



Present:

Mr Olgierd Geblewicz (PL), Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek (PL), Mr Carsten-Ludwig Lüdemann (DE), Mr Stefan Herms (DE), Ms Birgit Küstner (DE), Mr Sören Berg (S), Mr Pawel Maciejewski (PL), Ms Magdalena Aniśko (PL), Mr Sebastian Gojdz (PL), Ms Ann Irene Sæternes (N), Mr Ivar Haug (N), Tom E. B. Holthe (N), Mr Stefan Musiolik (DE), Ms Marlene Rothe (DE), Mr Toivo Riimaa (EE), Mr Christer Pursiainen (CBSS), Mr Lars Friedrichsen (DE), Mr Jan Thiele (DE), Ms Stephanie Titzck (DE), Ms Esther Luttkus (DE), Mr Krzysztof Barczyk (PL), Mr Louis Hansen (DK), Ms Anne Mette Bæk Jespersen (DK), Thomas Littman (DE).

1. Opening of Board Meeting

On behalf of the hosting region Hamburg, State Secretary Mr Carsten-Ludwig Lüdemann welcomed the BSSSC Board and apologized for the cancellation of the Board meeting in Rovaniemi. Special congratulations were addressed to Mr Olgierd Geblewicz, who has been elected the Marshal of the Westpomeranian Region. Mr Carsten-Ludwig Lüdemann briefly presented the overview of the past two years and expressed his gratitude to the Board for the successful collaboration during Hamburg Chairmanship. The occasional medal was handed to all meeting participants as a special thanks from the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg for the past two years of working within BSSSC.

The Board adopted the meeting agenda and the minutes of the Board meeting in Tallinn on 12 October 2010.

2. Summing-up Work Plan 2009-2010

Mr Stefan Herms informed the Board that the bi-annual report is under preparation and at this point highlighted main achievements of BSSSC under Hamburg Chairmanship in 2009 and 2010. Mr Herms emphasised the significant input of ad hoc Working Group on Cohesion Policy and results of its work 'Position paper on the EU Budget for Cohesion Policy after 2013', which has been presented to the EC DG Regional Policy. Another important issue mentioned by Mr Herms was the strong position of BSSSC concerning the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and such events co-organized with the European Commission as: Youth conference in Hamburg or the first Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Tallinn. Mr Herms underlined two BSSSC Annual Conferences in Zeeland (2009) and in Tallinn (2010), which took place under Hamburg Chairmanship. Moreover, Mr Herms stressed the good cooperation of BSSSC members' regions with Brussels Antenna in the past two years.

Ms Stephanie Titzck on behalf of Ms Anja Gargulla presented the summary of the Work Plan 2009-2010 and asked the Board for contribution to the report by sending photos from BSSSC events. The suggestions to the bi-annual report shall be submitted by 2 February 2011. In the beginning of March printed copies of bi-annual report will be ready for distribution. The Board agreed that 10 copies per each Board Member will be sufficient.

Mr Stefan Musiolik on behalf of all BSSSC Board Member thanked for successful and professional Hamburg Chairmanship in 2009-2010.

3. Work Plan 2011-2012

Mr Olgierd Geblewicz, the new BSSSC Chairman, on behalf of the Westpomeranian Chairmanship welcomed the Board at first BSSSC Board Meeting in 2011 and shortly presented key objectives of the Westpomeranian Chairmanship. Mr Geblewicz introduced the staff of the new BSSSC Secretariat and



informed the Board about the preparation stage of the 19th BSSSC Annual Conference, which will be held under the patronage of the Polish Presidency in the EU Council.

Ms Małgorzata Ludwiczek presented the draft of BSSSC Work Plan 2011-2012 and asked the Board for permission to put in the work plan names of those who constitute BSSSC resources. The Board agreed on that, however Mr Louis Hansen pointed out that BSSSC Working Group on Cohesion Policy has been an ad hoc group therefore it should be changed into Rapporteur on Cohesion Policy.

Ms Ludwiczek discussed each policy area included in the work plan and asked the Board for comments and contribution to the draft work plan, which will be send together with minutes after the Board meeting.

BSSSC Policy areas:

1. Maritime Policy - main responsibility within the BSSSC Board lies with the Land Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.
2. Climate policies and energy security
The Board agreed that main responsibility within the BSSSC Board lies with the Chairmanship, who will coordinate and monitor this field.

Ms Birgit Küstner noted that it would be vital to invite Ms Beatrice Schlau, who has been BSSSC Rapporteur on Baltic 21 during the Hamburg Chairmanship, to give a report about the Baltic 21 meeting on 14-15 March during the next BSSSC Board Meeting on 16 March in Oslo.

