EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
20 January 2020, Oulu
Meeting Venue: Reykjavik Room, Technopolis Ydinkeskusta, Sepänkatu 20, 90100 Oulu, Finland

Participants

President: Jari NAHKANEN, Regional Council of Oulu Region (Finland)
1st Vice-President: Annika SANDSTRÖM, Region Stockholm (Sweden)
2nd Vice-President: Cezary CIESLUKOWSKI, Podlaskie Regional Assembly (Poland)

Full and Alternate Members

- Estonia: Romek KOSENKRAINUS, Pärnu City Government
- Finland: Talvikki JORI, Regional Council of South West Finland
- Germany: Wolf BORN, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- Sweden: Tomas MÖRTSELL, Region Västerbotten

Working Groups

Bosse ANDERSSON, 2nd Vice President Regional Council, Region Stockholm, Chair Transport WG
Kaarin TAIPALE, Member of the Board, Region of Helsinki-Uusimaa, Vice Chair Transport WG
Richard SJÖLUND, Vice-Member of the Board, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Chair Energy WG

Supporting officers

Hanna HONKAMÄKI, Manager of International Affairs, Council of Oulu Region
Jerker JOHNSON, International Coordinator, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia
Evert KROES, Secretary Growth and Regional Planning Board, Stockholm County Council
Izabela ŁOKIĆ, Deputy Director, Regional Development Department, Podlaskie Region
Jenny MOZGOVOY, Senior Advisor in International Affairs, Norrbotten
Tarja NUOTIO, Regional Development Director, Regional Council of Southwest Finland
Toivo RIIMAA, Deputy Director, Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities (AECM)
Joanna SAROSIEK, Director, Regional Development Department, Podlaskie Region
Toni VANHALA, Head of International Affairs, Regional Council of Kymenlaakso

Observers / Invited Guests

Pauli HARJU, Regional Mayor, Council of Oulu Region
Tiina RAJALA, Development Director, Council of Oulu Region
Tytti TUPPURAINEN, Minister for European Affairs and Ownership Steering, Finland

CPMR/BSC Secretariat

Åsa BJERING, Executive Secretary, Baltic Sea Commission
1. Opening of the Executive Committee meeting

1.1 Opening of the meeting: Mr Jari Nahkanen, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

Jari Nahkanen, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and Member of the Board, Regional Council of Oulu, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to Oulu.

He shared a short marketing video about Oulu, featuring the main characteristics of the region. The video can be seen here.

He continued by informing participants that there would be a special session with EU Minister Tytti Tuppurainen. He mentioned that this session will include additional guests as he has invited people from the Regional Council of Oulu to attend.

1.2 Approval of the agenda

The Agenda of the meeting was approved without changes.

Annika Sandström noted that Agenda item 4 was not part of the Executive Committee meeting, but a special session. The meeting approved this change.

It was also noted that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the BSC Working Groups have an internal meeting and hence will not attend the meeting between 16.00-17.30.

1.3 Adoption of the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held in Brussels, 1-2 October 2019

The minutes of the BSC Executive Committee meeting in Brussels, 1-2 October 2019, were adopted without changes. The List of Participants will be amended by the Secretariat.

1.4 Proposal to adopt the Position from Podlaskie Region

The proposal from Podlaskie Region was already discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting in Brussels. Cezary Cieslukowski explained the changes to the document and argued that this statement would be of high importance for Podlaskie in upcoming and current negotiations and discussions with both the National Government but foremost the European Commission.

Representatives from both SouthWest Finland and Region Stockholm ensured that they support the argumentation of the statement but that they find that this is purely a national issue and hence don’t agree that the Executive Committee should make a stand on the position.

The Executive Committee decided not to adopt the position.
2. Discussion on the CPMR Manifesto

2.1 Tour de table – update on the activities carried out by individual regions in the BSR since the CPMR GA in Palermo

No region has taken any specific action in light of the CPMR Manifesto that was adopted in October in Palermo.

2.2 Update on the CPMR Work Plan (covering Cohesion Policy, Transport Policy, Climate Policy and Migration)

Åsa Bjering shared information regarding a CPMR meeting in December 2019, where some CPMR staff met to discuss future actions for 2020.

Åsa Bjering also informed participants that the intranet for CPMR Members will be launched at the beginning of February. Each Member Region will receive three personal logins. The question was raised why is it limited to only three? The Executive Secretary will look into this and come back to the Executive Committee with information.

