



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel.: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Item 2

**52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting,
30 November 2009.**

REPORTS

This paper consists of the following reports;

- from the thematic groups
- summary Brussels activities for the NSC
- from NSC-BSC cooperation
- Maritime Policy Update
- cooperation with Interreg – report by Programme Manager Christian Byrith at the meeting

The reports show the activities of NSC since last meeting in June 2009.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. ***For discussion***
2. ***The NSC Executive Committee approves these reports and supports the work of the NSC.***



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Item 2

**52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting,
30 November 2009.**

CULTURE & TOURISM GROUP

ACTIVITY REPORT/UPDATE WORK PLAN

The Culture & Tourism Group has not had any meetings since last meeting of the Executive Committee, the next ordinary meeting is scheduled for 2-3 December 2009 in Angus, followed by a March 2010 meeting in Central Denmark.

Currently, there is a vacant position as one of the Vice-Chairs of the group, after Cllr Wendy Mawer from the East of England.

There was only a short meeting during the 2009 General Assembly where the meeting schedule was approved.

This 23 June Meeting also discussed participation at the Cultural Days in Brussel 28-30 September, and a report from this event will be presented at the next meeting of the group. The most important result was the Commissioner's statement that culture will become even more focused in the new 'Lisbon strategy' to be presented in the near future.

As a consequence of the lack of a general meeting of the group, there has been made no update of the work plan.



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Item 2

**52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting,
30 November 2009.**

INNOVATION AND EDUCATION GROUP

1. Introduction

The aim of this report is to summarise the work of the North Sea Commission's thematic group "Innovation and Education Group" (IEG) from June 2009 to November 2009.

2. IEG Chair, Vice-Chairs and Adviser

- Chair: Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen, Region North Denmark
- Vice-Chairs:
 - Cllr. Kate Dean, Aberdeen City, Scotland
 - vacant
- Adviser: Erik Lindboe, Rogaland County Council, Norway

3. The I & E Strategic Group (the chair, vice-chairs and adviser, plus supporting officers) met in Gothenburg, 1st October 2009 to plan the next Innovation & Education Group meeting, which will be held in Aalesund, Norway, 10th – 11th February 2010. The Strategic Group will meet again in Aberdeen City 14th December 2009 to continue planning the February meeting, go through the Work Plan and discuss other Innovation and Education Group activities.

4. The North Sea Schools Sustainability Network

a) The school project "Sustainability around the North Sea" ran from October 2007 to June 2009, when there was a great final conference in Suffolk for teachers and pupils from the participating schools, politicians and media. This partnership focused on a dialogue about environmental changes around the North Sea, and how individual choices can have an effect on the environment.

Partner schools:

- Saxmundham Middle School: Saxmundham, Suffolk, England (Lead partner)
- Nordsee-Gymnasium-Büsum: Büsum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
- Teinå Skole: Stavanger, Rogaland, Norway
- Kannik Skole: Stavanger, Rogaland, Norway
- Donibristle Primary School: Dalgety Bay, Fife, Scotland
- Inverkeithing High School: Inverkeithing, Fife, Scotland

The project was funded by so-called Comenius funds, Lifelong Learning Programme, which is a part of EU fundings. 80.500 Euros were obtained for this project.

Home page: <http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomepage.asp?GroupID=274822>

b) The project "Talking about Food around the North Sea" had the kick-off meeting in Stavanger, Norway, 22 - 24 September 2008. The project schools are:

- Invergowrie Primary School (Scotland)
- Beaumont Primary School, England
- Tofthøjskolen (Denmark)
- Ecole Viala (France)
- Kvaleberg skole (Norway).

This project is also funded by Comenius Life Long Learning, and will have the final conference in Dundee, Scotland, 8th – 11th June 2010.

The project objectives are to:



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Item 2

52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting, 30 November 2009.

- use “food and sustainability” as a theme to forge close links and mobility between partner schools
- stimulate creativity by learning about different countries, their people, foods and customs, and producing new recipes for family meals
- introduce the idea of sustainability in food production
- promote healthy eating

Project website: www.talkingaboutfood.uk.org

c) The Comenius project “**Healthy Living**” had the kick-off meeting in Stavanger in September 2009, and it will run till May/June 2011. Participating schools:

- Kirkhill School, Aberdeen, lead partner
- Methwold High School, England
- IES Num. 1 Xabia, Spain
- SSG DE Rede, the Netherlands
- Seja School, Latvia
- Tume School, Latvia
- Sunde School, Norway
- Gosen School, Norway

The project aims are

- to develop close links between the partner schools and regions
- to stimulate a better understanding of the factors which lead to a healthy lifestyle
- to improve the promotion of healthy lifestyles by using recommendations produced by pupils and students.

