



BSSSC Board meeting

Hamburg, Germany, 3 February 2009, 09.30 am – 01.30 pm

Meeting venue: Town Hall, Mayor's Room, Rathausmarkt 1, 20095 Hamburg

Present:

BSSSC Chairman Carsten Lüdemann (DE), Mr Uno Aldegren (S), Ms Inger Linge (S), Mr Ingvar Thell (S), Mr Knud Andersen (DK), Mr Asger Larsen (DK), Mr Michael Rex (DK), Mr Kristian Primdal (DK), Ms Inge Hyldebrandt (DK), Mr Bjarne Rasmussen (DK), Mr Christian Rietz (DK), Mr Alexander Prokhorenko (RUS), Ms Liana Maximova (RUS), Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek (PL), Ms Alexandra Ehlers (DE), Mr Gerd Tarand (EE), Ms Inara Zariene (LT), Ms Ülle Erman (EE), Mr Toivo Riimaa (EE), Mr Arne Tilk (EE), Ms Krystyna Wroblewska (PL), Mr Esko Lotvonen (FI), Ms Paula Mikkola (FI), Mr Kjetil Lundemoen (N), Ms Ann Irene Sæternes (N), Ms Marlene Rothe (DE), Mr Stefan Musiolik (DE), Mr Christer Pursiainen (CBSS), Mr David Hunt (B7), Mr Stefan Herms (DE), Ms Birgit Küstner (DE), Ms Anja Gargulla (DE), Mr Lars Friedrichsen (DE), Mr Jan Thiele (DE).

Guests:

Mr Adrian Solitander (EU COM), Mr Till Hardy (DE), Ms Birgit Hagemann (DE), Ms Cordelia Weist (DE), Mr Thomas Littmann (DE), Ms Natalia Berezhkova (Hanse-Office St. Petersburg), Mr Henrik Lesaar (DE), Ms Erika Schmedt (DE), Mr Jan Hendriok (DE).

1. Opening of the Board Meeting

Mr Carsten Lüdemann, Chairman of BSSSC, welcomed to the Board meeting. The Board adopted the meeting agenda and the minutes of the Board meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, on 21 November 2008.

Mr Alexander Prokhorenko, Chairman of the St. Petersburg External Relations Committee, delivered a speech on the co-operation between Russia and BSSSC. He welcomed the BSSSC work plan 2009-2010 and stressed the importance of the involvement of Russia to exploit the full potential of the Baltic Sea region. Looking forward to further co-operation, he pointed out that St. Petersburg is interested to co-operate. Special fields of interest might be combating xenophobia and ethnic discrimination. He welcomed the declaration of common interest with the CoR signed by BSSSC, B7 and UBC.

2. Work Plan 2009-2010

The Board agreed that only policy areas with a designated responsibility of one region will be included in the work plan.

Science and Education

Mr Uno Aldegren highlighted that the ongoing co-operation between Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein and the Öresund region (STRING) is a good example for collaboration.

The main responsibility within the BSSSC Board lies with the chairmanship.

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Co-operation in the EU-Baltic Sea Strategy

The Baltic Sea Strategy will be an active part of the work plan. The BSSSC position paper and proposals for flagship projects were passed to the EU Commission in December 2008. BSSSC will follow its further development and implementation.

The main responsibility lies with the Danish regions.

Maritime Policy

Mr Stefan Musiolik gave a summary of the work of the working group who is going to continue. He proposed a participation of St. Petersburg. Mr Alexander Prokhorenko stated that he is confident to find a solution.

The main responsibility within the BSSSC Board lies with Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.

Climate Change and Sustainable Development

The work plan will stress the BSSSC support of the implementation of the HELCOM Action Plan.

Mr Uno Aldegren picked up the idea of the BSSSC seminar at GKSS Research Centre and pointed out that a network of regional climate offices could be an interesting project.

Joint Platform on Energy and Climate

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes reported about the last meeting, chaired by BSSSC in Copenhagen. As result, the platform sent a statement to the UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Poznan, Poland (COP 14). The Platform also prepares the Copenhagen Climate Summit. Furthermore, it delivers input to possible flagship projects of the Baltic Sea Strategy. UBC offered its services as a coordinating organisation during the year 2009. Mr Kjetil Lundemoen will represent BSSSC at the platform as *rapporteur*.

The main responsibility for the Joint Platform on Energy and Climate lies with the Eastern Norway County Network.

Baltic 21

With its commitment to the Joint Platform on Energy and Climate, Norway cannot take over the task to represent BSSSC at the Senior Officials Group (SOG) of Baltic 21. Therefore, Hamburg asked its Ministry of Urban Planning and Environment whether they can manage to represent the interests of BSSSC at the SOG.

The Board agreed to discuss the topic on the next Board meeting in Skane.

Youth Policy

Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek, the BSSSC youth coordinator, and the youth representatives at the Board, Alexander Ehlers and Gerd Tarand, informed the Board about ongoing activities and the upcoming youth conference on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy in Hamburg.

The main responsibility will be on the working group youth policy and the youth coordinator (West Pomeranian Region, Poland). Hamburg will give additional input by its responsible ministry.

Better Use of EU Programmes

The Board discussed an appropriate wording to involve rural regions. Projects to be supported shall include co-operation between metropolitan regions, co-operation between rural areas and

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co-operation between metropolitan regions and rural areas.

The Board agreed that the main responsibility lies with the chairmanship and the Brussels Antenna. Ms Ann-Irene Saeternes will be the rapporteur of the Baltic Sea Region Programme.

