



Baltic Sea States
Subregional
Co-operation

BSSSC Board Meeting

05.05.2006

Kiel, Germany

Minutes from the Board Meeting

0 Opening of the Board meeting

Ms Inger Linge replaced the Chairman Mr Uno Aldegren who due to health reason was absent. Ms Linge opened the meeting and welcomed all Board members to the second meeting of 2006. Ms Linge gave special and warm thanks to the host of the Board meeting, Mr Uwe Döring, Minister of Justice, Employment and European Affairs of Land Schleswig-Holstein for an excellent organisation of the meeting., Mr Döring was not able to attend the Board meeting in person. He was replaced by Mr Stefan Musiolik.

1 Adoption of the Minutes from the Board meeting in Stockholm, 3 February 2006

The Board adopted the minutes from the Board meeting in Stockholm, 3 February 2006.

2 Adoption of the agenda

The Board adopted the Agenda.

3 Annual Conference 2006

Mr Musiolik started by introducing the guest, Ms Melanie Würz, representative of Land Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Mr. Musiolik then outlined the schedules of the annual conference that

- will serve at Conference day 1 (21 September) as one of the major regional consultation conferences on the Green Paper on future European Maritime Policy.
- will address on Conference day 2 (22 September) the strategic matter of "Transport Infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region"

The conference is being arranged in close cooperation between BSSSC, Land Schleswig-Holstein and the EU-Commission, represented by Commissioner Borg. The Conference is being supported by Hanse-Stadt Hamburg and the Interreg projects Baltic Master and Baltic Gateway.

The BSSSC Board will be invited without any fee. Participants from the Baltic Sea Maritime and transport Communities will be invited. (Presentation enclosed.)

Mr Ervelä informed about the new Baltic Sea Centre in Turku that will organize a maritime

conference in close cooperation with Commissioner Borg. The BSSSC Board will be invited to this event that takes place in July.

Mr Majewski informed about the outline of the conference resolution. There will be two major parts namely

- one more voluminous one collecting the Conference's major positions on the BSR view of a future "European Maritime Policy", which will be elaborated in a different process than in recent years (Schleswig-Holstein in communication with relevant stakeholders of the BSR including BSSSC) and
- an overall one on direct behalf of BSSSC (to be elaborated in a traditional style, addressing both the Conference's subjects "maritime policy" and "transport infrastructure", but also matters of current needs and interests)

In addition to these two parts there will be one reflecting the priorities of the Youth. As regards the second a first draft will be circulated by the Secretariat by the end of June. The secretariat asked for input to the resolution from the Board members. Mr Andersen wished to stress the need for local influence in the decision making process. An urgent matter throughout Europe. Mr Schulz reminded of the new action plan for the Northern Dimension. Mr Musiolik wished to mention youth and energy affairs.

The Board thanked for an interesting Conference programme. The invitations will be distributed before the end of June.

4 BSSSC Chair 2007-2008

The coming chairman of BSSSC, Mr Øren made a presentation of the Eastern Norway County Network, the organization and its priorities. (Presentation enclosed) Mr Øren informed the Board that the coming chairmanship is well accepted by both regional and governmental level in Eastern Norway. The BSSSC Board decided to accept the offer from the Eastern Norway County Network to chair the BSSSC the coming two years. The Board warmly welcomed the Norwegian Chairmanship.

3.1 Remaining dates for the Board Meetings 2006

Board meetings 2006

20-22 Sep Kiel

09-10 Nov Brussels

The Brussels alternative would give the Board the opportunity to participate at an important Baltic Sea Region Conference in Brussels 9 November, "Baltic Sea Perspective

Conference". The Conference is co-arranged by Baltic Metropolises, BSSSC, BDF and the EP Baltic Intergroup and it will take place at the European Parliament. (8.2)

The Board thanks for the information.

