

**1st meeting of BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Policy on 3 March 2008 at Hamburg Airport
Minutes**

Attendees

Michal Graban, Voivodeship Pomerania, Marshal's Office
Thrond Kjellevoid, Telemark County
Stefan Musiolik, Land Schleswig-Holstein, Ministry for European Affairs (chair)
Tommy Nielsen, Region Zealand
Christian Nilsson, Region Skane
Marlene Rothe, Land Schleswig-Holstein, Ministry for European Affairs (minutes)
Günther Schulz, BSSSC, Brussels Antenna

Summary of the meeting

After a personal introduction of all participants Mr Musiolik, head of the WG, outlined his ideas concerning the future activities of the group and its political background:

- basis: Final Declaration of the Kiel Conference on Maritime Policy (September 2006) with the commitment to develop the BSR into Europe's maritime best practice region by 2015
- coordination to realize the vision should be undertaken by the CBSS as an umbrella or another high level group; WG should contribute on the regional level to achieve the aim
- WG should shape the BSR view on maritime policy affairs from the regional view and organize political support in order to improve the framework for maritime activities (e.g. relating to European Maritime Policy and EU Baltic Sea Strategy)
- WG should cooperate with the Baltic intergroups within the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions
- WG should also cooperate with other maritime actors and strive to bring them together (e.g. on the occasion of the BSSSC Annual Conference in Kaunas on 18/19 September in Kaunas)
- WG should reflect upon the idea to initiate a target oriented workshop for maritime actors in the year 2009 together with the INTERREG IV B BSR secretariat
- WG should initiate and support concrete maritime projects

(e.g. in the framework of INTERREG: Maritime Cluster BSR, Northern Maritime University, Ferry City Net, Green Ferry or Baltic Master II) and initiatives (e.g. implementation of ship-to-shore electricity supply or environmentally differentiated harbour dues in the ports around the Baltic Sea, promotion of alternative fuels or measures to arise public awareness) and act as bridge builders between policy and project level

- WG should communicate best practice examples.

All attendants agree with Mr Musiolik's conception of the WG and appreciate the ideas. Additional proposals:

- Tommy Nielsen advocates three main goals of measures / activities:
 - climate protection and adaption to impacts of climate change (incl. coastal zone management) with a view to the UN climate summit at the end of 2009 in Copenhagen
 - mitigation of environmental pollution (e.g. caused by ships)
 - sustainable tourism
 - WG should focus on concrete projects and think about positive messages.
- Günther Schulz proposes
 - to use the BSSSC Annual Conference in September in Kaunas to formulate an input of the BSR to the EU Baltic Sea Strategy concerning maritime policy as contribution to the conference resolution
 - to perform a maritime seminar by the „Informal Baltic Sea Group“ which is a group of representatives of regions and organizations of the BSR in Brussels
 - to cooperate with the maritime actors of the regions within the BSR in order to gain an overview on maritime actors and to reflect upon a meeting with these actors once a year
- Michal Graban advocates two main topics of interest:
 - the governance of the transition from centralized to regionalized/communalized ports
 - need for more awareness of transport infrastructure questions and enhancement of the accessibility of ports (e.g. by

improving the hinterland connections and strengthening short sea shipping)

- Christian Nilsson stresses
 - the relevance of the climate topic, environmental matters and maritime safety
 - the necessity of common rules all around the BSR
- and proposes
- measures which provide solutions as concrete as possible in order to mitigate climate change (e.g. ecological differentiated harbour dues, fostering clean ship developments and usage)
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- Thronnd Kjellevoid advocates
 - PR measures in order to communicate the objectives and activities of the WG (e.g. leaflet with aims and actors)
 - to construct a website (e.g. presentation of maritime activities in the regions with link to contact persons of the WG)
 - to compile an idea book of maritime INTERREG projects
 - to cooperate with the Aquamarina Group of CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions)

Results

The WG is open for further participants and will primarily communicate via e-mail. Personal meetings should be connected with maritime events.

Agreed activities:

1. to produce a leaflet (form: Thronnd Kjellevoid, content: Marlene Rothe, financing: Günther Schulz clarifies possibilities of taking over costs by BSSSC)
2. to construct a website (Günther Schulz clarifies possibilities of BSSSC)
3. to help shaping the maritime session of the BSSSC Annual Conference 2008 (basing on the preliminary work of BSSSC proposing to include a business voice, Russia and Scandinavia) (main resp.: Günther Schulz, Schleswig-Holstein)
4. to help shaping the BSSSC Annual Conference 2009 (to be hosted by Denmark) by e.g. proposing a maritime INTERREG event/workshop (main resp.: to be fixed later)

5. to start an initiative to support the introduction of environmentally differentiated harbour dues in the ports and ship to shore power supply facilities around the Baltic Sea in order to reduce pollutant ship emissions and CO₂ (main resp.: Marlene Rothe)
6. to compile an idea book of maritime INTERREG projects in cooperation with the INTERREG IV B BSR secretariat (main resp.: Thrond Kjellevoid)
7. to elaborate a contribution to the BSSSC vote on the Baltic Sea Strategy concerning maritime policy as part of the BSSSC Annual Conference 2008 resolution (main resp.: Marlene Rothe)
8. if CBSS takes over the responsibility to coordinate maritime policy in the BSR: to cooperate with them; if not: to support the establishment of a high level group (resp.: WG)
9. to contact the Aquamarina Group of CPMR in order to arrange cooperation (main resp.: Thrond Kjellevoid, Schleswig-Holstein)
10. next personal meeting of the WG back to back to the BSSSC Annual Conference in Kaunas at 18/19 September 2009 (point in time to be fixed).