



Baltic Sea States
Subregional
Co-operation

**Minutes from the Board Meeting
in Kaunas, Lithuania, 17 September
2008**

BSSSC Board Meeting

Kaunas, Lithuania, 17 September 2008, 14.00 – 17.00

Meeting Venue: Reval Hotel Neris, Meeting room Beta

Present: BSSSC Chairman Arne Øren, Mr. Inge Brørs, Ms Ann-Irene Sæternes, Ms Greta Juul, Mr Günther Schulz, Mr Juri Tomilov, Mr Oddvar Skaiaa, Mr Christer Pursiainen, Mr Tommy Eliasson, Ms Alexandra Ehlers, Mr Gerd Tarand, Ms Inger Linge, Ms Anne Ståhl Mousa, Mr Uno Aldegren, Mr Romualdas Morkevicius, Ms Inara Zariene, Mr Asger Larsen, Ms Marlene Rothe, Mr Stefan Musiolik, Mr Arne Tilk, Ms Ülle Erman, Mr Toivo Riimaa, Ms Anette Prilow, Ms Krystyna Wroblwska, Mr Jan Kozlowski, Mr Esko Lotvonen, Ms Kirsi Stjernberg, Mr Håkan Sandgren, Ms Anja Ruland, Ms Birgit Küstner, Mr Uwe Ram, Mr Stefan Herms, Mr Oddbjørn Øygard, Ms Tone Stenbek, Mr Ingvar Thell, Mr David Hunt, Mr Toomas Kasemaa, Mr Peter Madsen, Mr Kristian Primdal, Mr Knud Andersen.

1. Opening of the Board Meeting

Mr Øren opened the Board Meeting and welcomed the new Board member from Poland – Mr Jan Kozlowski – Marshall of the Pomeranian Region. Mr. Kozlowski is replacing Mr Brunon Synak. Mr Øren informed that Mr Brunon had to resign due to his health problems and on behalf of the Board he wished him all the best and soon recovery, handing over a thank you card signed by the Board members to Ms Krystyna Wroblewska, Pomorskie Voivodeship.

Ms Wroblewska thanked for the greetings on behalf of Mr Synak and assured the Board that she would forward the card and greetings.

Mr Øren also welcomed the new board member from Estonia Ms. Ülle Erman as well as the representative of the Sealand Region of Denmark (host of the next Annual Conference) Mr Peter Madsen who would follow the BSSSC Board meetings until the next BSSSC Annual Conference in Denmark. Mr Tommy Eliasson – Vice President of B7 and Ms Anne Ståhl Mousa from BSC were welcomed by the Chairman too.

In addition Mr Øren welcomed our 2 guests from the Assembly of European Regions (AER). Vice President of the Committee 1 Mr Håkan Sandgren and the acting head of AER's Brussels office Ms Anja Ruland

2. Adoption of the Minutes from the Board Meeting in Saint Petersburg, 23 May 2008. The Minutes from the Board Meeting in Saint Petersburg, 23 May 2008 were adopted.

3. **Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda of the Board Meeting in Kaunas was adopted.

The Chairman informed that the new Chair of BSSSC from Hamburg – Mr Carsten-Ludwig Lüdemann – would arrive to Kaunas later. As for the point 6 on the Agenda the information about the latest developments with regard to BSSSC Chairmanship and Secretariat would be given by Mr Herms.

4. **Annual Conference 2008: Status**

Last update and practical information was given by the host region of Kaunas - Ms Inara Zariene. She mentioned minor problems with booking of the hotels for some participants, who just registered for the conference. 467 participants were registered by 17 September. Embassies of Finland, Ukraine, and Russian Federation would be represented.

Ms Greta Juul gave brief information about the Youth event prior to the Annual Conference, which started a day before (16 September).

• **Conference Resolution**

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes gave some opening remarks on the working process with the Resolution Draft, containing 2 rounds, during which comments were received and taken in. Some parts of Saint Petersburg Workshop Declaration were also included. Comments were also given by some partners, amongst others BSC and CBSS. A proposal from the Danish regions arrived too late but has been included in the Chairman's opening speech instead.

