



Baltic Sea States  
Subregional  
Co-operation

**BSSSC Board Meeting**  
**03.02.2006**  
**Stockholm, Sweden**

## **Minutes from the Board Meeting**

### **0 Opening of the Board meeting**

The Chairman, Mr Uno Aldegren opens the meeting and welcomes all Board members to the first meeting of 2006. Mr Aldegren gives special and warm thanks the host of the Board meeting, Ms Inger Linge from the County Council of Stockholm, for an excellent organisation.

### **1 Adoption of the Minutes from the Board meeting in Szczecin, 20 October 2005**

The Board adopts the minutes from the Board meeting in Szczecin, 20 October 2005.

### **2 Adoption of the agenda**

The Board adopts the Agenda and decides to make some changes in the order of the points.

(Please observe that the paragraphs of these minutes correspond to those of the agenda).

### **4 BSSSC Chair 2007-2008**

Mr Arne Øren described that Norway has decided to proceed with the discussions to accept the chairmanship of BSSSC. Mr Øren will inform the BSSSC Board about the results at the meeting in Kiel 5 May.

The Board welcomed and supported the Norwegian initiative. It is decided that the BSSSC secretariat shall prepare a proposal for a rotation system as well as a PM on the present budget.

### **3 Annual Conference 2006**

Mr Karl Löfmark informed the Board about the preparatory work regarding the annual conference that will take place in Kiel. Mr Löfmark stressed that the first day of the conference will be part of the EU consultation process on the future European Maritime Policy. Mr Stefan Musiolik underlined that it is an honour for BSSSC to be chosen to arrange this regional conference. It will be most important to provide this part of the conference with experts from the maritime sector. The annual conference will take place in the Landtag

building in Kiel with some 220 seats. Besides the regional level the national level will be represented. Mr Musiolik stressed that the number of participants for the maritime part will be limited. Mr Thomas Pfannkuch invited the Board to contribute with important actors from the maritime field as well as from the infrastructure and science sector on the second day.

Mr Uno Aldegren stressed the importance of a coherent transport infrastructure for the Baltic Sea Region and informed that the Swedish Government will probably decide about the ESS project in May this year.

The Board thanked for the information and it was decided to integrate the youth voice on the second day, that the Board will forward name of experts in the maritime, infrastructure and science fields to the BSSSC secretariat, that, if needed, the organizers are free to charge a participant fee of some 100 Euro. A more detailed programme will be presented at the Board meeting in Kiel.

### **3.1 Dates for the Board Meetings 2006**

Board meeting 2006

04-05 May Kiel

20-22 Sep Kiel

09-10 Nov Brussels or Kaunas

The Brussels alternative would give the Board the opportunity to participate at an important Baltic Sea Region Conference in Brussels 9 November, "Baltic Sea Perspective Conference". The Conference is co-arranged by Baltic Metropolises, BSSSC, BDF and the EP Baltic Intergroup and it will take place at the European Parliament. (8.2)

The Board thanks for the information.

## **5 BSSSC and the future**

Mr Löfmark commented on the PM on the future of the BSSSC that has been sent to the Board members and underlined that it doesn't hold any radical news compared to earlier discussions by the Board. It is however important to discuss means to strengthen BSSSC, such as the structure of BSSSC, membership fees and the work of the secretariat. Mr Aldegren underlined the importance of having legitimacy towards other policy makers like the EU Commission. Principle power (??) could be achieved through an established structure with member regions. Mr Øren reminded the Board of the fact that the situation has changed immensely since this was being discussed the last time – today all regions but the Norwegian and Russian are members of the EU and therefore have a different position. The national platforms in each country should be the members and pay the membership fee. The fee is a symbol of commitment. Mr Toivo Riimaa points out that the regions in Russia at the moment probably are not allowed to participate in the BSSSC coopera-

tion. Ms Inger Linge and Ms Marjatta Vehkaoja underlined that BSSSC lacks a bit of its legitimacy as long as Russia is not represented.

It was decided that the Secretariat should present a concrete proposal with a fixed structure and membership fees at the next Board meeting. At the next meeting a political analysis of Russia should be presented. The Secretariat should approach St. Petersburg and Oblast Leningrad. At the next meeting it will also be assessed how the Board members presently are being appointed.

