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FOREWORD

JARI NAHKANEN
CPMR Baltic Sea Commission President,
Member of the Board, Council of Oulu Region

“Over the past year, Europe and the world has evolved faster than ever. We have all been shocked by the military attack by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. All across Europe and beyond, we have seen demonstrations of solidarity towards Ukraine and its people, who are fighting bravely for their freedom.

We, Member Regions of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, have condemned in a Statement adopted by the BSC Executive Committee this aggression and expressed solidarity towards Ukraine. Indeed, what is happening has a particular echo for us, living close to the Russian borders.

This dramatic situation also reminds us of the importance of our own cooperation in the Baltic Sea Commission, and the importance for us to keep united in a world with rising tensions. Together, we are stronger!

CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Member Regions, through the working groups, have been active to promote the voices of BSR regions in policies of key interest for Member Regions.

I am proud of our strong engagement in the revision of the TEN-T to promote territorial accessibility in northern Europe, but also in the revision of the EU Arctic Policy. The BSC Maritime Working Group has worked to promote a recovery of coastal tourism while the BSC Energy and Climate Working Group has closely followed the Fit for 55 package.

I would like to warmly thank all the BSC Members Regions for their hard work and commitment to build a shared future for the Baltic Sea Region while ensuring the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission continue to be a forward-thinking organisation with strong leadership in Brussels.”

LUCILLE EHRHART
CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Executive Secretary

“Building more cooperation day-to-day for the Baltic Sea Region to thrive, and promoting the regions’ interests towards the EU institutions, have been at the core of the Baltic Sea Commission Secretariat’s activities over the year.

This year has marked the restart of in person meetings since the pandemic, where Member Regions could meet physically. Together with Clare Booth and CPMR colleagues, we have created the conditions for Member Regions to continue sharing experiences and increasing their mutual understanding, as well as strengthening contacts with EU institutions.

This Activity Report outlines the main activities of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission from the General Assembly held in September 2021 up to the General Assembly held in September 2022.

Happy reading et à bientôt!”
MEMBER REGIONS

CPMR Membership

110 Member Regions
24 Countries

BSC Membership

19 Member Regions
4 Countries
On 14 October 2021, the CPMR Political Bureau approved the application of Region Östergötland to become a Member of the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission. At the CPMR General Assembly, Mr Martin Tollén, Vice-Chair of the Regional Development Committee of Östergötland, presented the Region and its policy priorities. Learn more about the Region [here](#).

**Policy areas of interest for Region Östergötland in the CPMR**

**Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**
- Implementation process of the Next Generation EU package
- Regional dimension of the European Semester
- INTERREG programmes

**Energy and climate**
- Fit for 55 package
- State Aid rules
- EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities

**Transport**
- Sustainable and efficient transports (MaaS, electrical charging)
- TEN-T

“On one hand, the CPMR is an excellent resource for increased knowledge of relevance for us. We have already benefitted from the CPMR’s monitoring of developments within the EU and its institutions, as well as the knowledge sharing with other member regions. We hope we can contribute to this to ensure that this work is relevant to the member regions’ needs and in the end influence which decisions we make.

On the other hand, the CPMR is a very respected force influencing the EU institutions and the decisions they make. This was one important factor when we joined the CPMR and since joining our conviction regarding this has only grown stronger.

Through the membership we are given early and initiated knowledge with high regional relevance within policy areas prioritised by Region Östergötland. That gives us the ability to act fast and more strategically and thereby makes a real difference in our advocacy on both a national and European level. We realised the value of the analyses done by the CPMR General Secretariat even before joining, when we were evaluating whether to apply for membership or not.

The membership gives added value to other cooperation we are involved in, for instance within East Middle Sweden (nuts 2). Also, there is an obvious connection to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Baltic Sea which is a prioritised geographic region for us. The network’s work regarding energy and climate will have a positive impact on Region Östergötland’s other Nordic regions advocacy for favourable conditions for bioenergy. Transport, infrastructure and mobility is another important area for Region Östergötland. We have gained insights into Urban Nodes within TEN-T and benefitted from the CPMR’s influence on the European regions’ behalf in the revision of the TEN-T regulation.” Mr Martin Tollén
CPMR Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly 2021

On 23 September 2021, Members Regions of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission gathered online for the 2021 General Assembly to discuss with representatives from the European Parliament and the European Commission about key issues at stake for Baltic Sea regions.

Chaired by the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission President Mr Jari Nahkanen (Oulu Region), the one-day event was hosted virtually by Helsinki-Uusimaa Region) and gathered about 100 participants.

Addressing CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Member Regions, CPMR President Mr Cees Loggen (Regional Minister of Noord-Holland) emphasised the need for CPMR Member Regions to play a prominent role in tackling climate change, and that Baltic Sea regions are frontrunners in terms of promoting sustainability.

Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission!

During the General Assembly, a specific session was organised to celebrate regional cooperation and the achievements of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission since its establishment in 1996. Three prominent figures that have marked Baltic Sea Region cooperation, Mr Erik Bergkvist (Member of the European Parliament), Mr Alexander Stubb, and Ms Annika Annerby Jansson (President of the Regional Council of Skåne), shared their views on the current challenges and opportunities for Baltic Sea Region cooperation.

The role of Regions in building a prosperous Baltic Sea Region

In a keynote speech, Ms Charlina Vitcheva, Director General of DG MARE, acknowledged the role of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission as a key long-term partner of DG MARE and the crucial role of the regional level to contribute to realising the Sustainable Blue Economy approach, launched recently by the European Commission. In the session dedicated to the role of regions in building a prosperous Baltic Sea Region, guest speakers included Mr Olav Berstad (Chair of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and representing the Norwegian chairmanship) Ms Manova (from the Cabinet of the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy) and Mr Pyri Niemi (President of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference). Baltic Sea Commission Member Regions had the opportunity to share their views.

Looking at EU instruments to promote cooperation

During the General Assembly, participants had the opportunity to participate in break-out sessions dedicated to the topics of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme, Interact Maritime Cooperation and Cohesion Policy.
DOCUMENTS ADOPTED DURING THE BALTIC SEA COMMISSION GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Baltic Sea Commission Work Plan 2021-2023**

Presenting the mission, vision and goals of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission for the two years ahead.

