



BSSSC Board Meeting

**Stockholm (Sweden), Stockholm County Council
21 May 2010, 09.30 am – 01.30 pm**

Present:

Ms Inger Linge (S), Mr. Sören Berg (S), Mr. Uno Aldegren (S), Ms Sandra Swede (S), Mr. Carsten-Ludwig Lüdemann (DE), Mr. Stefan Herms (DE), Ms Birgit Küstner (DE), Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek (PL), Ms Magdalena Anisko (PL), Mr. Sebastian Gojdz (PL), Ms Ann Irene Sæternes (N), Mr. Oddvar Skaiaa (N), Mr. Ivar Haug (N), Mr. Tom Holthe (N), Ms Ülle Erman (EE), Mr. Toivo Riimaa (EE), Mr. Arne Tilk (EE), Mr. Gerd Tarand (EE), Mr. Esko Lotvonen (FI), Ms. Anne Mette Jespersen (DK), Mr. Louis Hansen (DK), Mr. Knud Andersen (DK), Mr. David Hunt (B7), Mr. Stefan Musiolik (DE), Ms Anja Gargulla (DE), Mr. Lars Friedrichsen (DE), Mr. Jan Thiele (DE)

Guests:

Ms Cecilia Lagerdahl (Region Västra Götaland), Ms Nina Bergmann (Stockholm County Council), Ms Joanna Kyrillo (DG Regio), Ms Linda Persson (Green Capital 2010), Mr. Marek Maciejowski (NDPHS)

1. Opening of Board Meeting

On behalf of the host Stockholm County Council, Ms Inger Linge welcomed the BSSSC Board. After an inspiring and charming performance of the Romeo och Juliet Kören, Royal Dramatic Theatre Stockholm, BSSSC Chairman Carsten-Ludwig Lüdemann opened the meeting. A special welcome was given to the guests and to the new Board member Mr. Louis Hansen, Region Zealand, Denmark.

The Board adopted the agenda of the meeting. Due to time reasons the presentations of the guests Ms Linda Persson and Mr. Marek Maciejowski were preponed, the minutes will nevertheless follow the chronological order of the agenda. The Board adopted the meeting minutes of the Board meeting in Szczecin on 26 February 2010.

2. Follow-up Work Plan 2009-2010

2.1 Science and Education

Mr. Stefan Herms reported on the cooperation project between schools in Hamburg and Denmark on the level of school headmaster qualification, where several bilateral projects are running successfully.

Regarding the responsibility of EUSBSR priority area “education” Mr. Herms stated that in the aftermath of the kick off meeting in February 2010 further contact identification was made and a second meeting in Brussels was convened. The preparations for the BSSSC Annual Conference workshop No. 1 *Education* are running, speakers will be identified and approached by the workshop coordinator and chairman.

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2.2 Co-operation in the EU Baltic Sea Strategy

Mr. David Hunt apologized for not representing BSSSC as a panel speaker at the *Conference on Europe's macro regions: Integration through territorial co-operation*. David Hunt pointed out that the key actors in the implementation process of the EUSBSR are the national governments and the national contact points. As mentioned in the last Board meeting by Mr. Stefan Herms, BSSSC is not an observer to the *High Level Group* but the *Committee of Regions* was invited to send a representative to witness the *HLG* meeting. It was believed that Mr. Uno Aldegren, in his function as chairman of the *Intergroup Baltic of CoR*, would thus take part. However, the *CoR* Secretariat sent one of its secretaries to the *HLG* meeting. David Hunt highlighted the need for a clear idea/decision of how BSSSC can be active during the implementation process of the EUSBSR. Mr. Uno Aldegren suggested sending a politician – instead of a secretary – as participant to the *HLG*. The only means he saw for direct involvement in the process is using the instruments of cohesion policy. Mr. Stefan Herms concluded that the aim to send a politician to the *HLG* should be communicated to the foreign ministries.

Mr. Lars Friedrichsen gave a short overview of the *Conference on Europe's macro regions*, 13 April 2010 in Brussels. Momentarily no further strategies for macro regions will be established – apart from the Danube and North Sea Strategies – the focus now lies on the implementation processes of the existing ones – under the precondition that no extra funds will be released. BSSSC is strongly encouraged to become active. The Board agreed that a realistic means is using cohesion policy when aiming for involvement and implementation. Ms Joanna Kirylo advised turning to the national contact points which hold vital positions within the EUSBSR, as the *HLG* does not have decision power. Regarding additional funds, Joanna Kirylo pointed out that an extra 20 million € will be made available each year and that the European Investment Bank is keen to set up a trust fund.

2.3 Cohesion Policy

A discussion paper and draft position paper on the future budget of the EU Cohesion Policy after 2013 had been worked out by the ad hoc working group, the ensuing discussion in the Board was led by Mr. Knud Andersen. There was a lively discussion and all points were handled agreeably for all Board members. The results will be fed into the draft position paper so that a final version will be available in late summer 2010.