5 BSSSC and the future

Mr Majewski introduced the new version of "BSSSC and the Future" as follows

1. The Board ought to define 3 or 4 prioritised issues.
2. It is a priority to cooperate with other Pan-Baltic organizations.
3. Define the political focus for the Annual Conference
4. Define the representativeness of the board members. During the current chairmanship the Board members from Latvia and Russia have been absent.
5. Financial issues such as member fees, conference fees and more

The Board was in favour of a national membership and to build – stronger than so far – on the national platform that exists in many of the countries also in formal terms (mandating and supporting Board Members, probably membership fees). The Board was asked to reflect on the paper and to proceed at the next meeting in September. The Board thanked for the presentation and it was decided that the current secretariat starts a consultation process concerning the national platforms.

6 Cooperation with Baltic Sea Organisations

6.3 Creation of a Baltic Sea Euroregion, the role of BSSSC

Mr Majewski introduces the process concerning the creation of larger scaled Euroregions by the Council of Europe (Committee of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe – CLRAE). The purpose is to support less developed countries and to further develop multi-sectoral co-operation at all levels. The Chairman, Mr Aldegren, proposes to send a letter from BSSSC to the Council of Europe (CLRAE) where BSSSC offers to be speaking partner in the ongoing discussions. In this letter it is underlined the huge number of Baltic Sea organizations representing already by now all important co-operation themes. Mr Aldegren will represent BSSSC at a meeting of the Council of Europe in Kiev and give a speech with an offer from BSSSC to act as speaking partner in the Baltic Sea Region. The Board decides to send the letter to invite to a discussion. Russia as a topic will come up on the agenda during the next chairmanship. (Letter enclosed)

6.1 Coordination meeting of the Pan-Baltic Organisations in Karlskrona 31 May Mr Löfmark informed about the agenda of this meeting. BSSSC has added two items,

namely the work of BSSSC towards a Transport Infrastructure strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and potential new fields of cooperation for all pan-Baltic organizations such as public health.

The Board thanked for the information and would like the secretariat to ask the new Swedish CBSS chairmanship to restart the work on Infrastructure.

6.2 Strategic Partnership with BDF

Mr Majewski described the content of the polite letter and the offer from BSSSC to remain strategic partner without paying any fee. The Board agreed to the content and to send it to BDF.

7 BSSSC Ad hoc Work Groups

7.1 Transport and Infrastructure

Ms Annerby Jansson, chair of the BSSSC Work Group for Transport and Infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region, presented the discussion paper that describes the background for a common multimodal strategy. The final proposal for such a strategy will be send out to the Board well ahead of the Board meeting in September.

Ms Annerby Jansson presented the proposed outline for the contribution to the Baltic Sea Programme Interreg IV 2007-2013.

The Board thanked for the information and adopted the discussion paper.

Further it was decided to develop the contribution in line with the presentation of today to the Baltic Sea Programme Interreg IV 2007-2013.

Enclosure: Contribution from the BSSSC Board to the transnational territorial co-operation programme for the Baltic Sea Region 2007-2013

The Board thanks for the information and adopts the discussion paper.

7.2 Cohesion Policy

Mr Andersen presented the BSSSC leaflet containing a survey of collected good examples of Interreg projects that contributes to the aims of the Lisbon Agenda. The leaflet shall be presented to the Conference "Setting Regions to Motion" to be held in Malmö in May 2006 on INTERREG III B related subjects. Mr Andersen declared that this is the final task of the work group, which hereafter will be ended.

The Board thanks Mr Andersen and his work group for an excellent work. If possible Mr Andersen will present the survey at the Baltic Sea Days in November in Brussels.

7.4 Northern Dimension

Mr Pfannkuch informed about the latest news on the development of the Northern Dimension:

As introduced by the Northern Dimension Ministerial Meeting held in November 2005 a new ND Policy Frame Document (to be signed during Finnish EU Presidency in 4th quarter

2006 instead of any 3rd ND Action Plan) shall re-adjust ND towards a kind of “regional window” for implementation of EU-Russia strategic partnership (“4 Common Spaces”, endorsed by EU-Russia Summit in May 2005). Respective negotiations on a new “ND Policy Frame Document” are currently led between EU Commission and Russian Government, but behind the curtain of public or semi-public awareness.

