



BSSSC Board Meeting

Brussels, Hanse-Office, 4 December 2009, 09.00 am – 01.30 pm

Present:

BSSSC Chairman Carsten Lüdemann (DE, joined Board Meeting at 10.30 am), Ms Inger Linge (S), Mr Sören Berg (S), Mr Knud Andersen (DK), Ms Inge Hyldebrandt (DK), Mr Asger Larsen (DK), Ms Anne Mette Baek Jespersen (DK), Mr Kristian Primdal (DK), Mr Olgierd Geblewicz (PL), Mr Pawel Maciejewski (PL), Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek (PL), Ms Ann Irene Sæternes (N), Mr Stefan Musiolik (DE), Ms Marlene Rothe (DE), Mr Pawel Grzadko (PL), Ms Ülle Ermann (EE), Mr Toivo Riimaa (EE), Mr Arne Tilk (EE), Ms Hannele Luukkainen (FI), Mr Esko Lotvonen (FI), Ms Krystyna Wroblewska (PL), Ms Inara Zariene (LI), Mr Tommy Eliasson (B7), Mr David Hunt (B7), Mr Christer Pursiainen (CBSS), Mr Stefan Herms (DE), Ms Birgit Küstner (DE), Ms Anja Gargulla (DE), Mr Lars Friedrichsen (DE), Mr Jan Thiele (DE)

Guests:

Mr Jean-Marc Venineaux (DG Regio), Mr Christof Kienel (CoR), Ms Anna Kadar (CoR), Mr Kjell Nybacka (West Finland European Office), Mr Christian Pletzing (Academica Baltica e.V.)

1. Opening of Board Meeting I

On behalf of BSSSC Chairman Carsten Lüdemann, BSSSC Secretary General Stefan Herms opened the meeting and invited the guests to address the Board.

Item 2 was moved up the agenda.

2. Discussion with representatives of EU bodies

Mr Jean-Marc Venineaux (DG Regio) informed the Board about the first steps of the implementation of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. 18 meetings are planned to launch the process in the priority areas, 4 very soon. He reported that the planned *High Level Group* will comprise between 10 and 15 persons. Concerning the envisaged Annual Forum for a review of the Strategy the time slots June or September/October are in discussion.

The Board pointed out that the regions have to be included by the Commission in the coordination of the implementation of the Strategy. The Baltic Sea regions have to be represented in the planned *High Level Group*. The Board asked the Chairman to send a respective letter to the Commission.

Mr Christof Kienel (CoR) and Ms Anna Kadar (CoR) presented the ongoing work of the CoR on the future of EU Cohesion Policy. The European Commission asked the CoR to draw up an "outlook opinion" summarising its key ideas and proposals for the future of cohesion policy in order to feed into the post-2013 debate. The CoR will present the draft opinion end

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of February 2010. The formal adoption of the opinion is foreseen for the CoR's plenary session in mid-April 2010. Mr Kienel reported that the EU Cohesion Policy currently undergoes a reform. It seems that it lost significance for the Commission. The lack of reference to cohesion policy in the European Commission's published consultation document on the EU 2020 agenda is 'alarming'. The CoR is worried about a renationalisation of cohesion policy.

Mr Kjell Nybacka (West Finland European Office) presented the activities of the informal Baltic Sea Group. The Board stressed the importance of further co-operation in order to increase the influence of the regions.

3. Opening of Board Meeting II

BSSSC Chairman Carsten Lüdemann welcomed the Board. A special welcome was given to the new BSSSC Board Members Ms Hannele Luukkainen from the Uusimaa Region in Finland and Mr Pawel Grzadko from Western Pomerania. Mr Grzadko was elected to represent the BSSSC youth network. He follows Alexandra Ehlers from the Regional Youth Council Schleswig-Holstein.

The Chairman thanked the Board for the successful co-operation in 2009. He added a comment on the constitution of the BSSSC Board and called in mind the *Terms of Reference of BSSSC*. It states that B7, UBC and the BSC-CMPR are invited full members. The Chairman emphasized their valuable contribution.

The Board adopted the agenda.

