



## **22<sup>nd</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**12 June 2017, Berlin, Germany**

The minutes include the discussions that took place on 12 June 2017, during the CPMR BSC General Assembly at the Representation of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to the Federation of Germany.

The Baltic Sea Commission hosted a seminar on the topic “Future of Europe” during the General Assembly. This was not part of the formal meeting and hence is not included in the minutes.

The list of participants can be found in Annex 1.

### **1. Opening Session**

#### **1.1. Official opening of the BSC General Assembly 2017**

Mr Jari SAINIO, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and Vice-President of the Region Helsinki-Uusimaa, welcomed participants to the 22nd General Assembly and thanked Mecklenburg-Vorpommern for hosting and co-organising the General Assembly. He then passed the floor to Mr Lorenz CAFFIER, Minister of the Interior and for Europe of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

#### **1.2. Welcome address, Mr Lorenz Caffier, Minister of the Interior and for Europe, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**

The General Assembly was opened by Mr Lorenz CAFFIER who welcomed participants in the Federal Representation of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to Berlin. He stressed the great honour for his Region to host the 22nd General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) and highlighted Mecklenburg-Vorpommern’s activities in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. This applies especially as the Policy Area Coordinator of PA Tourism.

Furthermore, he explained that the current international crisis and tensions have a direct impact on the Baltic Sea Regions. Thus, it is crucial to continue cooperation in the Baltic Sea. He emphasised the need to communicate to the EU citizen the importance of continuing further cooperation in this area.

### **1.3. Opening speech, Mr Jari Sainio, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission**

Mr Jari SAINIO highlighted the successes of the BSC and said that the planned goals have been achieved. He proudly informed participants that the BSC is co-organising the 8th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) together with the German Foreign Ministry, which will take place the day after the BSC General Assembly. Mr SAINIO reminded participants that the Working Groups and the Secretariat are the backbone of the BSC and provided an update of their achievements. He stressed for example the great mapping exercise carried out by the Maritime Working Group leading up to a regional contribution in the on-going development of an implementation plan for Sustainable Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea Region. Furthermore, he emphasised the importance of cooperation within the BSC in the context of growing challenges related to Brexit, and the rise of populism and nationalism across Europe. He concluded by underlining that the BSC is the united voice of the Baltic Sea Regions.

### **1.4. Adoption of the agenda**

Mr Jari SAINIO introduced the agenda for the 2017 General Assembly, which was unanimously adopted.

### **1.5. Approval of the minutes of the 2016 General Assembly**

The minutes of the 2016 General Assembly were then put to the vote and unanimously adopted.

### **Keynote speech: Ms Eleni Marianou, CPMR Secretary General**

Ms Eleni MARIANO, CPMR Secretary General, thanked the Minister for the invitation and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern for hosting the event. She started by presenting the current challenges faced by the European Union, such as the terrorism threat, the migration crisis, Brexit and the rise of populism across Europe. She mentioned that the EU has recently launched a reflection process based on the publication of a White Paper on the Future of Europe in March 2017. The document proposes several scenarios for the future of the European Union. Moreover, she provided an overview of the set of reflection papers published by the European Commission, as well as details about how the territorial dimension and the role of Regional Authorities are addressed in these papers. She concluded her speech by underlining the achievements of the CPMR in promoting the interests of its Members to the EU institutions. The next Annual General Assembly of the CPMR will be held in Helsinki in October 2017.

## **2. Work Reports 2016**

After the coffee break, the General Assembly continued with the presentations of each of the BSC Working Groups.

### **3.1. BSC Transport Working Group Report, Mr Bosse Andersson, Vice-Chair, Transport Working Group**

Mr Bosse ANDERSSON, Vice-Chair of the Transport Working Group, gave an update on the work carried out throughout the year and presented the 2016 report. In March 2016, the BSC adopted a Position Paper, underlining a Baltic Regional Perspective on the Implementation of the Trans-European-Transport-Network. During Spring 2017, the Transport Working Group identified four main thematic areas of substantial significance for the BSC members: revision of both the “Connecting Europe Facility” and the TEN-T Corridors, the support for state aid for regional airports, and the enhancement of connections with third countries. He also informed participants of the development of the Policy Position on connecting the Baltic with the Arctic, which is to be approved by the CPMR BSC General Assembly.

