



BSSSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Gdansk, Pomerania Region, Poland
10 September 2018

BSSSC Board meeting Gdansk, Poland, – Agenda

Monday, September 10, 2018, 13.30-17.30, Snacks and beverages from 1300

Meeting venue: The Polish Baltic Frédéric Chopin Philharmonic, ul. Olowianka 1 80-751
Gdansk

Present:

Chairman Mr. Roger Ryberg (Eastern Norway County Network, ENCN).

Board Members: Mr. Martin Rümmelein (Schleswig-Holstein), Mr. Timo Nikolaisen (Eastern Norway County Network), Ms. Alla Ivanova (Kaliningrad Region), Mr. Stefan Musiolik (Schleswig-Holstein), Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp (Brandenburg region), Mr. Ossi Savolainen (Helsinki Uusimaa Region), Mr. Wiesław Byczkowski (Pomorskie Region), Mr. Arne Tilk (Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities), Mr. Carstein Krabbe (Zealand Region)

Board Civil: Mr. Jon Halvard Eide (Vest-Agder County), Ms. Reetta Sorjonen (Häme region), Mr. Janne Tamminen (Helsinki Uusimaa Region), Ms. Krista Taipale (Helsinki Uusimaa European Office) Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska (Pomorskie Region), Mr. Toivo Riimaa (Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities), Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek (West-Pommern), Mr. Stefan Musiolik (Schleswig-Holstein), Ms. Marlene Roethe (Schleswig-Holstein).

Others: Mr. Kacper Dziekan (European Solidarity Centre, Gdansk), Ms. Monika Morawska (Pomorskie Region), Artur Ryszkiewicz (Regeneration 2030 movement)? Ms. Åsa Bjering (CPMR:BSC), Bernd Hemningway (CBSS), Pawel Zaboklicki (UBC), Anne Sandum (Buskerud County), Kristian Thowsen (Buskerud County), Marit Portaasen (Buskerud County), Jon Petter Arntzen (Eastern Norway County Network), Lars Holmer-Hoven (Aust-Agder County).

Secretariat: Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes (ENCN Chairmanship), Mr. Lars Lund Godbolt (ENCN Chairmanship), Ms. Hilde Beate Aaroe (ENCN Chairmanship), Mr. Jan Edøy (BSSSC Brussels Antenna)



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AGENDA

1. Opening of the Board meeting

- 1.1. Opening of the meeting – Mr. Roger Ryberg, BSSSC Chair. **Mr. Ryberg** welcomed everyone, thanked Alla Ivanova for the last Board Meeting in Kaliningrad, congratulated them on a very successful World Cup in football, and especially welcomed the newcomer Mr. Carsten Krabbe from Zealand region, Denmark. Mr. Ryberg also mentioned that EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Tibor Navracsics received the BSSC Paper on Culture, adopted last Board Meeting, and thanked the BSSC for the good work done. After **Mr. Ryberg's** introduction the meeting had an introductory round around the table.
- 1.2. Welcoming words on behalf of the host, **Mr. Wiesław Byczkowski**, Deputy Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship

Mr. Byczkowski welcomed everyone to Gdansk and said he hoped the Board will find Gdansk and Pomorskie region a good and friendly region to work and have fun. He introduced the Annual Conference topic: "Solidarity, participation and smart actions for a better future".

Solidarity – not only because it seems so very natural and obvious here in Gdańsk, but also because it is becoming so important nowadays - not only in the Baltic Sea Region.

Participation – because we need wisely active citizens to make the world great again.

Being smart, because it is always good to be smart. In addition, of course, because today's world demands even smarter solutions. With our work, we will not save the world, but we can make the BSR and our regions a bit better. Let us hope we can do it together, said **Mr. Byczkowski**.

1.3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

- 1.4. Adoption of Board meeting minutes from Board Meeting in Svetlogorsk, Kaliningrad, May 23, 2018.



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The minutes were adopted.

