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Meeting of Executive Committee 16 – 17 October 2008, **additional paper to item 6A: Recommendations for following up the report on “Promoting the success of the NSC”**

Background

When the recommendations to the above report was discussed at the Strategic Committee in Bayonne on 1 October, the members of the Committee felt a need to group the recommendations under part 2 – Ways of Working and part 3 – Corporate/Strategic approach into different categories according to their “implementability” on short, medium and long term. The reason for this wish is the fact that the recommendations under part 2 and 3 of the report are differing more internally than what’s the case for the recommendations under part 1 which as a general rule are more concrete and operational. Some of the recommendations under part 2 and 3 are more easily implementable in the short term, requiring no or few additional resources, whereas other recommendations would require principled policy decisions and resource allocations to be implemented. Some recommendations are felt to fall in an intermediary category, reflected in the category 2 below. In the following, an attempt is made to categorise the recommendations under part 2 and 3 with a view of structuring the discussion in the Executive, though it is not always obvious where to put the different recommendations.

Categorisation of recommendations under part 2 and 3

Category 1: Recommendations easily implementable in short term, requiring no or few additional resources

i) Reviewing the ways of working to see what steps could be taken to make it easier for politicians to take part, including those whose English is not so strong.

- Promotion of NSC activities – making the NSC more known among regional politicians
- Joint organisation of thematic meetings in conjunction with Executive meetings (only Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Advisers)
- All thematic groups meet on the Tuesday before the Annual Conference starts at the venue for the conference (all group members)
- Good and timely preparation of meetings



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- Explore the need for organising educational activities (language and substance) for NSC politicians

ii) Using the new NSC website as a “knowledge exchange” for the NSC including a system of alerts, sharing of tools, techniques and reference materials etc.

- Investigate wiki/blog aspects for the new NSC website

- Organise Road shows in selected (non- or less active) regions to promote the work of the NSC

- Assign national members of the Executive with specific responsibilities for:

- Reporting regularly to Ex Com and General Assembly about NSC-relevant developments in their respective countries

- Building awareness of the NSC and strengthen relations with the national

- Leading ad hoc-groups and coordinating various investigations and studies, for instance on organisational matters.

ii) Seeking discussions with the INTERREG IVB North Sea Programme Secretariat on ways of strengthening the links between the NSC and the Programme.

- Arrange a meeting with the NSP Secretariat to agree on common priorities and operational “modalities”

Category 2: Recommendations to be implemented on medium term, requiring more preparations and resource allocations than category 1

- More focussed thematic group work plans

The Executive Committee must give the thematic groups clear political priorities, and the thematic groups must find how they can help to meet the political priorities in their work plans, preferably in terms of concentrating on fewer and more political issues.

- Closer coordination of thematic group Work Plans

This could take the form of implementing the same over all work plan adopted by the Executive Committee (see Corporate approach...), working parallel on some major policy themes such as maritime policy, energy & climate change, innovation and cohesion. **Try to establish joint project(s) to meet the challenges of the ExCom?.**



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The two preceding bullets are however also related to the issue of “Corporate approach” dealt with under category 3 below, and it’s not obvious how to categorise these issues.

- Joint organisation on seminars and conferences on over all policy themes like Energy & Climate Change, maritime policy, innovation and cohesion etc.

iii) Adopting the “Benefits Delivery System” model as a tool for assessing the performance of the NSC.

iv) Agreeing arrangements to review the structure and the remit of the thematic groups in terms of review schedule, performance indicators and changes in "external" environments

- Consider participating in an INTERREG project on maritime governance, with cross-sectoral working across the Thematic Groups

iii) Ensuring that opportunities for strengthening and resourcing of the NSC are pursued as part of the current review of the CPMR.

Category 3: Recommendations for longer term, requiring principled policy decisions and resource allocations to be implemented

- Long term rotation system for filling NSC positions and offices
 - The home region of the Vice-Presidents allocate some resources to the NSC Secretariat
- i) Developing more of a corporate business approach for the NSC with a sounder basis for resourcing the work of the thematic groups.
- Greater co-ordination of thematic group work by Strategic and Executive Committees
- Consider to post a NSC representative in the CPMR Secretariat on a permanent basis
 - Explore the feasibility of establishing a permanent NSC “mission” in Brussels through one of the offices of the member regions

NORTH SEA



COMMISSION

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