



Present:

Mr. Knud Andersen (DK), Mr. Asger Andreasen (DK), Mr. Kazik Anhalt (PL), Ms. Josefina Bjurström (Secretariat), Mr. Eduardas Borisovas (CBSS), Mr. Rogaciano Cavadas Kaipainen (Brussels Antenna), Mr. Jon Halvard Eide (NO), Mr. Tommy Eliasson (B7), Mr. Louis Hansen (DK), Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek (PL), Mr. Jaakko Mikkola (Secretariat), Ms. Tuula Palaste-Eerola (Secretariat), Ms. Mudite Priede (LV), Mr. Toivo Riimaa (EE), Ms. Marlene Roth (DE), Mr. Roger Ryberg (NO), Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes (NO), Mr. Ossi Savolainen (Chairman), Ms. Claudia Schatzmann (DE), Mr. Janne Tamminen (Secretariat), Mr. Arne Tilk (EE), Ms. Elisabeth Traelstad (NO), Ms. Satu Vehreävesa (FI), Mr. Alexander Wendt (SE), Mr. Thore Westermoen (NO), Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska (PL).

1. Opening of the Board Meeting

1.1. Opening of the meeting by Mr Ossi Savolainen – BSSSC Chairman

Chairman Ossi Savolainen opened the meeting by wishing everyone a warm welcome and thanking the hosts.

1.2. Adoption of the agenda

Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska referred to her message and the ERB co-operation letter and proposed that the the past and future of the BSSSC could be discussed earlier during the meeting. This was approved by the board.

1.3. Adoption of Board meeting minutes Hämeenlinna, 8 February 2013

The minutes of the Hämeenlinna meeting were adopted.

2. Discussion on the past and future of the BSSSC

Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska pointed out that it would be important for the BSSSC to be more connected with the EUSBSR, Baltic Sea issues and other Baltic Sea organizations. BSSSC has e.g. earlier participated in the CBSS CSO and ministerial meetings and had closer co-operation with the CoR. She suggested that the specific proposal of the ERB would be accepted and that a joint event would be organized back-to-back with the EUSBSR Annual Forum.

Mr. Janne Tamminen agreed that it is important to organize joint events with the other Baltic Sea organizations and that it is a good proposal to organize a common event in Vilnius and also to participate in the ERB Stakeholder meeting in Kalmar in September.



Mr. Knud Andersen pointed out that last time the BSSSC had great success was when input on the EUSBSR was given. At that point the BSSSC created a platform for the Baltic Sea organizations, where input for the strategy was discussed. Mr. Andersen suggested that the board should look into which issues are the most important to focus on in the future, be present at different events and re-establish BSSSC as a platform for other organizations.

Mr. Alexander Wendt asked if all the different Baltic Sea organizations are needed or if maybe some merging could be done. Mr. Knud Andersen pointed out that maybe one organization isn't stronger than several ones making the same statement. He suggested that the BSSSC starts the discussion with other Baltic Sea organizations on how to make the regions in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) stronger. At first the BSSSC regions could think about how the BSR should look in year 2020 and this could be discussed at the next Board meeting. Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska pointed out that this has been discussed before. The Commission has however praised the BSR for good co-operation and networking. There is a quite clear structure of the organizations on the central, regional and city level and each of them has different tasks and networks. She also told that the chairmen and secretariats of the organizations have been meeting in the past back-to-back with the CBSS CSO meetings and different annual conferences. She suggested that as so many events are going on within the EU and the BSR a division of tasks between the BSSSC regions should be done in order to make sure that the BSSSC is represented at the events. Mr. Stefan Musiolik suggested that better co-ordination should be achieved step by step and that the division of responsibilities should be clearer. He suggested that a common event for the different organizations could be organized back-to-back with the 5th EUSBSR Annual Forum in Turku in June 2014. The chairmen of the different organizations could also be invited to take part in the upcoming BSSSC Annual Conference. Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes pointed out that the BSSSC Terms of Reference give the possibility for other organizations to be part of BSSSC and that e.g. B7 has a Board member. Mr. Thore Westermoen agreed that it would be good to discuss how to increase the influence of the BSSSC, its focus and co-operation with other organizations.

Mr. Eduardas Borisovas from the CBSS pointed out that there could be a possibility to speak at the EUSBSR Annual Forum plenary sessions, but that the Lithuanian MFA should be contacted as soon as



possible. Other possibilities included organizing a side event or to be present at the forum networking village.

Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska pointed out that a decision on response to the ERB letter should be taken. She suggested that the BSSSC could offer to take part in the EUSBSR Annual Forum Plenary Session "the role of regional and local authorities in improving the environment" either by itself or as a joint voice with other Baltic Sea organizations. A separate side event regarding governance in the BSR towards the EUSBSR could also be organized for different stakeholders as well as a smaller working meeting in order to start the discussion on future co-operation of the different organizations.

