



Present: Mr. Knud Andersen (DK), Mr. Asger Andreasen (DK), Ms. Josefina Bjurström (Secretariat), Mr. Rogaciano Cavadas Kaipainen (Brussels Antenna), Mr. Jon Halvard Eide (NO), Mr. Tommy Eliasson (B7), Ms. Ülle Erman (EE), Mr. Stefan Herms (DE), Mr. Kevin Kiraga (PL), Ms. Hanna Kivimäki (FI), Mr. Jaakko Mikkola (Secretariat), Mr. Stefan Musiolik (DE), Ms. Tuula Palaste-Eerola (Secretariat), Ms. Mudite Priede (LV), Ms. Ligita Pudza (LV), Mr. Toivo Riimaa (EE), Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes (NO), Mr. Ossi Savolainen (Chairman), Ms. Claudia Schatzmann (DE), Mr. Jens Sundström (CPMR BSC), Mr. Janne Tamminen (Secretariat), Mr. Arne Tilk (EE), Ms. Sarika Vij (Brussels Antenna), Mr. Thore Westermoen (NO), Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska (PL).

1. Opening of the Board Meeting

1.1. Opening of the meeting by Mr Ossi Savolainen – BSSSC Chairman

Mr. Jaakko Mikkola opened the meeting on the behalf of Chairman Savolainen. Mr. Mikkola thanked the German hosts for the kind invitation to Brussels.

1.2. Welcome speech by the hosts – Mr. Stefan Herms, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Mr. Stefan Musiolik, Schleswig-Holstein.

Mr. Stefan Herms and Mr. Stefan Musiolik welcomed the guests and presented the beautiful Hanse Office, where the meeting was held.

1.3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

1.4. Adoption of Board meeting minutes Helsinki, 16 October 2013

The minutes of the Helsinki Board meeting were adopted.

2. Annual Conferences and Chairmanship

2.1. Report from the AC & YE 2013 – BSSSC Chair & Secretariat

Mr. Janne Tamminen informed that the AC had received good feedback. Ms. Josefina Bjurström reported from the youth event, which had had 40 participants from seven countries. The program went well and was appreciated by the youth. A report on the work of the youth event is currently being compiled and will be printed and distributed in the beginning of 2014. Mr. Kevin Kiraga congratulated the new youth board member Ms. Hanna Kivimäki and thanked the organizers for a well organized event.

Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes suggested that an annual conference check list should be compiled and promised to start drafting the document. The idea was supported by the other participants.



2.2. Annual Conference 2014

2.2.1. Report by the BSSSC Secretariat

Mr. Tamminen informed that the proposal for dates is 15th-17th of October. Proposals for speakers are welcome.

2.2.2. Report by the Latvian representatives

Ms. Mudite Priede and Ms. Ligita Pudza presented the preparations of the AC 2014. (See presentation attached.) The title, main topic, budget, speakers and the youth event was discussed. Mr. Stefan Musiolik suggested that innovation could be an umbrella theme for the conference. Ms. Saeternes pointed out that the focus should be on the regional level and that the work plan should be taken in consideration when planning the program. Mr. Jens Sundström suggested the title "Times for New Beginnings" and proposed that the Latvian EU Chairmanship 2015 should be involved somehow. It was preliminarily agreed that the board members' participation fee is 100 €, Latvian participants' 50 €, early birds' 180 € and late registration 220 €. The budget will be discussed at the February board meeting.

2.3. Joint Baltic Sea Meeting organized by BSSSC & CBSS

2.3.1. Report by the BSSSC Chair & Secretary General

The meeting was held before the BSSSC AC in October 2013. Mr. Tamminen reported that BSSSC, CBSS, CPMR BSC, HELCOM, BDF, B7 and UBC were present and that the participants had found the meeting important and useful. The next meeting is due to be held at the Turku "Power Week" in June 2014. Mr. Mikkola added that it was decided that the focus of this co-operation should be on youth, maritime issues, culture and energy and climate. The next CBSS Chair will be Estonia.

2.4. BSSSC Chairmanship 2015-2016

2.4.1. Report by BSSSC Chair & Secretary General

Mr. Tamminen informed that the secretariat had been in contact with SALAR (Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions) and that Mr. Lennarth Förberg had been appointed new board member, but that he unfortunately couldn't attend this meeting. Mr. Tommy Eliasson promised to contact Kalmar and Gotland Region to find out about their possible interests regarding the BSSSC. Ms Saeternes suggested a prolongation of the current chairmanship, which was accepted by Chairman Savolainen. It was decided, that Helsinki-Uusimaa chairs the BSSSC in 2015 as well.

3. Policy Sectors and Working Groups



3.1. Dr. Thomas Engelke, Secretary of the CoR Interregional group “Baltic Sea Regions”, gave an insight in the work of the group. The group was founded in 2008 and has around 40 members. The current chair is Ms. Pauliina Haijanen (FI). The group meets around 3-5 times per year back-to-back with the CoR plenary sessions. Topics include developments in the region, developments of the EUSBSR and funding possibilities. The group also invites speakers such as MEPs and representatives from the permanent representations to attend the meetings.

3.2. BSSSC Working Groups and rapporteurs

Maritime Policy: Mr. Mikkola, Chair of the CPMR BSC Maritime Issues Working Group, invited interested participants to attend the meetings of the CPMR BSC WG. The focus of the working group has lately been on the directive on maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management.