Ms Saeternes presented the challenge related to the Maritime Policy topic. She mentioned that a paper has been drafted for this special point (attached to the Board Meeting papers) – and that a recommendation should be adopted on how to proceed. In this regard the floor was given to Mr Stefan Musiolik from the Land Schleswig-Holstein (Maritime Policy WG BSSSC) and Mr Christer Pursiainen (on behalf of CBSS).

Mr Musiolik stressed the importance of using an integrated approach with regard to the Maritime Policy, which is also in line with the EU Maritime Policy, and significance of using the term "Maritime Policy", not "Maritime Economy". Mr Pursiainen acknowledged BSSSC's right to formulate the sentence on Maritime Policy the way it is desirable for BSSSC.

The Board concluded to proceed with the original wording proposed by Schleswig-Holstein reading:

"BSSSC

- *calls for the CBSS - as the accepted body for political co-ordination in the region - to take the responsibility and to establish a Task Force on Maritime Policy, which should act as an umbrella for the other BSR organizations".*

Mr Pursiainen also added that if Germany on the national level would propose establishing a Task Force on Maritime Policy in the CBSS, CBSS Secretariat would work with the issue.

Mr Gerd Tarand, Youth representative in the Board proposed some changes and amendments on behalf of the Youth Network. The Board accepted the amendments.

Other points of the Final Resolution were commented and adopted by the Board:

1. BSSSC Annual Conference 2008

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes pointed out that The Declaration of Common Interest with the CoR was, indeed, signed in February 2007, not in 2008 – and the year should be changed.

2. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region - adopted

3. BSSSC – contributions to shaping the future Baltic Sea Region adopted with the comments/proposals on the Maritime Policy wording (please, see above) and the comments from the Youth Network on Public Health and Youth Policy

4. Cohesion Policy. Abbreviations (ERDF, ENPI) to be written in full.

5. Northern Dimension and co-operation with Russia – adopted.

6. Co-operation with other organisations - adopted without changes.

7. Future of the BSSSC – amendments from the Youth Network to be taken in

8. Dates for the next Annual Conference not yet ready and therefore only October 2009 taken in.

Mr. Øren thanked for all contributions and stated that the Conference resolution with the amendments was adopted and it would be updated accordingly and distributed 18 September in the morning. He also underlined that the final document is the Board's Resolution – the participants of the conference would not be able to change it.

5. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Mr Øren introduced this point by recalling that in the Board meeting in Saint Petersburg Mr Knud Andersen was asked to take a task as BSSSC Rapporteur on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Danish Regions has done impressive work since the end of May 2008. Among others Danish regions/BSSSC has taken an initiative to cooperate with other BSR organisations.

Mr Andersen informed that the process of co-operation with other 4 major BSR organisations has been successful and that a final paper would be ready in one month. The fact that 5 bigger organisations of the Baltic agreed on this joint effort is a strong signal to the Commission. Implementation of the Strategy is very important. The organisations would be invited to sign this paper – if they have any specific views – they will send their own paper as well. To send a common message is our effort. The EU Commission will welcome written input by the end of November 2008. Mr. Andersen stated that BSSSC is invited to meet the Commission and its representatives to give the view on a communication paper. He also added that the work was progressing well. 7 issues/areas were proposed by BSSSC, but the Commission asked for input on 4. The draft paper will be updated to focus on the 4 topics raised by the Commission. Mr Øren thanked Mr Andersen for his briefing and expressed his gratitude for the work done so far. It's a good sign that the Commission is in touch with BSSSC and the fact that co-operation between 5 BSR organisations speaking with one strong voice seemed to give promising results.

Mr Christer Pursiainen also added that CBSS had had meeting with the Commission with this regard. And that CBSS will host a Roundtable on Safety and Security together with Helcom in Helsinki 9 December. He encouraged Board members and Partners to submit their ideas about this Safety and Security issues and communicate them to him. Any ideas would be welcome.