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**Baltic Sea Commission 2021 Resolution**

Adopted by the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly, conveys key policy messages to EU decision-makers concerning issues of high relevance to its Member Regions.

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**Baltic Sea Commission Activity Report 2020-2021**

Highlighting the work accomplished during the past year in the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission core policy areas related to transport, energy and climate, maritime, EUSBSR and Arctic issues. The aim of this publication is to provide a grasp of the scope of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission action and influence.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**PRESIDENT**
Jari Nahkanen, Oulu Region

**VICE-PRESIDENTS**
Tomas Mörstell, Region Västerbotten  
Romek Kosenkranius, Pärnu, Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities

**FULL MEMBERS**
**ESTONIA:**  
GERMANY: Wolf Born,  
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
FINLAND: Sami Virtanen,  
Kymenlaakso Region  
SWEDEN: Pontus Lindberg, Region Skåne

**SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**
**ESTONIA:** Andrei Novikov, Tallinn, Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities  
GERMANY: Merten Barnert,  
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
FINLAND: Otto Meri,  
Helsinki-Uusimaa Region  
SWEDEN: Gustav Hemming,  
Region Stockholm

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**
Lucille Ehrhart

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**Region Stockholm hosts CPMR BSC Executive Committee meeting – November 2021**

On 9 November, Members of the CPMR BSC Executive Committee gathered in Stockholm for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. At the invitation of Region Stockholm and Mr Gustav Hemming, Regional Chair for Growth, Regional Planning and the Archipelago of Region Stockholm, the meeting took place at the Baltic Sea Science Center in Skansen.

The day started with a guided tour of the Baltic Sea Science Center, where Member Regions could see the aquariums, and discover underwater environments from the coastal archipelago to the open sea. The exhibition also highlighted the three main environmental challenges faced by the Baltic Sea: eutrophication, environmental toxins and overfishing.

During the meeting, a session was dedicated to the Baltic Sea challenges for sustainability on land and sea. In a first presentation, Mr Konrad Stralka presented the work of Baltic Waters 2030, focusing on political advocacy and dissemination of information for a healthy and vibrant Baltic Sea. In a second presentation, Ms Charlotta Solerud presented the activities of the ports of Stockholm in terms of onshore power supply, which is an important tool for reducing the environmental impacts of shipping at berth.

In a third presentation, Mr Håkan Häggeström from the County Administrative Board of Stockholm presented the Interreg BSR project “Retrout” which promotes sustainable fishing tourism in
the Baltic Sea Region and should help to improve the ecological status of the Baltic Sea rivers.

The CPMR BSC Executive Committee Members welcomed representatives from the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) to discuss avenues of further cooperation with the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission. Mr Grzegorz Marek Poznanski, Director General of CBSS Secretariat, presented the 3 long-term priorities of the CBSS, (Regional Identity, Sustainable and Prosperous Region, and Safe and Secure Region), the work to localise SDGs, but also the priorities of the Norwegian presidency and Vilnius II Declaration, adopted recently by the CBSS Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives.

Ms Daria Akhutina, CBSS Senior Advisor, presented the Expert Group for Sustainable Development, in which the CPMR BSC is an observer.

On 8 March, the CPMR BSC Executive Committee met online to discuss recent EU policy developments linked to Member Regions’ interests as well as the geopolitical situation in Europe. In a unanimously approved statement, CPMR BSC Executive Committee Members firmly condemn the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, while expressing full solidarity to Ukraine and its people.

“Our thoughts are with Ukraine and its people who are fighting for their lives, their country, and their freedom. We firmly condemn the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. All across Europe and beyond, we have seen an impressive demonstration of solidarity towards Ukraine and its people. It is good to see Europe talking in a united voice.” said Mr Jari Nahkanen (Oulu Region) President of the Baltic Sea Commission, in his opening speech.

As indicated in a Statement approved by the Members of the CPMR BSC Executive Committee, local and regional authorities across Europe are playing an important role in organising first hand assistance and more in the future, helping the reconstruction.

The CPMR BSC Executive Committee also approved two Position Papers, namely on the European Commission’s proposal of TEN-T regulation and on the EU Arctic Policy.
On 15 June 2022, the CPMR BSC Executive Committee met in Helsingborg at the invitation of Mr Pontus Lindberg (Region Skåne). The meeting coincided with the Helsingborg City Expo “H22”, an international event showcasing Helsingborg as a smart city for the future, as well as the CPMR Political Bureau.

The CPMR BSC Executive Committee approved a letter to be sent to the Swedish Minister for EU Affairs Mr Hans Dahlgren, in view of influencing the future Swedish presidency of the Council of the European Union (January-July 2023).

The CPMR BSC Executive Committee has called on Minister Dahlgren to raise Baltic Sea, transport, energy and climate, maritime and Arctic issues, high on the Swedish EU programme.

In his opening speech, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission President Mr Jari Nahkanen (Oulu Region) stressed the recent geopolitical changes that are impacting Baltic Sea cooperation, from the adhesion of Finland and Sweden to NATO, to the suspension of the Russian Federation in all pan-Baltic Sea organisations such as the CBSS and BSPC.

At the meeting, Region Skåne organised a session about “Increased energy needs today and in the future – how can a region take on this challenge?”. Ms Anna Jähnke, Chair of the Regional Development Committee of Region Skåne, presented the Effect Commission in Skåne. Region Skåne has met the challenge in the energy area by starting an Effect Commission for an intensified and broadened collaboration ahead of the electrification that is now taking place in several sectors. The challenges in the energy sector in Skåne, as well as the energy transition in the heavy transport sector, were presented and discussed.

All presentations can be found [here](#).
After a long preparation process in which the BSC and CPMR Transport Working Groups actively participated, the European Commission published its proposal for the revision of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). The BSC Working Group has overall welcomed the proposal, that mirrors some of our demands. However, there is room for improvement to ensure a well-connected and efficient transport system for the competitiveness and sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region, while promoting smart mobility. I invite you to read the Baltic Sea Commission Policy Position setting out concrete proposals of changes for the TEN-T proposed regulation!
Mapping exercise on alternative fuels

On 26 October, about 30 regional representatives attended the BSC Transport Working Group meeting, which was chaired by Mr Bosse Andersson (Region Stockholm), together with Vice-Chair, Mr Magnus Lagergren (Örebro). The BSC Transport Working Group discussed the use of alternative fuels in the transport sector.

