NORTH SEA COMMISSION

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

Minutes of the 53rd NSC Executive Committee Meeting, from 09.00 to 12.00 on 27th April, Nörre Vosborg, Denmark.

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	not represented
French Representative	not represented
German Representative	Cllr. Wilfried Wengler (Schleswig-Holstein)
Norwegian Representative	Cllr. Tom-Christer Nilsen (Hordaland Fylkeskommune)
Scottish Representative	Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City Council)
Swedish Representative	Cllr. Annika Carlsson (Region Västra Götaland)

Executive Secretary	Lars Haukvik
Assistant Executive Secretary	Vibeke Jakobsen

NSC Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Thematic Groups present:

Culture and Tourism	not present
Innovation and Education	Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen (Region Nordjylland) Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City Council)
Sustainable Development	not present
Marine Resources	Cllr. Anders Fasth (Region Västra Götaland)
Transport	not present

NSC Thematic Group Advisers present:

Culture and Tourism	not present
Innovation and Education	not present
Sustainable Development	Yasa Ratnayeke (Aberdeen City Council)
Marine Resources	not present
Transport	Jon Hallvard Eide (Vest-Agder Fylkeskommune)

Supporting officers and Observers:

Lisa Belfrage (Region Västra Götaland)
Martin Brebner (Aberdeenshire Council)
Sally Spence (Shetland Islands Council)
Toine Janssen (SNN)
Conny Boersma (Region Zeeland)
Michael Braam-Scholten (Provincie Noord-Holland)
Christian Byrith (Interreg. IVB North Sea Region)
Henrik Jensen (Region Midtjylland)
Peder Bang (Region Midtjylland)
Runa Cockhester (Region Midtjylland)

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Apologies :

Cllr. Rinske Kruisinga (Noord-Holland)
Cllr. Anne Robertson (Aberdeenshire Council)
Cllr. Josie Simpson (Shetland Islands Council)
Cllr. Leif Blomquist (Region Västra Götaland)
Cllr. Hainz Maurus, (Schleswig-Holstein)
Cllr. John Lamb (EERA)
Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Region Nordjylland)
Cllr. Annelie Stark (Region Västra Götaland)
Cllr. Sjoerd Galema(SNN)
Cllr. Marten Wiersma (Zeeland)
Cllr. Harry van Waveren (Zeeland)
Adviser Ann Bell
Adviser Geir Sør-Reime
Adviser Erik Lindboe

Gunn Marit Helgesen welcomed to the meeting and gave the floor to Harry Jensen.
Harry welcomed us to Nörre Vosborg and the region.

1. Minutes last meeting, Kiel, 1st December 2009.

Decision;

1. ***The minutes were approved.***

2. Reports;

2.1. from the thematic groups.
The groups had no additional issues than presented in their written reports.
Transport group would like to highlight the meeting in Saragossa on 7th. of June.

2.2. from NSC-BSC cooperation
The Baltic Sea Commission will elect a new president at the GA 28th of May.
Due to the financial crises the BSC will try to get a reduced membership fee in CPMR.

2.3. from CPMR Aquamarina group
Martin Brebner commented on that they had had a useful meeting on exchange of practice.

2.4. from the CPMR working group on Territorial Cooperation, no comments on this report

2.5. cooperation with Interreg – oral report by Programme Manager Christian Byrith
Last call just ended and they have had 17 project applications. Regarding the conference in Stavanger the Interreg Secretariat are happy about the more intense cooperation on the program during the conference.

Decision;

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

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the NSC.

3. NSC Thematic groups Work Plans 2010 – 2011

Culture & Tourist Group: No comments to the written report. In addition Connie Boersma informed about the cooperation with the Sustainable Development group. Next meeting in the group are in Gothenburg 6th. of May. The group is also working with a seminar/workshop that will find place in September either in Angus or in Brussels. The group works to get more politicians involved in the work of the group.

Innovation and Education Group: Ole B. Sørensen talked for the group. The meeting they were going to have last week were cancelled due to the ash. This group was merged in 2006 and they try to focus on both innovation and education.

Marine Resources Group: Anders Fasth talked for the group. They are working to get more politicians in the group and are hoping for one from Møre and Romsdal County.
Next meeting will be after the 19th September in Southend.

Sustainable Development Group: For this group Yasa Ratnayeke talked. The group is planning to have a joint conference with the BSC Energy Group on Sustainable Energy.

Transport Group: Jon Hallvard Eide. Work with the work plan trying to be consistent. Work with the Sustainable Dev. group on energy. The Transport group struggles with low participation from the politicians.

Decision;

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

4. Elections of NSC Office bearers

4.1. Election Vice-Chair for the Transport group.

Decision;

1. ***The Executive Committee elected Cllr. Preben Friis-Hauge, (Region Syddenmark) as new Vice-Chair.***

5. NSC Finances

The submissions of 16.04.10 were presented as in the paper..

Decision;

1. ***The Executive Committee approves the submissions of 16.04.10.***

6. North Sea Strategy Update;

6.1. NOTE OF STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE NEWCASTLE 17-18 MARCH 2010.

6.2. Draft programme for the NSC seminar at European Maritime Day

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6.3. Joint letter from Sustainable Development group and Innovation and Education group

6.4. Questionnaire; 'North Sea Strategy Consultation'

During the discussion on Monday 26th it was suggested to change name from North Sea Strategy to North Sea Region 2020. The name change is to show our ambitions to link up with the processes in EU with as timetable 2020, and to avoid the confusion on using the word Strategy.

The presented questionnaire was discussed. If the GA approves the paper and it's focus areas NSC can work further with these topics. A meeting in early autumn is needed to finalize the timetable and plan the work ahead..

The questionnaire will be sent out to the member regions for comments, deadline 31 May.

If there are persons interested to take part in the writing group, they are asked to contact the Secretariat.

Decision;

1. ***The Executive Committee supports the additional two priorities added to the corporate paper.***

2. ***The Executive Committee supports the programme for the NSC seminar at European Maritime Day.***

3. ***The Executive Committee supports the consultation document and process on the North Sea Strategy work.***

4. ***The Executive Committee decided to change name from North Sea Strategy to North Sea Region 2020.***

7. The 19th General Assembly, Stavanger:

7.1. Draft programme of the conference
7.2. Background paper for the conference
7.3. Invitation to Flanders for General Assembly 2011
7.4. Political statement from Sustainable Development group for the Annual business Meeting 18 June.

This year's conference will be a truly joint conference. The thematic groups can have their group meeting on the morning Wednesday and the conference will start after lunch Wednesday.

(The program and registration is now at our web, www.northsea.org.)

NSC and Interreg are invited to hold our Annual Conference 2011 in Flanders.

Decision;

1. ***The Executive Committee approves the programme setup for the General***

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Assembly 2010.

2. ***The Executive Committee accepts the invitation from Flanders to the General Assembly 2011.***

3. ***The Executive Committee adopts and recommends for the Annual Business Meeting 2010, the political statement from Sustainable Development group; "THE CHALLENGE OF MAINSTREAMING ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS IN THE NORTH SEA REGION AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EXISTING BUILDING STOCK."***

8. Next meeting, 18th June 2010 in Sola Strand hotel.