



Baltic Sea States
Subregional
Co-operation

BSSSC Board Meeting

20.10.2005

Szczecin, Poland

Minutes from the Board Meeting

0 Opening of the Board meeting

Due to the delayed arrival of the chairman, Mr Uno Aldegren, Ms Inger Linge opens the Board meeting. She is delighted to welcome the present Board members and assistants. Ms Linge gives special and warm thanks to Marshal Meyer for the excellent arrangements around the Board meeting.

1 Adoption of the Minutes from the Board meeting in Sarpsborg, 11 June 2005

After deciding to delete the last sentence in point 8.3, Annex 1, the Board adopts the minutes from its' meeting in Sarpsborg, 11 June 2005.

2 Adoption of the agenda

The Board adopts the Agenda and The Board decides to make changes in the order of the points due to the late arrival of the chairman.

(Please observe that the paragraphs of these minutes correspond to those of the agenda).

5 BSSSC Ad hoc Work Groups – short information

5.1 *Transport and Infrastructure, Ms Annika Annerby Jansson*

Ms Annerby Jansson informs that the first part of the work, the survey, will soon be completed. The results will be presented at the first Board meeting 2006. The work group is planning to arrange a seminar on Transport and infrastructure in liaison with other pan-Baltic organisations.

Ms Annerby Jansson points out that the work group still lacks members from Finland, Latvia and Russia.

5.2 *Cohesion Policy, Mr Knud Andersen*

Mr Andersen presents the BSSSC position paper on the future Cohesion policy. The paper has undergone a consultation process and the current version is supported by CPMR/BSC, UBC and B7.

Mr Andersen points out that it might be necessary that the Board will have to act due to

the absence of a EU-budget 2007-2013 and to the ongoing negotiations on the national level.

Mr Andersen informs that it is likely that himself will represent the BSSSC in the reference committee for the future Interreg, Baltic Sea Programme.

Furthermore, Mr Andersen wishes to launch two different joint Baltic Sea projects related to the Lisbon Strategy Mr Ören supports Mr Andersens proposal and the work for Agenda 21 will cooperate in these project ideas.

The Board welcomes that Mr Andersen will present a more elaborated project proposal at the next Board meeting.

Finally, Mr Andersen stresses the fact that the meeting with the EP Baltic Intergroup in the beginning of July was very positive. The present MEPs were very enthusiastic concerning the work of BSSSC.

Mr Karl Löfmark, head of the BSSSC secretariat, informs about the CSO meeting that took place in Turku. Mr Löfmark points out that the Swedish government supports the position of BSSSC regarding the future cohesion policy. Mr Löfmark also informs that he has met Ms Rodrigues who is very interested in good examples from the Baltic Sea Region regarding the Lisbon process. She plans to visit Region Skåne in the spring 2006. (*Annex 5.2*)

5.3 *Agenda 21, Mr Arne Øren*

Mr Øren informs about the lighthouse project that has its focus on sustainable development and the connection between urban and rural development. Currently Baltic 21 is supporting the project financially and is also further developing it, but has not succeeded in finding a lead partner. Mr Øren calls for a lead partner in the project. Furthermore, Mr Øren suggests that BSSSC should support the "ASAB project" as a platform for dissemination of results. Mr Øren also informs about a possible cooperation with Mr Korovin, a Russian representative of Helcom for a "Baltic Sea Day" in 2006. Mr Øren is currently discussing the framework of the conference with Mr Leonid.

The Board supports the work of Mr Øren and the ad hoc work group Agenda 21.

5.4 *Northern Dimension, Ms Marjatta Vehkaoja*

Ms Vehkaoja informs about the ongoing work. She wishes further to follow the work and the timetable of the EU on the Northern Dimension to be able to influence the coming action plan until end of 2006. The Working Group shows sufficient participation except the necessary reappointment of a Polish WG Member.

- 5.4.1 Mr Thomas Pfannkuch, Vice Chairman of the work group presents the draft position on the Northern Dimension (ND). It has been circulated among the Board members. Mr Pfannkuch points to the fact that the future ND policy from 2007 on will be regarded as a political concept for the regional implementation of the strategic EU-Russia partnership, whereas the ND cooperation area should be maintained in the broader geographical scope covering i.a. the entire Baltic Sea Region..

The Board adopts the position paper on the Northern Dimension. The paper will be distributed to DG Relex,, the national governments of BSR except Russia and to the Barents region.(Annex 5.4.1)

Mr Uno Aldegren informs that the Swedish government has recently appointed a political advisor, an emissary, for the BSR with a special focus on Russia. His name is Kent Härstedt.

- 5.5 *Maritime Policy, Mr Thomas Pfannkuch (in the absence of Mr Günther Schulzt)*

The position paper on the future Maritime Policy has been forwarded to the EC and the national Governments. Mr. Pfannkuch informs that the EC has started a consultation process and has created a work group together with the member states. France, Spain and Portugal have formed a joint position. The Baltic Sea Region needs to follow and to formulate a joint position on common interests, potentials and/or needs. The BSSSC paper should be regarded as an initial impetus.

