MARITIME WORKING GROUP
18 November 2019, Brussels, BE

List of participants

Åsa Bjering, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission
Harry Bouveng, Region Stockholm
Tobias Eriksson, Stockholms Region EU Office
Agathe Fournier, Pays de la Loire
Claire Hugues, Pays de la Loire
Frida Kallenbach, Region Stockholm
Jan Lahenkorva, Region Gävleborg
Philippe Monbet, Pole Mer Bretagne Atlantique
Saara Nuotio-Coulon, Turku-Southwest Finland European Office
Petteri Partanen, Regional Council of Southwest Finland
Tiina Perho, Regional Council of Southwest Finland
Damien Périsse, CPMR
Janne Tamminen, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council
Rostislav Varbanov, European Commission, DG Grow

Opening of the meeting
Tiina Perho, Chair of the Maritime Working Group (Regional Council of South West Finland) opened the meeting with a welcome speech and presentation of the scope of the meeting.

Damien Périsse, Director of Maritime Affairs and Climate, CPMR gave an opening speech and introduced the background of the LeaderShip process. He said that together with Sea Europe and Ocean Europe, the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions are asking that the European Commission should start the process to prepare a new Maritime Strategy for Europe.

Formalities
The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

Discussion on the creation of a new, European-wide Strategy for Maritime Industries
Tiina Perho introduced and presented the Regions’ Manifesto “Towards a new European Strategy for Maritime Industries. The maritime industry is very important for her own region Southwest Finland. The LeaderShip2020 programme has been weak and now there is a demand for a new European Maritime Strategy. China has become a very strong operator in the field of maritime industry and it’s also acting very protectively. It seems that others are blocking Europe but Europe isn´t blocking anyone.
The European Commission is preparing an industrial strategy. There should also be a strategy for maritime industry. Tiina Perho has discussed the need for a maritime strategy also with DG GROW’s Director-General, Timo Pesonen.

Rotislav Varbanov, representing the team within Unit C.3 of DG GROW responsible for the Maritime technology industries, provided participants with details of the Commission’s comments and latest developments in the planning of maritime industries strategy in Europe. Rotislav Varbanov said that the European Commission realises that LeaderShip2020 is ending. The Commission has also analysed LeaderShip2020 and they have found that the strategy has not been efficient enough. The Commission is doing groundwork for what comes next. All inputs from the stakeholders are needed. DG GROW is also working with other departments in order to have a more coordinated view. Many policy papers are also being evaluated. The Commission does not want to go straight to the third version of LeaderShip programme. The firm evaluation is needed.

In maritime industry the focus is moving from gross register tons to high technology. Europe has the leadership in cruise ships. There is need to support the industry and SMEs. The greener technology might offer opportunities for European industry. There will be demand for cleaner ships. The Commission’s Green Deal gives the framework for developing greener technology. In funding the European Investment Bank is moving away from fossil energy. For fare market conditions there should be open dialogue with China and South Korea. One issue is the renewal of international trade instruments.

During a discussion, the Working Group noted that it was pleased that DG GROW is evaluating the LeaderShip process. Regarding what comes next, Mr Varbanov said that there is need to act soon. In March there should be a clearer picture to discuss the points that DG GROW has discovered.

Discussion on Sustainable Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region and its islands

Support the emerging field of Sustainable Tourism in the Regions of the Baltic Sea Region: Harry Bouveng, Vice-Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group (Region Stockholm) introduced this session and told participants that a sustainable tourism seminar in Stockholm was supposed to be held last week, but now it’s planned to be in March. Stockholm Region is organising it together with PA Tourism and the Nordic archipelago cooperation. It could be a one-day event in the middle of Stockholm, including a tour in some islands. The planned date is either 10 or 11 March 2020. The BSC Maritime Working Group noted a preference for the 10th.

PA Tourism is keen on maritime Interreg programmes. That could be one of the issues. In addition, the cruise industry is an interesting topic. It’s a good idea to organise the next meeting of the BSC Maritime Working Group back-to-back with the seminar. The meeting is best to be organised on the same day as the seminar. Then the politicians and possible new Members can attend the meeting easier.

Update on the EUSBSR Action Plan revision process

Introduction and presentation by Åsa Bjering, Executive Secretary, BSC

Åsa Bjering informed participants about the EUSBSR Action Plan revision process. The three main objectives will remain the same. Blue growth will not be one of the policy areas (PA), but it will be
embedded in other policy areas. The maritime industry value chain will be taken into account in PA Innovations. PA Coordinators will meet in Helsinki 27.11.2019. The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission should be involved in the governance of the Action Plan. There are lots of policy areas in which there is no direct funding included (for example tourism).

Any Other Business
EUSBSR Annual Forum, 16-17 June 2020, Turku, Finland
BSC General Assembly, 15 June 2020, Turku, Finland

HELCOM
10-11 December Head of delegations
3-4 March Annual meeting

SEArica
In the beginning of December will be decided if there is going to be new SEArica Intergroup in the European Parliament

European Maritime Day 14-15 May 2020, Cork
Next meeting of the BSC Maritime Working Group
Next meeting will be held 10 or 11 March 2020, Stockholm

End of proceedings