Mr Jorgen Bjerre, Deputy Head of Unit at DG MOVE (European Commission) presented the Fit for 55-package which was adopted by the European Commission on 14 July 2021 (see his presentation here). This set of legislative proposals should help contribute to reducing emissions with measures to preserve nature and create job opportunities in the heart of the green transformation. He explained the “basket of measures” for waterborne transport. Several initiatives have been made to stimulate the transition in the maritime sector to reduce its emissions.

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to the presentation of examples in the regions on the promotion of the use of alternatives fuels in the transport sector. Mr Henrik Dahlsson, Senior Advisor Sustainable Transport at Scania, made a presentation on sustainable transport from Scania perspective. Mr Pekka Komu, Business Development Manager from Lahti Region Development LADEC, made a presentation on Lahti GEM – Green Electrification of Mobility Cluster. Ms Britt Karlsson, Region Skåne, made a presentation about a study on Clean Fuel Deployment in the Northern Scandria Region.

The BSC Transport Working decided to develop a mapping exercise on Alternative Fuels to share regional experiences among the Baltic Sea Commission Member Regions.

Urban nodes

On 23 March, the BSC Transport Working Group met together online to discuss the new Urban Mobility Framework published by the European Commission in December 2021. Mr Torsten Klimke, Head of Unit at DG MOVE, presented the implications of widening the definition of urban nodes, opening up new possibilities to develop sustainable transport and smart mobility. For example, being an urban node requires developing a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) by 2025.

Member Regions welcomed the broadened definition of urban nodes as many in the Baltic Sea Region have been now included as urban nodes. At the meeting, BSC Members Regions presented their Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans and goals, as well as challenges related to it.
On 1 February, the CPMR BSC Transport Working Group together with the CPMR North Sea Commission co-organised a seminar about how the Trans-European Transport network (TEN-T) can contribute to sustainable and economic growth in Northern Europe. The seminar was an opportunity to discuss the revised proposal of the European Commission for a TEN-T regulation published in December 2021, together with representatives from regional authorities and the EU institutions. Gathering more than 100 participants, the event was held in hybrid form, namely online and from the North Sweden EU Office in Brussels.

Mr Herald Ruijters, Director at DG MOVE (European Commission), presented the revised TEN-T proposal and explained that the implementation of TEN-T will take place in three stages with different targets for 2030, 2040 and 2050. Mr Ruijters stressed that the European Commission agrees with the CPMR in many areas as the EU’s goal is to connect Member States with each other through TEN-T and promote cross-border transport routes. At the same time, he stressed that it is crucial that the national level supports these ambitions in its national transport plans.

Mr Bosse Andersson, Chair of the BSC Transport Working Group, stressed that a well-connected and efficient transport system is key for the competitiveness and sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region, the neighbouring regions and the EU as a whole. MEP Jakop Dalunde, MEP Henna Virkkunen and MEP Erik Bergkvist underlined that economic and social development in northern Europe is linked together through efficient transport nodes and cross-border transport routes.

All presentations made during the meeting can be found on this link: You can watch the seminar via this YouTube link here.

The BSC and NSC Transport Working Groups had a joint networking lunch during the Connecting Europe Days in Lyon on 28 June. The gathering was an opportunity to continue cooperation and joint lobbying towards EU institutions for an efficient TEN-T in northern Europe.

BSC Transport Working Group Meetings
• October 21: meeting about alternatives fuels
• February 22: joint NSC and BSC seminar about TEN-T in northern Europe
• March 22: meeting about sustainable mobility and urban nodes
• June 22: joint NSC and BSC gathering during the Connecting Europe Days in Lyon
• November 22: BSC Transport Working Group meeting in Stockholm
MARITIME WORKING GROUP

Tiina Perho
Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group, Representative of the Regional Council, Region of Southwest Finland

“In light of the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism industry, the Working Group has worked to promote an extension of the tourism season in coastal areas. We exchanged experiences about regional initiatives and reiterate that an EU tourism recovery agenda should plan strong support for SMEs. The Baltic Sea Region is a unique destination for coastal tourism, where people can enjoy a sustainable experience, such as in our beautiful archipelagos, both in Sweden and Finland. However, there is still need for a joint efforts to improve the state of the Baltic Sea, which is under a lot of pressure. As regions, we have key contributions to make the Baltic Sea healthier and help to implement the new HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan!”

Harry Bouveng
Vice-Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group, Regional Councillor, Region Stockholm

Policy priorities of the BSC Maritime Working Group
- Promote sustainable maritime industries in the Baltic Sea Region
- Promote sustainable coastal tourism in the Baltic Sea Region

Click here to read HELCOM, Baltic Sea Action Plan
In light of the 2021 updated EU Industrial Strategy and in the face of the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism industry, the tourism ecosystem has been chosen as the first industrial ecosystem to work on a transition pathway by the European Commission. In June 2021, they opened the co-creation process with a targeted consultation, to which the CPMR contributed with a joint response voicing the regions’ challenges and needs. In order to further disseminate its position, in October 2021, the CPMR co-organised with the SEArca Intergroup the seminar “Towards an EU Strategy for Sustainable Tourism” to pave the way forward smarter and greener in the EU coastal and insular regions.

**Fostering sustainable coastal tourism**

On 28 April, the BSC Maritime Working Group met online to discuss how to foster a coastal tourism season extension to contribute to a sustainable year-round destination. Member Regions discussed challenges and opportunities on how the tourism industry can develop sustainable, new innovative products, services, and tools for business development. Among difficulties raised were the influx of visitors over the summer months, the lack of infrastructure, personnel, and services during the off-season.

The seminar gathered key MEPs involved in discussions around the future EU Strategy on Tourism. On that occasion, Mr Harry Bouveng, Member of the Council of Region Stockholm, Vice-Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group, was invited to present Region Stockholm’s initiatives to promote sustainable coastal tourism and recalled that an EU tourism recovery agenda should plan strong support to SMEs.