2. Introduction to the work by the European Solidarity Centre.

Mr. Kacper Dziekan from The European Solidarity Centre presented their work. The core exhibition runs over 2 floors and in seven different rooms telling the story of the solidarity movement. There are a broad specter of activities that reach out to children/youth as well as non-formal adult education. They host several civil initiatives, projects, seminars, conferences, film festivals and workshops for journalists etc. They have both national and international cooperation alongside several local initiatives.

Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp expressed an interest in finding ways to cooperate with the European Solidarity Centre in the future, especially with respects to the youth. There are tight connections between the centre's work and focus and to the Conference Resolution.

Mr. Lars Lund Godbolt said that with regards to the Baltic Sea Region Youth Camp 2019 we would welcome cooperation with the European Solidarity Centre.

Mr. Dziekan welcomed cooperation with BSSC and said that 4 June 2019 is the 30 year anniversary for the free election in Poland so this is a year of many activities.

Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska encouraged all members of the Board to take a closer look at the center's webpage as this could bring additional ideas of cooperation:

<http://www.ecs.gda.pl/title,Jezyk,pid,2,lang,2.html>

The Board took note of the information provided.

3. Tour de table - country specific reports

Mr. Ossi Savolainen, Helsinki-Uusimaa region, Finland.

Helsinki-Uusimaa region has established a cooperation with Hangchow province in China. There are 65 million people living there and they have established three areas of cooperation together. Smart specialization, innovation and education. This is the first province in China that has this kind of sister cooperation.

The Finnish regional reform was supposed to start 2019. Now it's 2021, 2022 or 2023. Mr. Savolainen expressed that few knows the details in the future of the reform. The reform has



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delayed the regional elections, and it might be postponed again because the next proposed election is at the same time as the upcoming European Parliamentary election. **Mr. Savolainen** said that he has several hundred people working on the reform and that it now yearly costs several million euros a year. **Mr. Savolainen** will probably know more about the future of the reform at the end of this year.

Mr. Arne Tilk and Mr. Toivo Riimaa, Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities, Estonia. Estonia as well has good cooperation with China and Tallinn currently has three friendship towns in the same province as mentioned by Helsinki-Uusimaa. The regional reform is implemented, but some adjustments related to geography remain. There are also still other challenges to be solved. The parliamentary election will take place in March 2019 and the outcome is uncertain. This will consequently affect the local parliaments.

Mr. Carsten Krabbe, Zealand Region, Denmark. **Mr. Krabbe** firstly recognized the important work done in this room and organization. In the interregional area, the Zealand Region has expanded the last year. There is now a new council and chairman in Zealand Region. They have a close cooperation northern Germany (Schleswig-Holstein). The planned transport link between Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein will hopefully be agreed upon before Christmas. **Mr. Krabbe** said that reforms seems to be the order of the day everywhere in Europe as they also are undergoing a reform on regional development. To be specific, there is an ongoing centralization of a number of the tasks that the Danish regions have had, meaning that **Mr. Krabbe** has scaled back his department by 1/3 and their economy by 25%. Zealand region will still have tasks on interregional cooperation, education, transportation. However, not on business development and attracting foreign investments. They have also lost the role in the EU funds, which is now centralized in a national agency. It weakens regional development in Denmark, says **Mr. Krabbe**.

Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp, Brandenburg region, Germany. There are nothing new since the September elections. However the Bavarian government are currently discussing the issue of immigration. There are extremist parties at the federal level as well which will pose a challenge in the coming year.

Mr. Stefan Musiolik, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. The regional government has now been running the region for 16 months. It is called a Jamaica coalition, due to the colors of the representative parties in the majority - Christian democrats, the greens and the liberals. More than 2/3 inhabitants are very happy or content with the government. Except for the greens and the right wing all the parties are losing support. The results of the alternative for Germany (right wing party); they were weak in Schleswig-Holstein compared to the national level. They received about 6%. We are happy that we do not have this strong right wing movement in Schleswig-Holstein, said **Mr. Musiolik**.