Ms Krystyna Wroblewska added some information. Pomorskie Voivodeship is one of the co-organisers (together with BSC-CPMR) of the Round Table on Environment, to take place 13 November in Gdansk. Preliminary information is that Commissioner Hübner will be one of the key speakers. Ms Wroblewska encouraged the Board members and partners to use their networks for distribution of this information. More detailed information will be posted on the web page. Sustainable energy and Climate Change is proposed as one major topic by the BSC. Good ideas for speakers would be welcome! BSSSC Secretariat will assist with

distribution of the invitation.

4th Roundtable – will be hosted by BDF, on 1-2 December 2008 and is dedicated to Prosperity.

6. **BSSSC Chairmanship and annual conferences**

• **BSSSC Chairmanship 2009-2010**

Mr Øren recalled the proposal forwarded to the Board during the Board Meeting in Saint Petersburg in May. By now BSSSC have got a long-term plan for the BSSSC Chairmanships until 2012. These are very good signals to give from the outgoing Chairmanship and Mr. Øren stated his satisfaction that BSSSC now can make long-term plans for its future work. The floor was then given to Mr Stefan Herms who provided the Board with updated information about the incoming Hamburg Chairmanship and about the cooperation platform to be established. Mr Herms referred to the information leaflets about the new Hamburg BSSSC Chairmanship, which were distributed to the Board members and thanked Mr Øren and BSSSC Norwegian Secretariat for a very good co-operation regarding consultations and take-over of the Secretariat tasks.

Mr Herms stressed the importance of the Baltic Sea area and the BSSSC for the City of Hamburg. He also mentioned that the City of Hamburg also participates in other networks of regions and has a very close co-operation with Land Schleswig-Holstein. Hamburg is not just a city, but also a region. Mr Herms further informed about the key priority areas of the German Chairmanship, stressing the importance of joining forces, not just competing. Having the representatives of the other organisations in the Board is fruitful, he said.

The key priority areas proposed by the German BSSSC Chairmanship were as follows:

- Maritime Policy
- Climate Change and Energy – strong topic to be prioritised. Active Climate change adoption policy.
- Education and science
- Youth Co-operation
- Public Health and Quality of Life

Mr Herms introduced the Hamburg Team (Chairman and Secretariat)

Mr Uwe Ram – director of the International Relations Department in the Chancellery of Hamburg Senate stressed the importance of co-ordinating Baltic Sea activities and expressed his hope for a good co-operation. He also added that the City of Hamburg had well-established contacts with the Western-Pomeranian Region.

Mr Øren thanked the representatives of Hamburg for the presentation and said he was pleased that the Chairmanship and secretariat is secured not just for 2 years ahead, but even for 4 years.

• **Annual Conference 2009**

Annual Conference 2009 will take place 13-15 October in the Sealand Region in Denmark. Mr Øren gave the floor to Mr Peter Madsen to provide the Board with the latest information concerning the dates and ideas for the next year's conference.

Mr Madsen introduced himself and the Sealand Region. He said he was appointed to be an associated member of the Board until the conference. BSSSC Annual Conference 2009 will include the topic of Climate Challenge. A Youth seminar will take place in Roskilde. Region Sealand will try to have the conference also for the students. Exact days will be 13-15 October 2009 in the city of Ringsted.

Mr Gerd Tarand intervened and stressed the importance of integrating the youth part with the

main conference.

Mr Øren thanked Mr Madsen for his presentation and underlined that it was reassuring for the new incoming chairmanship that the annual conference 2009 is secured.

7. Information from AER

Mr Øren welcomed again the representatives from the AER and gave the floor to Mr Sandgren, who delivered a presentation on the AER Committee 1 – focusing on the work with sustainable energy. Please, find the presentation attached to the Minutes.

Mr Sandgren thanked BSSSC for inviting AER's representatives to the Board meeting and the Annual Conference. AER is the largest European regional network comprising of 170 regions from 37 countries and 13 interregional organisations (including BSSSC). Please, see Mr Sandgren's PP-presentation (full version) at www.bsssc.com Board Meetings, September 2008.

Ms Anja Ruhland briefly informed about AER's Summer School and Youth activities of the AER. The AER Summerschool 2008 focused on Youth entrepreneurship and projects related to this - what regions can do to foster young entrepreneurship.

