



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

Draft minutes from the meeting of the Extended Strategic Committee on 12.01.10 in Brussels.

Participants:

NSC: Gunn Marit Helgesen, Annelie Stark, Lisa Belfrage, Michael Braam-Scholten and Lars Haukvik

CoR: Christian Bruns

Interreg: Carsten Westerholt.

Apologies:

Sandy Cluness, Rinske Kruisinga, Ann Bell, Martin Brebner and Sally Spence

Introduction:

Minutes from the administrative meeting 17 December 2009 was presented together with the draft proposal for the conference 13 April (papers enclosed).

A suggestion for the setup of the March and the April conferences was distributed and discussed.

A suggestion for a North Sea Strategy Interreg project was distributed and discussed (project outline enclosed).

Conclusions:

- The meeting agreed with conclusions from the meeting 17 December 2009.
- The meeting suggested using the headlines from the strategy paper 01.10.09 (Managing Maritime Space, Increasing Accessibility and Attractiveness, Tackling Climate Change and including Innovation) as headlines for themes of the conference.
- The registration and information for the March conference will be on the NSC website.
- The registration and information for the April conference will be on the CoR website.
- The proposed programme for the April conference was agreed; the meeting wanted CPMR more visible and suggested the President and the General Secretary as speakers.
- The project outline was agreed in principle as a good idea. The project must focus on outcomes, concrete outcomes and long term achievements. Not a best practice project. The Secretariat distributes the proposal and asks for project partners.

Next meeting is 18 March after the conference.

Minutes of the Meeting on 17th December 2009 at the Oslo Office. Main theme of the discussion was the organisation of two conferences planned by the NSC.

Participants:

Ann Bell (Aberdeenshire Council and NSC Marine Resources Advisor)
Christian Bruns (Head of Bremen Office)
Christian Byrith (Head of Secretariat – North Sea Region Programme)
Lars Haukvik (Executive Secretary North Sea Commission)
Carsten Westerholt (Secretariat North Sea Region Programme)
Torsten Raff (Bremen Office)

Ann Bell presented the planning for the NSC-stakeholder conference:

- 1 ½ days on 24th/25th March 2010 in London
- Around 100 participants (stakeholders from the following sectors: oil and gas, fisheries, shipping, energy etc.) → character of this conference: “technical conference”
- Open invitation (registration tool will be online)
- Language: English (no translation)
- First Day: Plenary session with high-level-speakers from Member States (e.g. UK, Netherlands), DG MARE (new Commissioner Damanaki)
- Second Day: Opening speeches, 4 parallel workshops, Plenary session with feed-back from the workshops and conclusions
- Chair of CoR-Intergroup will be invited to this conference in order to present the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the Intergroup
- Possible themes/ ideas for workshops:
 - How do we manage the North Sea and ensure harmonisation of all users?
 - The secretariat of the Interreg North Sea Programme will contribute ideas for one workshop

Christian Bruns informed the participants about the discussion with the CoR in order to organise a conference about NSS in the CoR-building in Brussels:

- CoR invites the Intergroup “North Sea/ English Channel” and the NSC to integrate their joint conference into a broader forum on “Europe’s macro-regions: Integration through territorial co-operation” on 13th April 2010 (1 day). The forum will start with an opening session with high-level speakers. After the opening, three parallel panel debates (North Sea, Baltic Sea and Danube), different workshops (up to 3 workshops on the North Sea region) and a conclusions` meeting will follow (see annex).
- Participants: around 400 for the whole conference, 100-150 participants for the session on the North Sea; NSC-secretariat and Secretariat of the North Sea Programme will provide email-addresses for the invitation and send them to the Bremen office.
- The CoR provides rooms, interpretation, print of a brochure and invitations, catering (coffee, lunch, evening-reception). The CoR provides the daily allowance, travel costs and accommodation costs for the speakers.
- CoR has to send the draft programme of the forum to the Presidency of the CoR and the political groups on 15th January 2010 in order to get their approval. Therefore it is



important that the Members of the Strategic Committee will decide on the structure of the conference concerning the North Sea on 12th January 2010.

- Bremen will identify themes and speakers for the panel debate, the workshops and the conclusions` meeting on the North Sea Region.
- Proposed speakers for the panel debate on the North Sea: Gunn Marit Helgesen (she should present the conclusions from the NSC-conference in London), Hermann Kuhn (Chair of the CoR-Intergroup), MEP (e.g. Chair of new EP-Intergroup on coastal regions).