It was decided that the Polish regions contact the Commission in order to find out what kind of events can be organized at the EUSBSR Annual Forum. The secretariat promised to contact the Lithuanian MFA in order to suggest participation in the plenary session.

3. Adoption of the BSSSC Work Plan 2013–2014

The amendments Mr. Jon Halvard Eide sent out were discussed. Mr. Stefan Musiolik promised to give input on point 3.7. Culture. Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek presented the suggestion of the Working group on Youth Policy. All proposals were approved and the Work Plan for 2013-2014 was adopted.

4. Policy Sectors and Working Groups

4.1. Maritime Issues

Stefan Musiolik told about the shift of priorities for Schleswig-Holstein as the region is now the co-ordinator for PA Culture in the EUSBSR. He also mentioned the Maritime Dialogue event that will be organized in Rostock on August 8th. Mr. Alexander Wendt informed the Board that Region Blekinge with Mr. Linus Karlsson in charge will take over the responsibility of chairing the Maritime Issues Working Group as soon as the political decision for this has been made. Mr. Jaakko Mikkola informed that he is the chair of the CPMR BSC Maritime Issues Working Group that has been focusing on maritime spatial planning for the last two years. He invited all the interested BSSSC regions to participate also in the CPMR BSC Maritime Issues Working Group.

4.2. Youth Policy



Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek gave an overview of the Working Group for Youth Policy which Mr. Louis Hansen chairs. She also reported from the Baltic Sea Youth Event that was held in Szczecin in March 2013 (see separate report). Ms. Josefina Bjurström gave an update on the Baltic Sea Youth Forum (BSYF), which the Baltic Sea Youth Secretariat (BSYS)/ Mr. Lars Kasha in Kiel is administering. The BSYF has been granted funds from the Seed Money Facility and the kick off meeting will be held back-to-back with the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Vilnius in November. Ms. Claudia Schatzmann pointed out that Hamburg is preparing some projects regarding youth policy that could be of interest as well. Mr. Stefan Musiolik pointed out that the funding of the BSYS is secured for 2013 but not for 2014. He asked the regions to think of ways to support and fund the secretariat in the future. Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska pointed out that it most likely isn't possible for their region to support the secretariat financially, but that each region should try to lobby their national government in order to find funding for the secretariat. Mr. Louis Hansen gave a practical example on cross-border co-operation between Germany and Denmark and the special interest the youth have taken in the tunnel planned between the regions.

4.3. Cohesion Policy

Mr. Asger Andreasen gave a brief update on the budget negotiations and packages concerning cohesion policy. It was decided that Danish Regions will continue to be the rapporteur for cohesion policy and that Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes will continue as a rapporteur on the BSRP. Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska will take up the task of being rapporteur on the EUSBSR.

4.4. Energy and Climate Issues

Mr. Janne Tamminen informed the Board that Central Finland/ Mr. Hannu Koponen would be interested in chairing a Working Group on Energy and Climate Issues. The kick off of the Working Group could be organized back-to-back with the International Bioenergy Exhibition & Conference in the beginning of September in Jyväskylä, Finland. Mr. Koponen will contact those interested in participating in the Working Group.

4.5. Northern and Arctic Dimension

Ms. Satu Vehreävesa mentioned that the NSPA discusses similar issues and that she could rapport to the BSSSC board from the NSPA meetings. Mr. Roger Ryberg pointed out that the ND policy is



Norway's most important foreign policy topic today. The ENCN was given the responsibility of rapporteurship on the issue.

4.6. Transport and Infrastructure

Mr. Jon Halvard Eide was given the rapporteurship on the issue.

4.7. Culture

Schleswig-Holstein was given the rapporteurship on the issue. Mr. Stefan Musiolik promised to invite interested regions (Finland/ Marjatta Eväsoja, Latvia, Pomerania) to a networking meeting at the next Annual Conference.

5. Annual Conferences

5.1. Annual Conference 2013: Report from the Finnish host (Helsinki-Uusimaa) and

5.1.1. Report from the Annual Conference Working meeting 30 April

Mr. Janne Tamminen presented the draft program. Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes gave input on the title, on the placement of the Commissioner in the program and on the responsibilities of the parallel sessions. She also gave an update on the relations to Russia: both she and Jaakko Mikkola have invited Mr. Igor N. Kapyrin from the Russian MFA to participate. She also suggested that the BSRP should be included in the program in the projects session. Mr. Thore Westermoen asked if there were too many Finnish speakers on the program and presented a wish that the youth work should be highlighted. Mr. Stefan Musiolik accepted that Schleswig-Holstein would take care of the session on culture. He suggested that Anna Karpenko, Liana Maximova and Anna Ivanova could be contacted for a Russian speaker. He also gave input on the titles. Mr. Jon Halvard Eide suggested that the session on Northern Dimension and transport should be separated as ND is much more than transport. He also wished for a possibility for the youth to address the whole plenary. Mr. Eduardas Borisovas pointed out that Mr. Musiolik mentioned the right people to contact in Kaliningrad, but that the geographical scope could be expanded to e.g. St. Petersburg/ Alexander Prohorenko, the Pskov region and Karelia. Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska suggested that the former chairmen could be invited to have their own panel. Ms. Satu Vehreävesa asked if all the speakers usually come from the public sector and Mr. Alexander Wendt asked about who covers the costs for the speakers. Ms. Ann Irene



Saeternes answered that the financing has been done in different ways. Speakers who don't demand a fee have been prioritized. Otherwise accommodation and travels have been paid by e.g. the host or from the BSSSC Chairmanship budget. The private sector has been represented e.g. in parallel sessions devoted to relevant topics.