On 15 June, the BSC Maritime Working Group was invited to participate in a brokerage event co-organised with DG MARE (European Commission), the CPMR and Region Skåne, to promote to coastal and maritime tourism stakeholders the potentialities of S3 interregional partnerships, in particular in the framework of the I3 instrument and the currently open Calls. Ms Annika Annerby Jansson from Region Skåne and Mr Jesper Skalberg from Region Gotland highlighted the importance of a sustainable blue economy for their respective regions, especially coastal tourism.

The actions planned to prolong the season include start up projects to support entrepreneurs, improving awareness and establishing a network between companies. The Working Group also met with the new Coordinators of the EUSBSR Policy Area Tourism representatives, from Pomorskie Region Ms Marta Chelkowska and Ms Magda Rzucidło and from Oulu Region, Ms Hanna Honkamäkiä.
Chaired by Ms Tiina Perho (Southwest Finland) and Mr Harry Bouveng (Region Stockholm), the BSC Maritime Working Group gathered on 16 December to discuss the topic of small-scale fisheries in the Baltic Sea Region.

In light of the importance of fishing for the identity of coastal and archipelago communities, and also for jobs, entrepreneurship and the tourism industry in the often small local communities, Mr Gustav Hemming (Region Stockholm) and Mr Jan Lahenkorva (Gävleborg) presented to the Working Group the Swedish Network on “Sustainable and locally based commercial fishing with faith in the future”, gathering 11 Regions.

Among its key messages, the network calls for:

• Taking a clear stand for the small-scale coastal fishing and lake fishing to be preserved and developed;

• Adapting rules and administration with greater proportionality, so that small-scale commercial fishing can survive;

• Paying special attention to and removing obstacles to generational shifts and new recruitment to the profession;

• Reinforcing cooperation across national borders regarding small-scale commercial fishing.

The messages were positively received by Members of the Group. The BSC Maritime Working Group and the CPMR can play an important role to further promote these messages to EU decisions-makers.

The European Parliament’s Committee on fisheries is currently preparing an initiative report on the topic of the small-scale fisheries situation in the EU and future perspectives.

During the second part of the meeting, Mr Rüdiger Strempel, Executive Secretary of HELCOM presented the new HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, adopted by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021 that was held in Lübeck, Germany, on 20 October 2021.

Despite significant progress in the past decades, the Baltic Sea remains heavily polluted and affected by human pressures. Addressing biodiversity, eutrophication, hazardous substances, and sea-based activities such as shipping and fisheries, the updated HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan contains about 200 concrete actions for achieving good environmental status of the sea, ultimately leading to a Baltic Sea in a healthy state.

On 22 October, the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission together with the Informal Baltic Sea Group co-organised an event on the topic of ports, in the framework of the SEArica Intergroup (Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas) of the European Parliament. On 17 May 2021, the European Commission released a Communication on "a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU: Transforming the EU’s Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future", setting out actions and principles.

The Communication sets a particular role for ports, as hubs of the blue economy, providing the basis for an ecosystem of blue innovative businesses. Indeed, ports can play a major role in delivering clean energy, green transport, circular economy and digital transformation.

The seminar explored to what extent Baltic Sea ports are at the forefront of this process. The meeting was opened by Ms Henna Virkkunen (Finland/EPP), Member of the European Parliament (MEP), who stressed that ports and maritime transport have an important role in reducing carbon emissions and creating sustainable transport opportunities. The multi-functional roles of Baltic Sea ports in advancing regional development and in fostering the green transition was emphasised by MEPs Nicklas Nienass (Germany/ Green), Ms Magdalena Adamowicz (Poland/ EPP) and Jytte Guteland (Sweden/S&D).

This was illustrated by concrete examples from the ports of Rostock and Helsingborg, as well as Gävle port, where Mr Jan Lahrenkorva presented the key actions already taken by ports in the green transition. They pointed out good practices but also remaining challenges in terms of regulation and financings.

Representatives from the European Investment Bank and CINEA, as well as DG MARE presented the EU support for this new programming period in further developing Baltic Sea ports beyond transhipment and logistics, making them multiple hubs.

Please find HERE the recording of the meeting.
"Russia’s illegal aggressive war against Ukraine has created an unprecedented situation on the European energy market. Our regional cooperation aims to boost the innovative development of clean energies and contributes to more European energy security. The Baltic Sea Regions have great potential to drive the EU green transition by implementing RePowerEU, the EU Missions, and the New European Innovation Agenda.”

Policy priorities of the BSC Energy Climate Working Group

- Promote clean energies
- Promote forestry and its multi-functional roles
- Facilitate the transition towards an innovative circular economy
- Support the development of Sustainable Smart Specialisation Strategies
Seizing the potential of offshore wind in the Baltic Sea Region

Considering the current geopolitical context in Europe, the deployment of renewable energies is more important than ever before in the Baltic Sea Region. Following the publication of the Fit for 55 package by the European Commission, the BSC Energy and Climate Working Group met online in December 2021 to discuss the potential of Offshore Renewable Energy in the Baltic Sea, acknowledging the need for greater energy autonomy for Baltic Sea countries and the EU objective to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. This echoes the new Work Programme in the Baltic Sea Region dedicated to offshore wind adopted within the framework of the high-level group on the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan. At the meeting, Baltic Sea Commission regions discussed their ambitions and plans to deploy Offshore Renewable Energies to make the Baltic Sea Region a pillar of Europe's energy autonomy from Russia, as set up in the REPower EU Communication, while achieving the Green Deal. Ms Anca-Lulia Cimpeanu, Deputy Head of Unit at Directorate General for Energy, Green Transition and Energy System Integration – infrastructure and Regional Cooperation, presented to the Baltic Sea Commission Regions the European Commission’s Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy published in 2020. The Working Group also met with representatives of the sector Mr Paweł Wróbel, Managing Director, Baltic Wind Platform, and Mr Øyvind Vessia, Director within Regulatory Affairs Market Development at Ørsted. Among key issues discussed were the facilitation of access to funding for Offshore Renewable Energies projects at the early stage of development and the respect of the marine ecosystem, as well as appropriate support for citizens’ assemblies at local level to foster social acceptance of offshore wind.