Åsa Bjering also informed participants that in December, the European Parliament agreed which Intergroups should be established. The SEArica Intergroup has been approved. 22 MEPs from the Baltic Sea Countries are part of the SEARICA. Åsa is in contact with Nils Torvalds, MEP Finland, Renew Europe, who most likely will take the responsibility of Vice-President in charge of Baltic Sea Region in SEArica.

3. Written reports

3.1 TEN-T expert meeting and workshop in Helsinki, 9-10 October, Transport Working Group
3.2 Maritime Working Group meeting in Brussels, 18 November, Maritime Working Group
3.3 Smart Specialisation in the European Parliament, 19 November
3.4 Minutes from the Chair meeting of the CPMR BSC Working Group on Energy and Climate, 7 January

All the reports had been sent out prior to the meeting. The Executive Committee thanked the Rapporteurs for the reports.

President Jari Nahkanen informed participants that there would be a one hour break in the formal part of the Executive Committee meeting for a special session with Ms Tytti Tuppurainen.
4. CPMR BSC Organisational matters

Information

4.1 Financial Report 2019
Executive Secretary Åsa Bjering gave a brief description of the Financial Report 2019. It will be all prepared and ready for the next Executive Committee Meeting. There were no questions. The Executive Committee thanked the Executive Secretary for the report.

4.2 Membership
There have been no changes in membership since the last meeting. A discussion on attracting new members was held during Agenda Item 6.

Discussion and decision

4.3 Future Secretariat of the Baltic Sea Commission (2021-2023)
Jari Nahkanen introduced the item by informing the Executive Committee that the Task Force consisting of the Presidium, supported by the Executive Committee, has met twice since the last Executive Committee Meeting. He gave a brief overview of the proposals, principles and arguments to be found in the document sent out to participants prior to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee decided:

4.3.1 Proposal on Future Secretariat of the Baltic Sea Commission
To propose the following as the cost side of the Budget for 2021 to the General Assembly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Presidium/Task Force proposal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a Salary of the Executive Secretary</td>
<td>120,000 Euro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b Travel and Accommodation</td>
<td>15,000 Euro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c Equipment and office cost</td>
<td>4,000 Euro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d Special events (AOB)</td>
<td>3,000 Euro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e VIE contact/intern/external expertise</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f Internal administration CPMR</td>
<td>This is in the budget visible both as a cost and a revenue and financed from CPMR finances.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL COST TO BE PROPOSED: 142,000 Euro

- To keep the legal and financial responsibility of the Secretariat within one or more volunteering regions;
- Request the office space for the Executive Secretary at an EU office in Brussels at one of the member regions;
- To work with the principle that even if the formal employment is within a single region, the Executive Secretary answers to the General Assembly.
Decision regarding Hosting Region/s
- To keep the legal and financial responsibility within one or more hosting regions. This demands that one Region is ready to take on the responsibility to:
  - Hire and host the formal employment of the Executive Secretary;
  - However, it is clear that the Executive Secretary serves and responds to all the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Member Regions in delivering his/her tasks;
- To handle the financial accounts of the organisation;
- To invoice the CPMR the cost of the Secretariat equivalent to the membership fee.

The Executive Committee stated that the office place could for example be offered by another region than the legally responsible region.

Decision regarding project involvement/revenue:
- The Baltic Sea Commission core budget should not rely on project financing, nor contribute to own finances in projects. Hence, project funding should not be a post in the proposed budget;
- The Baltic Sea Commission is not a legal entity and cannot join Projects. However, a Region could:
  - With the agreement of the Executive Committee, join projects in the name of the Baltic Sea Commission. They would then take on the legal and financial responsibility of the project. (OBS! Doesn’t have to be the same Region as the one that holds the legal responsibility of the Secretariat);
  - In this case, own finances of the project would be taken from voluntary contributions of the Members interested in the project, and hence ensure there is a political will and relevance relating to a larger portion of the CPMR BSC Members.

Decision regarding Membership fees
- With an above proposed total cost of the Secretariat amounting to 142,000 Euros, the Presidium/Task Force proposes to increase the membership fee of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission for 2021 to 7,000 Euros;
- The logic of a “zero-sum budget” should be valid:
  - If there is a financial deficit or surplus, (due to for example decreased/increased membership base or higher/lower costs than estimated), this is under the mandate of the Executive Committee to be decided upon.