Mr Stefan Herms stressed that it would be fruitful for BSSSC to maintain the cooperation with BALTEX and to contact BASREC, as they seem to be valuable partners for BSSSC.

3. Science and Education - main responsibility within the BSSSC Board lies with the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.
4. Youth Policy - main responsibility within the BSSSC Board lies with the West Pomerania, Poland.
5. Public Health and Quality of Life - main responsibility within the BSSSC Board lies with the West Pomerania and Stockholm County.

Ms Anne Mette Jespersen noted 2012 to be European Year for active ageing.

6. Co-operation with Russia main responsibility within the BSSSC Board lies with Hamburg and West Pomerania.
7. Northern Dimension – the responsibility to be decided

Ms Ann Irene Sæternes informed that the Northern Dimension Ministerial meeting in November 2010 welcomed the BSSSC/CoR initiative and invited regional and local actors of the Northern Dimension Partners to pursue practical preparations for an enhanced sub-regional cooperation with a view to submitting a concrete proposal for the next meeting of the Senior Officials in autumn 2011.

8. Transport and Infrastructure - main responsibility within the BSSSC Board lies with Skåne Region.

4. Annual Conferences

4.1 BSSSC Annual Conference in 2010 – report from Estonian host

On behalf of the organizers: the Association of Estonian Cities and the Association of Estonian Municipalities Mr Toivo Riimaa thanked especially the Hamburg's Secretariat for the support in the organization of the event and also particularly: Ms Malgorzta Ludwiczek, Ms Ann-Irene Sauternes and Mr Esko Lotvonen. Organizing the BSSSC Annual Conference back-to-back with the I Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was a great prestige, as Estonia has played a significant role



(particularly the President of the Republic of Estonia) in creating the Strategy. Mr Riimaa presented some statistic: the highest number of participants (44) was from Hamburg, then from Poland (23). The conference drew also representatives from such countries as: Belgium, Belarus and Netherlands. Due to the reforms proceeded in Lithuania there were not so many participants.

Mr Riimaa underlined that the structure of the conference: 2 x 3 workshops gave a chance to participate in 2 workshops, which turns out to be an example of good practice for the future.

Mr Lars Friedrichsen requested to take off some of the pictures taken during the dinner from the webpage.

4.2 BSSSC Annual Conference in 2011 – report from the Westpomeranian Region

Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek (Managing Director of the BSSSC Secretariat) underlined that is very important to share experience with previous organizers of the conference. Then she gave some basic information about the event: the date (5-7 October), venue (Szczecin, Radisson SAS Hotel) and the Youth Conference (4-5 October). She stressed that the preparations are at early stage. Ms Ludwiczek in her presentation presented 4 issues – proposals for the theme of the conference:

1. Cohesion Policy and main challenges of Europe – climate change, energy policy, (session I)
2. Interreg Cooperation – better response to the needs of regions
3. Macro-regional Strategy EUSBSR – how to use it for better cohesion
4. Territorial Cohesion of the BSR Rural Development

Ms Ludwiczek asked the Board for assistance in choosing the topics of sessions and workshops respectively.

She informed about several consulting meetings with Polish Ministries (of Foreign Affairs and Regional Development), which were held in time of preparation. Both bodies are interested to help in organizing the essential matters. The BSSSC Annual Conference could be a voice of the regions (regarding the EU Strategy for the BSR) for upcoming II Annual Forum organized together with Baltic Development Forum (24/27 October). To achieve this ambitious goal we need to conduct a research: to get information from each Baltic region about the level of implementation of the Strategy. More information will be distributed within approx. 2 weeks (together with minutes).

Mr Stefan Herms from Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg admitted that it's a good idea for the conference – to have a regional overview on ongoing process of implementing the Strategy. Referring to the cohesion policy, Mr Herms said that the programmes are about to finish but in the same time this is a good time to sum up the period showing the examples of good practices for upcoming one.

Mr Toivo Riimaa pointed on the overlapping of the terms: the XI Union of the Baltic Cities General Conference will take place on 4-7 October 2011.

Mr Geblewicz responded that this fall is very busy time (especially in Poland), as there are Parliamentary elections to be held.

4.3 BSSSC Annual Conference in 2012 – report from the Norwegian Regions

Mr Tom Holthe – Vice Vestfold County Mayor presented the ideas for the XX BSSSC Annual Conference. The Eastern Norway County Council has already started the preparation. The idea is to organize the BSSSC conference side-to-side with Interreg IV B summit. It is planned to take place in Oslo on 17-20 September. The youth event and Board meeting will take place on 17th. In March 2011 the first consultation dialogue will be held.