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Ms. Alla Ivanova, Kalinigrad region, Russia. She said that not a lot has happened since the last BSSSC Board Meeting in Kaliningrad. They are working on a silk road to China through Kaliningrad. Schleswig-Holstein and Stefan Musiolik will visit this week to open a film festival in Kaliningrad.

Mr. Wiesław Byczkowski and Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska, Pomorskie Region, Poland. The first round of regional and local elections will be held on 21 October, and the second round will take place 4 November 2018. This will be a pre-game for the parliamentary election which will be held in 2019. The outcome of the election is highly uncertain. There is a strong focus on centralizing in the local/regional elections. The main opposition party show themselves as an alternative with a social element of fighting against fascism/nationalism in Poland. There are several city-movements and they vary from each region. Statistics show that European values still stand strong in Poland and stands higher than the EU-average. The Poles have reached a better quality of life as a member of the EU. 64 per cent of the Polish citizens view the free movement of people, goods and services as positive. It is therefore a very mixed political picture in Poland.

Roger Ryberg, Buskerud County, Norway.

Mr. Ryberg said there is a big regional reform ongoing in Norway and the reform is right now in a challenging period. The northern most counties have obstructed the decision of the Parliament to merge into one region. This obstruction can jeopardies the whole reform if not solved in a clever manner by our Minister. The Parliament will have a third vote on the reform – including the proposal for new tasks to the new regions – in October. There are strong forces against the reform – even within the government parties. The Christian Democratic Party is the key to securing the majority in Parliament for the reform. We will know more at the next BSSSC Board meeting.

The Board thanked for the updates.

4. BSSSC Annual Conference

4.1. Annual Conference 2018 in Gdansk – status report, Ms. Krystyna Wróblewska

Ms. Wroblewska guided the Board through the topic, venue and programme of the Annual Conference. 180 people were registered to the Annual Conference and 50 youth representatives had attended the youth event.

Annual Conference 2018 resolution – Presentation by Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes

Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes informed that the final draft of the Annual Conference Resolution had been sent out well in advance and thanked the members of the Board for their feedback. All input and proposals received have been integrated into the final version.



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4.1.1. Discussion and decision

Ms. Alla Ivanova, Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp, Mr. Wiesław Byczkowski and Mr. Jon Halvard Eide proposed some minor adjustments to the resolution.

The Annual Conference 2018 resolution was adopted with the agreed adjustments.

4.2. Annual Conference 2019

Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes informed that Klaipeda Region has offered to host the next BSSSC Annual Conference in 2019. This is in cooperation with Klaipeda University and the Klaipeda Technology and Science Park. The proposed topic for the next Annual Conference will be maritime economy.

The Board accepted the proposed topic of the BSSSC Annual Conference in Klaipeda, Lithuania in 2019.

COFFEE BREAK

5. Policy paper on EU Multi Annual Financial Framework and Cohesion Policy post 2020

5.1. Update by Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp

Mr. Kneifel-Haverkamp could inform that the final draft has been developed by the working group which met last month in Potsdam. The working group consisted of representatives from Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Germany and the BSSSC Secretariat in Norway. The result has been sent out to the Board in the supported documents. **Mr. Kneifel-Haverkamp** summarised the paper:

- Welcomes the proposal by the European Commission (EC) and ask for the discussions to be concluded before the European elections – **Mr. Kneifel-Haverkamp** added that this probably is not very realistic but we should still ask for it.



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- Asks for no cuts in EU cohesion policy. We want to relocate funds to the cohesion funds.
- Underlines that there should also be stronger links between central funds and macro regional projects.
- Disagrees to the proposal to reduce the co-financing mechanisms from the EC.
- Says no to a reduction in European territorial funds (ETC). The ETC funds are even further reduced within the cohesion funds.
- Argues that democracy and tolerance should be promoted in all programmes
- Underlines that 30 % co-financing will be difficult for smaller regions.
- Asks the EC not to merge maritime cross-border programmes into bigger transnational programmes
- Speaks against discontinuing the Interreg Europe programme.