Other activities/working areas that were mentioned in her presentation were:

- Conferences.
- Initiatives on education.
- Committee 2 deals with Health issue.
- Equal access to the labour market.
- Workshop on E-health in Brussels (during open days).
- Regional democracy – further stimulation of local involvement.

She also invited BSSSC Board members to take part in the General Assembly in Tampere, Finland, 13 – 14 November dedicated to Migration and Integration. Good practices from regions are needed. What regions can do to better to integrate migrants?

Further she told about AER's Breakfast briefings on specific issues. Experts from the member regions are informing during these breakfast briefings.

The Chairman concluded that there are lots of activities going on in the AER - a true Pan-European organisation. He further added that BSSSC should continue a dialogue with AER on sustainable energy issues.

8. Follow-up of the Work Plan 2006 – 2008

Maritime Policy - Report from the Work Group on Maritime Policy

The Working group will have its meeting after the Board meeting. Mr Stefan Musiolik informed about activities in the WG and mentioned the new representative from Kaliningrad Region in the group. Regarding the activities he mentioned that the 1st call of the Baltic Sea Region Programme showed a number of Maritime projects, and he expressed his hope that many of these would be approved in the end of October. The WG on Maritime Policy could try to initiate a Workshop on Maritime projects during the Annual Conference 2009, devoted to the theme: "From vision to Action". Environmental challenges were underlined. One instrument to reduce pollutant and CO₂-emissions are environmentally differentiated harbour dues. The ships, which pollute more, should pay more fees, clean ships should pay less. The WG will advocate a common approach for the ports of the BSR. Support to Helcom's Action Plan is vital. New Hansa succeeding project (onshore power for ships in all BSR harbours) and European Maritime day on 20 May were mentioned. It is significant for the WG to focus on action and give support to promising maritime projects. Use of heavy oil for ships should be reduced. Clean Cruising is another project to be tackled. WWF had stated that only 3 of the 20 cruising lines in the BSR are willing to renounce wastewater discharges into the sea. Mr Günther Schulz underlined what Mr Musiolik said. Ships diesel is the worse pollutant and this issue should be BSSSC's priority.

As for the Maritime Cluster project (presented to the Board in Gdansk meeting) – there will be an application for the 2nd round of the Baltic Sea Region Programme, most likely with an institution from Schleswig-Holstein as lead partner. The Chairman thanked for the provided updated information.

Transport - Report from Region Skåne, Sweden

Mr Uno Aldegren informed that focus has been on infrastructure – through TransBaltic project. Project application was sent in May and 23 -24 October in Copenhagen the decision will be taken. A Leading group have to be created as a part of the project. All Baltic Sea States are involved. Norway is involved as well through Eastern Norway County Network.

The Chairman thanked for the information and expressed his hope for a positive result of the application round for the TransBaltic project.

Sustainable Development - Joint Energy and Climate Platform of BSR Organisations

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes informed about the last meeting in the Joint Platform that took place in Stockholm, 3 June. BSC-CPMR (Västerbotten County) hosted the meeting, during which the issue of consolidating efforts was raised and what concrete actions the Platform could take was discussed. BDF is preparing a report on Energy perspectives in the BSR. The report and the Joint Platform will be presented at the BDF summit in December. Next meeting will take place in Copenhagen on 22 October and will be hosted by the Nordic Council and the BSPC. She further informed about the dialogue and discussion with the others in the group. She also mentioned the Political statement prepared by BSPC to the BASREC meeting (originally scheduled for 9 September, but now postponed to the beginning of the next year). The Joint Platform gave its support through a common letter to Danish Ministry of Energy (chairing the BASREC). BDF has produced the MAGAZINE on the Energy and Climate issues.

Quality of Life and Public Health

Ms Inger Linge, Stockholm County informed that Mr Sören Berg would make a presentation in the Project Idea Café tomorrow.

Public Health issue and prevention of infection diseases would be given priority. Expertise course, implemented by the University Hospital of Stockholm was mentioned. Co-operation with St. Petersburg has been going on for some time and has been successful.

Communicable diseases, sexually transmitted diseases will be in focus of Stockholm County. There will be a number of discussions and Ms Linge expressed the hope to contribute from the Stockholm County to this topic in the future.

