



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

11-12 January 2017, Schwerin, Mecklenburg Vorpommern (DE)

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### Members of the Executive Committee

**CPMR BSC President: Jari SAINIO**, Vice-Chairman of the Board, Helsinki-Uusimaa Region

**Richard Sjölund**, Member of the Board, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia

**Anders Öberg**, Commissioner of the Region, Region Norrbotten

**Erik Bergqvist**, President, Region Västerbotten

**Wolf Born**, Head of Baltic Sea Unit, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

#### Executive Secretary

**Åsa Bjering**, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

#### Supporting Officers/Guests

**John Kostet**, Advisor, Norrbotten County Council

**Jonas Lundström**, Acting Head of Enterprise, Innovation and Social Development, Region Västerbotten

**David Schubert**, Advisor, Stockholm County Council

**Janne Tamminen**, Manager of International Affairs, Helsinki-Uusimaa Region

**Jerker Johnson**, Title, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia

**Kai Holmberg**, Chair of the CPMR BSC Transport Working Group, Vice President of the, Regional Council of Kymenlaakso

**Toni Vanhala**, Head of International Affairs, Regional Council of Kymenlaakso

**Andrea Herrmannsen**, Director of the Department of European Affairs, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

The documents that were sent out to the Executive Committee prior the meeting are available on the BSC website (click [here](#)).

### **Opening Session**

Mr Jari Sainio, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission welcomed the Executive Committee to the meeting, thanked the hosts of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and opened the meeting.

Ms Andrea Herrmannsen, Director of the Department of European Affairs welcomed the Baltic Sea Commission to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. She stressed the importance of Baltic Sea Affairs for Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and gave an overview of the prospects of priorities for the next years to come. Energy, logistics, bio-technology and tourism are areas of regional growth where Mecklenburg-Vorpommern sees opportunities for transnational cooperation. The region also has a strong focus on cooperation with Russia. It is and will remain a strong focus for the regions' cooperation in the BSR.

She finalised her presentation by welcoming the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission to Berlin this summer. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is the upcoming host of the General Assembly of the organisation and is actively participating in the preparatory work prior to the EUSBSR Stakeholder forum. Ms Andrea Herrmannsen later joined the Executive Committee for the dinner.

Mr Jari Sainio invited the participants for a short round of presentation and a round-table discussion on current on-going affairs in the respective regions of relevance for Baltic Sea Cooperation.

### **1. Agenda**

The Executive Committee approved the agenda for the Executive Committee meeting (as seen in these minutes).

### **2. Approval of the Minutes of the BSC Executive Committee on 4 October 2016**

The Executive Committee approved the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held in Hiiumaa, on 4 October without any further discussion (available on the BSC website – click [here](#)).

### **3. Secretariat Report**

The Executive Committee thanked the Secretariat and the Working Groups for the written reports and filed the report (available on the website – click [here](#)).

### **4. Information regarding a VIE contract, spring 2017**

Ms Åsa Bjering informed the Executive Committee about the recruitment process. From 1 Feb – 31 July, Mr Niklas Schmalholz has been hired to strengthen the Secretariat of the organisation. If the organisation can find funding, there is a possibility to prolong the contract.

### **5. Financial Report**

Mr Anders Öberg from Region Norrbotten presented the Financial Report for 2016. The figures presented were only preliminary and the final decision on the report to present for the General Assembly will be made during next meeting.

### **6. Budget for 2017**

Mr Anders Öberg from Region Norrbotten presented the proposed Budget for 2017.

The Executive Committee confirmed the proposal (available on request from the Secretariat). The Executive Committee concluded that:

- They would want a budget that also shows the project funds;
- At the next Executive Committee meeting in April, the proposal for 2018 that will be presented to the General Assembly should be decided upon.

### **7. Creation of Work Plan for 2017-2018**

At the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly in Berlin, on 12 June, the Work Plan for 2017-2018 should be decided. The next Executive Committee is planned for 25-26 April. The Executive Committee decided that the work plan should cover 2017-2019.

