



## **BSSSC Board Meeting**

**Malmö / Region Skåne, 19 May 2009, 09.30 am – 01.30 pm**

**Meeting venue: Town Hall Malmö**

### **Present:**

BSSSC Chairman Carsten Lüdemann (DE), Mr Uno Aldegren (S), Mr Ingvar Thell (S), Mr Sören Berg (S), Mr Knud Andersen (DK), Ms Anette Prilow (DK), Ms Anne Mette Baek Jespersen (DK), Mr Asger Larsen (DK), Mr Peter Madsen (DK), Mr Kristian Primdal (DK), Ms Inge Hyldebrandt (DK), Ms Marlis Erichsen (DK), Mr Christian Rietz (DK), Mr Olgierd Geblewicz (PL), Mr Pawel Bartoszewski (PL), Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek (PL), Ms Ülle Erman (EE), Mr Toivo Riimaa (EE), Mr Arne Tilk (EE), Mr Andris Jaunsleinis (LV), Ms Kirsi Stjernberg (FI), Mr Risto Ervelä (FI), Ms Krystyna Wroblewska (PL), Ms Paula Mikkola (FI), Ms Ann Irene Sæternes (N), Mr Oddvar Skaiaa (N), Ms Marlene Rothe (DE), Mr Stefan Musiolik (DE), Mr Christer Pursiainen (CBSS), Mr David Hunt (B7), Mr Stefan Herms (DE), Ms Anja Gargulla (DE), Mr Lars Friedrichsen (DE), Mr Jan Thiele (DE)

### **1. Opening of Board Meeting**

Mr Carsten Lüdemann, Chairman of BSSSC, welcomed to the Board meeting. The Board adopted the meeting agenda and the minutes of the Board meeting in Hamburg, Germany, on 3 February 2009.

On behalf of the host, Uno Aldegren welcomed the Board and gave brief information about the region Skåne.

### **2. Follow-up Work Plan 2009-2010**

#### **2.1 Science and Education**

Mr Stefan Herms introduced the concept of the *Science Corridor*, which would stretch from Oslo to Hamburg and involve universities and large scale research facilities in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and the North of Germany. To discuss the concept, the region Skåne hosted a conference on 26/27 April in Lund and Copenhagen. All participants agreed that the goal of implementing such a *Science Corridor* would be an optimization of cooperative efforts between different research institutes, which would be substantially aided by improving the infrastructural conditions in the region. Furthermore, it was agreed that the research focus should be placed on materials sciences.

#### **2.2 Transport and Infrastructure**

Mr Uno Aldegren provided an update about the project *TransBaltic*. The Monitoring Committee of the Baltic Sea Region Programme will approve transport projects of the second call at its meeting in Vilnius in June 2009.

Mr Stefan Herms informed the Board about further developments of the *Amber Coast Transport Initiative*.

#### **2.3 Co-operation in the EU Baltic Sea Strategy**

Mr Knud Andersen presented the current status of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region and BSSSC activities in the process. The EU Commission is currently searching for *Lead Partners* concerning the priorities and flagships projects mentioned in the action plan. The Board discussed the contribution of BSSSC to the implementation of the strategy as well as the responsibilities and coordination within BSSSC.

The Board is willing to take responsibility and action on the basis of BSSSC experiences and key priorities. The Board agreed to be active in the areas of maritime policy and transport. BSSSC is interested to become a Co-Lead Partner with CBSS on the project *Clean Baltic Shipping* (see 2.4). Furthermore, BSSSC supports the development of the project *TransBaltic*. BSSSC is also interested to be represented in the High Level Working Group. The Board asked Mr Knud Andersen to follow up these proposals towards the EU-commission and promote BSSSC's willingness to take an active part in the implementation process of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy.

Mr Knud Andersen announced his wish to give up his position as BSSSC rapporteur on the EU Strategy. A successor will be identified at the next Board meeting in Zealand in October.