Promoting forest bioenergy in order to meet the EU’s climate and energy ambitions

Following the publication of the EU Forest Strategy for 2030 by the European Commission in July 2021, the BSC Energy and Climate Working Group took an active part, namely through the participation in a public consultation, the BSC Energy and Climate Working Group followed closely the set of legislative proposals included in the EU “Fit for 55 package”. In a meeting in April 2022, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Regions discussed the increased use of bioenergy in order to mitigate climate change and meet the energy demands in an unstable energy market. It included discussions about the LULUCF proposal for a regulation on the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive. Exchanges focused on the regional perspectives regarding the increased use of biomass for energy production. Member of the European Parliament, Mr Nils Torvalds (Renew/Finland), presented the latest developments in the European Parliament regarding the two legislative proposals. The need for sustainable active forestry was raised as well as its use for renewable materials, services and products that can be reused and recycled.
BSC participation in the pilot action on Partnership for Regional Innovation

“Cooperation and innovation are essential ingredients for the sustainable and resilient development of the EU’s regions. All territories have an innovation potential that needs to be tapped” said the Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms about the recent launch of the pilot action on a Partnership for Regional Innovation. The Committee of the Regions, together with the Joint Research Center, have launched a pilot action to facilitate synergies of investment and innovative solutions between EU territories.

The initiative is rooted in the upcoming Innovation Agenda for Europe to help integrate initiatives and investment to improve Innovation ecosystems as one essential area to boost Europe’s innovation performance.

Following a Call for Expression of interest opened in March 2022, the Baltic Sea Commission has been part of one of the successful consortia, comprising of the Baltic Sea Region S3 Directors’ Network - Region Västerbotten (SE), Southwest Finland (FI) and Policy Area Innovation from the EUSBSR.

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission will contribute to diffusing learning and benefits from the Pilot Action across all its membership. The Pilot Action offers a significant opportunity to explore bottlenecks in the context of the EU’s twin transition agenda, and to consider how Smart Specialisation can support this endeavour. The Baltic Sea Region offers a highly relevant testing ground for such an exploration. The participation of the Baltic Sea Commission is in line with its Energy and Climate Working Group priority to foster cooperation in S3.

BSC contribution to the CPMR Climate Task Force

Over the year, Baltic Sea Member Regions actively contributed in the work of the CPMR Climate Task Force on topics related to the Fit for 55 package, REPowerEU and the Regions Act! initiative. Mr Richard Sjölund, Vice-Chair of the Board of the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia and CPMR Vice-President in charge of climate and energy, has actively promoted Baltic Sea perspectives in CPMR work related to climate.

Click here to read the partnerships for regional innovation playbook

BSC Energy and Climate Working Group Meetings

- **December 2021**: Offshore wind in the Baltic Sea Region
- **April 2022**: Bioenergy and the Green Deal
- **September 2022**: REPower EU
Tomas Mörtsell
Chair of the BSC Arctic Task Force, Second Vice-President of the Regional Development Board, Region Västerbotten

“The joint European Communication and European External Action Service’s Communication on the Arctic, published in October 2021 is a good step forward to reinforce sustainable territorial development in the Arctic while addressing challenges linked to climate change. However, to realise the full potential in the Arctic, it is vital to involve regional and local authorities in the implementation efforts of the new EU Arctic Policy. I am delighted the BSC Arctic Task Force has been recognised by the EU institutions as an important partner for dialogue, as indicated in the European Parliament briefing on the Arctic.”

Click here to read the European Parliament briefing note on EU Regional Policy in the Arctic

Objectives of the BSC Arctic Task Force

• Offer strategic support to the EU institutions during the revision process of the EU Arctic Policy post-2020 and ensure involvement of regional authorities in the implementation of the policy
• Showcase the extensive potential of smart solutions in the Arctic to lead the green transition
• Stand as a partner for dialogue and cooperation with the European institutions, and Arctic stakeholders and promote multi-level governance
• Promote Arctic issues on the European agenda and more synergies with Baltic Sea issues
Hosted by Lithuania, the 11th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region took place in hybrid format in October. The event focused on the recovery of the Baltic Sea Region and the role of the macro-regional strategy to address current challenges.

In the framework of the Annual Forum, the BSC Arctic Task force organised a seminar on the topic “Connect the Baltic Sea Region with the Arctic Region – Ways to unlock the potential for sustainable development and to realise the ambitions of the EU Green Deal”. The seminar gathered about 80 participants and guest speakers, including Mr Michael Mann EU Ambassador for Arctic Affairs, Mr Jari Vilén Finnish Ambassador, Mr Esa Kokkonen EUSBSR Policy Area Innovation and Mr Tomas Norvoll Chair of the County Government of Norland.

In light of the revision of a new Action Plan for the EUSBSR (putting emphasis on cooperation with Iceland, Russia and Norway), but also the revision of a new EU Arctic Policy in 2021, this seminar explored how the Baltic Sea interlinks with the European Arctic, how the two macro-regional territories can connect, complement and strengthen each other to unlock potential for sustainable development in these territories and contribute to achieving the Green Deal.

The seminar was also an opportunity to showcase existing examples, fostering green and sustainable development, at the gateway to the Arctic and at the top of the Baltic Sea, on the topics of sustainable aviation, batteries and forestry.

In concluding the seminar, Mr Michael Mann referred to the implementation of the new EU Arctic Policy and noted that the EEAS and European Commission are looking for the assistance of politicians, administrations, interest groups, and businesses across the Arctic and that the CPMR BSC Task Force and its Members would play an important role in this.

Watch the video of the seminar HERE

Arctic Circle Conference in Iceland

On 14-17 November, the Arctic Circle international conference took place in Reykjavik in Iceland. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the new EU Arctic Policy by EU Commissioner Sinkevičius, setting out the key features of the new policy.

Watch his speech here.

The conference was an opportunity for representatives of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission to convey the view of the organisation on the newly published EU Arctic Policy to Mr Michael Mann, EU Special Envoy for Arctic matters, and to strengthen contacts with representatives from Scotland, the Faroe Islands, and other important partners. In the picture, CPMR BSC President Mr Jari Nahkanen and Ms Ásthildur Sturludóttir, Mayor of Akureyri Municipality in Iceland, who took part in in the BSC Arctic Task Force meeting in March 2021.
Mr Jari Nahkanen, together with representatives of the CPMR, attended the Arctic Spirit Conference in Rovaniemi in Finland. The conference discussed current and future developments in the Arctic with a focus on European Arctic regions. The themes included the international public launch of the Finnish presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Arctic security and regional cooperation with a focus on Barents, Finland and the European Union in the Arctic. CPMR representatives discussed with Mr Raphaël Goulet, Head of Unit at DG MARE, about the role of local and regional authorities in delivering the new EU Arctic Policy.

