and have a dialogue with the Policy Area Innovation in the EUSBSR. Another new priority area is regions and the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Here they cooperate especially with CBSS and EuroRegion Baltic. The next executive committee meeting will be held in Stockholm October 4. The next big event will be the CPMR General Assembly in Helsinki 18-20 October.

9. Short reports from events and coming events

9.2. Report from South Baltic Parliamentary Conference 27 – 30 May, Szczecin.

Ms. Hilde Aarø said that the BSSSC Chairman was invited to hold an intervention. He emphasised the important role that culture plays in building bridges across regions. And the importance of a continuous dialogue with the young generation of the BSR. The conference’s topic was European cultural routes in the South Baltic Region and also stimulating women entrepreneurship.



BSSSC BOARD MEETING

20 September 2017

Potsdam, Germany

MINUTES

9.3. Report from Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference 3-5 September, Hamburg.

Ms. Hilde Aarø informed that Mr. Ryberg was invited as a guest by Ms. Carola Veit. During the conference the BSSC's resolution on Cooperation, democratic participation and digital age, on innovative science and research as well as sustainable tourism was unanimously adopted. The BSSC delegates pointed out that the Baltic Sea Region is a role model for innovative science and sustainable tourism as well as for parliamentary cooperation in the region. The new BSSC President, Jörgen Pettersson, was appointed and he invited the Parliamentarians to the 27th BSSC conference at Mariehamn on 26-28 August 2018. Carola Veit is appointed as Vice-President for BSSC.

9.5. European Week of Regions and cities, 9-13 October, Brussels.

9.6 CPMR General Assembly in Helsinki 18-20 October.

9.6. Baltic Sea Conference, 23-24 October, St. Petersburg.

Mr. Ossi Savolainen and **Mr. Janne Tamminen** are considering participating.

9.7. Union of Baltic Cities General Conference, 24-27 October, Växjö.

9.8. BSSSC Board Meeting, 11-12 December.

The next Board Meeting will be held in Drammen, Buskerud County, Norway.

18:00 End of meeting

Mr. Roger Ryberg ended the meeting by thanking the hosts and the State Secretary. He also thanked **Ms. Kari Lie** and **Mr. Issakkii Kiemunki** warmly for their work in the Board as this was their last Board Meeting.