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Minutes of the 52nd NSC Executive Committee Meeting, from 13.00 to 17.00 on 30th November, Kiel, Germany.

NSC Executive Committee Participants:

President	Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen (Telemark Fylkeskommune)
Vice - President	Cllr. Sandy Cluness (Shetland Islands Council)
Danish Representative	Cllr Harry Jensen (Region Midtjylland)
Dutch Representative	not represented
English Representative	Cllr. John Lamb (East of England Regional Assembly)
French Representative	not represented
German Representative	Cllr. Heinz Maurus (Schleswig-Holstein)
Norwegian Representative	Cllr. Tom-Christer Nilsen (Hordaland Fylkeskommune)
Scottish Representative	Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City Council)
Swedish Representative	Cllr. Annelie Stark (Region Västra Götaland)
Executive Secretary	Lars Haukvik
Assistant Executive Secretary	Vibeke Jakobsen

NSC Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Thematic Groups present:

Culture and Tourism	not represented
Innovation and Education	Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen (Region Nordjylland) Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City Council)
Sustainable Development	Cllr. John Lamb (East of England Regional Assembly) Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Region Nordjylland)
Marine Resources	Cllr. Anders Fasth (Region Västra Götaland)
Transport	not represented

NSC Thematic Group Advisers present:

Culture and Tourism	Geir Sør-Reime (Rogaland Fylkeskommune)
Innovation and Education	Erik Lindboe (Rogaland Fylkeskommune)
Sustainable Development	Yasa Ratnayeke (Aberdeen City Council)
Marine Resources	Ann Bell (Aberdeenshire Council)
Transport	not present

Supporting officers and Observers:

Anja Schmidt (Land Schleswig-Holstein)
Lisa Belfrage (Region Västra Götaland)
Martin Brebner (Aberdeenshire Council)
Michelle Armstrong (EERA)
Sally Spence (Shetland Islands Council)
Stefan Musiolik (Land Schleswig-Holstein)
Toine Jansen (Province of Groningen)
Niels Erik Andersen (Central Denmark Region)
Ingebjørn Astrup (Hordaland fylkeskommune)
Conny Boesma (Region Zeeland)



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Michaels Braam-Scholten (Provincie Noord-Holland)
Christian Byrith (Interreg. IVB North Sea Region)
Wolfgang Gehrmann (Land Schleswig-Holstein)
Torsten Raff (Bremen)
Bernd Voß (Land Schleswig-Holstein)

Apologies:

Vice-President Rinske Kruisinga (Provincie Noord-Holland)
Cllr. Anne Robertson (Aberdeenshire Council)
Cllr. Josie Simpson (Shetland Islands Council)
Cllr. Leif Blomquist (Region Västra Götaland)
Adviser Jon Halvard Eide

1. Minutes last meeting, Haarlem, 26th June 2009.

Minutes adopted, with the remark that Conny Boesma (Zeeland) also participated in the meeting.

Decision:

The NSC Executive Committee approves the minutes with the amendments, from the Executive Committee 26 June 2009.

2. Reports

the written reports was presented, highlights from the reports was;

2.1. from the thematic groups.

Culture & Tourism, the last meetings have been cancelled.

Innovation & Education will have their next meeting in February

Marine Resources, The group have a close cooperation with the BSC fishery group.

The next meeting is to be held in Aberdeenshire. The Marine group has made a response to the Common Fishery paper through the CPMR. East of England and Västra Götaland have made their own replies. The secretariat will publish the responses from the different regions on our website when they are received.

Sustainable Development; had a group meeting 25-26 November in Aalborg. Issue for the meeting was sustainable energy, from wave energy to hydrogen on bikes and cars. Another issue was passive houses and how to introduce this concept to old houses.

Transport; was not represented and had no oral report besides the written one.

2.2. Summary Brussels activities for the NSC.

The paper "Political guidelines for the next Commission" from President Barroso was presented for information. The thematic groups were asked to use the priorities when revising at their work plans.



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2.3. from NSC-BSC cooperation.

There is planned a joint President's meeting in 2010.

Experiences from the Baltic Sea Strategy are to be discussed for the future work on the North Sea strategy.

The work between the thematic groups in Baltic Sea and North Sea is still important.

2.4. from CPMR GA.

No one from CPMR was present. Minutes and the Final statement from CPMR GA were presented for information.

2.5. from Interreg – oral report by Programme Manager Christian Byrith

Update on the programme. 70% of the funding has been used. There was no autumn call this year and the next call will be 1st March – 7th April 2010.

Money left in the different categories is:

Priority 1 Building on our capacity for innovation, 4,3 million €,

Priority 2 Promoting the sustainable management of our environment, 0,8 million €,

Priority 3 Improving the accessibility of places in the NSR, 30 millions €,

Priority 4 Promoting sustainable and competitive communities, 4,3 millions €.