Public Health and Quality of Life

Ms Inger Linge informed the Board that the Stockholm Council aims to promote co-operation in the field of communicable diseases and antibiotic resistance. A Swedish pilot group on this topic is already existent. She proposed to conduct a BSSSC seminar on this topic in Stockholm. For further information, Stockholm will prepare a paper for the Board.

Ms Erika Schmedt of the Hamburg Ministry of Health and Consumer Protection gave a presentation on the Baltic Sea Network for Product Safety. The Board considers including the network into a possible upcoming BSSSC working group.

Cooperation with Russia

The Board discussed the involvement of the Northern Dimension (ND). Ms Ann Irene Saeternes mentioned that BSSSC was tasked to carry out a survey among regional authorities in the ND area last year and compile it for the purpose of further discussion. The results will be presented soon.

Mr Uno Aldegren underlined that the co-operation between BSSSC and the ND Partnership on transport issues should be stressed. He will report on the ND Partnership on Transport and Logistic and the co-operation with BSSSC on the next Board Meeting.

Mr Stefan Musiolik reminded that Russia did not sign the Neighbourhood Programme and that funding for co-operation is thus not available.

Mr Stefan Herms pointed out, that the Hanse-Office in St. Petersburg could serve as an important facilitator for the co-operation of BSSSC and Russia and should be integrated into common activities.

Transport and Infrastructure

The Board agreed to continue its support of the TransBaltic project and its new application to the Baltic Sea Region Programme. The project will be involved in the work plan.

Mr Uno Aldegren reported that the BDF-coordinated High-level Group on Transport for Sustainable Growth was not very successful.

Mr Stefan Herms reported about his trip to Minsk/Belarus and informed the Board about the Amber Coast Transport Initiative (ACTI).

The main responsibility in the field of transport and infrastructure lies with region Skåne.

3. Annual Conference 2009

The hosting region Zealand reported about the current planning status of the Annual Conference and the youth event titled "YESS- Youth Event on Sustainable Societies". Suggestions to speakers are very welcome. The Board discussed a possible raising of the conference fee to support the host to cover the main costs. The Board agreed to raise the fee – to a maximum level of 150 Euro. The youth members will be free of charge. Furthermore, the Board stated that the conference language is English without any translation service.

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4. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Mr Adrian Solitander, representative of the EU Commission, gave a status quo report on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region. The Board recommended a further consultation process after the publication of the action plan, stronger implementation structures and a periodical update. Furthermore, the Board stressed the importance of the involvement of non EU-members.

Mr Stefan Musiolik informed the Board about the idea of a Baltic Sea History Book as a flagship-project for the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. The Board recommended a co-operation with the BSSSC working group on youth policy. Moreover, Mr Stefan Musiolik presented the position paper of the Baltic Sea Trade Union Network (BASTUN) on the EU Strategy.

The Board agreed to support the Baltic Sea History Book and the BASTUN position paper.

5. EU Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion

The Board welcomed the position paper drafted by Hamburg. Mr Kjetil Lundemoen stated that the Norwegian regions still have suggestions for changes. The first suggestion is on maritime policy. Furthermore, the bottom-up process should be mentioned in the paper. The paper should also focus more on the needs of each region and include the principle of subsidiarity. Moreover, a more positive view on sparsely populated areas is needed. One could, for example, mention the plentifulness of resources in these regions and the potential for tourism. Mr Esko Lotvonen suggested that there should be a stronger consideration of the potentials of remote and sparsely populated areas.

6. Baltic Sea Region Programme

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes reported about the Baltic Sea Region Programme Conference held on 26 November 2008 in Tallinn. Russia did not sign the Financing Agreement by the deadline of 31 December 2008 and therefore Russian partners cannot participate in the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 under ENPI funding.

BSSSC supported five projects. Three of these were successful (New Bridges, Bio Energy Promotion, Baltic Masters II); two projects were refused and will reapply (Awareness of Climate Change in Regions - ACCR, TransBaltic).

The Board decided that the two pending projects will still be supported by BSSSC.

Mr Till Hardy gave a short presentation about the project "First Motion". The intention of the project is to stimulate creative and new media businesses, create new jobs in this area, develop new markets and support especially SMEs in this sector.

The Board agreed to support the project.

7. Report from Brussels Antenna

Mr Lars Friedrichsen reported about the handing over of the Brussels Antenna on 10 December 2008 and about upcoming activities and events in Brussels. Scheduled for October 2009, the

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preparation of the "Open days – European days of regions and cities" has been launched by the Committee of the Regions and DG Regio. The Hanse Office will contribute with several events, representing BSSSC. A high level event on Baltic Sea subjects is envisaged for the 6th of October. The Hanse-Office will host an evening reception on the same evening. On the next day the Hanse-Office is working on a conference focusing on the subject of "Clean Baltic Shipping", one of the flagship projects proposed to the Commission in the framework of the Baltic Sea Strategy.

8. Reports from meetings and events

The Board noticed reports about the following events:

BDF Summit, 30 November - 2 December 2008, Copenhagen/Malmö

Baltic Sea Strategy Roundtable on Safety and Security, 9 December 2008, Helsinki

Signing of the Declaration of Common Interest with the CoR 2008 - 2010, 11 December 2008, Brussels

9. Coming events

The 2009 Board meetings will take place in:

Skane (18/19 May)

Zealand (13 October)

Brussels (3/4 December)

Moreover, the Board was informed about the following coming events:

EU Baltic Sea Strategy Stakeholder Conference, 5 February 2009, Rostock

Joint Energy and Climate Platform, 24 February 2009, Stockholm

European Summit of Regions and Cities, 5/6 March 2009, Prague

BSSSC Secretariat