## **2.4 Maritime Policy**

Mr Stefan Musiolik gave a summary of the work of the Working Group on Maritime Policy. In the framework of the stakeholder conference on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy in February in Rostock – the working group further developed the project idea *Clean Baltic Shipping* with representatives of the EU Commission, Baltic Sea organizations and experts on environmental protection in shipping. The working group got positive response on the proposal from the EU Commission. All five components of the proposal were included in the draft Baltic Sea Strategy's Action Plan.

Mr Stefan Musiolik informed the Board about the decision of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials to establish an Expert Group on Maritime Policy which has also been a demand of BSSSC. He proposed to approach CBSS in order to suggest that CBSS should take over the leadership for the flagship project *Clean Baltic Shipping*. BSSSC will offer its cooperation with the CBSS Expert Group. Finland already declared its willingness to take the lead for one component of the project, namely the introduction of shore-side power supply in harbors.

Mr Pursiainen informed that the Expert Group will be endorsed as a part of the declaration from the Ministerial Meeting of CBSS in Denmark on 4 June.

The BSSSC Board agreed to approach the CBSS Chair with a letter to declare BSSSC willingness to cooperate on Maritime policy and the concept of Clean Baltic Shipping. Schleswig-Holstein stated that they will prepare a draft letter.

## **2.5 Climate Change and Sustainable Development**

In Mr Lundemoen's absence, Ms Ann Irene Saeternes reported from the last meeting of the *Joint Platform on Energy and Climate* in Stockholm in February. She introduced the BDF Interim Report "Energy Perspectives of the Baltic Sea Region – Study on the enhanced regional energy cooperation". The final report will be presented in October.

Mr Oddvar Skaia introduced the work of the *UNEP Climate Neutral Network* (CN Net). Launched in February 2008, CN Net aims to assist those interested in achieving big cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. Mr Skaia informed the Board about the membership of his region in CN Net and proposed the Board members to join with their respective regions as well.

Mr Stefan Herms presented the project *plan B:altic* of the HafenCity University Hamburg titled "Climate Change and Sustainable Spatial Development: How to develop Sustainable Adaptation Strategies of Urban and Regional Planning for Urban Regions of the Baltic Sea Coast?". He invited interested regions to participate.

## **2.6 Youth Policy**

Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek, BSSSC youth coordinator, and Mr Lars Friedrichsen, BSSSC Brussels Antenna, informed the Board about the successful BSSSC youth conference on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy in Hamburg in February. Actions that were developed at the youth conference such as improved alcohol and drug prevention among youngsters or fostering young entrepreneurship found their way into the draft of the strategy.

Furthermore, Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek informed about ongoing activities such as the preparation of the youth event *YESS – Youth Event on Sustainable Societies* in Zealand in October and the planned application for the *Youth in Action program*. The BSSSC Working Group on Youth Policy will meet in Szczecin in May in order to discuss their plans and objectives for the years 2009/2010. The youth members of the Board are up for elections at the Annual Conference 2009 in Zealand. Ms Ludwiczek underlined the need of support from the regions of the youth representatives being elected to this task.

## **2.7 Public Health and Quality of Life**

Mr Sören Berg presented the initiative of Stockholm County Council to promote Baltic co-operation in the field of communicable diseases. A kick-off paper for discussion presented the ideas of Stockholm. The Board agreed to disseminate the paper in the regions and to name responsible persons, or persons of interest, to build up a network. Stockholm is interested in hosting a first networking conference in February 2010.

Mr. Pursiainen proposed to put the presented ideas into the NDPHS project pipeline.

Mr Stefan Herms announced two conferences that will take place within the framework of BSSSC: The 3. *Baltic Conference on E-Health* on 16 September 2009 in Hamburg with a special focus on "Cross Border Health Care" and the 1. *Baltic Sea Healthcare Forum on Maritime and Occupational Medicine* in Hamburg on 19/20 November 2009. Stockholm was asked to contribute with a speaker to the E-Health Conference.

## **2.8 Co-operation with Russia and Northern Dimension**

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes mentioned the BSSSC survey on sub-regional co-operation among regional authorities in the ND area last year. The final report was presented to the Steering Group Northern Dimension during their meeting in March 2009 in Oslo. Next step will be for BSSSC to co-operate with the CoR Relex Committee in carrying out a seminar in Helsingborg on 26 November on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and the renewed Northern Dimension.