Ann Bell and Christian Bruns will send drafts of the conference programmes (agenda, speakers etc.) to the Members of the Strategic Committee before the next meeting on 12th January 2010.

Torsten Raff
21.12.2009



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

Forum of the Committee of the Regions

Europe's macro-regions: Integration through territorial co-operation

Indicative Programme (draft of 4 December)

13 April 2010, Committee of the Regions

8:00-9:00

Registration

9:00-9:45

Opening Session: Keynote speeches

- **President of the Committee of the Regions** (name to be confirmed after election of the new President on 10 February 2010)
- **Johannes Hahn**, European Commissioner for Regional Policy (tbc)
- **Pedro Solbes**, Second Vice-President and Minister of Economy and Finance on behalf of the Spanish Presidency (tbc)
- **Danuta Hübner**, Member of the European Parliament and Chairwoman of the Committee on Regional Development (tbc)

10:00-11:00

Three parallel panel debates

Moderated debate with political representatives and experts

Panel 1 on the Baltic Sea Region

Panel 2 on the Danube Region

Panel 3 on the North Sea Region

Coffee break

11:30-13:00

Five parallel thematic workshops

Five parallel workshops on themes such as economic development, climate change, maritime policies, governance, and funding, of which three will be predominantly addressed to stakeholders of the North Sea region (tbc)

13:00-14:30

Lunch reception by the Committee of the Regions

14:30-16:00

Parallel conclusions' meetings by region

Meeting 1: Baltic Sea Region

Meeting 2: Danube Region

Meeting 3: North Sea Region

16:15-17:00

Final round table

Moderated presentation of results by region and debate with the audience

17:00-19:00

Reception and social event

Including concert or other cultural activities (tbc)



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

Key Issues for a North Sea Cluster Coordination Project

As content contribution for the elaboration of a North Sea Strategy

Background

The current discussion in the Committee of the Regions, the North Sea Commission of CPMR and several regions around the North Sea shows as a common denominator the interest to jointly work towards a **North Sea Strategy**. A North Sea Region Interreg project could well complement the ESPON project applied for in November 2009. Concrete issues would be to provide additionally to the data collection intended by the ESPON project in terms of cluster-orientated solutions broken down into thematic groups. These can be derived from the projects funded within the Interreg IIIB and IVB North Sea Region programme.

Need – Problem description

Regions around the North Sea face common challenges, for example in areas of renewable energy, waterborne transport, fisheries, SME development, innovation, etc. The Interreg programmes, and many other like Research Framework programmes, ESF, and others are funding a large number of projects in these and other cluster areas, which have the potential to contribute to define solutions for a number of problems or shortcomings of a strategic nature.

There is a need to update and develop the “Norvision” and later reports.

The idea is to take advantage of the vast resources brought together for example in the Interreg North Sea Region Programme for the benefit of a NSR Strategy Development.

Scope of Activities and Methodology

The Cluster Coordination Project will for a number of selected regions derive exemplary cluster solutions or approaches, based on ongoing projects for the above mentioned areas. This information will be collected by questionnaires sent to the projects, individual interviews and workshops with the respective project coordinators.

Work Packages would include:

- Methodology for identification of strategic issues
- Cluster-related analysis of Interreg projects (and others)
- Outputs to North Sea-Channel Strategy, European Territorial Cooperation after 2014, Integrated Maritime Policy, etc

Outputs within/towards the STRATEGY

- Data on cluster importance and future developments of regional development
- Information on emerging markets and research competences in the NSR
- Complement existing planning exercises at North Sea and Member States with concrete figures on market outlook
- Derive conclusions for the discussion on the future of the Structural Funds within the NSR
- Recommendations for future programmes like Territorial Cooperation or EU-Research Issues

Geographical coverage

The regions shall ideally have a NSC working context or membership and should be involved in the CoR group which signed the draft Memorandum of Understanding for the “North Sea-Channel Strategy” on December 4th, 2009.

Cooperation with Member States and relevant European and International bodies is sought.

Funding Sources:

- Interreg IVB North Sea Region 5th Call for Proposals, closing on the 7th April 2010
<http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/home/>
- STOA-European Parliament, Committee of Regions