Youth Policy

Report from the youth on the adjourned pre-conference seminar. Ms Alexandra Ehlers informed about 70 youngsters who gathered for the event. Unfortunately, Sweden and Finland were not represented. Sustainability was one of the topics. Common Baltic Identity – another one.

9. Other issues

Northern Dimension (ND) Questionnaire.

Mr Juri Tomilov informed that the BSSSC Secretariat distributed the ND Questionnaire. The task was given to the BSSSC by the ND Steering Group. 19 questionnaires were completed and received by the BSSSC Secretariat. It does not mean 19 regions, because there were some organisations/municipality unions who submitted the questionnaire on behalf of several regions. All countries from the Northern Dimension area replied, which is positive. The BSSSC Secretariat shall have meeting on the outcomes of the Questionnaire with the ND Steering Group in October and a paper with compiled results will be prepared.

CBSS strategy process. Outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting in Riga, Latvia.

Mr Pursiainen, CBSS informed about the Summit. Two prime ministers were absent – Ms Merkel and Mr Putin. According to the outcomes of the Summit the subregional level would be becoming more important. Denmark has CBSS Presidency at the moment and had set up long-term priorities. All working groups in CBSS will become expert groups. All countries and strategic partners can propose expert groups. BSSSC is CBSS' strategic partner. Concrete projects – and strategic process participation is welcome. The process can be proposed by the member states.

5 priorities: Energy, BASREC – becoming more closely linked with CBSS. Maritime economy. Education – a kind of Expert Group. EUROFACULTY. Civil Security.

All kinds of networks are important. Our networking organisations can have even better contact in the future after reforming the CBSS. BSSSC is invited to propose to CBSS.

Report from the BSSSC Brussels Antenna,

Mr Günther Schulz expressed his satisfaction with the fact that Brussels Antenna tasks would be taken over by Hanseoffice during the German Chairmanship. Mr Schulz encouraged Board members to take part in the Open days in Brussels 6 – 9 October. Mr Schulz assisted Mr Knud Andersen when talking with DG Region on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy.

10. Reports from meetings and events

- Youth Conference in Cesis, Latvia 29 May – 2 June
- AER Board meeting in Poland, 10 – 11 June 2008
- 52nd meeting of the UBC Executive Board in Kuressaare, Estonia, 5 June 2008
- BSC-CPMR and North Sea Commissions General Assembly in Herring, Denmark, 11-13 June 2008
- BSPC, 1 – 2 September 2008, Visby

Written reports are enclosed.

11. Coming events of importance to BSSSC

- BSSSC Board Meeting in Tallinn, Estonia 20 – 21 November. Decision on topic for a seminar was given to the Chairmanship and the hosts.
- NDPHS CSR 14 Meeting in Bad Neuenahr, Germany, 23-24 September. Mr. Tomilov will take part together with representatives from Hamburg
- Meeting in the Joint Energy and Climate Platform of the BSR organisations, Copenhagen, Denmark, 22 October 2008. The Chairman will take part as BSSSC is coordinating the platform meetings.
- AER Bureau meeting in Tampere, Finland – BSSSC will be represented at the meeting by Mr Esko Lotvonen. Kaunas region will take part in the General Assembly.

12. Any other business

Mr Øren closed the Board Meeting by wishing all Board members an interesting annual conference.

**BSSSC Board meeting
Kaunas, 17 September 2008**

**Proposals for amendments from the Youth
Board members Mr Tarand and Ms Ehlers**



**Baltic Sea States
Sub-regional
Co-operation**

BSSSC Resolution from the 16th Annual Conference of the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation (BSSSC) in Kaunas, Lithuania, 17 - 19 September 2008

Proposals on amending parts relevant to youth and youth policy in the resolution by Mr Gerd Tarand and Ms Alexandra Ehlers

We ask the board to consider the following proposals in connection with the final Conference Resolution to be adopted in the meeting on 17.09 and update the Conference Resolution after the Board meeting in accordance with the Boards decision:

IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE PARAGRAPH

Rephrase the last bullet point that now reads "supporting BSSSC's WG on Youth Policy in its healthy lifestyle-rewarding activities" to read "supporting BSSSC Working Group on Youth Policy in its healthy lifestyle-rewarding activities and its representation in other BSR and European networks dealing with relevant topics."