5. Policy areas reports

5.1 Working Group Maritime Policy – Schleswig Holstein

Mr Stefan Musiolik informed the Board about the last WG MP meeting, which took place after the Board meeting in Tallinn (October 2011). The meeting gathered a lot of guests (among others: Mr Pursiainen from CBSS and Chairman of Baltic Sea Forum Mr Kurt Bodwig). The main topic of discussion was the project of Clean Baltic Sea Shipping – project supported by BSSSC. Mr Musiolik stressed the need of closer co-operation and links among other working groups (on maritime policy) and organizations. Working together will bring common aims and will be more successful – he added.

There will be a joint meeting of maritime working groups (CBSS, BSSSC, BSPC) during the European Maritime Day (20th may 2011, Gdansk) which will give a good example of different levels cooperation: regional, national, parliamentary.

On 18-19 November 2010 in Stockholm the CleanShip Kick-off Conference took place. It drew different stakeholders: politicians, representatives of harbors, organizations (Helcom). Mr Musiolik underlined the relevance of the political committee to the project planned to involve representatives from the port and shipowners side, relevant BSR organizations, from the regional and national political level and if possible also from the European Commission.

5.2 Science and Education – Hamburg

On behalf of Mr Lüdemann, Mr Thomas Littman presented the main achievements of the BSSSC in the area of science of education which covered the field of school education as well as university education, even include postgraduate activities as far as research cooperation is affected. The main activities were focused on developing and enhancing co-operation at school level and with teachers training institutes in order to exchange examples of good practice. It has been a main task of discussions during the Annual Conference in Tallinn to define a common approach of quality in teaching and learning and to contribute to developing the knowledge between research, education and innovation. BSSSC will support the “Congress on Education in the Baltic Sea Region” which will take place in late summer in Hamburg, organized by the Ministry of Education.

Mr Littman mentioned also that BSSSC has also supported a first class flagship project sailing under Swedish lead flag and covering university cooperation is the Baltic University Program (which integrates about 100 universities around the Baltic Sea). These debates have aimed to build a common regional identity while being aware of intercultural similarities and differences.

5.3 Health care and social well-being – Stockholm County Council

Mr Sören Berg informed about the workshops organized by the occasion of the May 2010 Board meeting in Stockholm (on communicable diseases) which was of great importance in this area. He encouraged the BSSSC to continue this issue as well as: tuberculosis and micro-biological resistance.

He informed the Board about the upcoming workshops of Baltic Antibiotic Resistance collaborative Network – BARN (2-3 February 2011, Riga).

5.4 Youth policy

Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek informed about the Youth in Action Project’s application Baltic Youth Crossborder Cooperation Event. The idea of this youth event is to create the place for sharing experiences and good practices in the area of youth voluntary work and activities that improves the situation of local communities in the Baltic Sea regions. She also announced a film contest called “Baltic Sea region – my



place for education and fun”, which results are planned to be presented during the Annual Conference in Szczecin (5/7 October 2011).

6. Baltic Sea Region Programme – rapporteur Ann Irene Sæternes

Ms Sæternes gave a comment on the proposal of meeting in Rostock Secretariat presenting some possible topics for discussion: clustering of projects and presentation of the projects supported by BSSSC on next BSR Programme Conference in 2012.

Later on Ms Ann Irene Sæternes gave to the Board the feedback from the 2010 BSR Programme Conference “The power of the Baltic Sea macro-region” (Jyvaskyla, 30 November/1 December 2010) informing that the 4th call was opened during the conference and will last until 31 March 2011. Ms Sæternes mentioned that it will be the last call in this programming period and there are already a lot of applications submitted and expected. The first Monitoring Committee will take place in June (under the German Presidency) and 2nd in September or October. She also mentioned the presentation of the Danube Strategy (given by Hungarian representative in Jyvaskyla) pointing out the similarities of both Strategies: e.g. participation of non-EU states.

This call for project applications is targeted at 2 directions: for flagship projects of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and for projects contributing to the fulfillment of the following Programme goals:

Priority 1:

- Broadening the innovation basis
- Key-enabling technologies

Priority 2:

- Integration of areas with low accessibility to the other areas of the Baltic Sea Region
- Promotion of ICT measures enhancing accessibility and sustainable socioeconomic growth

Priority 3:

- Promotion of sustainable use of marine resources
- Prevention of trans-boundary pollution risks with particular focus on Belarus and Russia

Priority 4:

- New approaches in tackling the challenges of demographic change
- Promotion of common identity of the overall Baltic Sea Region
- Strengthening social conditions and impacts of regional and city development with focus on Belarus and Russia

Referring to the priority 4, point no 2 Mr Musiolik informed that the project Baltic Sea History Book (after failure in Baltic Sea Region Programme within the project “Baltic Sea Identity”) will apply for funding from the EU Programme for Culture and is envisaged to get additional funding from the German Foreign Ministry.