On 10-11 November in Brussels, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Mr Jari Nahkanen participated in the EU Arctic Forum and Arctic Indigenous Peoples’ Dialogue, which was co-organised by the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The highlight of the event was the presentation of the new EU Arctic Policy, by Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, EU Commissioner for Environment and EU High Representative Mr Josep Borrell. The event brought together a wide range of stakeholders that had the opportunity to comment on the new EU Arctic Policy that was overall welcomed by participants.

At the conference, Mr Jari Nahkanen stressed the importance of including the regional level in the implementation of the EU Arctic Policy, and asked Ms Charlina Vitcheva, Director General for DG MARE (European Commission), about the potential of Smart Specialisation Strategies in further supporting sustainable economic development in the Arctic. The two-day conference also focused on inclusion, research, sustainable development, and the green transition in the Arctic. In closing the EU Arctic Forum, Mr Michael Mann, EU Special Envoy for Arctic matter stressed “We want more Arctic in the EU, and we want more EU in the Arctic”.

In January 2022, CPMR Member Regions from Helsinki-Uusimaa, Southwest Finland, Oulu, Västerbotten, Estonia, Murcia, Norrbotten and the North Sweden EU Office met together to discuss the EEAS/EC Joint Communication for “A stronger EU engagement for a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous Arctic”. It was recognised that the new EU Arctic Policy is a good step forward to reinforce sustainable territorial development in the Arctic while addressing complex challenges linked to climate change. However, to realise the full potential in the Arctic, it is vital to involve regional and local authorities in the EU implementation efforts,
since they have a strategic role to help identify key investment priorities and through further cooperation create the conditions to develop a sustainable Arctic Policy that benefits all. Based on the discussion, the BSC Arctic Task Force developed a Policy Position, to react to the new EU Arctic Policy with key messages.

In February 2022, the Arctic Task Force had an exchange of views with the Committee of the Regions’ Rapporteur for the opinion on the Arctic Ms Mirja Vehkaperä (Chair of Oulu City Board (Finland), to share with her the key messages included in the BSC Policy Position on the Arctic.

In March 2022, in light of the military attack and invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the BSC Arctic Task Force reiterated the importance to keep peace in Europe, including in the European Arctic. Maintaining the Arctic as a low-tension area is essential, and therefore the BSC Arctic Task Force calls on the European Union, in the framework of its revised Arctic Policy, to increase its presence in the Arctic through investments for sustainable development, as well as to encourage more people-to-people, research-to-research and business-to-business cooperation.

Visit of the Arctic Research Centre in Barcelona

Ahead of the CPMR Political Bureau, Chair of the BSC Arctic Task Force Mr Tomas Mörtsell, together with Mr Richard Sjölund, and their respective Advisors met with the Director of the Arctic Research Centre of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. One of the main objectives of the Centre is to conduct comparative studies of the Arctic, viewed as a sea surrounded by a diversity of countries and cultures, and the Mediterranean. Both share a high level of vulnerability to global changes – not only climate change, but also political, economic and cultural changes, with negative effects for the indigenous and local communities. The meeting was an occasion to discuss cooperation opportunities between Mediterranean and European Arctic actors.

On 1 June at the House of the Dutch Provinces in Brussels and in the framework of the SEArica Intergroup, the Arctic Task Force of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission led by Mr Tomas Mörtsell (Region Västerbotten), together with MEPs Erik Bergkvist and Pierre Karleskind organised an event to discuss the implementation of the new EU Arctic Policy. The event gathered about 60 participants and prominent speakers from regional, national and EU levels to reflect on the implementation of the EEAS/EC joint Communication published in October 2021, looking at governance aspects, the need to integrate Arctic issues within the EU policy framework whilst maintaining the Arctic as a low-tension area.
Representatives from Västerbotten, Oulu, Catalunya, and North Norway took part in the first session dedicated to the potential as well as the challenges linked to the green transition and sustainable blue economy in the Arctic. A second session focused on the importance of increased interregional cooperation to maintain a peaceful Arctic.

Mr Tomas Mörtsell pointed out the immense possibilities for sustainable regional development in the European Arctic, from clean hydrogen and bioeconomy to the extraction, production and recycling of minerals and metals in the European Arctic. He also presented Europe’s first home-grown Gigafactory for lithium-ion battery cells, Northvolt in Skellefteå. He stressed that EU funds for interregional cooperation will continue to play a decisive role for the further developments of a Nordic Battery Belt. There are of course also a lot of challenges to tackle, such as vast distances, insufficient transport and digital infrastructure, territorial market failures, lack of critical mass for innovation, supply of human capital, complex land use issues, as well as a lack of administrative and strategic capacity at the local level of government. What is needed is more multi-lateral cooperation, more multi-level governance, better place-based strategies and investment packages that are tailored to fit different needs of different communities and businesses.

Mr Jussi Ylitalo, Chair of the Board of Oulu Region, welcomed the stronger role in the EU set out in the Communication for the development and cooperation of the Arctic. He stressed that the key priority for sustainable development in the Arctic must be people living there. He pointed out challenges faced in the Arctic region such as long distances or harsh climate conditions.

In a video message accessible here, Mr Olivier Poivre d’Arvor, French Ambassador for the Poles and Maritime Issues, presented the first French Strategy for the Poles published in early 2022. The French Strategy focuses on polar research. He stressed that the Arctic is an important zone for everyone, regardless of whether you are an Arctic region or not.

More information on the event here.
BSC cooperation with pan-Baltic organisations to implement the EUSBSR

Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

25th anniversary of the CBSS Expert Group for Sustainable Development

On 24 November in Stockholm, the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission was invited to the 25th anniversary of the Expert Group for Sustainable Development (EGSD) of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). Chaired by a representative of the Norwegian Presidency of CBSS, Senior Official, Mr Olav Berstad, the meeting gathered representatives from CBSS Member States and pan-Baltic organisations to strengthen collaboration to promote the green transition and industrial symbiosis of the Baltic Sea Region.