Energy and Climate: Ms. Saeternes had discussed a common energy and climate platform with Mr. Jan Lundin, Mr. Hans Brask, UBC and Baltic21. A meeting on this is scheduled to be held in December.

Cohesion policy: Mr. Asger Andreasen gave a brief overlook on the current situation. The EP has approved the budget with a slight increase for the macroregional strategies.

Northern Dimension: Ms. Saeternes will have a meeting with the EU EEAS working with EUSBR and ND.

Transport: Mr. Tamminen invited interested participants to attend the meetings of the CPMR BSC WG. The focus of the working group has lately been on transport and infrastructure problems of the most remote areas in Europe, logistics and the TEN-T network. Mr. Jon Halvard Eide informed that the North Sweden EU Office organized a seminar on the TEN-T. The CPMR has been invited to take part in the European Sustainable Shipping Forum in order to facilitate the implementation of the sulphur directive.

Culture: Mr. Musiolik reported that the actors of PA Culture had met at the 4th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR. The meeting had had broad participation from the member states and CBSS, UBC, NDPC among others. Better coordination and coherence in the culture sector is still needed. Some Flagship projects were presented at the meeting such as the Baltic Sea Region Maritime Heritage Atlas (MARTABAL, please see presentation attached.), which is still searching for partners. Two cultural events will be organized in Kotka in May and during the Baltic Sea Week in Turku in June 2014.



Youth: Mr. Kevin Kiraga reported from the Baltic Sea Youth Forum Stakeholder's meeting in Vilnius in November. Around 20 stakeholders including national agencies and regional representatives participated. The meeting brainstormed on creating a forum, uniting the existing youth structures and on including existing organizations such as BSSSC, UBC and the national youth structures. The supporting seed money project ends by June 2014, by which the project needs to find partners from ministries, national youth organizations etc. Mr. Kiraga asked for support from the BSSSC Board. The new youth board member Ms. Hanna Kivimäki/Finland presented herself. Mr. Thore Westermoen informed that Vest-Agder is activating its youth and wishes to find representatives to participate in the BSSSC youth events in the future.

4. Current issues at other co-operation organizations

- 4.1. B7 – Mr. Eliasson gave an update on the current issues at B7. Bornholm is leaving B7 due to economic reasons. Current topics include common problems for the islands such as young people leaving the islands and the population growing older. Hiiumaa is currently chairing B7 and the next meeting will be held in May 2014. The 2014 Annual Conference will be organized in the beginning of November. Four of the islands will start a common tourism project under the BSRP.
- 4.2. CPMR BSC – Mr. Sundström praised the BSSSC for the variety of actors taking part in the work. Current issues at the CPMR BSC include the implementation of the sulphur directive, state aid of regional airports, the TNT process, renewable energy and multi-level governance. He supported the idea of closer co-operation e.g. by a shared position paper. Mr. Knud Andersen pointed out that a joint paper on the EUSBSR was compiled before and that a paper on making the EUSBSR more local and regional could be in place. The Board members supported the idea and the secretariat will find out if there's a common interest of other BSR actors.

5. Report from the Brussels Antenna

5.1. Introduction by Mr. Rogaciano Cavadas Kaipainen

Mr. Rogaciano Cavadas Kaipainen encouraged the participants to read the programmes of Cosme and Horizon 2020. The EEN partners on the national and regional level will be re-elected, which gives a great opportunity to participate. The ERDF agreement was reached in the end of November. Mr. Cavadas mentioned the upcoming Greek presidency, which will be carried out with a small budget and with small resources. He also reminded about the upcoming EP elections and encouraged the participants to influence the MEPs and to remind them about regional issues. Mr. Musiolik suggested that the next BSSSC November/December meeting could be held



at the EP where recently elected MEPs could be invited.

5.2. Open Days 2014 – Ms. Sarika Vij

Ms. Sarika Vij presented the Open Days 2013 and 2014. (Please see presentation attached.) Event organization was discussed. Mr. Knud Andersen pointed out that the purpose and goal of the event needs to be clear. Ms. Saeternes reminded that the co-operation agreement with the CoR could be a framework in which a common event could be organized or that the different BSR organizations and networks could participate in an event organized by the CoR. Mr. Musiolik suggested joining another meeting e.g. the iBSG (Informal Baltic Sea Group). The Brussels Antenna will continue to find out about different options.

6. BSSSC Board meetings 2014

6-7 February	Kuopio, Finland
4/5 June	Turku, Finland
15 October	Jurmala, Latvia

7. Coming events

28-29 November, Brussels	CoR 104 th Plenary
30-31 January, Brussels	CoR 105 th Plenary
2-3 April, Brussels	CoR 106 th Plenary
3 June, Turku	EUSBSR Annual Forum
Week 23, Turku	10 th Baltic Sea States Summit
Week 23, Turku	Baltic Development Forum Summit
25-26 June, Brussels	CoR 107 th Plenary
7-8 October, Brussels	CoR 108 th Plenary
16-17 October, Jurmala	22 nd BSSSC Annual Conference

8. Any other business

Mr. Dimitri Corpakis, Regional dimension of innovation DG R&I, gave a presentation on the Horizon 2020. (Please see presentation attached.)