5.2. Comments and questions

Ms. Ivanova wanted to add a sentence under point 6 on page three regarding ENI: “However, existing pre-financing facilities should be maintained.” The Board agreed to this proposal.

Mr. Kneifel-Haverkamp mentioned that with regard to the proposed component 5 (in the EC regulations and budget) the paper proposes that the money should stay in the ETC and not go to the other programmes, but the intervention as such should be integrated into national programmes or Horizon.

Ms. Taipale congratulates on a very good position paper. She also gave an update on the lobbying for maintaining the Interreg Maritime cross-border programmes. The EC proposes to make big changes in the Interreg programmes. De facto: finishing cross-border maritime collaboration funding. **Ms. Taipale** argued that maritime borders should not be treated differently to land borders. The EC argues that their proposal will cause no problems and that it will work more or less as before. However, in fact the whole structure and mechanism will change. This means that the power moves from local and regional level to the national level, which is clearly not in line with the principle of subsidiarity. Several Member States, the European Parliament (EP) and the regions have reacted. The Helsinki-Uusimaa European Office hosted an event in the EP addressing these problems to key Members of European Parliament (MEPs). Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) is also lobbying this issue. The proposal from the EC is unjustified and unfair, said **Ms. Taipale**.



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Ms. Åsa Bjering, CPMR, Congratulated on a good proposal. It is very timely, she said. **Ms. Bjering** argued that we need to safeguard the cross-border maritime programmes. The CPMR has a different view on component 5. They are positive to this new proposal within Interreg. Their message underlines that regions should be at the core of this new innovation component. The CPMR are also working to make sure that third countries (Norway and Russia) can be a part of the component 5.

Mr. Eide commented on the reduction of money to Interreg within the Cohesion Policy envelope. He proposed to include a sentence arguing for a minimum of 3% to Interreg (under point 6 on page 3). This will be in line with what the Committee of Regions (CoR) has proposed. When it comes to component 5 Mr. Eide agreed that it is not in line with usual logic in Interreg. But, from a Norwegian perspective we should take into account that the Mission of Norway to the EU have argued to keep component 5. Because if component 5 is under national ERDF programmes Norway could not take part. The Board supported the proposal of including the figure of 3% for Interreg in the paper.

Ms. Sæternes proposed to include a sentence on State Aid and Interreg – to underline this important aspect with regard to simplification. A new sentence should be added to point 7 on page 4 to recall the earlier statement in the first policy paper of BSSSC from February 2018. The Board supported this proposal.

The paper was adopted with three changes proposed by Ms. Alla Ivanova, Mr. Jon Halvard Eide and Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes

6. Reports from the Chairman and Secretariat

6.1. Prolongation of the Norwegian Chairmanship period – updating the work plan

On 8 June the Regional Cooperation Board of Eastern Norway County Network agreed to prolong the Chairmanship of BSSSC with one year – till end of 2019. There is a momentum now for extended cooperation among actors in the BSR and we in the BSSSC will be in the forefront, **Mr. Ryberg** underlined.

6.2. Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference 2018 in Åland Islands

The BSSSC Chairman and Secretary General attended the BSPC conference in Åland Islands end of August. Here **Mr. Ryberg** addressed the parliamentarians from the countries around the BSR as well as parliamentarians from the northern German regions.



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The topic of the conference was “Baltic Sea – our Life Line - focusing on cooperation, sustainability and smart energy”. The conference resolution - adopted on the second day

- calls on the governments of the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and EU regarding
 - > cooperation in the region
 - > the vision of a Healthy Baltic sea
 - > sustainable energy and smart energy distribution platforms
 - > migration and integration
 - > economic development and growth in the BSR

The next year will be chaired by the Norwegian Parliament and Mr. Jorodd Asphjell. **Mr. Ryberg** has already agreed to meet with him to discuss possible cooperation areas with BSSSC.