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission has been an Observer of the CBSS EGSD for several years, to facilitate multi-level cooperation with CBSS Member States on questions related to sustainable development, including topics such as climate change, sustainable urban and rural development etc. The current Norwegian Presidency of CBSS EGSD builds on continuity with the Lithuanian Presidency on the topic of a green transition for a sustainable and prosperous Baltic Sea Region. The focus is in particular on the importance to accelerate cooperation on the green transition and the goal of creating sustainable and resilient cities and communities, with an emphasis on innovation and best practice in industry, sustainable transport, clean energy and the circular economy.

Pan-Baltic organisations discussed Baltic Sea cooperation in Brussels

On 15 June 2022, the Baltic Sea Commission was invited by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Mission of Norway to the EU and the Eastern Norway County Network to participate in a seminar in Brussels on “Baltic Sea Region – Cooperation in challenging times”. Mr Merten Barnert (Land Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), Member of the BSC Executive Committee, presented the cooperation activities of the Baltic Sea Commission Members in different sectors, from transport to energy.

Discussions focused on the contribution of the EUSBSR to drive the green transformation and the recovery of the Baltic Sea Region. The importance to reinforce cooperation in energy issues and develop further bioeconomy, hydrogen and offshore wind was stressed.

On 15 December, Mr Markku Markkula (Helsinki-Uusimaa), Chair of the BSC Energy and Climate Working Group represented the Baltic Sea Commission at a CBSS seminar about producer responsibility and waste energy technologies on the way to a circular economy. He presented regional examples and experiences related to the circular economy.
**Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC)**

On 7 October, the BSSSC held its Annual Conference in hybrid format in Kaliningrad. In the Resolution adopted during the Conference, the BSSSC supports the amendments proposed by the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission on the design of the future TEN-T network, and stressed the close cooperation with the CPMR and other pan-Baltic organisations.

On 1 December, the CPMR BSC Executive Secretary was invited to present an update about recent BSC activities to the BSSSC Board meeting, held in Brussels in hybrid format. It was an opportunity to thank, on behalf of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, the current Chairman of the BSSSC, Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship Mr Mieczysław Struk, who will end his mandate in 2021. The New BSSSC Chairmanship as from 2021 will be taken on by Zachodniopomorskie.

**Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)**

On 12-14 June 2022, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Executive Secretary Ms Lucille Ehrhart participated in the 31st Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference gathering over 160 participants in Stockholm.

Ms Annika Annerby Jansson, President of the Regional Assembly, Region Skåne, also pointed out that the Russian aggression against Ukraine was an attack on shared values such as democracy, peace and cooperation. She reminded the Conference that multi-level governance was even more important in times of crisis.

The Conference was the final highlight of the Swedish BSPC Presidency from 2020 to 2022 and took place in the second chamber of the Riksdag. The Conference reaffirmed the decisions of the BSPC Presidency and the BSPC Standing Committee to suspend the Russian parliaments. The Conference also discussed how the current situation might affect future cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region. The Conference adopted the 31st BSPC Resolution.

Following good BSPC tradition, BSPC President Mr Pyry Niemi passed the baton of the presidency to the incoming President of the BSPC, Mr Johannes Schraps of the German Bundestag.

**Committee of the Regions – Baltic Sea Macroregion Group**

On 26 January 2022, Baltic Sea Commission Executive Secretary Ms Lucille Ehrhart was invited to discuss with the Baltic Sea Macroregion Group of the Committee of the Regions how to reinforce interregional innovation cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. Chaired by Ms Sari Rautio, the discussion involved Policy Area Innovation of the EUSBSR and Members of the Committee of the Regions.
Baltic Sea Commission contribution to the CPMR

On 25 March 2022, the CPMR Political Bureau met in person for the first time since the start of the pandemic, to discuss the latest European policy developments linked to Cohesion Policy, energy, transport and more.

CPMR regional leaders condemned the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and showed their support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine and Ukrainian people by adopting a statement during the CPMR Political Bureau.

During the Political Bureau, CPMR Members engaged in a debate with EU Commissioner Ferreira on the future of EU Cohesion Policy post-2027. She opened her speech by stressing the high value of dialogue with the CPMR, a member of the Cohesion Alliance, to move Cohesion Policy forward. Addressing the Commissioner for Regional Policy, Ms Bettina Martin, Minister for Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany) highlighted that the 8th Cohesion Report shows quite impressively how well Cohesion Policy has worked for other regions in Europe as well as how much these regions were able to catch up over the last few years. She concluded by stressing that Cohesion Policy is a European success story that needs to be continued in the future.

In the transport session of the Political Bureau, Mr Jakob Dalunde, Member of the European Parliament and Shadow Rapporteur for the TEN-T regulation, presented his view on the regulation. Addressing MEP Dalunde, Ms Talvikki Jori, Vice-Member of the Board of SouthWest Finland, stressed that the railway connection between Turku and Helsinki in its entirety must be kept in the core network.

Following up from a visit to the port of Barcelona, the CPMR Political Bureau Members were invited to participate in a transport seminar to exchange best practices related to the decarbonisation of the transport sector in CPMR regions and different sea-basins. Several BSC Members presented good practices from the Baltic Sea Region.

More information about the CPMR Political Bureau meeting here.
The CPMR Political Bureau meeting took place on the 16 June. It was opened by CPMR President Mr Cees Loggen, and Secretary General Ms Eleni Marianou, accompanied by Ms Anna Jähnke, Chairman of the Regional Development Board of Region Skåne. Ms Jähnke welcomed the CPMR delegates to her region, highlighting the importance of connecting more and better with neighbour regions in the Baltic and the EU. Members of the CPMR BSC Executive Committee were invited to participate in the CPMR Political Bureau on 16 June in Helsingborg as well as to a visit of the H22 City Expo, including the port of Helsingborg.

A session of the Political Bureau was dedicated to the REPower EU plan put forward by the European Commission to accelerate the energy transition, and its implications for regions. The session was chaired by the CPMR Vice-President for Climate and Energy, Mr Richard Sjölund, who recalled the importance of building a resilient Europe, independent from Russian fossil fuels, and fuelled by clean energy. Guest speaker Mr Eero Ailio, Special Advisor at DG ENERGY of the European Commission presented the key aspects of the REPowerEU plan, and how Regions can help make it a reality.

