



Baltic Sea States  
Subregional  
Co-operation

## **BSSSC Board Meeting**

**11.06.2005**

**Sarpsborg, Norway**

### **Minutes from the Board Meeting**

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

The chairman, Mr Uno Aldegren opens the Board meeting. He is delighted to welcome the present Board members and assistants. He gives special and warm thanks to Mr Arne Ören for the excellent program and arrangements around the Board meeting. Mr Aldegren compares the new Svinesund Bridge and the Öresund Bridge. He hopes that this new connection will improve the already very good relations between the Oslo and Gothenburg regions as they have developed between Region Skåne and its Danish neighbours after the Öresund bridge was opened.

#### **1 Adoption of the Agenda.**

The Board adopts the Agenda with the alteration that point 10 on the agenda, BSSSC 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference shall be dealt with directly after point 4, BSSSC 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

#### **2 Adoption of the Minutes from the Board meeting in Szczecin, March 2005**

The Board adopts the minutes from the Board meeting in Szczecin, 12 March 2005, without objections (*Agenda, Annexe 1*).

#### **3 Draft Szczecin Resolution**

Mr Janerik Majewski comments the Draft Resolution (*Agenda, Annexe 2*).

This is a very first draft. The secretariat needs contributions from the Board Members and their assisting officers to develop and focus the resolution till the end of September. The aim is to create a very concrete and focused proposal, not more than two pages long, for the resolution before the Annual Conference.

From the comments made by the Board is noted

That The BSSSC Work Groups, within their sphere of interests, shall be asked to formulate how the Baltic Sea Regions can contribute to help the Lisbon process,

That the need for social balance and sustainable development shall be mentioned

That the Resolution shall be focused on the Baltic Sea Region and their capacities, not on European regions in general nature

That this method to elaborate the Conference resolution is very good since it allows all the

board members enough time to reflect over and contribute to the document.

#### **4 Annual Conference 2006 (and 2007)**

The Chairman informed of informal contacts with the Board Member Mr Risto Ervelä, Finland. Mr Ervelä is personally positive to host the conference but has to actualise the question at home in Finland. A formal decision cannot be communicated until August.

Under this point the Board also discuss the Annual Conference 2007. The Chairman asks the German Board members if they will consider hosting this conference, eventually as a co-arrangement between Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Mr Musiolik and Mr Pfannkuch will actualise the question when the new political leadership in Schleswig-Holstein has formulated their Baltic Sea Region policy and their degree of the future engagement in BSSSC. Mr Musiolik proposes that the Chairman shall actualize the proposal next time he meets Mr Döring.

There is also mentioned the former proposal from Mr Schultz to arrange the Annual Conference in Brussels with the support of and as a joint venture between the regional liaison offices there.

Mr Schultz has proposed that the theme for the conference 2007 shall be "Maritime affairs." It is a highly actual theme and the European Commission can eventually support the conference financially.

The board approves of the initiatives taken by the Chairman for the Annual Conference 2007 and strongly supports that the theme for the Annual Conference 2007 shall be the "Maritime Affairs" theme.

#### **5 Joint meeting with BSSSC sister organisations in the Baltic Sea Region on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May**

The Chairman with support of Ms Lewalska comments on the Draft Minutes from the joint meeting. (*Agenda, Annex 3*).

Five BSR organisations participated in the meeting CPMR BSC, B7, UBC, BDF and CBSS. After a round of presentations the priorities of BSSSC for the coming Ministerial Meeting of CBSS were presented. There were information on co-operation between BSSSC, CoR Baltic Network and European Parliament-Baltic Intergroup. Further on BSSSC presented the work being done in the Work Groups. The subjects of common interest of the organisations were discussed and it was decided that CPMR BSC will host the next meeting of the organisations in spring 2006.

## **6 BSSSC at the CBSS Ministerial meeting in Szczecin on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June**

The Chairman gave a short summary of the meeting the previous day. The foreign ministers from the CBSS were informed of the priorities made by BSSSC in agreement with other policy-formulating Baltic sea regional organisations, as agreed between them at the meeting in Malmö 25 May. Cohesion Policy, including the Berlin-Brandenburg situation, Maritime Safety and Transport-infrastructure was underlined.

The foreign ministers were oriented of the demands on the Baltic Sea governments of actions that must be made reach the priorities.

The Chairman informed that the Swedish Foreign Minister has accepted an invitation from Region Skåne to host the next CBSS Ministerial meeting in Malmö, June 2007.