6.3. EUSBSR Annual Fora - 2018 in Tallinn and 2019 in Gdansk

Mr. Lars Godbolt briefed about the Annual forum in Tallinn last June.

The main theme of the 9th Annual Forum in Tallinn was the Baltic Sea Region After 2020.

The Forum discussed how to improve the implementation of the EUSBSR in the framework of the future EU Cohesion Policy. It discussed also the current state of the ecosystem in the Baltic Sea as well as how to advance the Region as a global digital hub.

Among the speakers were Polish Foreign Minister H.E Jacek Czaputowicz who said: “The EUSBSR is about merging the work of CBSS, Helcom, BSSSC and many others”. Also present were Mr Jüri Ratas, Prime Minister of Estonia, H.E. Mr Māris Kučinskis, Prime Minister of Latvia, H.E. Mr Saulius Skvernelis, Prime Minister of Lithuania and Ms Corina Cretu, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy.

BSSSC alongside Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS), [Union of the Baltic Cities, Euroregion Baltic - ERB](#), National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations (LSU), The National Youth Council of Latvia (LJP) and Estonian National Youth Council (ENL) arranged a seminar at the [EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region](#) annual forum 2018 about youth inclusion. Youths from all our networks were present and had good discussions with representatives from EUSBSR Policy areas of Culture, Innovation, and Education, as well as the horizontal action area Climate, and Maira Mora, Director General of the [Council of the Baltic Sea States](#).



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The twenty youths had met already on June 10, discussing digital tools and revising the educational system to be better equipped for the future throughout Sunday and Monday before the EUSBSR Annual forum 2018 kicked off.

Statement from those days:

1) BSSSC, CBSS, ERB, UBC supports youth with the 2019 BALTIC SEA YOUTH CAMP connected to the EUSBSR forum 2019 in Gdansk. EUSBSR can use this to involve with youth.

We want a fixed role, place and influence in the EUSBSR after 2020

2) WE are writing the "BALTIC SEA YOUTH DECLARATION"

Contribution to this is done using digital tools, so ALL youth of the BSR have the possibility to contribute.

First and ALL following editions will available on <http://www.baltic-sea-youth-declaration.eu/> (The website is still under construction)

EUSBSR must use the Baltic Sea Youth Declaration as a foundation for policy work after 2019 – we are in front !

Mr. Godbolt gave a briefing concerning the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2019 (12-13 June).

The 10th AF will be used to communicate the EUSBSR, its objectives and the added value of macro-regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. The topic will be "Circular and sharing economy as an answer to demographic changes in the BSR".

Demographic changes in the BSR (aging, depopulation, migrations, urbanization) influence our everyday behaviours and attitudes. They are expected to generate increasingly more significant consequences in many areas such as:

- mobility, labour market,
- health care and social security systems,
- social structure, family policy and cultural patterns,
- production and consumption models,
- use of natural (non-renewable) resources,
- mature and emerging markets and business sectors.

Circular and sharing economy could bring many benefits in the area of environment. It decouples the economic development from the consumption of limited resources. Thanks to



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this, it minimalizes negative impact on the environment, develop innovation and stimulate the development of new technologies. It creates new jobs and increase of system efficiency. It's a chance for business and great challenge. It's assumed that the improvement of optimization of use of resources in the whole value chain may decrease demand for resources by about 17-24% till 2030.

Thus, the Annual Forum will seek the answers to key questions:

- What could be the role of the circular and sharing economy in addressing the BSR's demographic challenges and their consequences?
-
- How can public policy at all levels be re-shaped to best use circular and sharing economy to address the BSR's demographic challenges as well as to improve its competitiveness and prosperity?

One of the inputs from the BSSC side will be a report on best practices on circular economy from the Baltic sea region (and beyond).