The international project teams will meet, demonstrate and compete at a Sports and Cultural Event In Aberdeen in May 2011, where the project outcomes will be disseminated. A virtual Exhibition will illustrate project activities and display the project results.

A project website will soon be published.

5. The CPMR seminar on energy in Falmout, Cornwall, England

IEG chair and adviser attended the CPMR’s Energy Working Group seminar 21st – 23rd October 2010 on maritime energy in Falmouth. It was indeed a very interesting seminar. Minutes and papers from the seminar is to be found on the CPMR homepage:

<http://www.cpmr.org/index.php?act=13,24,2>

6. Build with CaRE (Interreg IV B project)

The Annual meeting was held in Bremen 11th – 12th November 2009
IEG chair Ole B. Sorensen attended the meeting.

7. Innovation & Education Group meetings in 2010

The next IEG meeting will be held 10th – 11th February 2010 in the spectacular town Aalesund, which is situated on the north-west coast of Norway. <http://www.visitalesund.com/>

The Buskerud County in Norway has invited us to hold a group meeting in October/November 2010.



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Item 2

52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting, 30 November 2009.

8. Events calendar 2009 - 2010

2009	
6 th January	IEG Strategic Group meeting in Aberdeen
9 th February	IEG Strategic Group meeting in Aberdeen
24 th – 25 th March	Innovation & Education Group meeting in Aberdeen
26 th – 27 th March	NSC ExCom meeting in Kristiansand, Norway
2 nd – 5 th June	North Sea Schools Sustainability Network: The “Sustainability around the North Sea”-project: Final conference in Suffolk, England. This coincided with the new “Talking about Food around the North Sea”-project’s meeting, also in Suffolk.
23 rd – 26 th June	North Sea Commission GA in Region Noord-Holland
24 th – 25 th September	New Comenius school project “Healthy Living”, Kick-off meeting in Stavanger, Norway.
30 th September – 2 nd October	CPMR GA in Gothenburg
1 st October	IEG Strategic Group meeting in Gothenburg
21 st – 23 rd October	CPMR’s Energy Working Group seminar on energy in Falmouth, Cornwall, England
11 th – 12 th November 2009	Build with CaRE Interreg IV B project – Annual meeting in Bremen.
25 th – 26 th November	NSC secretariat / advisers’ meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland
30 th November – 1 st December	NSC Executive Committee meeting in Kiel, Germany
14 th December	IEG Strategic Group meeting in Aberdeen
2010	
10 th – 11 th February 2010	IEG meeting in Aalesund, Norway. Expected arrival 9 th February
16 th – 18 th June	NSC GA and joint NSP annual conference in Stavanger, Norway
29 th September – 1st October	CPMR General Assembly in Aberdeen, Scotland
October/November (exact dates tbc)	IEG meeting in Buskerud, Norway



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Item 2

**52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting,
30 November 2009.**

MARINE RESOURCES GROUP

The Report aims to update the Executive Committee as to the work of the NSCMRG.

The NSCMRG has had one meeting on 23 June in Egmond on Zee prior to the NSC General Assembly. During this meeting a number of issues were addressed including;

- CFP Reform Response
- Maritime Seminar
- Maritime Project
- Workplan

CFP Reform Response - A full and frank discussion took place with regard to the CPMR CFP response, it was agreed that the CPMR document would be amended and then resent to the CPMR, in preparation for the CPMR GA. This was duly done. However we were not very happy when a number of our recommendations were ignored.

Maritime Seminar - Martin Brebner gave a report on the Maritime Seminar, which took place on 18/19 May 2009 in Peterhead. The report is on the NSC Website.

Maritime project – Martin Brebner prepared a paper for discussion at the meeting. It was agreed that we would address four issues

- 1) To work towards developing a North Sea Strategy.
- 2) To develop a North Sea Spatial Plan
- 3) Organise a North Sea Stakeholder Conference which could possibly lead to the formation of a North Sea maritime Forum
- 4) To develop a North Sea Clean Ships Action Plan

Work Plan – our work plan was updated and is attached for your information.