Ms Sæternes informed also that the project ICT for Health is searching for partners.

7. Report from Brussels

7.1 Report by Lars Friedrichsen, Hamburg Chairmanship Brussels Antenna (2009-2011)

Mr Friedrichsen expressed his gratitude for an opportunity to represent the BSSSC as Brussels Antenna for two years. He summed up the achievements of the previous cadency: in February 2010 the Youth Conference in Hamburg was held, Mr Musiolik as a representative of BSSSC presented the Clean Baltic Sea Shipping project within the Open Days 2009. The Board meeting in Brussels (December 2009) was



accompanied by special guests: Mr Jean-Marc Venineaux (DG Regio), Mr Christof Kienel (CoR), Ms Anna Kadar (CoR) and Mr Kjell Nybacka (head of the IBSG). The I Annual Forum on EU Strategy for BSR in Tallinn was organized back-to-back with BSSSC XVIII Annual Conference (October 2010).

7.2 Report by Sebastian Gojdz – Regional Office of the Westpomeranian Region in Brussels (BSSSC Brussels Antenna 2011-2012)

Mr Sebastian Gojdz informed the Board about the handing over of the Brussels Antenna and presented key priorities of BSSSC Brussels Antenna for the next two years. Mr Gojdz will continue cooperation with representatives of European Union Institutions and other European networks and organizations and will monitor areas of high importance for BSSSC: EU Baltic Sea Strategy, post-2013 cohesion policy and Europe 2020 strategy. Mr Gojdz introduced to the Board the plan to create close cooperation between BSSSC members regional offices in Brussels (by organizing joint meetings after every BSSSC board meeting, informing regional offices about BSSSC position in certain matters and lobbying for the BSSSC interests in the EU institutions).

Mr Gojdz proposed to organize the Board meeting on 29 November or 1 December 2011 in Brussels back-to-back with Conference organized by Polish regions concerning the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. The conference is scheduled for November 30, 2011 and will be held under Polish Presidency in the EU Council.

8. Board Meetings in 2011

Oslo – 15/16 March (CBSS CSO – BSSSC joint meeting)
Gdansk -18/19 May (European Maritime Day 2011)
Szczecin - 5 October (19th BSSSC Annual Conference, 6-7 October)
Brussels or Rovaniemi (to be decided)

9. Reports from meetings and events:

The Board noticed report from the following event:

2nd Meeting of Task Group on Alcohol and Drug Prevention among Youth (ADPY TG), 20-21 January 2011, Tallinn

10. Upcoming events

Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek presented the list of the major upcoming events:

8 March, Helsinki

Second meeting on the implementation of Priority area 1 "to reduce the nutrient inputs into acceptable levels" of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

15/16 March, Oslo

BSSSC Board Meeting in Oslo with joint meeting of CSO of the CBSS

21/23 March, St. Petersburg

XII International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day"



29 March, Brussels
Future of TEN-T conference organized by CoR

11/12 May, Skelleftea
TransBaltic Conference

18/20 May, Gdansk
BSSSC Board meeting, 4th Baltic Sea Tourism Forum, European Maritime Day 2011

31 May, Hamburg
BSSSC / BALTEX Conference - Adapting to Climate Change (case studies from the BSR)

11. Any other Business:

Mr Sören Berg from Stockholm Count Council informed the Board that he will be no longer attending the BSSSC meetings. What is more, due to the elections in Sweden no one from the Swedish BSSSC members will run for re-election. He sincerely thanked to all members for good co-operation and warm atmosphere.

Mr Pawel Maciejewski from the current BSSSC Secretariat gave few notices about the new BSSSC website: renewed his request to send the photos of the Board members and their current position held in home region. He recommended to follow the calendar on the website and asked to inform the Secretariat about any other event related to the Baltic policies. He also proposed to take into consideration refreshing the BSSSC logo on the occasion of the anniversary XX BSSSC Conference in 2011. At the end he informed that the Skype account (bsssc.pl) has been launched in order to facilitate the contact with the Secretariat.

BSSSC Secretariat

Secretariat of the **Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation**
c/o Marshal's Office of the Westpomeranian Region
Korsarzy 34, 70-540 Szczecin (Poland)
t. +48 91 44 67 165 / 189, f. +48 91 44 67 180
e. bsssc@bsssc.com, w. www.bsssc.com



The Chairmanship of the
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Region 2011-2012
in BSSSC