## **7 BSSSC prioritised areas**

### **7.1 Maritime issues**

At the absence of Mr Günther Schultz, Mr Thomas Pfannkuch comments on the draft paper "Contributing to a European Maritime Policy – The Baltic Sea Perspective" (*Agenda, Annex 5*). A printed PowerPoint summary (Annex X) is distributed to the Board. The draft paper is an early contribution to the elaboration of Commissioner Borg's Green Book on European Maritime Policy. To serve this purpose a completed and developed paper must reach the Commission before the end of August.

It is underlined that this version of the paper must be regarded as a draft written from a German perspective. Contributions, proposals and facts from the other Baltic Sea nations are necessary. The Board members are asked to contribute with facts and positions representing their respective nations. The BSSSC Secretariat shall remind of this in good time before the summer. It is also proposed that BSSSC shall initiate an internal Baltic Sea joint discussion, including for example BDF and CBSS.

The Board regards the Maritime infrastructure as important in the Baltic Sea region as the land-based transport infrastructure. It is noted that the CPMR-NSC has produced an important summary of the actual infrastructure planning and Interreg-projects in the Baltic Sea region.

The Board discuss the possibility of forming a "Maritime Cluster" in the Baltic Sea region with reference to the Scan-Balt network model. This idea can be further elaborated during the meeting in Brussels initiated by Schleswig-Holstein, July 13 and at the inaugural meeting of the Interreg-project "Baltic Master," August 29.

The Board thanks Mr Günther Schultz for an excellent work so far, support the proposed positions in the draft paper, propose a continued close co-operation BSSSC-CPMR-NSC in Baltic Sea Maritime issues, ask all the Board members to give inputs from their national perspective and experience to Mr Schultz and to reflect over how a “Maritime Cluster” in the region can be created.

## 7.2 Cohesion Policy

### **BSSSC position as regards Territorial Cohesion Policy 2006-2013 in the Baltic Sea Region**

Ms Lewalska describes the proposal from the European Commission to exclude Berlin Brandenburg and West Pommerania from the Baltic Sea Programme as well as to merge the two transnational territorial cooperation programmes for the Baltic Sea and the Northern Periphery. The proposed BSSSC position is to keep the Baltic Sea Programme intact as well as to include Berlin Brandenburg and West Pommerania. Further Ms Lewalska reports from the meeting between the heads of the Baltic Sea Organisations on the 25 May. At the meeting Mr Boije welcomed the present organisations, Union of the Baltic Cities, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Baltic Seven Islands and the Baltic Development Forum to stand behind the BSSSC position paper. Mr Boije asked for comments before June 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Board decides to adopt the proposed changes in the position paper “Proposal for new geography for transnational cooperation”. The position is to be sent to the European Commission, national governments in the Baltic Sea Region as well as to the Government of Luxembourg. The earlier BSSSC position “Territorial Cohesion Policy 2006-2013 in the Baltic Sea Region” is to be included. The Board welcomes the cooperation with the other Baltic Sea Organisations and is looking forward to a possible joint position.

## 8 BSSSC Work Groups

### 8.1 Transport and Infrastructure

### **Annex X**

Chairwoman Annika Annerby Jansson presents the survey ( Annex X) that has been carried out by the Work group. The Work group will finalise the survey of the planning situation in the Baltic Sea Region, carry out an analysis of common interests and points of conflict within macro regions, between macro regions, regional – national level, regional – European level. This inventory is a demanding task that requires input from the BSSSC Board members. Ms Annika Annerby Jansson stresses the need to appoint members to the Work group from Finland, Po-

land, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia. Ms Inara Zariene informs the Board that Lithuania has appointed a work group member. She will however not be able to attend the next work group meeting on the 1 September in Tallin but will give input to the work.

Mr Uno Aldegren thanks for the presentation and urges the Board members to appoint work group members and to contribute to the ongoing inventorial work.

## 8.2 Agenda 21

Mr. Arne Ören distributes and comments on the document "Progress report – June 10, 2005" The Interreg III B project is currently looking for a lead partner. Maybe an existing Interreg III A project between Skåne and Storströms amt could be extended to an Interreg III B project. The project needs partners before 20 June 2005. (Annex X).

Mr Uno Aldegren thanks for the information and the Board welcomes the project.

## 8.3 Northern dimension

Mr Thomas Pfankuch presents to the Board a summary of the present situation regarding the Northern Dimension. ND has never been a formal European Union programme with its own coherent regulation and its own budget-line. In that aspect it can be said that ND lacks formal legitimacy.

The future for ND is uncertain for the moment. It depends among other things on how the relations between EU and Russia develops in the future and how this will influence the proposed ENPI-programme and future trans-border co-operation programmes. A ministerial meeting with ND on the agenda is planned to take place in November, during the British Presidency. This will be an opportunity for BSSSC to present its position for the future of ND.