Mr Pfannkuch asks the BSSSC Board members to follow their respective countries opinions and to raise the interests of the regional level to these for a. Any interests of these to be followed further jointly should be forwarded to BSSSC in order to come up with any updated or new position paper in the EU Consultation process on the EU Green Paper to follow from summer 2006 on.

The Board thanks Mr Pfannkuch for the information and it is decided that the Board members should raise the interests of the regional level within their respective national authorities and forward topics of interest to the BSSSC Secretariat

- 5.6 *Youth Policy, Mr Oddvar Skaiaa,*

Mr Skaiaa informs that Ms Anja Golec is no longer secretary to the work group on youth policy. Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek from western Pomerania has replaced her. The work group and the youth group are currently lacking members from Latvia and Russia. Mr Skaiaa asks both countries to appoint members before 15 December. Elected observers to the BSSSC Board are ? . The Board welcomes Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek and ? to the BSSSC.

- 9 Ms Gunilla Carlsson informs about the positive reactions that the BSSSC secretariat has received in relation to the new web site, electronic newsletter etc. Ms Carlsson describes the BSSSC Communication Plan that can be seen as an aid to future BSSSC Boards and Secretariat.

Mr Aldegren informs that Ms Carlsson will leave the BSSSC secretariat and Region Skåne at end of this year. The Board thanks for the very well conducted work. (Annex 9)

3 BSSSC 13th Annual Conference in Szczecin 2005

Ms Katarina Lewalska presents the final programme of the annual conference and informs of some practical issues.

The Board thanks for the information.

3.1 Draft Szczecin Resolution

Mr. Jan Erik Majewski presents the draft resolution that has been circulated among the members of the Board and their officers. It is decided to present the resolution to the national delegations after the Board meeting. All proposed amendments and changes should be forwarded to the Mr. Majewski before noon 21 October.

3.2 Election of members to the Resolution Group

The Board appoints the following persons to the Resolution group:

Mr Brunon Synak

Ms Marjatta Vehkaoja

Mr Arne Øren

Mr Uno Aldegren (chairman)

4 Annual Conference 2006

Mr Pfannkuch declares that the government of Schleswig-Holstein is in principle positive to host next year's annual conference. The aim is a conference, on "European Maritime Policy" to be arranged by the Schleswig-Holstein Government, in cooperation with the European Commission. The conference would be a part of the consultation process on the EC-green paper on European Maritime Policy. This conference should be combined with a tight and focused regular BSSSC Conference.

The second best choice would be to hold the annual conference in Brussels.

The Board thanks for the information.

4.1 Dates for the Conference and Board meetings 2006

Proposed dates:

02-03 February. Stockholm

29-30 March. Kiel

June or November. Kaunas

Annual Conference 2006 (No fixed date. Depends on the further discussion with the EC).

6 BSSSC priorities for 2006

Mr Löfmark declares that the priorities for 2006 remain the same as in 2005 but with a special focus on the aims of the Lisbon process. An additional priority can be trafficking in human beings. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

7 BSSSC Chair 2007-2008

This point is only actualised at this board meeting. The matter is entirely political and the chairman will have personal talks with the board members during the coming months. The solution will in some aspect be dependant on the outcome of the discussions under point 8 in this agenda "BSSSC and the future"

8 BSSSC and the future

Mr Löfmark declares that the great changes in the BSR bring new challenges. The question is how can BSSSC improve its work? Mr Knud Andersen stresses that BSSSC is on the right track! Ms Linge points out that it is a very important discussion to be proceeded at the next Board meeting. Mr Löfmark informs that the reactions at the last CBSS/CSO meeting were very positive towards the work of BSSSC.

It is decided that the BSSSC secretariat will produce a paper that will be distributed to the Board as a basis for the discussion by the Board in February.

10 Reports

10.1 Meeting with the EP Baltic Group in Strasbourg on the 4th of July

Ms Katarina Lewalska informs about the meeting between the EP Baltic Intergroup and the BSSSC. Mr Uno Aldegren, Mr Knud Andersen, Mr Günther Schulz and Ms Annika Annerby Jansson represented BSSSC. During the meeting, that took place at the European Parliament in Strasbourg with 30 MEP's present, BSSSC presented its most prioritised working areas; Transport and Infrastructure – Ms Annika Annerby Jansson, Cohesion Policy – Mr Knud Andersen, Maritime Policy – Mr Günther Schulz. The general reaction towards the work of BSSSC from the participants was very positive.

10.2 CBSS Meeting at the Annual UBC Conference Please read 5.2.

11 Coming events of importance for the BSSSC

This point is stricken due to lack of time

12 Any other Business

This point is stricken due to lack of time