4. Follow-up Work Plan 2009-2010

4.1 Science and Education

Mr Stefan Herms reported on the ongoing process of project development of the *Science Corridor* and the *3rd Science Corridor Symposium* at DESY in Hamburg on 23-25 November. DESY and Lund University signed a *Letter of Intent* agreeing on the establishment of a working group which will put forward proposals on the implementation and activities of the *Science Corridor*.

Mr Herms also informed the Board that Hamburg was named priority area coordinator for the field education of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. The responsible Hamburg ministry started its work and will contribute to the BSSSC Annual Conference 2010 a workshop on education.

4.2 Co-operation in the EU Baltic Sea Strategy

The Board discussed the involvement of BSSSC in the implementation process of the EU Strategy.

BSSSC rapporteur David Hunt stated that BSSSC has to start from the very beginning to get recognized as a regional actor. Mr Eliasson suggested joining forces to increase the influence of regional actors on the political side. He proposed the establishment of a working group consisting of representatives of Baltic Sea organizations. B7 could take the initiative.

Ms Wroblewska expressed her impression that regions are well presented in the implementation process of the EU Strategy. Now, the working level is asked to approach the

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respective coordinators of priority areas or flagship projects. As regards the political level, BSSSC should ask the EU Commission to be presented at the *High Level Group*. Mr Andersen added that the Danish Regions already approached their national government. He asked the regions to follow.

The BSSSC Board welcomed the proposal of Mr Eliasson to set up a working group. B 7 will take the initiative and invite to the group.

Furthermore, BSSSC will follow up a possible link between the Annual Forum of the EU Strategy and the BSSSC Annual Conference.

Baltic Sea History Book

Mr Pletzing introduced the activities of the *Academica Baltica* e.V. and presented the project *Baltic Sea History Book*. The idea was to disclose, preserve and communicate a Baltic Sea history as the basis of a Baltic Sea identity (**see attachment**).

Mr Musiolik emphasized the strong support of Schleswig-Holstein. The project applies to the horizontal dimension of the Baltic Sea Strategy aiming at creating a Baltic Sea identity. He suggested to try to apply at BSR INTERREG. The next call of project applications will open in January and end in March 2010. He also suggested that BSSSC takes seat in the Steering Group of the project.

Mr Andersen and Ms Linge expressed their sympathy for the project as an excellent and valuable idea.

Ms Ludwiczek expressed her concern about the acceptance of the project. To her experience, young people normally prefer to look ahead in order to create a common Baltic Sea identity instead of reflecting the past. But she expressed her positive surprise about the presented project outline.

Ms Saeternes noted the necessity to involve Norway in the project. Mr Primdal also stressed the importance of an active involvement of scientific institutions from all countries.

The BSSSC Board took positive note of the project and signaled its support. The Board advised to follow up a possible INTERREG funding. Schleswig-Holstein was asked to keep the Board informed about the ongoing process.

4.3 Maritime Policy

Mr Musiolik gave a summary of the ongoing work of the Working Group on Maritime Policy.

There are two new members of the working group – BSSSC Brussels Antenna Dr. Friedrichsen and the Norwegian Board Member Mr Holthe. Ms Luukainen also announced her interest to become a member of the group.

The working group supported the project *Green Ferries*. The overall aim of the project is to launch environmental infrastructure measures like shoreside electricity for ships and to increase the use of gas in shipping (**see attachment**). The project failed the 2nd INTERREG call. In preparation of the next call, the project broadens its participating regions. Mr Musiolik invited the regions to take part. The project will be presented in February in Szczecin.

Mr Musiolik also informed the Board about the work of the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy. Much to his regret, the group did not pick up the project *Clean Baltic Shipping* for the time being. Mr Pursainen stated that CBSS took positive note of the project.

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Mr Herms suggested a participation of the working group in the *European Maritime Day*. The stakeholder conference in Gijón, Spain, on 19-21 May 2010 will offer a good possibility to present the BSSSC activities in the field of clean shipping.

4.4 Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Ms Saeternes reported about the work of the *Joint Platform on Energy and Climate*. The platform sent a statement to COP 15 calling for concrete actions (**see attachment**).

Mr Thiele presented the plan of Hamburg to organize a BSSSC conference on the topic of adaptation of regional and local authorities in the Baltic Sea Region to climate change.

