Before the start of the meeting, Executive Committee Members visited the Baltic Sea Science Center.

Mr Gustav Hemming, Regional Chair for Growth, Regional Planning and the Archipelago, (Region Stockholm) and Member of the BSC Executive Committee welcomed participants to Stockholm for the first physical meeting of the Executive Committee since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. He stressed the importance of cooperation within the Baltic Sea Commission for Region Stockholm and emphasised that it is essential to work together with regions in other countries in order to make an impact and strive towards a sustainable Baltic Sea and the Baltic Sea Commission is a platform for this.

1. Opening of the Executive Committee

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

Mr Jari Nahkanen thanked Region Stockholm for hosting the first Executive Committee meeting to be held in person since the start of the pandemic, which demonstrates the strong ties between Region Stockholm, the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission. He briefly presented recent activities of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission since the latest General Assembly held on 23 September 2021.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

Mr Jari Nahkanen proposed one change to the agenda as he had to leave the meeting earlier than expected to attend the EU Arctic Forum in Brussels. He therefore suggested that Mr Tomas Mörtsell, as Vice-President, chairs the meeting after he left the meeting.

The revised agenda was unanimously approved.

1.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, 15 June 2021

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 15 June 2021 were unanimously approved.
2. Tour de table

2.1 On-going issues in the Regions that are of concern for the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and update on the outcome of national elections

There was a round table where Member Regions provided a short update since the previous meeting.

Mr Wolf Born, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, provided an update on the federal elections in Germany and also in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Ms Maria Lindbom, Region Skåne, excused Mr Pontus Lindberg who is unable to attend and informed participants that there will be a seminar on climate and energy held in parallel with the CPMR Political Bureau in June 2021.

Ms Marlisi Rettau, AECM - Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities, informed participants that unfortunately Romek Kosenkranius was not able to participate as negotiations following up the Estonian municipal elections are still on-going.

Mr Jari Nahkanen, Oulu Region, provided information on the local level in Finland, following-up the elections that took place in June. He also informed participants there will be regional elections in Finland in January 2022.

Mr Markku Markkula, Helsinki-Uusimaa, explained that the new Regional Council and Board have held their first meetings and highlighted the preparations for 4-year programme period and the targets set.

Mr Tomas Mörtsell, Västerbotten, noted the Swedish elections will be held in September 2022. He provided a brief update on the priorities and actions in the region.

Ms Tiina Perho, SouthWest Finland, noted that the elections had been held and further information will be provided later.

Mr Gustav Hemming, Region Stockholm, explained the region is working hard on regional transportation plans.

3. The Baltic Sea, challenges for sustainability on land and sea

3.1 Mr Gustav Hemming explained the current state of play in Region Stockholm and introduced the session and the guest speakers. He noted the relevance of the morning visit to the Baltic Sea Science Center and reiterated that the Baltic Sea has a sub-environmental issue that needs a strong commitment and renewed political energy and initiatives all the time if the resources available are to be secured.

3.2 Mr Konrad Stralka, Executive Member of the Board, Baltic Waters 2030, explained the foundation’s objectives. Circular manure management, how Baltic Sea nurseries can be restored, and how to help cod back to the Baltic Sea was addressed. He provided facts about central Baltic herring and concluded with an example from Sweden (see presentation [here](#)).
Mr Markku Markkula commented on the pollution issue and asked if a link to the oceans mission has been considered. He provided specific examples that demonstrated the concrete links that the CPMR BSC has on this issue. He asked Mr Stralka how he sees collaboration on some of the missions mentioned.

Mr Konrad Stralka replied that the foundation started out on its own, and whilst it wants to be able to be flexible, it is open to cooperate with anyone who wants to be involved. He invited interested people to contact him. He mentioned that Gotland has a good example and participants are welcome to visit the project.

Ms Hanna Honkamäkilä, Oulu, noted that although European programmes may not be flexible, they would be a good way to disseminate the results more widely and more easily.

Mr Wolf Born asked Mr Stralka if they also work with other partners from the BSR in fisheries. This question will be followed up by email due to time constraints.

3.3 Two regional initiatives for sustainable development on land and sea were presented:

Ms Charlotta Solerud, Environmental Strategist, Ports of Stockholm, presented Ports of Stockholm’s climate action project and onshore power supply in ports of Stockholm. She introduced ports of Stockholm and explained about their most important climate measure, which is onshore power supply (OPS). She explained what OPS means and described the positive experience so far. She provided information on environmental targets that have been defined for the ports area and on on-going OPS projects as well as OPS for cruise traffic (see presentation here).

Mr Håkan Häggström, Project Manager, County Administrative Board of Stockholm introduced the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Project Retrout and presented sustainable fishing tourism in the Baltic Sea. The project rationale was illustrated and the benefits and positive effects for the Baltic Sea were explained. River restoration and five selected trout fishing destinations were highlighted, and the overall key results were demonstrated. He concluded by addressing future work and invited participants to contact him to discuss these issues further (see presentation here).

