CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

A Candidacy of Helsinki-Uusimaa Region for Energy and Climate Working Group, Chairperson

Name of the Regional elected Politician: Mr Markku Markkula, President of the Board, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council

Mr Markkula is an influential EU-level politician, having been the President of the European Committee of the Regions in 2015-2017. He is the President of Finnish delegation and a member of the CoR Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy, as well as a member of the Green Deal Going Local working group and one of the CoR Climate Pact Ambassadors. In these roles, he is regularly every week operating within the EU energy and climate activities.

Motivation of the Region to take on this mandate: Helsinki-Uusimaa Region is an active member and supporter of CPMR and also very active in the working groups of the CPMR and BSC. Helsinki-Uusimaa region sees that the CPMR and BSC is an important tool in its international, European and Baltic Sea collaboration and EU-advocacy. In Helsinki-Uusimaa Region’s opinion CPMR BSC collaboration and work done in the Energy and Climate Working Group provides an excellent platform to proceed joint interests. Helsinki-Uusimaa Region has very wide and comprehensive contacts in the EU and Baltic Sea Area regarding Energy and Climate sector. The Regional Assembly has just adopted the Climate Neutral Helsinki-Uusimaa Region 2030 Road Map. This will provide clear added value to all members of the Working Group.

Name of the Senior Official: Ms. Liisa Perjo

Resources the Region plans to put in order to organize the working group: Helsinki-Uusimaa will provide human and financial resources needed for the effective organization of the Energy and Climate Working Group (facilitating WG meetings, work time as well as travel costs of chairperson and supporting senior officials).

Suggestions of themes to address within the Working Group and to include in the two-year Action plan 2023-2024

- Influencing the EU Green Deal and other energy and climate-related policies
- Sustainable use of forest (e.g., new and innovative biomaterials and bioproducts, forests as carbon sinks, EU Nature Restoration Law proposal)
- RePowerEU, renewable energies, TEN-E networks
- Soil as carbon sinks (regenerative farming and other measures)
- Circular Economy (e.g. EU Circular Economy Package)
- Smart specialisation for sustainability
- Climate cooperation between regions (and cities) and cooperation between regional innovation valleys (e.g., EU Missions)

Sincerely Yours,

Mr. Ossi Savolainen, Regional Mayor