### **3.2. Maritime Working Group Report, Ms Tiina Perho, Chair, Maritime Working Group**

Ms Tiina PERHO gave details about the work carried out the past few months. Since the last General Assembly, the Maritime Working Group has had two meetings. The Maritime Working Group, together with the CPMR Secretariat, carried out a mapping of Blue Growth Value Chains together with nine Regions in the Baltic Sea Region. The results of this work were ready in October 2016.

The Working Group has decided to be an active part in the creation of a smart specialisation platform among Regions during the coming years.

During the EUSBSR Strategy Forum in Stockholm, the Maritime Working Group co-organised a workshop with DG MARE on the subject “Accelerating strategic cooperation for sustainable Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea Region”.

Ms PERHO underlined that the Working Group has developed a connection with PA Tourism. The BSC is an associated partner in the application of a project with the purpose of mapping sustainable tourism projects in the Baltic Sea Region.

On Maritime Spatial Planning, she mentioned that the Working Group will stay informed and especially support the strategies that improves the blue clustering of the Region.

Mr Jari SAINIO thanked the Working Group for the very good work carried out during the year.

### **3.3. Energy Working Group Report, Mr Richard Sjölund, Chair, Energy Working Group**

Mr Richard SJÖLUND, Region Ostrobothnia and Chair of the Energy Working Group, presented the 2016 Working Group Report.

He stressed that the joint Interreg project “Learning Among the Regions on Smart Specialisation” (LARS) was approved by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme. He gave participants details about the objectives and the format of the project.

A video on Smart Specialisation Strategies was presented.

### **3.4. EUSBSR Task Force Report, Mr Wolf Born, Member of the Executive Committee**

Mr Wolf BORN, Member of the BSC Executive Committee, reminded participants that the General Assembly had set up the following priority: “stronger involvement of regional stakeholders in governance and implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region”. Various activities were developed throughout the year in order to achieve this goal. He mentioned that the Task Force met mid-January in Schwerin. He emphasised that the Task Force has made great progress since the last General Assembly. Cooperation has been developed and the BSC has been recognised as a key partner. A network of Managing Authorities (MA) was set up early 2017 which aim at looking how to use ERDF funds to promote transnational cooperation. The Region of Västerbotten has decided to lead the first pilot project in the field of Clean-tech of the ERDF Managing Authority network.

### **3.5. Discussion on and approval of the BSC Activity Report 2016-2017, Mr Jari Sainio, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission**

Mr Jari SAINIO thanked the Chairs of the Working Groups for their presentations and welcomed the high number of Regions that actively participate in both meetings and the work of the Working Groups. Jari SAINIO thanked Asa Bjering for all her hard work over the past year on this issue.

The BSC Activity Report 2016-2017 was unanimously adopted by the Member Regions.

## **4. Financial Report**

### **4.1. Financial report 2016 and up to 31 May 2017, Mr Anders Öberg, Alternate Member of the Executive Committee, Region Norrbotten**

Mr Anders ÖBERG, Alternate Member of the BSC Executive Committee, presented the BSC Financial Report 2016 and the current state of play in the 2017 budget.

### **4.2. Discussion and adoption of the Financial Report for 2016**

The BSC Financial Report 2016 was unanimously adopted by the Member Regions.

## **5. Work Plan 2017-2018**

### **5.1. Presentation and discussion on Work Plan, Ms Åsa Bjering, Executive Secretary of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission**

Ms Åsa BJERING presented the BSC Work Plan for 2017-2018 and reminded the Members about the BSC Vision and Mission Statement, which was agreed during last year’s General Assembly.

