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Present:

Mr. Asger Andreasen (DK), Ms. Josefina Bjurström (Secretariat), Mr. Rogaciano Cavadas Kaipainen (Brussels Antenna), Mr. Jon Halvard Eide (NO), Mr. Lars Friedrichsen (Hanse Office, DE), Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek (PL), Mr. Jaakko Mikkola (Secretariat), Ms. Tuula Palaste-Eerola (Secretariat), Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes (NO), Mr. Ossi Savolainen (Chairman), Mr. Janne Tamminen (Secretariat), Mr. Thore Westermoen (NO), Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska (PL).

1. Opening of the Working Meeting

1.1. Welcome by Mr Ossi Savolainen – BSSSC Chairman

Chairman Ossi Savolainen opened the meeting and wished the participants welcome. BSSSC's Brussels Antenna Mr. Rogaciano Cavadas Kaipainen gave an update on the MFF negotiations and presented the Brussels Antenna i.e. the Helsinki EU Office.

1.2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Annual Conference 2013

2.1. Annual Conference 2013 Helsinki, Finland

Mr. Janne Tamminen presented the preparations of the Annual Conference 2013. Mr. Udo Biss has already been confirmed as a moderator and the secretariat is working on inviting the President of Finland Mr. Sauli Niinistö and the Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade Mr. Alexander Stubb to participate.

Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes pointed out that a main theme or title of the conference is needed. This would help in finding the right speakers. She also pointed out that as the new period is being prepared it would still be possible to give input to e.g. the BSRP.

Mr. Cavadas suggested that entrepreneurship and youth employment could be interesting topics as this has been the priority for Helsinki-Uusimaa during the European Entrepreneurship Region in 2012. Mr. Thore Westermoen thought that it would be interesting to hear an outside perspective on the BSSSC co-operation. He would also be interested in maritime issues regarding sulfur emissions.



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Mr. Lars Friedrichsen pointed out that the BSSSC has a good reputation and that the Commission and other actors are very interested in participating. He suggested that a catchy title should include "Policymaking post 2014". He presented the wish of region Schleswig-Holstein to have a session on Culture. Chairman Savolainen pointed out that the main title and topic should be based on the work plan.

Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska pointed out that the speakers should include representatives of all of the 10 BSR countries. The CBSS network could be used to contact and find Russian speakers. Ms Saeternes pointed out that Russia has a new Baltic Sea Strategy and it would be interesting to hear more about that. Chairman Savolainen mentioned that Russia will have national elections in September, which will complicate inviting speakers. Mr. Friedrichsen suggested that someone from the Turku Process could be involved in the Russian participation part.

Mr. Tamminen continued to present the preparations of the AC and told that three or four parallel sessions will be organized on Thursday evening. Mr. Jon Halvard Eide asked what the purpose of the parallel sessions should be. Is it supposed to be exploring different policy development? Ms. Saeternes suggested that Northern and Arctic Dimension could be integrated into Friday morning to make space for culture. Helsinki could also be interested in participating somehow as they are lead partner in a cultural identity project.

Ms. Saeternes pointed out that the BSSSC should be represented at the EUSBSR annual forum where the Chairman could give a message from regions from the conference. Ms. Malgorzata Ludwiczek agreed and said that BSSSC should be represented in the plenary and give an overall comment on the issues of regional aspects. The topic of the Vilna forum will be Blue and Green growth.

Mr. Tamminen asked the participants to give ideas on contents for the Thursday afternoon and Friday sessions. It should be something very interesting in order to attract people to stay for the 1st afternoon and the 2nd day as well. In addition to co-operation with Russia, Friday morning will include presentations of interesting projects from the BSSSC policy sectors (max 5). Ms. Saeternes suggested interesting speakers and something related to youth or the 20th anniversary. Mr. Friedrichsen



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suggested there could be space for a project café. In this regard Ms. Saeternes suggested that the secretariat contacts the Rostock office to find out, if they would be interested in taking part in organizing the project café.

It was agreed, that the conference fee is € 150 per person.

2.2. BSSSC 20th Anniversary at the Annual Conference 2013

Previous chairmen and important officials will be invited to participate in the conference. A BSSSC timeline with pictures, texts, video and material will be compiled in the expo area. Ms. Saeternes suggested that a list on presidents and key persons should be compiled and the secretariat promised to draw up the list. Ms Ludwiczek suggested that the BSSSC news including interviews with previous chairmen etc. could be devoted to the 20th anniversary

The main festivities will take place during the dinner on Thursday the 17th. Dinner speeches could include both looking back (e.g. Arne Ören, Knud Anderson) and youth representatives looking forward.

2.3. Resolution for the Annual Conference 2013

Mr. Tamminen presented the headlines for the AC Resolution 2013. Mr. Saeternes suggested that headlines 1, 2 and 4 would be integrated. The draft resolution should be discussed at the Board meeting in June, so that it could be adopted by the Board in Helsinki in October. She suggested the resolution could give some input to the BSRP as the new period is being prepared. Mr. Friedrichsen pointed out that the resolution should be a mirror of the conference. Mr. Westermoen supported the idea of giving out a resolution, but hoped that the text would stay concise and focused.

2.4. Youth Event at the Annual Conference 2013

Ms. Josefina Bjurström presented the preparations for the youth event, which will be organized 15th-16th of October back to back with the AC. Altogether six partners (ENCN, Hamburg, West Pomerania, Tallinn, Sealand and Uusimaa) have applied for Youth in Action funding for the BSSSC Youth Event 2013: Youth for Work! The event, which will be focusing on tackling youth unemployment on the regional level, will gather around 30 participants aged 15-30. The participants will continue to take



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part in the AC after the youth event and will be given a chance to present their event results at the AC.

Mr. Westermoen pointed out that the active youth is something specific for the BSSSC and that it should be highlighted. He presented the wish that room for a young speaker would be reserved in the programme.

2.5. Annual Conference 2014

The participants came to the conclusion that Latvia or Sweden is in turn for organizing the Annual Conference 2014. The Chairmanship will discuss the issue with the representatives of Latvia and Sweden.

3. Any other business

Mr. Asger Andreasen informed the participants about details concerning the next Board meeting in Svaneke/Bornholm on the 24th-25th of June.

Mr. Tamminen presented the secretariat's idea of the BSSSC newsletter. No printed version will be made. The newsletter will be an email letter, which will be published before the summer holidays.

Ms. Ludwiczek kindly invited the Board members and other participants to take part in the 9th Self-government Forum in Kolobrzeg, Poland on the 3rd-4th of June.

The participants discussed the dates for the last Board meeting in 2013. Week 48 and 26th-28th of November were preliminary agreed upon.

Ms. Saeternes pointed out that EUSBSR and UBC were missing in the Work Programme Annex. The secretariat will add the missing abbreviations/organizations to the annex.