IN THE YOUTH POLICY PARAGRAPH

1) Rephrase the second sentence that now reads "Youth exchange and youth initiatives are important factors for creating a common space of successful co-operation in the BSR" to read "Youth exchange, initiatives and youth empowerment are important factors in creating a common, long-term, space of successful co-operation in the BSR."

2) Divide the first bullet point that now reads "include a youth perspective into the organisation's policy areas and ensure full membership of representatives from the youth team in the BSSSC Board" into two bullet points as following:

- include a youth perspective into the organisation's policy areas by working to include the Youth Networks representatives in all BSSSC working groups, where possible;
- ensure full membership of representatives from the youth network in the BSSSC Board

IN THE FUTURE OF THE BSSSC PARAGRAPH

Second paragraph, in the sentence that now reads "The BSSSC focus for 2008-2010 will be on public health, climate and energy, science and education, maritime policy and youth involvement." to replace the term "youth involvement" with the term "active youth participation".

**BSSSC Board meeting
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**Attachment to Point 10: Reports from
meetings and events**



**Baltic Sea States
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Youth Conference in Cesis, Latvia 29 May – 2 June

During the 29th of May to the 2nd of June, nearly 60 young and youthful people from seven BSSSC regions, gathered to the conference "Youth Voice in the Baltic Sea Region" in Priekuli, Cesis region, Latvia in the framework of the BSSSC Youth Network. During the conference they ventured into current issues of youth policy in Latvia and BSR countries, heard from the EU Youth In Action programme, BSSSC WGYP, discussed issues related to youth policy through Youth Councils and NGOs (experiences, strengths), youth and culture (different influences, preserving national culture) and youth and risks (from drug and alcohol habits to trafficking). The participants had a great opportunity to visit the Cesis City Youth Council, Cesis Children and Youth education and Health Centre, Cesis Children and Youths Centre and of course the magnificent Cesis castle. This event should be taken note of as a great example of different possibilities to meet within the BSSSC Youth Networks framework besides the official meetings.

AER Bureau meeting in Poland, 10 – 11 June 2008

The Chairman had no possibility to attend this AER meeting and as none of the Polish BSSSC Board-members could attend either, the BSSSC was represented by the Norwegian Bureau member Mr. Ole Haabeth. Mr. Haabeth gave an intervention on behalf of BSSSC where he among others informed about the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and welcomed participants from the AER to the BSSSC Annual Conference in Kaunas. He also informed about the Youth Conference held in Cesis, Latvia and about the work of the Common Platform on Energy and Climate in the BSR.

General Assembly of the BSC-CPMR and North Sea Commission in Herring, Denmark 11 – 13 June

The BSSSC was represented by the Secretary General Inge Brørs and the Deputy Secretary General Ann Irene Saeternes. For the first time the two Commissions under the CPMR umbrella held their General Assemblies back to back – with a common thematic programme. Focus was on sustainable regional development including sustainable energy and the climate change. BSSSC representatives also attend a session discussing the future of CPMR – as a part of the Baltic Sea group.

BSPC, 1 – 2 September 2008, Visby

The title of the Conference was Energy Efficiency and Climate Change. In addition to the mentioned subjects, the conference had focus on Energy Supply and Security, Eutrophication, Maritime Policy and the Baltic Sea Action Plan as well as Labour Market and Social Affairs.

To my mind it was an important conference, dealing with highly relevant topics, though some of the information in the conference could be described as mature news.

For myself I will remember the conference especially of two reasons:

- First because BSSSC being given acknowledgement for the initiative to establish a joint energy and climate platform of the Baltic Sea Region organisations. Such acknowledgement was given both by the chair of BSPC, Ms Sinikka Bohlin, and by the Chairman of the BSPC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change, Mr Mart Jüssi.
- My second reason to remember the conference was the experience of observing the parliamentarians using more than one hour trying to find a common understanding of the term consensus. At last they succeeded, and thus were able to adapt the resolution of the conference.