Participants were informed about the Priority Areas 2017-2019: supporting the process of creating a Smart Specialisation Financial Platform and a regional and Pan-Baltic take on the UN sustainable Development Goals.

Ms Åsa BJERING gave an overview of the policy priorities of each thematic Working Group for 2017-2018. This was already presented by the Chairs/Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups earlier in the meeting. The Maritime Affairs Working Group will focus its activities on Sustainable Blue Growth, closer dialogue with the ports of the Baltic Sea, sustainable tourism, maritime spatial planning. The Renewable Energy Working Group priorities are on smart specialisation, learning among Regions on smart specialisation, clean-tech and circular economy and climate. The priorities of the Accessibility and Transport Working Group are the revision of the Connecting Europe Facility, the revision of the TEN-T Corridors, the support for state aid for regional airports and the enhancement of connections with third countries.

Ms Åsa BJERING informed participants that the General Assembly instructs the Executive Committee to provide a suggestion for a hosting Region and a proposal for a sustainable long-term structure for the secretariat of the organisation.

## **5.2. Adoption of the Work Plan**

Mr Jari SAINIO opened the floor to questions.

Richard SJÖLUND raised a question on what the wording “sustainable” meant in the context of creating a sustainable long-term structure for the secretariat of the organisation.

Erik BERGKVIST mentioned the importance of keeping a permanent secretariat of the BSC. Ms Annika SANDSTRÖM also highlighted the importance of having a strong and more permanent secretariat.

The meeting decided to keep the wording sustainable long-term structure for the secretariat.

Eleni MARIANOOU praised the work of Ms Åsa BJERING and the very positive results of the BSC.

The Work Plan for 2017-18 was adopted by the Member Regions.

## **6. Position Paper – Connecting the Baltic with the Arctic**

### **6.1. Presentation and discussion on the proposed Position, Mr Jari Nahkanen, Board Member, Region Oulu**

Mr Jari NAHKANEN, Board Member, Region Oulu, was not able to attend the General Assembly. He was replaced by, John KOSTET, who sent apologies on behalf of Mr Jari NAHKANEN.

Mr John KOSTET provided details about the six messages setting out in the Policy Position.

The General Assembly discussed the messages.

## 6.2. Adoption of the Position

The General Assembly adopted the Baltic Sea Commission Position Paper “Connecting the Baltic with the Arctic”.

## 7. Budget and Membership fees

### 7.1. Discussion and decision on the budget for 2018, Mr Erik Bergkvist, Member of the Executive Committee, Region Västerbotten

Mr Erik BERGKVIST explained the forecast budget for 2018 to the Members.

The budget for 2018 was unanimously adopted.

### 7.2. Information/confirmation Membership fees (decision made by the General Assembly 2016)

Mr Jari SAINIO reminded the General Assembly of the previous decision made by the General Assembly in 2016 to increase the membership fee in steps. The membership fee for 2017 is: €3,000, for 2018: €4,000, for 2019: €5,000.

## 8. Closing session

### 8.1. Invitation to the General Assembly 2018, Mr Jari Nahkanen, Board Member, Region Oulu

The final session provided information on the 2018 Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly.

Ms Åsa BJERING read out a welcome speech on behalf of Mr Jari NAHKANEN, Board Member, Region Oulu.

He invited participants to come to Oulo in Finland for the 23rd Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly. The date is set for the 23 May 2017.

### 8.2 Closing Speech, Mr Jari Sainio, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

Jari SAINIO thanked the Members for their active participation and closed the meeting. He thanked Mecklenburg-Vorpommern for organising the event.