Mr. Godbolt said that the aim is that the report will be a supplement to the thematic of the conference and the "futuristic" report of how circular economy can look like in the future, created by the main partner. The report will inspire and show the participants what can be done.

Mr. Godbolt is working on a tender now to send out to four companies. This is prepared in dialogue with the CBSS Baltic 2030 unit so we are aligning our work (they will also make a report to the EUSBSRAF 2019).

Mr. Godbolt could also inform about the planned Baltic Sea Region Youth Camp 2019. The Youth Camp will have a focus on building cultural identity and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals for 100 youths from around the Baltic Sea Region and Iceland. The working group, consisting of Euroregion Baltic, Union of Baltic Cities, The Baltic Sea Cultural Centre in Gdansk and BSSC, will have their first meetings September 12-13. It is the wish of the organisers to couple the thematic and participants from the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2019 with the Youth Camp. The Youth Camp is set to be from June 8-11, back to back with the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2019 12-13 June – both in Gdansk, Poland.

6.4. Questions, comments and proposals from the Board.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.



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The Board took note of the information.

7. Board meetings 2019

7 – 8 February – Hyvinkää/Helsinki Region, Finland

9 – 10 May – Place to be decided.

18 – 20 September in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Annual Conference 2019

2 -3 December in Riga, Latvia.

7.1. Comments and questions

An updated plan will be presented at the next Board meeting

8. Report from Brussels antenna

Mr. Jan Edøy informed that a meeting in the Informal Baltic Sea Group (iBSG) in Brussels was held on 5 September with focus on water and the role of the macro region strategy. Many of the issues touched upon has been discussed in the BSSSC.

It is high temperature in Brussels nowadays - as the MFF proposal is under debate. This will hopefully be landed by May 2019 – before the European Parliament elections.

The European Week of Cities and Regions in Brussels will be held in October where 180 events will take place. It is still open for registration.

On 12 September 2018 President Juncker will present his last State of the Union Speech in Strasbourg. This will be streamed live.

A large and comprehensive initiative on how to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in BSR cities, under the EEA financial mechanism for regional and transnational cooperation, has been established involving among others Kaliningrad and Saint Petersburg, Gdansk, Ukraine, CBSS, UBC and the Oslo Region European Office. The initiative was initiated with the help of BSSSC. The project has an estimated budget of 3,5 million euros. Tartu in Estonia is Lead Partner. A first respond is expected in the end of September - deciding if the initiative will reach the second application phase.



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Brexit is being discussed in Brussels. Latest news from Mr. Barnier says that it is realistic to reach an agreement within 6-8 weeks.

Krista Taipale asked if it could be wise to establish a work group within the BSSSC to follow the revision of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Action Plan, which will start this autumn. The Secretariat promised to look into this when preparing the agenda for the next Board meeting.

9. Reports from other organizations, programmes and networks

9.1. CBSS – report from the Ministerial meeting in Stockholm 18 June 2018 and work of the CBSS Vision Group by Mr. Bernd Hemingway

Mr. Hemningway could inform that they recently held the first official ministerial meeting since 2014. They looked particularly into the work of the vision group. Twelve wise men and women from each country + EU. They recommend actions to the ministers to go ahead with for the BSR. The vision report can be found on the CBSS webpage (www.cbss.org). The vision group recommends looking into the function of the secretariat. The vision group recommended the secretariat to do an audit of regional actors to avoid overlapping agendas between the regional actors. The group also recommended looking into the EU-Russia relationship and support the collaboration in the region. Lastly they also recommend looking into including Belarus in the cooperation, at least to increase cooperation with Belarus.

9.2. UBC by Mr. Paweł Żaboklicki

Please see attached Powerpoint.