Spatial Management of the North Sea Dogger Bank Area - Workshop

Anders Carlberg and I attended the above Seminar at the Wageningen UR Centre for Marine Policy The Seminar looked at Marine Spatial Planning in North Sea, in particular the Dogger Bank. At the Seminar it was agreed that a funding proposal would be prepared and then submitted to the EU. This proposal would include the NSC And OSPAR. Although a great deal of work was carried out to prepare the project proposal, the time span was too tight and the proposal had to be postponed. It is hoped that a further opportunity will arise to submit the project for funding.

North Sea Strategy

I attend the NSC Strategic Committee in Brussels in August, at this meeting the NS Strategy was discussed, it was agreed that Martin Brebner would lead a writing Group (to prepare papers regarding a NSS) I would lead a planning group to prepare for a Stakeholder Conference, which would include all NS Stakeholders, including, Member States, local authorities, oil & gas, energy, fisheries. Etc., and would lead to the formation of NS Maritime Forum e.g..

Since that meeting I have had several meetings, with Oil & Gas UK, Wind Energy, UK Government, EU Parliament, OSPAR and the EU Commission regarding holding a Stakeholder Conference in Brussels at end of March 2010.

North Sea Clean Ship Action Plan

Stefan Musiolik on behalf of the NSCMRG commissioned Captain Jörg Sträussler, from Lübeck to prepare an initial project proposal. He is one of the main players in the field of Clean Shipping. He is the project co-ordinator of the project "New Hansa" that was funded from the Baltic Sea Programme (INTERREG III B). "New Hansa" was a joint project of 18 ports, cities and other partners from all the sides of the Baltic Sea. The project aimed at supporting the creation of ecologically, socially and economically sustainable ports in the Baltic Sea region. One part of this project was a pilot installation of a ship-shore power interface in Lübeck. Captain Sträussler has prepared an excellent paper which you will find attached.

Inter-RAC CFP Conference

Six Regional Advisory Council's organised a conference on "Decision Making in a reformed CFP", this conference was attended by around 130 delegates from across the EU, Japan, Australia, America and Iceland. Anders Fasth, NSCMRG, Chairman also attended the meeting on behalf of NSC and had the opportunity to put the NSC view to the Workshop on a "**Stronger Regional Dimension to CFP**", chaired by the UK Fisheries Minister, Huw Irranca-Davies. He was very interested in the NSC proposal for a North Sea Strategy and the Stakeholder Conference.

I had a private meeting with the UK Minister after the conference and he agreed that he would speak at our Stakeholder Conference.



I have a meeting on 16 November with the EU Commission to discuss the Stakeholder Conference and the North Sea Strategy and their possible participation.

The next meeting of the NSCMRG is planned for the end of January in Shetland, accommodation permitting.

Report Autor: Ann Bell, NSC Marine Resources Advisor on behalf of Anders Fasth, NSCMRG Chairman



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Item 2

52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting, 30 November 2009.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

1. Introduction

This report is aimed at informing the Executive Committee to the work carried out by the Sustainable Development Group from June 2009 to November 2009.

2. SDG Chair, Vice – Chairs and Adviser

Chair: Cllr John Lamb, East of England Regional Assembly
V.Chairs 1) Cllr Henrik Ringbæk Madsen, Nordjyllands Amt, Denmark
2) Cllr Marten Wiersma, Zeeland, The Netherlands
Adviser Yasa Ratnayeke, Aberdeen City, Scotland

3. Sept / Oct 2009

The SDG Strategic Group (Chair, Vice Chair and Adviser) met during the CPMR GA and discussed the agenda and study visits for the group's next meeting in Aalborg on the 26th of November 2009. Discussions also took place with the IEG group as to how the groups could work closer with each other on common themes. The Chair spoke to the Baltic Sea Energy Group Chair and has invited them to the groups meeting in Aalborg.

4. 22nd and 23rd October 2009

The Chair and Vice Chair attended the CPMR Energy Group's meeting in Cornwall, and are working towards building closer relationships with this group as there is a lot of common ground and EU Policy which could be used by members of both groups.

5. Group Meeting 26th November 2009 – Aalborg

Verbal report at meeting.

6. Build with CaRe Project

The 2nd annual meeting of this project took place in Bremen on the 11th and 12th of November 2009. The Chair and Vice Chairs were not able to attend but the Adviser attended the meeting on their behalf. The SDG will be supporting this project and helping them on Policy matters and will have a Political input into the project.

