



Our Ref 2008 09 18 NSC Maritime Event  
Your Ref

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North Sea Commission Secretariat  
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Dear Executive Committee Members,

### **Maritime Week Event**

As presented to and endorsed by the Executive Committee on 13 June 2008, Aberdeenshire Council is set to host a stakeholder event on the European Maritime Policy during Maritime Week next year. The event, set to take place in Peterhead on 18 and 19 May 2009, will focus on the regional dimension of the Maritime Policy. It will examine this theme with regards to the role of regional authorities in implementing the policy, and also the regional sea approach to managing maritime affairs.

It is hoped that the event could help to lay the foundations for a strategy to implement the Maritime Policy in the North Sea Region, similar to those already under development for the Mediterranean and Baltic Seas. A further output of the event could be the consolidation of ideas for a Maritime Policy pilot project, which is currently being developed by the Marine Resources Thematic Group. A number of high-level speakers will be invited to address the event, as set out in the draft programme enclosed. Aberdeenshire Council would also like to invite you to nominate a Chair for one of the three proposed sessions set out in the draft programme.

Two other organisations in addition to the NSC are supportive of the event – the European Commission's Office in Scotland and the East of Scotland European Consortium. Aberdeenshire Council would like to work in partnership with each of these organisations in holding this event and would appreciate your feedback on the proposed agenda.

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Aberdeenshire Council would also like to request a financial contribution of 25% of the conference costs from the European Commission's Office in Scotland, up to the amount of £4,000. The remaining 75% would be met from the other partners and Aberdeenshire Council itself, which will also be investing considerable staff time in making the event a high-profile success.

I look forward to hearing your views on the draft event programme and your response on the request for a financial contribution.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Robertson', written in a cursive style.

Cllr. Anne Robertson  
Leader of Aberdeenshire Council