## 5.1 Annual Report

Ms Katarina Lewalska presented the annual report and asked for comments.

The Board thanked for the information and will come back to Ms Lewalska with comments.

## 6 BSSSC Ad hoc Work Groups

### 6.1 Transport and Infrastructure

Ms Annika Annerby Jansson, chair of the Work Group for Transport and Infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region, presented the report that describes the Transport Infrastructure planning situation in the Baltic Sea Region. The conclusions of the report and a presentation of the next part, a multimodal strategy for the Baltic Sea Region that will be presented at the Board meeting in Kiel. Ms Annerby Jansson stressed that the report should be considered as a living document. The work group will hold a structured dialog on a common BSR strategy with other pan-Baltic organizations in May or June. Ms Annerby Jansson pointed out that the Work Group is still lacking members from Finland, Latvia and Russia. For the second part of the work Mr Wiktor Szydarowski will be appointed expert to the work group. The Work Group will present the results from the second part at the Annual Conference in Kiel. The final report will be presented at the Board meeting in November.

The Board thanked for the excellent report and will check the content and especially the figures. Sea transports and logistics should be included if possible. The report should be presented to representatives from St. Petersburg. The missing part of E18 between Helsinki and St. Petersburg should be completed. The Board adopted the report, the conclusions and the proposed stage 2.

### 6.2 Cohesion Policy

Mr Knud Andersen was absent, instead Mr Hans Jørgen Holm presented the position paper on the future Cohesion Policy that is common for the most important BSR organizations. Mr Knud Andersen proposes to collect good examples of Interreg projects that have

a connection to the aims of the Lisbon Agenda and to produce a leaflet showing those. The assessment will be presented at the Board meeting in May. Mr Andersen proposed that this will be the final task of the work group, which hereafter will be ended. The Board decided to produce the leaflet. The work group on Agenda 21 will contribute to the assessment with the environmental perspective. The future territorial cohesion work will be presented at the next Board meeting.

### 6.3 Agenda 21

Mr Arne Øren explained that it has not been possible to find a lead part for the Baltic 21 Lighthouse project. The ASAP project has however succeeded and has been approved. Mr Øren will report to the Board on the progress of the project. The Baltic Sea Day 2006 that will take place in St Petersburg 22-23 March is currently being planned. (Please see enclosed draft programme.) Eastern Norway County Network has on behalf of BSSSC contributed with Euro 5000.

The Board decided to prepare a press release in connection with the conference.

Ms Sofie Gardstedt informed the Board that the Baltic Sea Intergroup at the European Parliament has presented a European Baltic Sea Strategy. Ms Gardstedt asks on behalf of the Intergroup for successful project examples from the whole Baltic Sea Region. It is decided to forward the leaflet that will be produced by the work group on the future cohesion policy.

### 6.4 Northern Dimension

The BSSSC Position Paper "Northern Dimension from 2007" (adopted in October 2005) obviously could not influence the ND Ministerial meeting held in Brussels on 21 November 2005. This was due to the progress achieved in the negotiations between EU and Russia on that subject. Nevertheless the guidelines adopted by this Ministerial meeting met the expectations of BSSSC (reshaping ND to a kind of "regional window" for regional implementation of strategic EU-Russia partnership, adapted to the "Four Common Spaces" once adopted by the EU-Russia Summit in May 2005). During the coming Finnish EU Presidency two documents shall be signed in late autumn 2006 (political declaration, policy framework document).

By contrast a speech given by Swedish CSO Member Christer Persson at a "Northern Dimension Network Conference" (Manchester, 12-13 December 2005) indicates that the BSSSC Position was/is well perceived by the CBSS: The comments received from other BSR organisations on the future of ND quoted in this speech almost all are taken from the

BSSSC Paper.<sup>1</sup>

Nevertheless further activities of BSSSC on the subject currently are hindered and still depend on: Access of knowledge:

for the time being related negotiations are going on between European Commission and Moscow in the frame of EU-Russia partnership, the steps of which obviously are not known to EU Member States themselves. The same applies for any progress on the future implementation and use of ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument) as regards co-operation with Russia.

