



Thursday 4th of June

Board meeting at Vest-Agder County Council (fylkeshuset), Tordenskjoldsgate 56, 4605 Kristiansand

Participants: Marili Niits (EE), Marlene Rothe (DE), Arne Tilk (EE), Ann Irene Saeternes (NO), Roger Ryberg (NO), Malgorzata Ludwiczek (PL), Ossi Savolainen (Chairman), Thore Westermoen (NO), Stefan Musiolik (DE), Zane Duze (LV), Mudite Priede (LV), Toivo Riimaa (EE), Jussi Huttunen (NSPA), Heli Halla-aho (Secretariat), Jaakko Mikkola (Secretariat), Nellija Karpusenkovva (LV), Jon-Olav Strand (NO), Jon Halvard Eide (NO)

1. Opening of the Board Meeting

- 1.1. Mr. Ossi Savolainen, the Chairman of the BSSSC opened the meeting. In his speech he pointed out, that it is time to cooperate more in these challenging times.
- 1.2. The meeting agenda was adopted after adding a point about Conference fee and introducing the new youth board member.
- 1.3. Ms. Nellija Karpusenkovva, new youth board member from Latvia introduced herself and she was welcomed to the board.
- 1.4. Board meeting minutes from Forssa 6 February were adopted without changes.

2. Annual Conference 2015 in Visby in 23-25 of September

- 2.1. Secretary General explained the results about planning meeting in Helsinki in April and the state of play. She also presented the programme day by day. Board agreed, that the title of the conference will be "Digital Agenda – New Chances and Challenges for the Regions of the Baltic Sea". Regarding the theme, the conference will be paperless as much as possible. Secretary General has also created social media accounts for BSSSC.
- 2.2. Conference fee was agreed to be 175 Euros. Also Board members will pay. Speakers and youth participants are exempted from the fee. If there will be an excursion, it will have separate fee.
- 2.3. Conference Resolution was also some ideas. Board set the resolution team with Ann Irene Saeternes, Jon Halvard Eide, Marlene Rothe and Heli Halla-aho. Resolution team will work with the text and send the first draft will be sent to board by end of June. Resolution should be ready before the next board meeting in Visby, where it will be only adopted by the BSSSC Board and distributed to the Conference delegates. Chairman reminded, that during the work has to be remembered, that the resolution in Conference resolution, not BSSSC resolution.

3. BSSSC Annual Conference 2016

Hamburg was asked to host the annual conference in 2016, but there is no answer yet. Hamburg is organizing Fehrnman Belt days in September 2016 and BSSSC Annual Conference could be organized together with it. Stefan Musiolik will contact Mr. Stefan Herms and discuss about this.

Would be also fruitful to start the discussion with CPMR Baltic Sea Commission about common

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Annual Conference or other common events in the upcoming years.



4. BSSSC Work Plan

4.1. It was agreed in Board meeting in February, that all recommended changes has to be sent in written and those were added to the work plan. Work Plan for 2015 was adopted.

5. BSSSC Chairmanship 2016-2017

Chairman promised, that if there is no other options, Uusimaa Regional Council will hold the chairmanship one more year, if there is no other regions willing to take it over. Sweden won't be able to take over the chairmanship in the near future.

Board had a discussion about the BSSSC future, if there is no volunteer region willing to take over the chairmanship. The main point is, that many members are not taking part of the work. We have to strengthen the cooperation with other organizations, especially with Baltic Sea Commission. BSSSC and BSC are the voice of regions in Baltic Sea area. As chairman pointed out in his welcome words, it is time to cooperate. Board agreed to have a common board meeting with Baltic Sea Commission Executive Committee, preferably in November. As BSSSC Secretary General and BSC Executive Secretary are both located in Brussels, it is good opportunity to deepen the cooperation. President of the Committee of the Regions comes from Uusimaa Region and BSSSC has an agreement with CoR, which also helps to make the cooperation stronger with other organizations. We will also work to write renew the dDeclaration of cCommon iInterest with BSC and the CoR.

Ann Irene Saeternes and Roger Ryberg said, that Norway might be possible to take over the chairmanship in 2017. They can make decisions after elections.

Norway was asked to consider taking over the BSSSC Chairmanship for 2017 - 2018. Due to the upcoming regional elections in September 2015 the Norwegian Board members could not give any answer to this request. Mr. Ryberg promised to look into the issue and discuss it with the other regions within ENCN after the constitution of the new regional councils in November 2015.

6. Policy Sectors and Working Groups

6.1. Mr. Jaakko Mikkola had a sort report about maritime Issues

6.2. Youth Policy reported by Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek

6.3. Energy and Climate Issues – there was a discussion about energy and climate issues, as it is very important topic these days. Ms Ann Irene Saeternes proposed make a paper together with BSC about these issues, preferably already to Visby. Mr. Richard Sjölund is a chair of new Energy working group of BSC. Mr. Jaakko Mikkola will contact him to discuss it.

6.4. Northern and Arctic Dimension issues were reported by Mr. Roger Ryberg

6.5. Mr. Jon Halvard Eide reported about current Transport and Infrastructure issues.

6.6. Culture issues were explained by Mr. Stefan Musiolik

6.7. Cohesion Policy was not presented.

6.8. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – rapporteur not present

6.9. Baltic Sea Region Programme state of play was explained by. Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes

