



Present: Ms. Josefina Bjurström (Secretariat), Mr. Rogaciano Cavadas Kaipainen (Brussels Antenna), Mr. Jon Halvard Eide (NO), Mr. Tommy Eliasson (B7), Mr. Lennarth Förberg (SE), Mr. Jussi Huttunen (FI), Mr. Andris Jaunsleinis (LV), Ms. Hanna Kivimäki (FI), Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek (PL), Mr. Jaakko Mikkola (Chairman), Mr. Stefan Musiolik (DE), Ms. Tuula Palaste-Eerola (Secretariat), Ms. Mudite Priede (LV), Ms. Ligita Pudza (LV), Mr. Toivo Riimaa (EE), Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes (NO), Ms. Claudia Schatzmann (DE), Mr. Janne Tamminen (Secretariat), Mr. Arne Tilk (EE), Ms. Satu Vehreävesa (FI), Mr. Thore Westermoen (NO), Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska (PL).

1. Opening of the Board Meeting

1.1. Opening of the meeting by Mr Jaakko Mikkola

Mr. Jaakko Mikkola chaired the meeting on behalf of Chairman Savolainen. Mr. Mikkola opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked the hosts for a kind invitation to Kuopio. The new board members Mr. Jussi Huttunen (Pohjois-Savo/FI) and Mr. Lennarth Förberg (Blekinge/SE) presented themselves during a brief presentation round. Host Mr. Huttunen held a presentation on Pohjois-Savo Regional Council (please see document).

1.2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

1.3. Adoption of Board meeting minutes Brussels, 28 November 2013

The minutes were adopted after corrections (EEA corrected into EU EEAS and addition of Mr. Westermoen).

2. Annual Conference 2014

2.1. Report by the Latvian hosts

The Annual Conference program was discussed session by session. A moderator has been booked for the event and the organizers will find out, if there will be space for a project exhibition at the conference. Jurmala city will organize two excursions on Friday the 18th and special spa packages for the participants. Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes informed that the BSRP will organize a kickoff event in Warsaw in November. A partner search and funding information event could be possible to organize in co-operation with PA Innovation on Friday the 18th.

Ms. Claudia Schatzmann pointed out that the goal of the event (finding project partners, information exchange) should be clear when planning the program and that the titles of the sessions should comply with the main title of the conference. Ms. Satu Vehreävesa pointed out that the purpose should be information exchange and presenting project examples. Mr. Riku Cavadas suggested that if there should be opportunities to create project



consortiums a brokerage event could be organized back-to-back with the conference. Mr. Jon Halvard Eide agreed and wished for an appropriate amount of speakers to allow time for discussion and an active audience. Mr. Arne Tilk pointed out that the contents should still be kept proper and informative.

Ms. Mudite Priede asked the secretariat to help inviting speakers from the CBSS and the Commission for session I. Mr. Janne Tamminen replied that the secretariat will assist the organizers and that the next CBSS Chair will be Estonia. He also mentioned that VASAB is an important actor in the BSR and should be included in the program. Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes suggested that the Commission could participate in session II. Mr. Stefan Musiolik suggested to invite Mr. Jean-Marc Venineaux.

In session II ms. Krystyna Wroblewska suggested inviting some practitioner on innovation e.g. BDF. Ms. Saeternes pointed out that PA Innovation (Poland and Sweden) could be a good partner. Mr. Eide would like to see scoreboards and factsheets on innovation and where the strongest and weakest innovation regions are situated. Mr. Musiolik suggested that the Interreg VB BSRP could contribute with a link between the EUSBSR and implementation. Discussing the linkage between the Russian Northwest Strategy and the EUSBSR could also be interesting. Mr. Cavadas suggested that other programs such as Horizon 2020 and Cosme should be included in the program and a speaker from DG R&I could be invited. Mr. Huttunen agreed that the connection with Russia and including the other programs such as Horizon 2020 is important. Ms. Vehreävesa pointed out that the contents should be interesting enough for e.g. research institutions to participate which is why some concrete examples could be beneficial in addition to the policy discussions.

Mr. Musiolik reported that session III a) will closely be linked to the EUSBSR. Ms. Priede suggested inviting Siguldis (one of the partners for Riga Capital of Culture 2014). Ms. Wroblewska suggested inviting the UBC Commission on Culture to participate. Ms. Saeternes will contact Baltic21 regarding the arrangements of session III b). The Norwegians will gladly contribute with a speaker as well. Mr. Eide suggested that sustainable fuels in the transport sector (bio, electric cars, hydrogen) could be the topic for session III c). It will link to the existing policy frameworks and funding opportunities including Horizon 2020. The organizers would like to see speakers from the partner regions and organizations in session III d). Ms. Vehreävesa suggested contacting Kuopio Innovation, as they have expertise on health and co-operation around the BSR.

Ms. Ligita Pudza informed that a youth event will be organized parallel to the AC by the Latvian Youth Council. The event is planned for 50-60 people and the preliminary topic is innovation. Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek pointed out that the youth event used to be parallel but that the youth didn't enjoy the parallel event as much. Mr. Musiolik suggested there should be a session on youth issues and that the youth participants could co-moderate some session. Ms. Schatzmann informed that PA Education might be interested in organizing a



meeting back to back with the conference and that they could be included in the session somehow.

2.2. Conference check list by Ann Irene Saeternes

Ms. Saeternes briefly presented the contents of the check list. The check list is a “living” document that can be updated when needed. It will be published on the BSSSC webpage.

2.3. Conference resolution

It was agreed that a preliminary draft on the conference resolution will be discussed at the June Board meeting. The organizers responsible for the workshops will provide the secretariat with contents regarding their own workshops. The secretariat will draft contents regarding general issues such as the EUSBSR and cohesion policy. Mr. Thore Westermoen pointed out that continuity should be emphasized.

3. Paper on BSSSC Past and Future

3.1. Input by ENCN

Ms. Saeternes briefly presented the input by ENCN. She suggested that the BSSSC Terms of Reference should be updated based on the discussion the Board has had on the BSSSC past and future. It was agreed that the secretariat will open a call for participants for a working group revising the Terms of Reference.

4. Policy Sectors and Working Groups

4.1. BSSSC Working Groups and rapporteurs

Maritime issues: Mr. Mikkola informed that the BSSSC and BSC working groups on maritime issues now formally are united and that the next meeting will be held in Brussels in March 2014. Integrated coastal zone management and maritime spatial planning are on the agenda. Mr. Tamminen continued that topics such as renewable fuels also will be on the agenda.

Energy and climate: Ms. Saeternes informed that a meeting with Baltic21 was held in Stockholm in December discussing the idea to relaunch the joint platform on energy and climate. Input for the Paris Climate Summit 2015 will also be discussed. A meeting with the pan-baltic organizations and other relevant stakeholders will be held in April/May.

Northern Dimension: Ms. Saeternes reported from the EEAS meeting and a meeting with the Norwegian MFA. The next meeting will be held with the Russians. Subregional representation in the ND Steering Group is on the agenda. An ND senior official meeting will be organized in Norway in April and the goal of the BSSSC is to put



renewing of the the subregional dimension on the agenda. Mr. Tamminen informed that he participated in an NDP TL event where actions of different BSR organizations were discussed.

Transport and infrastructure: Mr. Eide reported that the TEN-T and the CEF has now been adopted by the parliament and the council, and that the preparation of the implementation of the TEN-T guidelines is ongoing.

Culture and regional identity: Mr. Musiolik informed that creating dialogue is on the agenda at the moment. Seed money applications such as the Baltic House Project (a mobile cultural pavilion) have been approved.

Youth: Ms. Ludwiczek gave an update on the preparations of the BSYF, in which BSSSC participates as a partner. Mr. Kevin Kiraga gathered a Polish youth group which sent input and contributed to the process. Changes on the BSSSC youth website was discussed. Ms. Hanna Kivimäki presented the printed project report from the BSSSC Youth Event 2013.

BSRP: Ms. Saeternes pointed out that the public consultation for the programme is open and that BSSSC should provide input to the process.

5. Current issues at other co-operation organizations

5.1. B7 – Mr. Tommy Eliasson

Mr. Eliasson informed that Hiiumaa is now the president of B7. He was somewhat worried about the future of B7.

5.2. NSPA – Ms. Satu Vehreävesa

Ms. Vehreävesa gave a brief introduction on the NSPA (Northern Sparsely Populated Areas) network, which is co-operation between northernmost areas in Finland, Norway and Sweden.

5.3. CPMR BSC – Mr. Janne Tamminen

Mr. Tamminen gave an update on the CPMR BSC on behalf of President Jens Sundström. The next BSC Executive Committee meeting will be organized in Turku in March 2014. The General Assembly will be held in Luleå in May 2014. Elections on the presidency and executive committee will be held at the GA.

6. Report from the Brussels Antenna – Mr. Rogaciano Cavadas Kaipainen

Mr. Cavadas pointed out that the EU programs such as Horizon 2020 and Creative Europe have started and that the Enterprise Europe Network partner call is open. The European Innovation Convention will be organized on



March 10-11 in Brussels. The Commission has published an Action Plan for Blue Energy, which could be of interest to those interested in maritime issues. Two new KICs concentrating on innovation for living, health and active ageing and on raw materials, sustainable expiration and recycling will be founded in 2014. The EP elections will be held May 25. Mr. Cavadas urged the regions to contact their candidates and brief them about what is going on in the regions. The Open Days calls have been launched and the Helsinki EU Office has contacted the Commission regarding co-operation on a workshop on the implementation of and best practices in the EUSBSR.

7. BSSSC Board meetings 2014

3/4 June	Turku, Finland (tbc)
15 October	Jurmala, Latvia
1/3 December	Brussels (tbc)

8. Coming events

2-3 April, Brussels	CoR 106 th Plenary
19-20 May, Bremen	European Maritime Day
3-4 June, Turku	EUSBSR Annual Forum
3-4 June, Turku	10 th Baltic Sea States Summit
3-4 June, Turku	Baltic Development Forum Summit
25-26 June, Brussels	CoR 107 th Plenary
7-8 October, Brussels	CoR 108 th Plenary
6-9 October, Brussels	EU Open Days
16-17 October, Jurmala	22 nd BSSSC Annual Conference
2 December, Brussels	CoR Seminar: Governing a Multi-level Europe

9. Any other business