## **3. Annual Conferences**

### **3.1 Annual Conference 2009**

The hosting region Zealand, Mr. Peter Madsen and Mr. Christian Rietz, reported about the current planning status of the Annual Conference and the youth event YESS. Registration is now opened for Board members and assistants!

The Board discussed the conference resolution and agreed upon a short political resolution aiming at the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen, focused solely on the topics of the Annual Conference – the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and particularly climate change. The resolution will be adopted by the Board in October. A mandate for the chairman will be issued in order to allow small adjustments of the resolution over the course of the Annual Conference. The resolution will be distributed to all participants at the end of the Annual Conference.

### **3.2 Annual Conference 2010**

Mr Toivo Riimaa informed the Board about the decision of the Association of Estonian Cities and the Association of Estonian Municipalities to host the BSSSC Annual Conference in 2010. Due to the difficult economic situation, it was asked to raise the conference fee to 250 Euro. Furthermore, the hosts attempt to apply for additional funds. After a short discussion the Board accepted the proposal and thanked the Estonian Board members for the invitation to Tallinn in 2010.

## **4. Baltic Sea Region Programme**

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes reported about the Baltic Sea Region Programme. The 2nd call received 86 applications. The Monitoring Committee of the Programme will meet in Vilnius on 8-9 June 2009 to decide on transport projects in priority 2 "Internal and external accessibility". The rest of the projects (priority 1, 3 and 4) will be discussed in Oslo 15 – 16 September.

Russia did not sign the financing agreement with EU in time. Therefore Russian partners will not be able to participate in the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 under ENPI funding. Belarus signed the agreement on 31 December 2008 and partners from Belarus can therefore take part in the Programme as planned.

## **5. Report from Brussels Antenna**

Mr Lars Friedrichsen informed about the time schedule of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and the seminar of the Informal Baltic Sea Group "New EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – What does it mean for the regions?" on 24 June in Brussels with Danuta Hübner. He reported about the preparation of the "Open Days" on 5-8 October launched by CoR and DG Regio. The Hanse Office will contribute several events, representing BSSSC including a High Level Political Event with Danuta Hübner and Cecilia Malmström and a conference focusing on the subject of "Clean Baltic Shipping".

Moreover, Mr Friedrichsen presented the *Barca Report* on Cohesion Policy. It contains various aspects on how the EU could improve and re-invent their strategies for a territorial, social and economic cohesion and aims at preparing the ground for a far-reaching reflection on the future cohesion policy beyond 2013

On the latest development on the Lisbon Treaty, Mr. Friedrichsen informed that a new referendum in Ireland is planned for October and that the EU Commission will be in office till end of 2009 – hoping to be replaced with a new Commission under the Lisbon Treaty from 2010.

## **6. Reports from meetings and events**

The Board noticed reports about the following events (not mentioned yet):  
European Summit of Regions and Cities, 5/6 March 2009, Prague

## **7. Coming events**

**CBSS Ministerial Meeting**

3 – 4 June 2009, Elsinore, Denmark

**North Sea Commission Annual Conference & General Assembly 2009**

23 – 26 June 2009, Egmond and Haarlem, The Netherlands

**18<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference**

30 August – 1 September 2009, Nyborg, Denmark

**Baltic Conference on E-Health**

15/16 September 2009, Hamburg, Germany

**UBC General Conference**

23 – 26 September 2009, Kristiansand, Norway

**General Assembly of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions**

30 September – 2 October 2009, Göteborg, Sweden

**BDF Summit 2009**

5/6 October 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

**OPEN DAYS 2009 – European Week of Regions and Cities**

5 – 8 October 2009, Brussels, Belgium

**8. Any other issues**

Mr. Stefan Herms informed the Board about the co-operation of BSSSC with BDF. BSSSC has become member of BDF without any membership fee. BSSSC is allowed to send two representatives to the annual BDF Summit.

BSSSC Secretariat