A roadmap to appoint hosting Region/s for the future Secretariat
- Based on the discussion and decision of the Executive Committee meeting in Oulu in January 2020, the Secretariat should send out an open request to the Member Regions for a hosting Region;
- Regions interested in becoming the hosting Region should notify the Secretariat by 1 March 2020 at the latest and meet with the Task Force and current Executive Secretary prior to the next Executive Committee meeting in order to have a final proposal drafted from the Executive Committee to the General Assembly;
- The date for the meeting is 24 March.
- This final proposal should include:
  - How an open recruitment process will be launched during summer/autumn 2020;
  - A job description of the Executive Secretary;
An agreement for the Executive Committee to approve before being signed by the hosting region and the CPMR.

4.3.2 Proposal on Budget 2021 (to be adopted at the General Assembly)
The Executive Committee decided:
- To adopt the proposal of a Budget 2021 based on a total cost of €142,000 and with a membership fee of €7,000. The proposal should be finalised by the Executive Secretary prior to the next Executive Committee meeting.

4.3.3 Proposal on Membership fee 2021 (to be adopted at the General Assembly)
The Executive Committee decided:
- To propose an increase in the membership fee of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission to €7,000/€3,500. The proposal should be finalised by the Executive Secretary prior to the next Executive Committee meeting.

4.3.4 Proposal on a job description for the CPMR BSC Executive Secretary (requested by the Task Force/Presidium, drafted by Executive Secretary)
- The Finnish Regions stated that a newsletter including policy updates should be added as a task for the Executive Secretary. Also, it should be clearly stated that the Executive Secretary should be available for meetings with the political boards of the Member Regions throughout the year.

There was no decision on the job description. Regions are welcome to suggest improvements to the Executive Secretary prior next meeting.

5. EUSBSR Revision Update

5.1 Update on process, timetable

5.2 Discussion and possible decision on input to the CPMR BSC Task Force of the EUSBSR Revision

Wolf Born gave a brief presentation on the latest update within the EUSBSR Revision. The process has been further delayed and we count on having positions on the revised Action Plans in April.

Jenny Mozgovoy informed participants that the National Coordinator had informed her that in the current phase of the revision, the ministries had no planned process to engage with the regions.

Wolf Born further emphasised that the Task Force has no planned action for the time being, but instead the regions should have direct contact with the PAC/HAC and National Coordinators at this stage. The Task Force has spread this information to the Working Groups and Members in the Task Force.

In addition, the Task Force doesn't plan to organise a seminar at the EUSBSR Annual Forum. It is up to the Working Groups to develop content that is subject to a thematic seminar. New for this year’s process is that the organisers ask the seminar holders to organise a thematic seminar covering several Policy Areas.
The next meeting of the National Coordinators is scheduled for 5 February.

There was no decision in the Executive Committee. They thanked Wolf Born for his report.

### 6. Increasing the number of Member Regions

#### Information

#### 6.1 Report on current situation with regard to recruiting new Members

**Short report:**

**Germany:**

Wolf Born noted two regions as potential members that have been addressed by him regarding a possible CPRM-BSC membership:

- **BREMEN:** Member of the CPMR and its North Sea Commission but they are also eligible for funding in the Baltic Sea Region Programme;
- **LOWER SAXONY:** Not a Member of the CPMR but within Lower Saxony there are four regions. The Region Weser-Ems is a member of the CPMR. The Region Lüneburg could be a relevant Member of the Baltic Sea Commission;
- For the other North German Länder – Schleswig-Holstein is active in the NSC, the BSSSC and the STRING Cooperation. Brandenburg is also active in BSSSC and have indicated no interest to join the CPMR. Hamburg only engages in the discussion with the metropolitan regions and the STRING cooperation.

**Poland:**

Cezary Cieslukowski had informed participants earlier in the meeting about a possible meeting with the other eastern Polish Regions in Poland on 25 February. He will confirm if this is a relevant arena to promote the CPMR. Pomorskie has since December 2019 taken over the Presidency and Secretariat of BSSSC.

**Finland:**

Jari Nahkanen informed participants that he is to have discussions with politicians and other representatives of Lapland in February.

