NORTH SEA COMMISSION

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Item 8

55th NSC Executive Committee Meeting, 7th April 2011.

NSR 2020

Enclosed is a document, *NSR2020 activities*, that sums up the process so far (15.03.11).

A framework strategy document will be presented for the ExCom as a basis for the discussions during the meeting. This document will be sent to the members no later than 1 April.

Economy

- At the last meeting a sum of 10.000 Euro was available for preparations for the NSR 2020 document, only 1.500 Euro has been used of this sum so far for meetings and expenses..
- In addition 15.000 Euro is used to support the conference 9-10 March 2011.
- A consultant has been hired to help in the process of writing the NSR 2020 document to be discussed at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in June. The maximum cost of this assignment is 18.000 Euro. In addition will Jon Halvard Eide be paid on hourly basis for supporting the consultant in writing the document – with a frame of maximum 5.000 Euro.
- This use of money will most probably give NSC a deficit for 2011 after several years of surplus. By 01.01.10 NSC had reserves of 184.693 Euro.

The Document

- This has been agreed with the consultant as a timetable;

Timetable and description of consultancy assignment for the preparation of a North Sea Region 2020 strategy paper

Timing 2011	Activity
8-10 March Scoping of assignment	Meeting in Middelburg Agree scope of document and division of tasks between the consultant and representatives of the NSC Participate in meeting and receive inputs from workshop
14-29 March Preparation of framework strategy document	Set-up structure of document Develop model of priority description Identify data and analysis needs - prepare request for members Submit draft framework document
1 April Presentation of framework document	Document to be presented by Gunn Marit Helgesen
7-8 April Presentation of document to ex com	Discussion of framework document and agreement on way forward
8 April- 10 June Prepare paper	Focus/resource regions to be requested to provide additional data/information Prepare 90 % draft including possible annexes with data/analysis
End of May Discussion on the draft paper	Possible meeting on draft document (this may also take place via e-mail)
10 June Draft paper submission	Finalisation of strategy paper (90% draft) Submission of paper
21 June General Assembly	Presentation of paper
June-September	Consultation process on strategy paper done by NSC
September	Results of consultations (collected by NSC) Possible last amendments to paper
September/October	Final paper

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- The document will have a form as a "strategy document".
- The document will be relatively short, approx 20 pages with several annexes.
- The paper presented to the ExCom will first have been presented by the President in a meeting with the CoR Intercom group on 1 April. The document will be sent to the ExCom member no later than 1 April.

Process

- A first framework strategy document will be presented for discussion at the ExCom meeting. The discussion at the ExCom aims to clarify key content- and process-related issues regarding the document. A set of detailed questions & discussion points will be distributed together with the document by 1 April.
- Between the ExCom and 10 June there will be preparation of the paper to be presented for the ABM on 21 June on the basis of the decisions made in Southend. During this period there will be consultations with members of the Ad Hoc-Committee via e-mail for opinions. This document will be a 90% draft paper.
- Discussion of paper at the ABM 21 June, open up for consultation until September? Compile a final NSR 2020 document to be presented for the ExCom in early autumn.
- It is proposed that the ExCom asks the ABM for a mandate to adopt the final NSR 2020 document at the autumn meeting, preferably by October in order to be submitted to the Danish Government in due time before the start-up of the EU Presidency.
- The autumn ExCom (October) adopts a final document to be forwarded to NSC members, the Danish EU Presidency, the European Commission, the EU Parliament and to the National governments around the North Sea.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. ***For decision and discussion (to be further detailed in the meeting)***

2. ***The Executive Committee adopts the financial issues for NSR 2020 as described under the headline Economy***

3. ***The Executive Committee adopts the setup of the paper as described under the headline The Document..***

4. ***The Executive Committee adopts the way of working as described under the headline Process***