Among the results was the general demand to mention difficulties of remote and scarcely populated areas but to include the hint that through migration and structural changes former better developed areas experience new challenges comparable to scarcely populated areas. This demand also relates to the demand for new instruments stimulating economic growth in rural/urban areas. Another characteristic which was vividly debated was the balance between using cohesion policy to implement the EUSBSR whilst maintaining a high degree of regional responsibility in the process (balance national level – regional level). Also the importance of the Interreg programme as a main tool for regional development should not be diminished. Apart from these items a simplification of applications was asked for as well as a higher flexibility in project partner choice and the integration of private partners.

2.4 Maritime Policy

Mr. Stefan Musiolik reported that the WG Maritime Policy had just met the day before the Board meeting and discussed the following topics:

The decision of the Baltic Sea Region Programme Monitoring Committee regarding successful Interreg application can be expected on 9 + 10 June 2010. The first assessment of the project *Clean Baltic Shipping* has already been positive. Another project with a similar

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format is *InnoShip* (Finland), therefore the strategy is to have both projects admitted. Stefan Musiolik announced that the next European Maritime Day 2011 shall take place on 20 May 2011 in Gdansk. He suggested organizing the spring Board meeting 2011 also in Gdansk to achieve a connection between both events. He remarked that the next meeting of the WG shall be organized in October in Tallinn and was looking forward to the 1st Annual Forum on EUSBSR as its priority No.4 is concerned with becoming a model region for clean shipping.

2.5 Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Ms. Linda Persson, City of Stockholm, Project Manager First European Green Capital 2010 offered an inspiring insight into the concept of *European Green Capital Award* and the application of Stockholm. Stockholm was awarded with the title because of its holistic approach to environmental protection and achievement of a green city. Projects and events are manifold and include areas such as water and waste water treatment, waste, fossil free fuel by 2050.

Regarding the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 Mr. Stefan Herms reported that a representative of the Hamburg Ministry of Urban Planning and Environment took part in the last two meetings and would be glad to give a detailed insight into current matters at the next Board meeting in Tallinn.

Concerning the Joint Platform on Energy and Climate Mr. Oddvar Skaiaa stated that a person was identified interested in getting involved into the JPEC, but as Ms Ann Irene Saeternes pointed out this person would need a cooperating partner as he will not be able to take part in the JPEC meetings.

2.6 Public Health and Quality of Life

Mr. Marek Maciejowski, Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being, Head of Secretariat introduced the work of NDPHS briefly – the NDPHS is project area coordinator *Health* in the EUSBSR and has strong co-operation with non-EU members such as Russia– and invited the BSSSC Board to co-operate with NDPHS in the realization of two concrete projects:

- anti-microbial resistance: referring to the expert workshop and the BSSSC Seminar joint work on the subject could be continued to the benefit of both. This could be tackled at the 29 + 30 June meeting of NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives in Moscow.
- drug prevention among youth: a newly set up project where BSSSC is invited to become a project partner, a first meeting shall be convened on 30 + 31 August 2010, NDPHS invites BSSSC to let the meeting be organized in a BSSSC region, organized with NDPHS funds.

Mr. Sören Berg acknowledged these offers and emphasized the fact that not only national governments but also the regional level holds responsibility regarding public health and communicable diseases. Also he explained about the development of a new tool for tuberculosis monitoring used jointly by Stockholm and St. Petersburg. In addition Sören Berg declared the importance of an awareness towards social aspects of diseases e.g. re. immigration.

2.7 Youth Policy

Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek explained that the last meeting of the WG Youth was convened after the last Board meeting in Szczecin in February, where the planning of the Youth Event

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2010 was begun with a timeline and details for more interaction between the youth and the BSSSC Annual Conference. BSSSC Youth Representative Mr. Gerd Tarand told the Board that the financing via the EU Youth in Action programme could once more be secured. As several required partnership letters had not been turned in (by Russia), a moderate participation fee will be set up. The next meeting will take place at the end of June in Hamburg, where the programme shall be finalized.

2.8 Transport and Infrastructure

The Interreg project TransBaltic has been lanced after a reasonable period of preparations. The budget of the project sums up to 5.5 million € and it connects 21 partners in 9 countries around the Baltic Sea. Mr. Uno Aldegren said that it takes into account all means of transport and infrastructure, analyzes existing methods and develops further strategies to enhance the Baltic Sea as a major gateway within Europe. Two major characteristics include the strengthening of the communication with Asia via Russia and Belarus as well as transport facilities and connections between metropolitan areas. Latest news can be found on the homepage transbaltic.eu.

2.9 Co-operation with Russia and Northern Dimension

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes highlighted the fact that Russia and Lithuania should be encouraged to join the Board meetings again.

Ms Joanna Kirylo added that a very successful meeting of DG Regio and DG Relex took place in February in Moscow and that Russia was very interested in conducting joint projects with EU COM, also as external cooperation partner in EUSBSR matters.