Prior to the next meeting, the Executive Committee decided to request that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups present a draft work plan for 2017-2019. The presentation should include:

- A list of the Regions involved in the Working Group (including updated contacts - politician and senior officials);

- Thematic descriptions based on the needs and interests of the participating regions;
- Descriptions of priority areas relevant for the BSC and its Member Regions;
- On-going processes/projects at EU and Baltic Sea level relevant for the Working Group;
- Planned meetings;
- Planned activities;
- Positions;
- Areas where exchange of experience is relevant.

The BSC President will send out an email to all the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups before 20 January 2017.

## **8. EUSBSR 2017**

Ms Åsa Bjering informed participants about the process of the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Germany. The Task Force will have its first meeting on 12-13 January. At this first meeting they will align expectations and divide tasks. The Executive Committee stressed that they want a good link between the General Assembly and the EUSBSR Annual Forum.

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission's main focus is to ensure a meaningful participation of local and regional stakeholders in the Forum. This Task Force will function as a bouncing board for the development of the overall programme:

- Giving input on relevant issues;
- Giving input on speakers for the different sessions;
- Linking this with different communication projects to be supported by a current Call in the EUSBSR on communication in support of the EUSBSR (we are associated partner in Let's Communicate);
- How to make parallels and synergies with our General Assembly, hosted by Mecklenburg-Vorpommern?
- Steering and being involved in the development of a Report that the CPMR BSC will produce during spring linking regional and local benefits with macro-regional structures;
- Creating specific workshops relating to "How to put the results of the projects into every day practice in home organisations".

## **9. MA Network**

Mr Jonas Lundström from Region Västerbotten informed participants about the EUSBSR ERDF Managing Authority Network (MA-Network) and the process to jointly explore the opportunity of transnational collaboration funded by the ERDF Objective 2 programmes. The ambition is to increase the geographical flexibility of ERDF funds allocated to a NUTS 2 level, in order to better contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The MA-network has agreed on the following initial focus of their collaboration:

Policy Area in focus:	PA-Innovation
Innovation policy applied:	Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies
Topic for pilot:	Clean-tech

The aim is to deliver, during spring 2017:

A pilot on Clean Tech that will help to create a joint call on smart specialisation, launched at the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2017.

The Executive Committee decided:

- That the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Secretariat should continue following the process closely and support the MA Network to spread the information to Regions on the Pilot of Clean Tech during Spring 2017.
- That Region Västerbotten, involved in the Pilot and also the lead applicant of a current seed-project application of the Interreg BSR, will, together with interested regions, formulate a proposal on how the CPMR and the regional level could continue being involved in this process in the future.

#### **10. Sustainable Development Goals and Baltic 2030**

Ms Åsa Bjering presented a PM that had been sent out prior to the meeting on why it was relevant for the Baltic Sea Commission to work with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Executive Committee confirmed and reinforced the mandate of the Baltic Sea Commission Executive Secretary, as well as of the services of the CPMR General Secretariat, to seek policy advocacy, partnership and funding opportunities for member regions relevant to the implementation of the SDGs at the regional and local levels.

#### **11. Discussion on how to cooperate with other pan-Baltic actors and actors within EUSBSR**

This agenda item was postponed to the process of the Work Plan.

#### **12. Next meeting, including an overview of the whole year**

Maritime Working Group: 8 March, Stockholm

Transport Working Group: 13-14 March, Umeå, Region Västerbotten

Energy Working Group: TBC

25-26 April, Brussels (documents will be sent out by 12 April at the latest instead of 18 April, upon request from Stockholm County Council who thought that one week in advance was too short time to prepare).

#### **13. Any other Business**

President Jari Sainio thanked the Members of the Executive Committee for their active participation and good discussions during the meeting and closed the meeting.