From the next call will the Norwegian contribution to the projects be raised from 30% to 50%. There are 2,4 million € left of the “Norwegian money”.

The Interreg Secretariat is happy to be involved in the work of making a North Sea Strategy.

Decision:

The NSC Executive Committee approves these reports and supports the work of the NSC.

3. NSC Thematic groups Work Plans 2009 – 2010

Culture & Tourism Group focuses on two major areas; Sustainable tourism and the Lisbon Strategy.

Innovation & Education Group will arrange a conference 10-11 of February 2010 in Ålesund on Young people needed in the future. The group may ask for money from NSC. The group is responsible for the NSC response to the consultation on EU 2020.

Marine Resources Group is working with the North Sea Strategy and the Stakeholders conference.

Sustainable Development Group would like to be as a “golden spread” on all the work in the NSC. They plan a joint conference with the BSC. The group is also working with “Sustainable Housing” which will be implemented in the work plan in the future.

Transport Group was not present and there were no comments to their work plan.

Decision:

The Executive Committee supports the work plans presented by the thematic groups.



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4. Elections of NSC Office bearers;

The secretariat had received candidates for the vacant positions. The CV of the different candidates was presented for the meeting. The result of the election was as follows;

Decision:

Cllr. Peter Robinson is elected as Vice-Chair of the Culture & Tourism group.

Cllr. Ellen Solheim is elected as Vice-Chair of the Innovation & Education group.

5. NSC Finances.

The Secretariat had discovered errors in the submissions of 16.11.09 and had prepared a new paper dated 27.11.09. The error was several invoices had been debited the wrong account. The total expenditure of the NSC was not changed. The new financial paper is enclosed the minutes.

Decision:

The Executive Committee approves the submissions of 27.11.09.

6. North Sea Strategy.

There was a broad discussion on the strategy and a support for the work.

NSC and the CoR intercom group for the North Sea have established a cooperation group, which is open for other stakeholders.

A stakeholder conference will be vital for the strategy to involve as many stakeholders in the region as possible and to get their input to the most important priorities for a North Sea Strategy. For the NSC it is important to get the thematic groups involved through their group meetings or comments on our blog at the website.

There will be a joint North Sea Strategy conference in Brussels in April 2010 as well as the strategy will be a theme for NSC events during maritime week in May 2010 and at the GA in June 2010.

There are some important questions we need to bring into the discussion to be answered;

1 - Do we need a strategy? 2 – if yes, what is the added value to have a North Sea Strategy?

These questions must be answered as part of the process.

A working group will meet 17 December to prepare conferences and all groups are asked to give input to the invitation letter to the conference.

The Strategic Committee will have a meeting 12th January for preparation of the conference

Decision:

1. The Executive Committee supports the paper “A Strategy for the North Sea” dated 1 October 2009.

2. The Executive Committee supports the Stakeholder conference; the Strategic Committee can decide the financial support from NSC to the event.

3. The NSC President lead the work in cooperation with the Strategic Committee, the Executive Committee will between meetings be informed of the work through the website and e-mail.



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7. NSC Organisational issues incl.; Financing of Advisers,

The presented paper was discussed.

Decision:

The Executive Committee decided to keep the arrangement for the advisers unchanged.

8. Next meeting; March/April in Denmark.

Harry Jensen invited the Executive Committee to Region Midtjylland for the next meeting. Date to be decided later. The meeting accepted the invitation.

9. AOB

The Joint seminar and General Assembly 2010 is under preparation. Hosts are Rogaland County in cooperation with Interreg North Sea Programme and NSC. The main event will be in Stavanger Forum in the city of Stavanger. The theme for the conference will be North Sea Strategy.

The President thanked Schleswig-Holstein for hosting and arranging the meeting.



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Item 5

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

FINANCES

The budget for 2009 was adopted by the Annual Business meeting in 13 June 2008:

NOTE 27.11.09

The secretariat investigated at the submissions after the budget was sent out and discovered there were several invoices that were debited the wrong account. The errors have now been corrected and the corrected submissions are below.

INCOME:

Membership subscription

INCOME:

EXPENDITURE:

General Assembly Expenses
Promotional Expenditure
Travel, Accommodation, etc.
Thematic Groups, meetings
Adviser's Support
Telf.adm,internet, etc

EXPENDITURE

Submission	Budget 2009
Pr 27.11.2009	
Euro	Euro
159 560	140 390
159 560	140 390
26 461	26 000
3 575	7 200
14 494	24 800
3 750	15 500
59 287	55 000
3 960	11 890
111 527	140 390

1 Euro = 8 Nkr.

Note;

- The income is higher due to new members Angus, Bremen and Zuid-Holland that was not included in the budget.
- An invoice of approx 5000 Euro for maintenance, upgrading and support of the website is not included.
- Travel and accommodation for Adviser's meeting and ExCom in November are not included.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. ***For discussion and approval.***
2. ***The Executive Committee approves the submissions of 27.11.09.***