Any role of CBSS in the respective process:

Currently no clear position or valuable self-understanding of CBSS is in sight. This may change in the course of the special session of CBSS CSO in Brussels by mid February 2006.

Against this background no further working steps can be planned by now. Since the situation described above probably may change by summer 2006, the WG could imagine to

- restart topical work from late spring/summer 2006 aiming to have an impact on the documents to be signed during late Finnish EU Presidency,
- prepare BSSSC presence at and/or contributions to any related conferences/seminars probably to be arranged by Finland during their EU Presidency on the subject in 2<sup>nd</sup> half 2006,
- continue WG work until end 2006 (a decision on finalising or continuing WG work to be decided by the Board in late 2006).

(Enclosures:

“Guidelines for the development of a Political Declaration and a Policy Framework Document for the Northern Dimension Policy from 2007” (adopted by the Northern Dimension Ministerial meeting held at the premises of the British EU Presidency in Brussels on 21 November 2005)

Speech by Ambassador Christer Persson (Member of CBSS Committee of Senior Officials) to the “Northern Dimension Network Conference” (Manchester, 12-13 December 2005)

The Board thanked for the information.

## 6.5 Maritime Issues. Status of the future European Maritime Policy

Mr Musiolik informed about the outline of the EC work on the future European maritime policy. It is foreseen that a first green paper draft of 25-30 pages will be presented by the EC some time in April. The white paper will follow in 2007.

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<sup>1</sup> For the text of the speech see:  
[www.cbss.org/documents/cbsspresidencies/14icelandic/nd](http://www.cbss.org/documents/cbsspresidencies/14icelandic/nd)

The Board thanked for the information.

#### 6.6 Youth Policy

Mr Oddvar Skaiaa informed of the plans for the work group on Youth. At the Board meeting in May the representatives, Mr Lasse Lehre and Monika Shehadeh will present the results and ideas from their meeting in Tallin, The plan of action.

The Board thanked for the information.

### 7 **BSSSC Annual Conference in Szczecin 2005**

Ms Katarina Lewalska gave a short report from the Annual Conference in Szczecin. For more information please read the latest BSSSC Newsletter on [www.bsssc.com](http://www.bsssc.com).

The Board thanked for the information.

### 8 **Reports**

#### 8.1 Meeting with the CBSS in Malmö, 12 January 2006

Mr Löfmark informed of the meeting between the BSSSC secretariat and the CBSS secretariat that took place in January. The meeting showed a need for a closer cooperation due to the many common tasks and interests. At this meeting Ms Gabrielle Kötschau declared that CBSS is open for cooperation and that the BSSSC has their full support.

It was decided to invite CBSS to a Board meeting of BSSSC.

#### 8.2 This point of the agenda was discussed under 3.1

#### 8.3 Ms Lewalska presented a report on Trafficking in Human Beings. Mr Aldegren added information about activities in Sweden and wishes to have human trafficking on the BSSSC agenda 2007. Ms Ann Irene Sæternes adds that trafficking is an important task for the regional level, especially preventive actions and awareness rising actions. Ms Sæternes adds that this could be an important subject for the Youth network to discuss at the Tallinn meeting.

The Board thanks for the information..

### 9 **Coming events of importance for the BSSSC**

31 May 2006 there will be a coordination meeting, taking place in Karlskrona with pan-Baltic organizations invited. CPMR/BSC is hosting the meeting.

1-2 June 2006 the annual conference of CPMR will take place in Karlskrona.

**10 Any other Business**

Mr Musiolik added that 2006 is the year of mobility and yet has the EC decided to reduce the funding for youth activities. (The tobacco subsidies are bigger than the youth funding.) It was decided that the Youth Forum will together with Mr Musiolik, write a letter signed by Mr Aldegren and forward it the Austrian Presidency, the European Parliament, the President of the European Commission and the member states. The letter should also be sent to the media. The BSSSC secretariat will coordinate the formulation of the letter. Mr Musiolik will together with Mr Lehre write a draft. The letter will be forwarded to the Board when it has been sent.