The CPMR Political Bureau discussed the review of the TEN-T and the importance of improving the TEN-T regulations that are of capital importance for Regions - as they establish the network quality standards and the funding priorities for the years to come - to effectively address the challenges of peripheral and maritime regions. An interesting debate followed, where members of the CPMR, including Mr Tomas Mörtsell, highlighted the importance of different aspects of the TEN-T for regions, such as governance, interoperability with neighbouring countries and territorial specificities, and had the opportunity to exchange views with MEP Erik Bergkvist.
Zoom on Cohesion Policy

On 9 March 2022 the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Member Regions were invited to participate in an online Policy Brief to share experiences and to take stock regarding the implementation of Cohesion Policy, the Just Transition Fund, as well as the Resilience and Recovery Plans. It was also the opportunity to reflect together with CPMR Secretariat the future of Cohesion Policy post-2027. The PowerPoint presentations showed during the meeting are available here.

Mr Francesco Molica, CPMR Regional Policy Director, and Ms Eugènia Lleal Fontàs, CPMR Policy Analyst, presented to the 30 participants some key issues at stake regarding Cohesion Policy, as summarised in a CPMR background paper. They presented a CPMR analysis of the 8th Cohesion Report, published recently by the European Commission.

The report emphasised the importance of multi-level governance and the partnership principle and the need to deliver more coordination between Cohesion Policy and the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Mr Francesco Molica also outlined first evidence on the implementation of the Just Transition Fund (JTF) based on the experiences of CPMR Member Regions.

The JTF is the EU funding tool under Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 to support regions dependent on fossils and high-emission industries to prepare for the transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

During the meeting, CPMR staff stressed the centrifugal trend affecting the EU cohesion and structural policy with the appearance of multiple funds under different frameworks and strategies has negative effects on the policy itself. “In the short run, it creates additional bureaucracy for managing authorities as well as overlaps and duplications between the funds. In the medium term, this fragmentation is likely to harm core principles of Cohesion Policy such as the multi-level governance and the place-based approach”, said Mr Francesco Molica.

Several Regions shared concerns about the fragmentation and multiplication of funds and that risks reinforcing an existing trend towards centralisation of certain management aspects at national level. Looking ahead, the CPMR General Secretariat stressed that ultimately, the current situation may heavily affect the design and budget of Cohesion Policy funds in the post-2027 scenario. At a broader level, the multiplication of funds calls into question the efficiency of EU action to stimulate investment at territorial level.
On 9 June, The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission President Mr Jari Nahkanen intervened online during the Regional Growth Conference about the contribution of Cohesion Policy to promote regional development in the Baltic Sea Region. Moderated by CPMR Secretary General Ms Eleni Marianou, the session dealt with the need to ensure balances among and within regions and socioeconomic cohesion is strengthened. The CPMR BSC President stressed that Cohesion Policy has had an important role in empowering our regions and making the principle of subsidiarity stronger. For instance, regional authorities can decide on their investment priorities that match their smart specialisation strategies. These have enabled regions to finance projects that benefit the specific needs of the regions.

What are current key issues at stake regarding Cohesion Policy?

Learn more in a video interview with Francesco Molica, CPMR Director for Regional Policy and the CPMR Baltic Sea Executive Secretary.

CPMR Cohesion Papers

Technical Notes
- Deconstructing the 8th Cohesion Report (February 2022)
- Just Transition Fund: First evidence on implementation (February 2022)

Reflection Papers
- The break-up of EU cohesion and structural policy (December 2021)
- Cohesion Policy as an emergency-response instrument: A boon or a bane? (April 2022)
- Why “FAST-CARE” matters for the future of cohesion policy (June 2022)
- Regional eligibility: Avoiding the leopard effect (July 2022)

Policy Papers
- CPMR Response to the Public Consultation on EU’s economic governance framework, “Ensuring a territorial dimension of the EU Economic Governance” (December 2021)
The Baltic Sea Commission Impact

5 Political Declarations
BSC Resolution from the General Assembly 2021 (September 2021)
BSC Position Paper on the TEN-T review (March 2022)
BSC Position Paper on a new EU Arctic Policy (March 2022)
BSC Statement on Ukraine (March 2022)
BSC Letter to EU Minister Hans Dahlgren about the future Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (June 2022)

23 Representatives of the European Institutions met during BSC events

2 events organised in the framework of SEArica Intergroup of the European Parliament
SEArica event about the contribution of Baltic Sea ports in the sustainable blue economy (October 2021)
SEArica event about turning the ambition of the new EU Arctic Policy into a reality (June 2022)

Active contribution to the wider CPMR network

Promoting the interests of Baltic Sea Regions
Monitor and Influence EU policies
Sharing of regional experiences
Close dialogue with the EU institutions
Cooperation with partner organisations
Raise visibility of Member Regions
Contribution to the implementation of the EUSBSR

Contribution to nourish CPMR analysis, notes and Policy Positions to provide a Baltic Sea perspective
Reference to the BSC Arctic Task Force in European Parliament’s Briefing Note on EU Regional Policy in the Arctic

DG REGIO
DG MARE
DG MOVE
DG ENER
Members of the European Parliament
European Investment Bank and more
Visit to Member Regions

Throughout the year, the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Executive Secretary visited BSC Member Regions to discuss with regional politicians and officers about the latest development EU policies of relevance for regional authorities, and CPMR and BSC support in lobbying towards EU institutions. Discover some highlights:

Päijät-Häme (Finland) – November 2021

Oulu Region (Finland) – March 2022

Jämtland Härjedalen (Sweden) – May 2022

Gotland (Sweden) – May 2022

Värmland in Brussels – May 2022

Region Stockholm in Brussels – March 2022

Southwest Finland - August 2022
COMMUNICATION

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**BSC Newsflash – November 2021 – Spotlight on Region Stockholm**
Interview with Mr Gustav Hemming Regional Chair for Growth, Regional Planning and the Archipelago

**BSC Newsflash – December 2021**
Interview with Mr Francesco Molica, CPMR Director for Regional Policy

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