**End of proceedings**

# Annex 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

12 June 2017, Berlin (Germany)

## I- REGIONS

### ESTONIA / EESTI

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#### PARNUMAA

Kalev **KALJUSTE**, Governor, Pärnu County Government

### FINLAND / SUOMI

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#### HELSINKI-UUSIMAA

Pasi **SALONEN**, Vice President of the Board  
 Ossi **SAVOLAINEN**, Regional Mayor  
 Krista **TAIPALE**, Head of International Affairs  
 Janne **TAMMINEN**, Liaison Manager

#### KYMENLAAKSO

Frank **HERING**, Planning Director  
 Leila **LEHTOLA**, Member of the Board  
 Jaakko **MIKKOLA**, Regional Mayor  
 Pentti **TIUSANEN**, Member of the Board  
 Toni **VANHALA**, Head of international Affairs

#### OSTROBOTHNIA

Jerker **JOHNSON**, International Coordinator  
 Richard **SJÖLUND**, Member of the Board

#### OULU

Jari **NAHKANEN**, Member of the Board

#### PÄIJÄT-HÄME

Marko **MÄLLY**, Senior Advisor, International Affairs  
 Tapio **OJANEN**, Senior Advisor, Transport and Environmental Affairs

#### SOUTHWEST FINLAND

Talvikki **JORI**, Member of Managing Board  
 Sonja **PALHUS**, International Affairs Manager  
 Petteri **PARTANEN**, Business Manager  
 Tiina **PERHO**, Member of Managing Board

### POLAND / POLSKA

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#### PODLASKIE

Anna **OTAPOWICZ**, MdEPARTMENT OF External Relations and Promotion

## SWEDEN / SVERIGE

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### **GÄVLEBORG**

Carina **AKERBERG**, Strategist Regional development  
 Jan **LAHENKORVA**, VP Regional Executive Development Committee  
 Carl-Ewert **OLSSON**, Member of the Executive Board

### **GOTLAND**

Meit **FOHLIN**, Vice mayor  
 Jonas **NILSSON**, Environmental Strategist

### **NORRBOTTEN**

John **KOSTET**, Adviser International Affairs  
 Anders **ÖBERG**, Board member of the County Council

### **ÖREBRO**

Fabian **ILGNER**, Senior Advisor Transport

### **SKÅNE**

Annika **ANNERBY JANSSON**, CPMR Vice President  
 Maria **LINDBOM**, Senior Advisor International relations

### **STOCKHOLM**

Bosse **ANDERSSON**, County Councillor  
 Harry **BOUVENG**, County Councillor  
 Jonas **IVARSSON**, Regional Planner  
 Evert **KROES**, Regional Planner  
 Robert **NORDEVI**, Civil Servant  
 Annika **SANDSTRÖM**, Chairman

### **VÄSTERBOTTEN**

Erik **BERGKVIST**, President  
 Mårten **EDBERG**, Strategist on Infrastructure  
 Jonas **LUNDSTRÖM**, Head of Business Development  
 Terese **RYNDAL**, Strategic Manager of International Affairs

### **VÄSTRA GÖTALAND**

Kerstin **BRUNNSTRÖM**, Councillor, President of the North Sea Commission  
 Magnus **ENGELBREKTSSON**, Executive Secretary of NSC

## II - EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Jean-Pierre **HALKIN**, Head of Unit Macro-Regions, European Commission  
 Peter **SCHENK**, Team Leader – EUSBSR, European Commission



### III - HOST REGION (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern)

Wolf **BORN**, Head of Section

Lorenz **CAFFIER**, Minister of the Interior and Europe

Andrea **HERRMANNSEN**, Head of Department

Elisabeth **STRUPP**, Advisor for Baltic Sea Cooperation

Pirko Kristin **ZINNOW**, Representative of Mecklenburg Vorpommern to the Federal Government

### IV - INVITED SPEAKERS AND GUESTS

#### **AUSWÄRTIGES AMT**

Michael **DÄUMER**, Baltic Sea Cooperation and Arctic Policy

Guido **KEMMERLING**, NC EUSBSR Germany

#### **BALTIC 2030**

Krista **KAMPUS**, Head of Baltic 2030 Unit

Valdur **LAHTVEE**, Policy Officer of Baltic 2030 Unit

Andriy **MARTYNENKO**, Project Officer EUSBSR, Baltic 2030 / EUSBSR HA Climate and PA Secure