4. Membership – Presentation of Region Östergötland, Sweden

Mr Jari Nahkanen congratulated Region Östergötland on their recent membership and welcomed the region to the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission. He acknowledged the region’s strong territorial assets, which will be an added value to the CPMR and BSC and reiterated that the CPMR and BSC will work to promote the region’s voice within the EU and Baltic Sea arenas.

4.1 Mr Martin Tollèn, Vice-Chair of the Regional Development Committee of Östergötland, presented Region Östergötland as new CPMR and BSC Member.
He introduced the geography of the region and the main tasks of the region including healthcare, regional development, and public transport. He addressed the region’s sharp logistical position as well as the business community. He stressed that Region Östergötland is a model for advocacy in EU related matters (see presentation here).

4.2 Exchange with Executive Committee Members

**Mr Jari Nahkanen** thanked him for the interesting presentation and pointed out Östergötland has a strategic position and the region’s contributions on transport and energy/climate issues will be important for CPMR and BSC work.

**Mr Wolf Born** asked about the abbreviation Maas. **Mr Martin Tollèn** replied that “Mobility as a Service” is the transformation from transport as a product to a service where mobility is important. He noted that this can be different depending on a number of factors including where the person is, what time of day it is etc. This is an enabler for mobility where the alternative is travelling with your own car.

5. Update from the BSC Secretariat

5.1 **Ms Lucille Ehrhart**, BSC Executive Secretary provided an update on the activities of the BSC Secretariat relating to policy, communication, and membership issues.

- She provided highlights from the BSC General Assembly and its follow-up with the adoption of the [BSC 2021 Resolution](#), [BSC Work Plan 2021-2023](#), [BSC Activity Report](#);
- She presented the seminar organised by the CPMR BSC Arctic Task Force during the 2021 EUSBSR Annual Forum. She mentioned that CPMR BSC is submitting an application to co-organise the 2022 EUSBSR Annual Forum in Finland, with two BSC Member Regions, Oulu and Helsinki-Uusimaa. The Presidium has given its validation for the applications. The selection process is still on-going, and the outcome will be discussed with the Executive Committee at a later stage;
- She also gave an update on CPMR activities (CPMR participation in COP26, and Conference of Europe) and cooperation with other pan-Baltic organisations;
- She presented the results of the SEArica Intergroup event on Baltic Sea ports (see presentation [here](#)), co-organised by the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and Informal Baltic Sea Group on 22 October 2021, online;
- Regarding communication activities of the CPMR BSC, it was announced that a Newsflash had recently been published ([read here](#)), including an interview with Mr Gustav Hemming.

6. Future of the Baltic Sea Region from the Council of the Baltic Sea States’ (CBSS) perspective

**Mr Jari Nahkanen** welcomed the guest speakers and noted that the BSC has a long-standing, solid, cooperation with CBSS, for example the CPMR BSC is part of CBSS Expert Groups on a Sustainable Development and also Maritime Economy. He noted that strong cooperation between the regional and national levels is crucial to address the challenges in the Baltic Sea Region relating to climate, transport and to Save the Sea. He highlighted that the CPMR BSC and CBSS share common objectives.
6.1 Address by Mr Grzegorz Marek Poznanski, Director General of CBSS Secretariat

Mr Grzegorz Marek Poznanski introduced himself and provided background information on the CBSS. He explained the three long-standing priorities of CBSS. He provided the best practice example of how to solve problems together in the Baltic Sea Region, including setting up a mechanism and working to solve the issues together. He also addressed human trafficking, child protection, and youth. The CBSS works towards a sustainable and prosperous region, and collaborates most with the CPMR BSC in this area, and also works on labour related issues and science. In all these endeavours they have projects with other partners around the region, projects which should advance the long-term priorities of the CBSS. He stressed the importance of working together at all levels. He thanked the CPMR BSC for its activity in the groups and noted that localisation is extremely important. He pointed out that there needs to be a two-way role, not only bringing policies to the local level to be implemented but also bringing local and sub-regional views to the governmental and global levels. He concluded by stressing the importance of neighbours, the tremendous challenges ahead and the shared goals that need to be implemented at all levels.

Ms Daria Akhutina, Senior Adviser for Sustainable & Prosperous Region, CBSS, commented on the focus on the Expert Group for Sustainable Development. She acknowledged that the CBSS is striving for synergies and working with science and research. New partnerships and projects are being created with a clear focus on countries’ priorities. She introduced an event on clean transport and invited participants to the event and to share comments and input.

6.2 Exchange with the Executive Committee Members

Mr Jari Nahkanen emphasised the need to have strong dialogue, to also have common goals and aim for sustainable, innovative and prosperous work and agreed the Sustainable Maritime Economy Expert Group is important. He apologised for having to leave the meeting due to travel commitments. Mr Tomas Mörtsell took over as Chair of the meeting.

Ms Maria Lindbom mentioned that Skåne is active in youth, and would be interested to hear about the model of rotating chairmanship and asked if there would be a pilot on this and would that be in a specific area?