Mr. Janne Tamminen told about the timetable: a first invitation will be sent out before summer break and the program will be finalized in the end of August.

It was decided that the Board meeting will be held prior to the conference on the 16th of October. The BSSSC Board will also have a common meeting and lunch with the CBSS CSOs on the 16th in the morning.

5.1.2. Resolution of the Annual Conference 2013

A draft resolution will be circulated among the Board members in the end of August to be approved at the October meeting.

5.1.3. Youth Event 2013

Ms. Josefina Bjurström gave an update on the Youth Event, which will be organized before the Annual Conference (see documentation). Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek reminded that the election of youth Board members should be added to the program.

5.1.4. Annual Conference 2014

Riga was suggested to host the Annual Conference in 2014. Ms. Mudite Priede gave an update on the Latvian situation where no second administration level has existed since 2009. LALRG primarily represents municipalities and their priorities lie with the CEMR e.g. An Annual Conference would therefore be very difficult to host. Latvia is however prepared to host a Board meeting in spring 2015.

6. BSSSC Chair for 2015-2016

Mr. Alexander Wendt pointed out that a chairmanship isn't possible for Sweden in 2015 due to the general elections in 2014. Organizing the Annual Conference 2015 could however be an option.



7. BSSSC Board meetings 2013

16 October	Helsinki / 21st BSSSC Annual Conference
28 November	Hanse Office Brussels

8. Reports from meetings and events

21-23 March, Szczecin	Baltic Sea Youth Meeting (see point 4.2.)
21-22 May, Oulu	NSPA Forum: Ms. Satu Vehreävesa reported that smart specialization, co-operation and priorities for the next two years had been the topics of this meeting.
29-30 May, Riga	Baltic Development Forum
30-31 May, Bodø	CPMR BSC General Assembly: Mr. Janne Tamminen reported that a very good transport seminar was organized back-to-back with the meeting. Mr. Ossi Savolainen was a speaker at the General Assembly.

9. Coming events

3-4 July, Brussels	CoR 102 nd Plenary
2-3 September, Trelleborg/Malmö	CLEANSHIP Final Conference
3-4 September, Riga	Baltadapt Conference: Adaptation to Climate Change in the BSR
25-27 September, Saint-Malo	41 st CPMR General Assembly
3 October, Copenhagen	HELCOM Ministerial Meeting
7-10 October, Brussels	Open Days
8-9 October, Brussels	CoR 103 rd Plenary
15-16 October, Helsinki	BSSSC Youth Event: Youth for Work!
17-18 October, Helsinki	BSSSC Annual Conference 2013
6-7 November, Mariehamn	B7 Annual Conference 2013
11-12 November, Vilnius	4 th Annual Forum on the EUSBSR
28-29 November, Brussels	CoR 104 th Plenary

10. Report from Brussels – Mr Rogaciano Cavadas Kaipainen

Mr. Riku Cavadas Kaipainen gave an update on the current budget negotiations, which the parliament hopefully will approve in September. He also mentioned that the parties are starting to publish electoral



programs for the upcoming EP Elections 2014. At this point it would be influential to provide both national and European parties with information on regional interests in order to influence the programs.

11. Presentation of the project BALTKIC, initiative aiming at stimulating innovation capacity in the BSR – Mr Kasik Anhalt

Mr Kasik Anhalt presented his BALTKIC project proposal. More information will be sent in order to make it possible to take decisions on project support.

12. Current Issues at the CBSS – Mr Eduardas Borisovas

Mr. Eduardas Borisovas gave an update on the ending Russian Presidency and the upcoming Finnish Presidency of the CBSS. During the Russian Presidency three important meetings were organized: Heads of Government meeting on the environment in St. Petersburg, Transport Ministers' meeting on maritime transport in Moscow and the Foreign Ministers' meeting in Kaliningrad. The CBSS is becoming a more project oriented organization and positions on how the co-operation should be developed have been gathered to function as a base for future planning. The priorities of the Finnish Presidency will be maritime policy, civil security and people to people contacts. The Baltic Sea States Summit will be organized in Turku in June 2014, back-to-back with the EUSBSR Annual Forum and the Baltic Development Forum.

13. Any other business