**Latvia:**

Toivo Riima informed participants that he had been in contact with the National Association of municipalities in Latvia and that they were not interested as they have other foras for international representation. He will continue discussions with other actors in Latvia.

#### Discussion

**6.2 Material for membership recruitment**

Åsa Bjering informed participants that they now have a new PPT from the General Secretariat. This will be worked on during the civil servant days in February and later sent out to all the Members of the Executive Committee.
6.3 Planned action for membership recruitment
The Executive Committee requested a written report of the actions undertaken and planned actions in advance of the next meeting.

7. Strengthening Member Regions input into policy discussions at European Level
Information

7.1 Report on current situation with regard to input provided by Members
Åsa Bjering informed participants that the only questionnaire that had been sent out since the last meeting was from the CPMR BSC Transport Working Group. This had a response from 14 out of 21 regions.

8. CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Working Groups
Information - Update on planned activities of the:

8.1 Transport Working Group
Bosse Andersson informed participants about the Transport Working Group and the recent work since the TEN-T workshop in Helsinki. The Transport Working Group is currently writing a report on smart and innovative transport solutions. This will be discussed in the next Transport Working Group meeting on 20-21 February in Finland. That meeting will be held in Värmland, which is one of the Regions that joined CPMR and the Baltic Sea Commission during 2019.

8.2 Energy Working Group
Richard Sjöund informed participants about the Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting in Brussels on 7 January. This meeting could very much be seen as a re-launch of the Working Group, he said. The participating regions have already agreed on several activities during the spring and next big open meeting will be held in March in Brussels, back-to-back with the CPMR Climate Task Force.

Richard and Bosse also gave a brief presentation of what the Chairs and Vice-Chairs had discussed during the meeting 16.00-17.30. They had agreed on a proposal from Skåne to organise a seminar on E-mobility. Both Working Groups will stand as co-organisers. They found it good to have joint sessions in parallel with the Executive Committee and foresee a closer cooperation between the Working Groups, also including the Maritime Working Group. They had also discussed the possibility of formulating a joint Position Paper relating to the EU Green Deal.

Annika Sandström raised a concern about the Working Groups working too broadly and having a larger focus on sharing experiences rather than ensuring the voice of the regions is heard in relation to new policies. She stated that the politicians in the Working Groups need to formulate and evaluate ideas and then communicate them to voters, to the decision process in order to guide civil servants. There is a huge potential for improvement in that field.

Kaarin Taipale shared the importance of the Working Groups also working on policy. She recalled the Transport Working Group in Helsinki with high-level discussions regarding TEN-T. She also said that Annika’s concern had been discussed during the joint meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs and that
they were in agreement that this is important. She also said that the Energy and Climate Working Group has started to work on a Position Paper, and that this has now been discussed with the Chair of the Transport Working Group. It is hoped that this can be presented at the next Executive Committee meeting.

8.3 Maritime Working Group
Åsa Bjering gave a short presentation of the recent work of the BSC Maritime Working Group meeting in November in Brussels, as well as the planned seminar on Sustainable Tourism in Stockholm on 10 March.

Discussion and decision
8.4 Proposal from Helsinki-Uusimaa on changes to the position of Vice-Chair of the Energy and Climate Working Group
Kimmo Kiljunen, Vice-Chair of the Energy and Climate Working Group has expressed his wish to be relieved from the post of Vice-Chair because of his busy time schedule as a Member of Finland’s Parliament. Upon proposal from the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, the Executive Committee decided that:
- Kaarin Taipale should be the Vice-Chair of the BSC Energy Working Group, instead of Mr Kiljunen. Ms Taipale is a Member of the Board of Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council. She has previously been the Vice-Chair of the Transport Working Group. A post she is now relieved from.

8.5 Time plan for call for working group Chairs and Vice-Chairs
The Executive Committee decided that:
- A Communication is to be ready prior to the General Assembly 2020;
- Call to be out June – 1 September;
- Decision to be made at the Executive Committee meeting in the autumn.


9.1 Calendar of the year
Åsa Bjering presented the calendar of the year.

For information:
9.2 CPMR BSC Days for Member Regions’ staff (4–5 February 2020)
Currently there are 20 participants registered for this event.

Discussion and decision
9.3 CPMR BSC Days for Regional Politicians (25 March 2020)
The invitation will be sent out 24 January.

