



Friday 6th of February

Board meeting at Kehräämö area, Forssa, Finland

Participants: Ossi Savolainen (Chairman), Janne Tamminen (Brussels Antenna), Jaakko Mikkola (Secretariat), Heli Halla-aho (Secretariat), Matti Lipsanen (FI), Ann-Irene Saeternes (NO), Lasse Lehre (NO), Stefan Musiolik (DE), Mudite Priede (LV), Toivo Riimaa (EE), Jon Halvard Eide (NO), Thore Westermoen (NO), Marili Alas (EE), Jussi Huttunen (NSPA)

Mr Matti Lipsanen welcomed the participants and told some details about the place.

1. Opening of the Board Meeting

- 1.1. Chairman opened the meeting.
- 1.2. Agenda was adopted.
- 1.3. Board meeting minutes from Jurmala 15 October were adopted after the changes Jon Halvard proposed. Also agreed, that rapporteurs send their reports in written and those will be available in BSSSC webpage.

2. BSSSC Chairmanship and Secretariat in 2015

- 2.1. Helsinki-Uusimaa Region explained the new structure of Secretariat. Mr. Janne Tamminen is Brussels Antenna from the beginning of this year and Heli Halla-aho is a new Secretary General. Ms. Saeternes raised a question about capacity of Secretariat, but there should not be a problem, since Helsinki-Uusimaa Region holds this year only one Secretariat instead of two.

3. Annual Conference 2014

- 3.1. Annual Conference 2014 in Jurmala was very well organized. Resolution can be used, when visiting i.e. European Commission.

4. Annual Conference 2015 Visby

Representative of Region Gotland couldn't participate the meeting. Official invitation to Region Gotland should arrive soon. Mr. Mikkola and Secretary General will visit Visby in April. There will also be a Project Café as a part of Annual conference, organized by Interreg Central Baltic and Baltic Sea programmes.

Board members agreed, that the theme of the conference will be Digital Agenda. The programme will include traditionally parallel sessions and also Youth event and possibly thematic workshops. As the theme will be Digital Agenda, Estonian Commissioner Mr. Andrus Ansip could be invited.

Mr. Mikkola will contact Region Gotland representatives and will ask details about the conference in written.



Conference Resolution is important output of BSSSC Annual Conference. Board members agreed, that Secretary General will send a message for rapporteurs and Board members in April asking their input to resolution. Resolution should be ready after summer holidays, if possible.

5. BSSSC Work Plan

Updated Work Plan for 2015 was sent to the board members. Main changes are regarding the Uusimaa's extended chairmanship. All other proposed changes should be sent in written. However no significant changes planned. Updated final version will be sent to the board before next meeting. If there is still something to change, those can be done after next board meeting.

6. BSSSC Chairmanship 2016-2017

No new Chairmanship founded yet. Some Swedish regions have shown their interest, but due to previous elections, they couldn't have done any decisions yet. Secretariat will contact Swedish regions and meet them, possibly 5-6 regions. There will be also a meeting in Brussels in the middle of March with Swedish contacts regarding this issue as well. If new Chairmanship is not found, Uusimaa has to continue one more year.

7. Policy Sectors and Working Groups

Rapporteurs are asked to send their reports also in written and they will be uploaded to BSSSC homepage together with meeting minutes.

- 7.1. Maritime Issues – Mr. Jaakko Mikkola summarized in few words current maritime issues.
- 7.2. Youth Policy – Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek could not participate this meeting.
- 7.3. Energy and Climate Issues – no rapporteur currently, but perhaps Board members will find someone for the next meeting.
- 7.4. Northern and Arctic Dimension – Mr. Lasse Lehre gave a short summary about Northern and Arctic Dimension, report available in BSSSC webpage.
- 7.5. Transport and Infrastructure – Mr. Jon Halvard Eide summarized current transport issues in Baltic Sea area.
- 7.6. Rapporteur for Cultural issues, Mr. Stefan Musiolik, gave a short summary of this field.
- 7.7. Mr. Matti Lipsanen told few words about Cohesion Policy from regional points of view.
- 7.8. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska could not participate the meeting.
- 7.9. Baltic Sea Region Programme – Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes shortly summarized the current situation of the programme.

8. Current issues at other co-operation organizations

- 8.1. CBSS was not represented in this meeting, but participants got some briefings in previous evening.
- 8.2. B7 – has a new representative, Mr. Jaan Leivategija from Estonia, but B7 representatives could not be present in this meeting.



8.3. Mr. Jussi Huttunen mentioned, that there are no special, big current issues in NSPA. However smart specialization is current big topic.

8.4. CPMR Baltic Sea Commission – Mr. Janne Tamminen, the previous Executive Secretary said few words about CPMR BSC, which has a new Executive Secretary, Ms. Åsa Bjering, who is located in Brussels.

9. Report from the Brussels Antenna

Mr. Janne Tamminen mentioned, that there won't be any official Baltic Sea Interest Group in European Parliament, but informal Baltic Sea Group will be set up instead.

Mr. Markku Markkula will be vice president and/or president for the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. Helsinki EU Office in Brussels belongs now administratively to Uusimaa Regional Council.

10. BSSSC Board meetings 2015

3-4 June	Kristiansand, Norway
23 September	Visby, Gotland, Sweden
November/December	Berlin or Brussels

11. Coming events

18-20 March St. Petersburg	Baltic Sea Days
26-27 March, Kiel	Blue Growth Conference
7-8 May, Vaasa	CPMR BSC General Assembly
28-29 May, Piraeus, Greece	European Maritime Day
10-12 June, Szczecin	Maritime Days
15-16 June, Jūrmala, Latvia	EUSBSR 6 th Annual Forum
23-25 September, Visby	BSSSC Annual Conference 2015

12. Any other business

Ms Mudite Priede told few words about Latvian EU presidency.

Meeting ended at 11.45.