7. SURF Project

The Surf Project was discussed at the last meeting of the Executive. This project has now been approved and will cover the following areas which has a direct link into this group.

- To promote and develop management instruments for a sustainable urban fringe that contributes in a balanced way to city region competitiveness
- To put sustainable urban fringe development higher on the political agenda in the partner regions, the national and regional governments and at European Policy level. The



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Item 2

**52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting,
30 November 2009.**

projects has partners from Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and the UK

The SDG will follow this project very closely and will assist the project in pushing its new Policy through Political input and using its contacts through its membership.

8. Co-Operation with the North Sea Programme and Baltic Sea Energy Group

The group will continue to work closely with the North Sea Programme in order that its members could develop projects and the SDG could help and develop strategic projects.

The group will also work more closely with the Baltic Sea Energy Group and look at the possibility of hosting another Energy Conference in 2010.

9. Next Meeting

March 2010.



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Item 2

52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting, 30 November 2009.

TRANSPORT GROUP

Please find below an account of the main activities of the NSC Transport group in the period since the last Executive meeting on 26 June 2009.

Input to the development of a North Sea Strategy

The Adviser helped the Secretariat with drafting the Terms of Reference for the NSC strategy development process. He has also provided some transport-related input to the draft strategy paper.

Further contribution to TEN-T review

The Transport group provided further input to the CPMR Intercom group on the TEN-T review in September – as part of the preparation for the meeting of the TEN-T group on 30 September (see separate paragraph below)

NSC priority themes and concepts for the TEN-T review

- Territorial cohesion and polycentric development
- Consistency with Lisbon and Gothenburg agenda & other EU policies
- Framework conditions for maritime transport
- Inclusion of maritime borders
- Facilitation of Modal shift in favour of sustainable transport modes
- Interoperability across borders and modes
- Eliminating bottlenecks in entire logistics chain,
- Alternative fuels and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)
- The current TEN-T priority projects should be completed before new ones are added
- Consistent approach to project assessment
- Prolonged timeframe for planning and funding

Geographical priorities in terms of axes, corridors, Motorways of the Sea

As a main rule, the Transport group believes it's premature to present a firm priority list of specific geographical corridors and axes as this stage. We will therefore confine ourselves to list some more general principles on which the definition of the "geographical dimension" of the future TEN-T could be based

- Integrate periphery in future core & priority networks
- Open up the TEN-T towards third countries
- Implement current TEN-T priority projects in the NSR, and include these projects in future priority networks
- Strengthen integration of current MoS corridors, e.g Western Europe (incl North Sea), Baltic and Mediterranean



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Item 2

52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting, 30 November 2009.

Meeting of the CPMR group on the TEN-T review, Gothenburg, 30 September

Three members of the NSC Transport group attended the above meeting together with representatives of the CPMR Secretariat and other Geographical Commissions. The meeting gave an update on the TEN-T review process. 300 replies were submitted to the open consultation on the TEN-T Green Paper, of which over 50 from regional authorities. The CPMR response is explicitly mentioned in the summary report from the Commission. One of the main legislative proposals planned as a follow up of the Green Paper is a revision of the Community Guidelines on TEN-T, foreseen for end of 2010. The CPMR will try to be represented in one of the expert groups to be established by the Commission on the TEN-T review. The CPMR group will furthermore explore the option of organising a meeting back to back with a TEN-T stakeholder conference in Zaragoza on 18 March under the Spanish EU Presidency.

Finally, the NSC delegation presented priority themes and concepts, as well as geographical priorities in accordance with the paragraph above.

Ordinary meeting of the NSC Transport group, Gothenburg 30 September

The agenda comprised the ordinary items on the Work Plan. As for the European Transport agenda (apart from the TEN-T review), the group decided to explore the EU Urban Transport Action Plan which had just been published the day before the meeting. The group furthermore decided to shadow a recently approved project under the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme – Care North – on carbon responsible strategies as this project could be a relevant resource for the activities on urban transport and energy issues. The group will also develop a database on energy-efficient transport solutions and NSC member regions will be encouraged to submit good practice examples as soon as the database is operational. Finally, the group will continue the task of compiling updated statistics with a view of publishing a new report on major trends in modal split to the Executive meeting in the Spring of 2010.