Regarding the co-operation with the ND Ann Irene Saeternes told that the ND Business Council attracted much general interest and that eight working groups to cover the business side shall be established. Referring to the planned ND Cultural partnership she confirmed that Norway shall take over from the Nordic Council Secretariat, but that the partnership still has not been regularly kicked off. The next Northern Dimension Ministerial meeting will take place on 2 November 2010 in Oslo.

3. Annual Conference

3.1 Annual Conference 2010

Mr. Toivo Riimaa introduced the draft programme for the 18th BSSSC Annual Conference in Tallinn, Estonia. The Board meeting will take place on 12 October 2010, followed by the BSSSC Annual Conference on 13-14 October 2010. The First EU Annual Forum on EUSBSR will be directly connected to the BSSSC Annual Conference by a High Level Panel which marks the end of the first and sets the beginning of the second conference.

He then presented the logo created for this occasion and related to the homepage which shall be uploaded under bsssc.eu.

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes remarked that if the Chairman of CSO should be invited as a speaker he should receive due recognition re. time slot and mentioned the announcement of the BSSSC Annual Conference 2011 which should be integrated into the Closing Session.

Concerning the First Annual Forum on EUSBSR Ms Joanna Kirylo reported that a joint press conference shall further connect both events; it is planned for lunch time 14 October thus taking place right before the High level Panel. The Annual Forum will be structured into two sessions of five workshops corresponding to the pillars of the EUSBSR and chaired by the responsible priority area coordinators. The conference will end with a wrap up panel, the aim

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is to have a first report on the implementation of the strategy. Speakers will be recruited from the pool of internal EU COM positions.

Two different registration processes will be used for the two conferences.

3.2 Conference Resolution

Mr. Jan Thiele explained that resolution shall be generated in a similar approach and form as in the last year; a short maximum 2 page form, the first part explaining about qualification and the connection BSSSC Annual Conference and 1st annual Forum EUSBSR, the second part containing explicit examples and demands. The process will be using the first draft of the resolution as a basis, inviting the workshop coordinators to contribute to the draft and lastly to approve the draft resolution at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Oddvar Skaiaa remarked that he found one essential aspect of qualification missing: the fact that youngsters have increasingly more trouble to find a first job after completing their education and furthermore there are an increasing number of youngsters who drop out of school without certificate on any level. Also, he suggested including the demand for entrepreneurial knowledge into school curricula.

4. Baltic Sea Region Programme

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes reported that on 9 + 10 June 2010 the Monitoring Committee will meet in Helsinki for discussions about the admittance of 19 projects to the Interreg programme, including BERAS which might be of essential importance to countries such as e.g. Lithuania and Poland. She announced that after the successful Interreg Conference in 2007 in Hamburg another Conference "The power of the Baltic Sea macro-region" will be hold on 30 Nov./1 Dec. 2010 in Jyväskylä, Finland. Commissioner Johannes Hahn already confirmed his participation.

Lars Friedrichsen reported on the Baltic Sea Study which shall be conducted by the Hamburg Institute of International Economics, initiated by the Chamber of Commerce, Hamburg and the Network European Movement Germany. The study aims at determining opportunities and challenges for the macro region Baltic Sea within the European Union.

5. Report from Brussels Antenna

Mr. Lars Friedrichsen started his report by referring to the aforementioned amount of 20 million € which shall be generated maybe each year for the use of implementing the EUSBSR and which shall probably be managed by the trust fund of the EU Investment Bank. Furthermore, Lars Friedrichsen invited the Board to take part at the Summer Seminar on 29 June 2010 in Brussels, a in recent years very successful event, which will focus on "Realizing the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region through Nordic European synergies in co-operation", a joint event by the Informal Baltic Sea Group, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the EU COM. The Board met the new chairman of the Informal Baltic Sea Group, Mr. Kjell Nybakka, in last December's Board meeting in Brussels.

6. Reports from Meetings and Events

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All events were already mentioned.

7. Coming events

CBSS Summit, 1 + 2 June 2010, Vilnius

BDF-Summit, 1 + 2 June 2010, Vilnius

First meeting of the joint project group BSSSC / Plan Baltic, 3 June 2010, Hamburg

6th Study Conference on BALTEX, 14 – 18 June 2010, Miedzyzdroje, Island of Wolin

BSSSC Midsummer Festival, 24 June 2010, Hamburg

EU Summer Seminar, 29 June 2010, Brussels

19. Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), 29 -31 August 2010, Mariehamn, Aaland Islands

1st meeting of NDPHS/BSSSC project drug prevention among youth, 30 + 31 August (tbc)

BSSSC Annual Conference and 1st Forum on EUSBSR, 12 -15 October 2010, Tallinn

Green Capital 2010 Conference, 20 October 2010, Stockholm

2nd Northern Dimension Ministerial meeting, 2 November 2010, Oslo

European Maritime Day, 20 May 2011, Gdansk

Conference: Adaptation to Climate Change, BSSSC, BALTEX, GKSS, 31 May 2011, Hamburg

8. Any other business

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes suggested convening a BSSSC Board meeting in 2011 back-to-back with a CBSS CSO meeting, most conveniently in February 2011. The Board agreed this was a good idea.

BSSSC Secretariat