A survey “Northern Dimension after 2006” which CBSS has conducted in close collaboration with related BSR co-operation bodies and published (presented to the European Commission) in April 2006 has taken up a number of recommendations given by the BSSSC Position Paper “Northern Dimension from 2007” (adopted by the Board in October 2005).

In parallel, considerations are under way how to connect implementation of future “European Neighbourhood & Partnership Instrument – ENPI” (in terms of co-operation with Russia) with future objective 3 programme “transnational co-operation BSR” (successor to current INTERREG III B BSR programme). Nevertheless, prospects are not encouraging yet since EU Commission (DG Relex) so far did not yet conduct sufficient negotiations with Russian Government on respective use/implementation of “Russian” ENPI money.

Against this background WG ND so far has followed current procedures and stuck to electronic communication only. As soon as possible/appropriate WGND will come back with suggestions for further actions of BSSSC (political papers, activities at any ND-related events during Finnish EU Presidency).

Ms Vehkaoja added the possibility of a new initiative from Finland during the presidency. There will be advanced information during the next Board meeting.

The Board thanked for the information.

7.5 **Maritime issues**

Mr Musiolik referred to the information given as regards the annual Conference’s part on 21 September.

Mr Schulz added that the Land Schleswig-Holstein will prepare the outcome of the September Conference and start an initiative to invite other Pan-Baltic Organisations in this work.

The Board thanked Mr Schulz for excellent work during his time as the Brussels Antenna and hoped that Mr Schulz will continue his role as a Rapporteur on Maritime Issues.

7.6 **Youth Policy**

Ms Ludwiczak made a presentation of the Youth Paper of the work group as well as its priorities (Presentation enclosed). The Youth Network will have a workshop during the annual conference in Kiel. Mr Lehre expressed that the youth network wishes to have representatives in the work groups. Cost for travel and accommodation should be paid by the host of the Work Group meeting. Ms Sæternes added that the youth should be part of the national platform representation. The Board adopted the Youth Paper and the proposal to invite youth representatives to the work groups.

The Board thanked for the information.

7.7 Agenda 21

Mr Øren informed the Board that BSSSC together with Baltic 21 is involved in the ASAP-project. One very important topic is the demographic change. Mr Øren proposed that the Agenda 21 work group will be closed and replaced by a rapporteurship performed by Mr Eberhardt (Schleswig-Holstein).

Further Mr Øren presented the resolution from the Baltic Sea Day in St. Petersburg. Helcom has started the preparations for next year's conference that will focus on the Baltic Sea as "One Ecological Sea". The aim is to open up the conference to the international community. BSSSC has contributed to the content of the conference.

The Board thanked Mr Øren for excellent work by him and his work group and welcomed Mr Eberhardt (Schleswig-Holstein) as Rapporteur on "Baltic 21".

8 Coming events of importance for BSSSC

8.1 31 May Coordination meeting of Pan Baltic Organisations in Karlskrona

01 June in connection with the CPMR /Baltic Sea Commission Annual Conference

8.2 Baltic Sea Perspectives-innovation, mobility, integration 9 November 2006

Ms Lewalska informed about the programme of the conference. Ms Annerby-Jansson will present the Multimodal strategy of BSSSC at this occasion. Mr Øren will be representing BSSSC and give a speech. There will be electronic invitations only. The Board meeting will take place on the 10 November in the Norwegian Delegation to EU.

The Board thanked for the information.

9 Any other business

9.1 Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes informed the board about the ongoing work and timetable for the new transnational programme for the BSR 2007 - 2013. A consultation meeting with Pan Baltic organisations will take part on 17th of May in Malmö.

The Board thanked Ms Sæternes for the information.

9.2 Mr Ervelä informed the Board that the Regional Council of Southwest Finland will host the BSSSC annual conference of 2007 in Turku.

The Board decided to accept the generous offer.