Olga **ZUIN**, Project Assistant of Baltic 2030 Unit, Baltic 2030

#### **BALTIC SEA FUTURE / SUSTAINABLE SEAS FOUNDATION**

Marmar **NEKORO**, Manager

#### **BSSSC**

Hilde **AARØ**, Special Advisor

#### **CITY OF UMEÅ / UBC**

Helen **ANDERSSON**, Head of Unit

Charlotte **LUNDKVIST**, Strategist

Marie-Louise **RÖNNMARK**, Vice President of Union of Baltic Cities

#### **COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES SECRETARIAT**

Bernd **HEMINGWAY**, Deputy Director General

#### **DEUTSCHLANDRADIO**

Silke **HASSELMANN**, Landeskorrespondentin M-V / Moderator

#### **EUSBSR**

Mikko **LOHIKOSKI**, Senior Adviser, HAC Capacity & Neighbours

#### **EMBASSY OF ESTONIA**

Mart **LAANEMÄE**, Ambassador of Estonia to Germany

#### **EMBASSY OF FINLAND**

Ritva **KOUKKU-RONDE**, Ambassador of Finland to Germany

#### **FOREIGN OFFICE GERMANY**

Reinhard **PAICHROWSKI**, Desk Officer

#### **INSTITUTE OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING HH**

Solveg **SCHMIDT**, Policy Area Coordinator

#### **KLAIPEDA REGION MUNICIPALITIES**

Klaudija **KIONIES**, Managing Director

Eglè **STONKÉ**, Projects Manager

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FINLAND**

Erja **TIKKA**, Baltic Sea Ambassador

**NORDEN ASSOCIATION**

Bo **ANDERSSON**, Secretary General

Anders **BERGSTRÖM**, Policy Area Coordinator Education

**NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

Niclas **FORSLING**, Programme Manager / PA Innovation

**NOREK & SKÖLD**

Daniel **SKÖLD**, Consultant

**POMORSKIE VOIVODESHIP**

Jacek **BENDYKOWSKI**, Member of Pomorskie Regional Parliament

Krystyna **WRÓBLEWSKA**, Head of the International Cooperation Bureau, Marshal's Office

**SWEDISH INSTITUTE**

Camilla **WRISTEL**, Project Manager

**TURKU-SOUTHWEST FINLAND EUROPEAN OFFICE**

Saara **NUOTIO-COULON**, Head of Office

## V - CPMR AND BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

**CPMR GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

Eleni **MARIANOU**, Secrétaire Générale

Lucille **EHRHART**, Policy Officer

**BALTIC SEA COMMISSION**

Jari **SAINIO**, President

Åsa **BJERING**, Executive Secretary

Niklas **SCHMALHOTZ**, Policy Analyst

## VI - MEDIA

Viveca **DAHL**, Journalist, Vasabladet

Thea **KARIN**, Journalist, Radio Kuku

Krzysztof **KASZUBSKI**, Journalist, Polskie Radio Olsztyn

Brita **KVIST**, Journalist, Danish Radio

David Dinesh **LINDEN**, Journalist, Nerikes-Allehanda Newspaper

Liva **MELBARZDE**, Journalist, Dienas Bizness

Björn **NYBERG**, Journalist, HSS Media

Artur **OSIECKI SICKI**, Journalist, RZECZPOSPOLITA Daily

Toms **OSTROVSKIS**, Journalist, Online News Portal TVNET

Heija-Liis **RISTIKIVI**, Journalist, Äripäev AS

Hannu **TAAVITSAINEN**, Journalist, Freelance

Rokas **TRACEVSKIS**, Journalist, The Baltic Times



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**The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) brings together some 160 Regions from 25 States from the European Union and beyond.**

Representing about 200 million people, the CPMR campaigns in favour of a more balanced development of the European territory.

It operates both as a think tank and as a lobby group for Regions. It focuses mainly on social, economic and territorial cohesion, maritime policies and accessibility.

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