9.3. CPMR-BSC by Ms. Åsa Bjering

Ms. Bjering informed that high on the CPMR-BSC agenda is the anticipated revision of the EUSBSR. There is a strong focus on the governance. The communication from the EUSBSR is that there is little ownership from the local and regional level. There is a draft communication where the different DGs are giving input. The draft communication will not go into the issues on thematic, but will focus on governance. The CPMR wants to ensure that there is a good communication loop in the EC. They will do this by arranging three events in the Parliament. Will the communication be on EUSBSR or all macro region, asked **Ms. Bjering** and informed that they know that EU Commissioner for regional policy, Corina Crețu, is saying that the EUSBSR should be the model of macro regional cooperation in the EU. The CPMR is arranging an event March 7 together with PA transport and three flagships. Also planned one on smart specialization.



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The CPMR have two reports on the table. One of them is on transport. In this report they are positive to expand the Scanmed and the Nordic Baltic corridors – including Stockholm and Oslo corridor. Norwegian and Swedish government also pushes for this. The other report is on the new European territorial programmes. The ECs proposal not only gives us less money, but also in percentage.

On other issues, CPMR is afraid the EC will reduce the funding of Green house gas reduction programmes.

10. Reports from policy areas

10.1. Smart Specialisation/RDI2CluB advisory board by Ms. Sorjonen

Ms. Reetta Sorjonen encouraged the members of the Board to read the written report on RDI2Club delivered and distributed with the agenda to the Board meeting. Sari Rautio was elected as a member of the Advisory Board on behalf of the BSSC in Kaliningrad in May 2018 and one meeting has already taken place. The Advisory Board will carry out its role via the annually organized meetings. Advisory Board members are encouraged to share information on the RDI2CluB project and its outputs with their networks. The project will utilise a bioeconomy profile benchmarking tool which allows comparison of bio economies of different regions. The tool is based on wide use of national and regional statistical data. The tool is easy-to-use and provides information on various crucial parameters in bioeconomy, including business and innovation indicators. RDI2CluB offers a possibility to a webinar for BSSC Board members who are interested in the tool, so if any members of the Board are interested, please contact Reetta Sorjonen.

On behalf of **Matti Lipsanen**, **Ms. Sorjonen** presented the latest update from Interreg BSR programme. The third and last full scale financing application round and its applications are now under assessment.

10.2. Working group on youth policy by Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek and Mr. Martin Rümmelein

Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek opened by thanking **Mr. Timo Nikolaisen** for his work in the BSSC as this was his last Board meeting as a youth member of the Board. She also welcomed **Ms. Agnes Lusti** as a new youth representative to the Board.

Mr. Nikolaisen briefed the Board on the events which had taken place at the youth event. They had been at the European Solidarity Centre and had several workshops



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where they had used e.g. drama to illustrate social inequality. They had made preparation for the Annual Conference workshops and interventions for the various seminars are under preparation.

Mr. Artur Ryszkiewicz summarised the Baltic Regeneration 2030 summit. 100 participants from 13 countries were gathered for 2 days at the Åland Islands discussing SDG number 12 on responsible consumption and production. A manifesto was produced in which is planned to be translated into all the Nordic and BSR languages. The manifesto will be spread throughout the 13 participating countries. The manifesto will also be presented at the senior officials meeting at CBSS.

Mr. Ryberg said that **Ms. Ludwiczek** is stepping down as youth coordinator by the end of the year and therefore, BSSSC needs a new person in charge of this very important cooperation area. The Chair launched a process to find a new youth coordinator and asked interested regions to send an expression of interest to the Secretariat in due time before the next Board meeting. The Secretariat will send a reminder to all via e-mail. If possible, a new coordinator will be appointed in the next Board meeting in Brussels. This will allow for some overlap with **Ms. Ludwiczek** before she leaves us.

11. Coming events

- 11.1. BSSSC Board meeting in Brussels 28 – 29 November 2018 premises in the Hansa offices.

Mr. Musiolik reminded about the event mentioned in the culture report. "Strategic Project Development Workshop "A Cultural City for the BSR !?" which will be on 20/21 November 2018 in Rendsburg/Schleswig-Holstein.

17:30 END OF MEETING