4.5 Youth Policy

Mr Grzadko gave a short summary on the activities of the BSSSC Working Group on Youth Policy in 2009. A new website was set up in order to present the activities of the group and to strengthen the communication of the youth network.

Mr Grzadko also informed the Board about the outcome of the youth event *YESS* and thanked Region Zealand for hosting the event. He expressed the wish of the young people to create a better link between the youth event and the BSSSC Annual Conference. He suggested to conduct the youth event in prior to the Annual Conference and to embed young speakers in the program.

Ms Grzadko also informed the Board about the financial problems of the youth network in the Baltic States. He asked the Board to support the work e.g. by covering travel costs.

4.6 Public Health and Quality of Life

Mr Berg presented the idea of Stockholm County to open up the BSSSC seminar in May for external guests. He suggested to organize an expert-oriented seminar on communicable diseases in the morning. The BSSSC Board welcomed the proposal. It is also planned to invite NDPHS to the seminar in order to strengthen the cooperation.

Mr Herms reported on the "1st Baltic Sea Forum on Maritime, Environmental and Occupational Medicine" on 19/20 November in Hamburg. BSSSC was presented as co-organizer.

4.7 Transport and Infrastructure

Mr Herms informed the Board about the success of the Hamburg-led INTERREG project „Port Integration - Multi-modal innovation for sustainable maritime and hinterland transport structures of ports". Many of the participating ports come from the Baltic Sea Region.

4.8 Co-operation with Russia and Northern Dimension

Ms Saeternes reported on the CoR seminar on "Northern Dimension sub-state cooperation with a particular emphasis on the Baltic Sea Region" held in Helsingborg on 26 November 2009 (**conclusions see attachment**). The initiative of BSSSC was very much recognized.

5. Annual Conferences

5.1 Annual Conference 2009

On behalf of the BSSSC Board, Mr Herms thanked Region Zealand for hosting the conference. Mr Primdal summed up the follow-up activities of the conference.

5.2 Annual Conference 2010

Mr Herms announced the possible title of the conference: "The Fifth Freedom – Qualifying the Baltic Sea Region for the Future". Workshops might be held under the topics co-operation in the field of education, vocational training, universities; lifelong learning and knowledge society; mobility of the work force; demographic change and developments concerning the need for skills; migration due to job chances; co-operation of regions in the Baltic Sea region with the national and EU level in the field of qualification.

Mr Riimaa gave an overview about a possible schedule (**see attachment**). All regions are welcome to contribute to the program ideas for topics and speakers and by taking over the responsibility for a workshop. For this purpose, interested regions were kindly asked to contact Mr Riimaa directly. The young people were also invited to contribute speakers.

Ms Saeternes and Mr Primdal stressed that the topic of unemployment of young people is an important issue.

Mr Musiolik suggested opening up the topic of the conference. The conference should also offer a forum for discussions on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and the future EU Cohesion Policy. He voiced his concern that an exclusive focus on education would be too specialized.

Ms Saeternes announced that Norway will host the BSSSC Annual Conference in 2012.

6. Baltic Sea Region Programme

Mr Andersen informed the Board that the Danish Regions accepted the proposal to chair the BSSSC work in connection with the next period of the EU Cohesion Policy. A working group will be set up. The regions were asked to appoint one representative.

Ms Saeternes reported about the Baltic Sea Region Programme and presented an overview of BSSSC supported projects (**see attachment**).

7. Report from Brussels Antenna

The agenda item was skipped due to lack of time.

8. Board Meetings in 2010

Szczecin – 25/26 February 2010

Stockholm – 20/21 Mai 2010

Tallinn – 13-15 October (BSSSC Annual Conference)

Finland agreed to host a Board Meeting in December.

9. Coming events

Mr Geblewicz invited the Board to the first BSSSC Board Meeting in 2010 in Szczecin. The seminar will focus on wastewater treatment and green industry.

10. Any other issues

Mr Herms informed the Board that the BSSSC Secretariat intends to publish a report on the past BSSSC activities at the end of the Hamburg Chairmanship instead of an annual report as the BSSSC newsletter and website informs about all ongoing BSSSC activities sufficiently already.

BSSSC Secretariat