9.4 Executive Committee meeting in Strasbourg (31 March–1 April) (in collaboration with SEArica politicians, tbc)
Åsa Bjering presented the practical details of the meeting.
### 9.5 General Assembly in Turku (15 June)
The programme is currently being discussed with Regional Council of SouthWest Finland. The tentative idea is that the programme will be between 10.00 and 16.00.

The timeline for the General Assembly was approved:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>15 June</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>WELCOME PACKAGE TO ALL THE REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS</td>
<td>Email to all members:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Letter of welcome by the Regional Council of Turku</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Practical information</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- List of participants</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- All documents (reminder)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>EMAIL TO ALL MEMBER REGIONS</td>
<td>In the internal rules there is no date set for sending working papers. It stipulates that the nominations for President should be sent out 1 month in advance. The work plan stipulates on the future of the secretariat.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Suggestion on the future of the Secretariat</td>
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<td>- Nominations for BSC President</td>
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<td>- Activity Report 2019/2020</td>
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<td>- Forecast budget</td>
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<td>- Membership fee</td>
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<td>- Final Declaration? Policy Position?</td>
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<td>15 May</td>
<td>“All candidates must be sent to the Executive Secretary at least one month before the election, together with a Curriculum Vitae and a two-page declaration on the Baltic Sea Commission strategy. All candidatures received will be sent to all Member Regions one month before the election.” Article 5, Internal Rules</td>
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<td>31 March</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>These WP for the General Assembly should be decided upon (according to Internal Rules Article 8):</td>
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<td>- It shall approve the Baltic Sea Commission’s Work Plan (or equivalent) and Forecast Budget, put forward by the Executive Committee.</td>
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<td>- Any Resolutions to be submitted to the CPMR General Assembly must be approved by the BSC General Assembly.</td>
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<td>16 Feb?</td>
<td>Should be sent 16 April at latest</td>
<td>“The Call for Candidates for the position of President of the Baltic Sea Commission will be sent to the Member Regions two months before the end of the President’s Term of Office.” Article 5, Internal Rules</td>
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<td>It should be decided how this will look during the January Executive Committee meeting.</td>
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</table>
16 February  | Send out to all Member Regions
- Invitation  
- Draft Agenda  
- Practical Information  
- Link to the registration
This should be decided in the January Executive Committee meeting  
- Draft Agenda (including list of documents)

20 January  | Executive Committee Meeting

The List of Working Documents was approved:

**STATUTORY ISSUES**
- **Agenda** for the Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly 2020
- **Minutes** of the Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly 2019

**UPDATE OF BSC ACTIVITIES – Related to EU Policy Areas**
- **BSC Activity Report** 2019-2020 (this will be very short compared to previous years)
- **No Work Plan** but possibly an update (in written form) on actions relating to the Work Plan adopted last year

**FINANCIAL REPORT, BUDGET AND MEMBERSHIP FEES**
- **Financial Report** for 2019
- **Forecast Budget** for 2021
- **Proposal on membership fee** for 2021
- **Proposal on Hosting Region** for 2021-2022

**ELECTION**
- **Nominations of President**
- **Nominations of Vice President**
- **Approval of Executive Committee**

**POLITICAL MESSAGES**
- **BSC Policy Position Paper** (tbc if we have a proposal, this is not mandatory)

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**
- **Timetable** of upcoming BSC events

Regarding Policy Position Paper:
- **Wolf Born** raised the idea of making a Statement in relation to the Political Objective 5 of the Interreg Regulations;
- **Jerker Johnson** supported the idea, with the argument that the Interreg and EUSBSR are going more and more in a technical direction and that we need to ensure a regional dimension;
- The possibility for the Position Paper that the Working Groups are working on could be raised at the General Assembly was mentioned.
Åsa Bjering concluded that if there are any proposals on a Policy Position, this needs to be adopted at the next Executive Committee Meeting. She also said that she would raise the question during the Civil Servant Days.

9.6 Executive Committee in Schwerin (October)
9.7 Executive Committee in Satakunta (December/January)
9.8 Executive Committee (venue tbc) (March/April)
9.9 General Assembly in Stockholm (June) (tbc)

10. Any Other Business
10.1 AOB

There was no other business.

11. Closing session
11.1 Conclusions and closing speech
Jari Nahkanen thanked the participants for their active contribution at the meeting. He expressed his content at moving forward with the proposals for a sustainable secretariat.