The WG ND, Chaired by Ms. Marjatta Vehkaoja, plans to meet in September. The WG will then hopefully decide a position paper that will be presented to the BSSSC Board at its next meeting in Szczecin.

## 8.4 Youth policy

Mr Oddvar Skaiaa informs about the agenda for the first Work group meeting that will take place in Schwerin. The group will decide what to put forward during the BSSSC Annual Conference. Hopefully the participating youth will be identified until the conference. Mr Uno Aldegren adds information about the AER Summer School. He proposes to arrange a Baltic Sea Congress for youth. There is a possibility that the CBSS can contribute financially.

Mr Stefan Musiolik would like to see concrete aims such as exchange of pupils, students and training possibilities.

Ms Marjatta Vehkaoja would like non-political youth organisations to be invited to the annual conference.

Mr Uno Aldegren thanks for the information. The Board wishes the Work group to further discuss the proposals from the Board.

## **9 Reports from the Brussels antenna**

The Brussels antenna, Ms. Sofie Gardstedt has produced four reports to the Board members. The reports give an overview of the actual EU-policy and EU-processes regarding themes of high interest for BSSSC, namely Cohesion Policy, Health Policy, Transport and Infrastructure and Maritime affairs.

The Board finds the reports very informative and valuable. However, Mr. Thomas Phannkuch raises the question how the Board shall use this information. He asks for the conclusions of the Board. Conclusions to be used to influence BSSSC policy and actions.

Mr Uno Aldegren stresses the need for the Board to prioritise. The reports are important for knowledge about actual EC policy and initiatives. The BSSSC has always the possibility to react when the information is in line with our priorities.

## **10 Baltic week in Brussels during Finnish Presidency July 2006**

The Board discuss the idea, raised by Mr Stefan Musiolik at a former Board meeting to arrange a Baltic Week in Brussels during Finland Presidency, July 2006.

From the discussion is noted:

That the arrangement should cover only a few days — not a whole week.

That it, if possible, should be realised as a joint venture with the Committee of the Regions and other Baltic Sea regional organisations

That the idea shall be elaborated during the Baltic Days in Brussels this autumn.

That the BSSSC Brussels antenna will be asked to make a pre-study together with other Baltic Sea liaison offices in Brussels.

That a BSSSC Board meeting can be arranged in the Brussels parallel to the Baltic Days.

## **11 BSSSC and the Core Group in the CoR**

The Chairman comments on the proposal (*Agenda, Annex 6*) to establish a Core Group within

the BSSSC Board to represent the interests of BSSSC within the Committee of the Regions (CoR). The Core Group will consist of the Board members with a seat also in CoR and Mr. Arne Ören. Mr. Oddvar Skaiaa will be substitute for Mr. Ören.

The Board decides according to the proposal.

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

Marchall Zygmunt Meyer reports of the draft programme and practical arrangements for the Annual Conference (*Agenda, annex 7*).

The Board suggests that the session consisting of BSSSC Work Groups and Youth, and session on the role of new EU members in achieving the goals in Lisbon Agenda change places. The secretariat will examine the possibility for changing the content of the two sessions. A representative from CBSS will also be invited for the closing session

## **13 Coming events**

The Chairman and Ms. Katarina Lewalska inform the Board of the meeting with the European Parliament Inter Group in Strasbourg on July 4<sup>th</sup> (*Agenda, Annex 8*) and of the meeting of the Committee of the Regions Baltic Group in Brussels, July 7<sup>th</sup> (*Agenda, Annex 9*).

The outcome of those meetings will, among other things, be used at the CBSS co-ordination meeting with the Baltic Sea regional organisations at the UBC Annual Conference in Turku Sept 30 – October 1.

## **14 BSSSC Communication strategy**

Ms Gunilla Carlsson informs the Board that a Communication Strategy for BSSSC will be elaborated. The Strategy will not be specific for the ongoing Swedish Presidency. It shall be designed to also support future presidencies. The Strategy will be presented to the Board at its next meeting in October.

## **15 Thanks to the out-going Brussels Antenna**

Mr Günther Schultz is not able to attend the Board meeting. This point is postponed to the next Board meeting

## **16 Any other Business**

The Chairman informs the Board that he attended the meeting of the AER Bureau in St Gallen,

June 1. He presented the strategy, priorities and organisation of BSSSC to the Bureau.

The AER Bureau decided to accept BSSSC as an Associate Member of AER. The AER General Assembly will take the formal decision in Strasbourg 24-25 November this year.

#### **17 Closing the Board meeting**

The Chairman declares the Board meeting in Sarpsborg finished. He thanks the Board members for a constructive meeting and hopes to see them all in Szczecin.

Mr Brunon Synak formulates warm thanks to the Norwegian hosts of the Board meeting for an excellent and unforgettable frame for the meeting.