Common session with the BSC Transport group, Gothenburg 30 September

Meeting at the same time & place in conjunction with the CPMR General Assembly, the two groups took the opportunity to organise a common session. This session was concerned with the TEN-T review and the concept of “Green Transport Corridors”.

It was agreed that the two groups have certain common interests related to the TEN-T review and other EU transport policy issues and should continue to mutually attend meetings and exchange information on policy positions. There are also synergies to be exploited between transport projects under the Baltic Sea Region and North Sea Region Programmes – facilitated by the fact that NSC members are partners to projects in both programmes.



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Item 2

**52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting,
30 November 2009.**

SUMMARY BRUSSELS ACTIVITIES FOR THE NSC

President Barroso presented the Political Guidelines for the next Commission. Below you find President Barroso's press release when launching the priorities.

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso proposes a partnership for progress and ambition to the European Parliament

President Barroso outlines his vision of Europe for the next five years. In a document sent to the President of the European Parliament in early September, President Barroso lists his core policy guidelines for the mandate of the next European Commission.

The document sets out the objectives and ideas that President Barroso believes should inspire a political partnership between the Commission and the Parliament for the next five years.

President Barroso said: "Europe is facing stark choices in today's interdependent world. Either we work together to rise to the challenges. Or we condemn ourselves to irrelevance. I will redouble my efforts to make an ambitious Europe happen. A Europe that puts people at the heart of the policy agenda and projects European values and interests in the world. A Europe that nurtures new sources of growth and drives forward smart regulation of sound markets that work for people. A Europe of freedom and solidarity."

President Barroso added: "I want to work closely with the Parliament for a prosperous, secure and sustainable Europe, which builds on the strengths of the enlarged EU's internal market, the euro and our European model of society."

Extracts from the text of the political guidelines

- On the Europe President Barroso believes in:

"These are no ordinary times. What Europe needs is a transformational agenda. Only by working together can Europe have the critical mass needed. We face a choice: either we collectively shape the new order, or Europe will become irrelevant."

- On the future perspective:

"My first mandate was about consolidating Europe at 27. The enlarged EU now gives us a springboard to use our reach and strength to best effect. We are now in a position to move on with conviction and determination to a new phase of ambition."

- On setting priorities in a longer term perspective: A vision for EU 2020:

"We need to revise the current Lisbon strategy to fit the post 2010 period, turning it into a strategy for convergence and coordination to deliver on this integrated vision of EU 2020. This will require both immediate and longer term action:

Making a successful exit from the crisis;

Leading on climate change;

Developing new sources of sustainable growth and social cohesion;

Advancing people's Europe;

Opening a new era for Global Europe."

- On making a successful exit from the crisis:



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Item 2

52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting, 30 November 2009.

"The priority now is to continue to sustain demand and stem the rise in unemployment. This means implementing the European Economic Recovery Programme with vigour, keeping interest rates low, and using our state aid rules to support governments in their efforts to revitalise the economy without adverse effects on other Member States. It is too early to withdraw these stimulus and support measures to the economy and the financial sector, but an exit strategy must be prepared."

"Under my leadership, the Commission will use the full range of possibilities in the Treaty to strengthen the convergence of objectives and the coherence of the effects of economic policy, particularly in the Euro area. Enhanced coordination will be central to a successful exit strategy."

"Europe must exit from the current crisis confident that it has a more ethical, robust and responsible financial system."

- On leading on climate change:

"The economic and financial crisis and the scientific evidence of climate change have shown us that we need to invest more in sustainability. But this is not just about doing the right thing for the future of the planet – Europe stands to benefit enormously from investing in new low carbon technologies for future jobs and growth. Fighting climate change and the move towards a low carbon economy provide huge opportunities for business and people and will enhance our energy security."

"First-mover advantages can be gained by exploiting the potential of EU environmentally-friendly industries, services and technology through fostering their uptake by enterprises, especially SMEs, and designing the appropriate regulatory environment. An industrial base which is modernised to use and produce environmental-friendly technologies and which exploits the potential for energy efficiency is the key to sustainable growth in Europe."

"The next Commission needs to maintain the momentum towards a low emission economy, and in particular towards decarbonising our electricity supply and the transport sector – all transport, including maritime transport and aviation, as well as the development of clean and electric cars."

- On boosting the new sources of growth and social cohesion:

"We cannot rely forever on short-term stimulus. New sources of growth will have to take up the baton – sources of growth that are sustainable."

"In order to ensure that the EU exploits this potential for change and remains an attractive industrial location in 2020, we need a fresh approach to industrial policy, supporting industry, putting the emphasis on sustainability, innovation and the human skills needed to keep EU industry competitive in world markets. I am committed to a policy that continues to remove unnecessary administrative burdens and provide the legal certainty companies need to make the long term investments."

"The next Commission must take EU research policy to a new level and make it one of the motors of our sustainable development."

- On an employment agenda for a changing workplace:



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Item 2

52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting, 30 November 2009.

"We need to make sure that our values of inclusion, equity and social justice are carried forward into a new approach. We will not allow basic social rights, such as the right of association or the right to strike, to be undermined. They are fundamental to the European model of society. And if globalisation puts pressure on our competitiveness, our response should never be to lower our standards. Rather we need to make the case to other partners to adopt similar standards, in the interest of their own wellbeing, and to continue to advocate decent work and other standards in all parts of the world."

- On global markets:

"Openness is critical to Europe's future competitiveness. This is not just a question of political preference. It is in our self-interest as the world's leading exporter."

"We need to join up the different strands of our external policy much better to use our "soft power" leverage to deliver solid results for EU businesses and for citizens. The European interest has to be protected and promoted in a coherent and determined way."

- On the networks of the future:

"The next Commission will develop a European Digital Agenda (accompanied by a targeted legislative programme) to tackle the main obstacles to a genuine digital single market, promote investment in high-speed Internet and avert an unacceptable digital divide."

"One of the next great European projects is to give Europe a new European super-grid for electricity and gas."

- On opening a new era for Global Europe:

"The Lisbon Treaty, if ratified, will give us the tools to open up a new era in the projection of European interests worldwide."

"I am committed to ensuring that the Commission, as the driver of so many key external policies, plays its full part in seizing the moment to give Europe the weight it deserves on the global stage. We must not see external relations today as a separate 'box', but as part and parcel of how we achieve our internal policy goals."

- On the means to match these ambitions:

"This will require a root and branch reform of the EU budget."

"We should work more closely and imaginatively with the European Investment Bank and the private sector."

"The Commission will also propose a new framework for public-private partnerships to help bring different sources of funding together to maximise investment in the coming years."



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Item 2

**52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting,
30 November 2009.**

NSC – BSC Cooperation

Background

The North Sea Commission and the Baltic Sea Commission are both geographical organisations under the umbrella of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR). Cllr Anneli Stark from Västra Götaland is assigned to co-ordinate the cooperation between the two commissions.

Cooperation between the secretariats and the presidiums

The two secretariats exchange continuous information. The new web pages are one concrete example. The yearly joint meeting is planned for winter/spring 2010.

Cooperation between the working groups

All NSC working groups have ongoing contacts with their counterparts. One concrete example is the NSC and BSC Transport working groups which met in conjunction with the CPMR General Assembly in Göteborg, Västra Götaland. The two groups have formulated joint positions within the TEN-T work.

Experiences of the Baltic Sea Strategy

The main focus for the BSC during the past year has been the Baltic Sea Strategy, which was adopted by the Council on October 26, 2009. The process has been very long, starting in an informal grouping of MEPs in the European Parliament in 2005, followed by a request from the Council in December 2007. In November 2008 a public consultation was launched which resulted in a Communication for the Baltic Sea Region, adopted on June 10 2009 by the European Commission.

The four cornerstones of the Baltic Sea Strategy are to make the Baltic Sea Region environmentally sustainable; prosperous; accessible and attractive and safe and secure. The Strategy is accompanied with an Action Plan which comprises 15 priority areas which represent areas which can contribute to the improvements either through tackling the main challenges or through seizing the main opportunities. The priority areas are implemented through approximately 80 flagship projects. The idea is that the Baltic Sea Strategy will be followed up and updated each time a Baltic country takes over the Presidency of the EU. The next opportunity will be during Poland's Presidency in 2011.

The discussions of macro-regions and macro-regional strategies raise a number of questions. Questions on funding, on follow-up, on governance, on the ability to react to new challenges. How do these strategies provide a European added value? And what is the role of the regions in this process?

- The experiences of the BSC in the process leading up to the Baltic Sea Strategy and now in the upcoming implementation, are very interesting for the NSC.

- Although the origin of the Baltic Sea Strategy differs a lot from a North Sea Strategy, much could be learnt from the *process* and of the BSC *involvement*.