Mr Wolf Born mentioned two points, the first regarding the opening up of expert working groups having for example the CPMR BSC on board, and that although the organisations have different membership bases, the CPMR BSC has very well organised working groups which could be very valuable. He proposed that the focus is on expertise and resources that could be made available. His second point was that from a regional perspective, ports are important as they are the land sea interface. He described some of the changes that have taken place over the last two years. He made a final point on subsea technologies such as autonomous vehicles, which are key to promoting the good status of the Baltic Sea.
Mr Grzegorz Marek Poznanski replied that the Youth division is useful for many regional formats and noted the declaration on youth that was presented in the 2020 Annual Forum in Turku is highly recommended. He also replied that ports, cities and local governments, universities and research communities are innovation hubs, the driving force in innovation. He will look for possibilities and will discuss how to do it including collecting different points of view.

Ms Daria Akhutina noted that the occasion of revising the mandate is a unique opportunity to include any positive updates. This applies to shared chairmanship or shared leadership of the group and discussions will start in November so there is time to find the optimal solution.

Mr Grzegorz Marek Poznanski noted everyone is working hard to help all stakeholders in the region create a sustainable tourism destination with sustainable maritime, electrification, and an incredibly rich cultural heritage bringing together local actors.

Mr Tomas Mörtsell agreed there is more to be done, especially relating to the green transition. He thanked the speakers and stated that he looked forward to future meetings and cooperation.

7. Report on the BSC policy areas

7.1 Update on the Maritime Working Group, by the Chair Ms Tiina Perho (Region SouthWest Finland).

Ms Tiina Perho gave an overview of the activities and recent meetings of the Maritime Working Group. She noted that the BSC MWG followed the Commission’s Blue Sustainable Economy Strategy, and that she had actively participated in the CPMR BSC General Assembly. Mr Harry Bouveng participated as a speaker in a SEArica event on sustainable tourism and Mr Jan Lahenkorva gave a speech during another SEArica event on Baltic Sea ports. She also mentioned that she had made a speech on blue skills in an event organised as part of the CPMR General Assembly. The next meeting will be held in December on the subject of HELCOM’s Action Plan for a healthier Baltic Sea, and also small-scale fisheries.

Mr Gustav Hemming mentioned the network of Swedish regions and looked forward to participating in the MWG. He noted that the network is planning a seminar that could perhaps be organised in cooperation with the MWG in February although there is no exact date yet. The seminar will focus on the theme of cross-border cooperation in the Baltic Sea when it comes to fisheries questions and on the controversial seal question.

Ms Lucille Ehrhart made the link with the event on tourism and wondered if if there could be a possibility to contribute and provide input to the event the CBSS are organising.

Ms Daria Akhutina noted the event is in the preparation stage and she would be in touch to discuss this further. She confirmed the event will be held on 22 February 2022.
7.2 Update on the Transport Working Group, by the Chair Mr Bosse Andersson (Region Stockholm)

Mr Bosse Andersson gave an update on the recent meeting of the BSC Transport Working Group on sustainable fuels in the presence of representative of DG MOVE and informed participants that there will be a joint meeting with the CPMR North Sea Commission on 1 February 2022 in Brussels on the topic of TEN-T (the European Commission will publish its proposal in December 2021). He noted that the Working Group is going to discuss the TEN-T regulation and will make a Policy Paper for the meeting. He also mentioned that the Working Group will develop mapping of best practice in the regions regarding the use of alternative fuels in the transport sector.

Mr Tomas Mörtsell reiterated the importance of having on-going collaboration with the regions.

Mr Wolf Born commented that it was a good idea to map best practice in the regions.

Ms Lucille Ehrhart reminded participants of the questionnaire recently sent out.

7.3 Update on the Energy and Climate Working Group, by the Chair Mr Markku Markkula (Region Helsinki-Uusimaa)

Mr Markku Markkula stressed the importance of gathering the examples from the regions to share good concepts and this is becoming more relevant. He noted that the Fit for 55 package and other aspects are a lot of work, and there is a lot of added value for regions around the Baltic Sea with the 5 missions. He provided an in-depth update on the current state of play for the 5 missions as well as on other aspects of energy and climate followed by the Working Group.

Ms Daria Akhutina mentioned that the CBSS is dealing a lot with climate issues and is currently enjoying funding from the Swedish institute to provide a booklet. She will keep the CPMR BSC informed of developments.

Ms Maria Lindbom mentioned a renewable energy seminar and energy supply. Region Skåne is planning the seminar back-to-back with the CPMR Political Bureau in June 2022. A preparation meeting has been held and she briefly mentioned the concept of the meeting on 15 June which will be relevant for all Working Groups. The issue to be discussed will be how can we reach an increased production of clean energy in the Baltic and in Europe and what role can the regions play in the development. She noted that Skåne is a problematic area as it is a deficit area and there are restrictions on how much capacity can be added. It is difficult to develop, and she noted the need to work together in the Baltic Sea Region and as a whole in the EU. She stressed that the seminar will be a CPMR event not just Baltic Sea and will involve all CPMR Member Regions.

Ms Lucille Ehrhart mentioned the EU Forest Strategy. The Commission published the new Strategy and the BSC tried to influence the Commission proposal through a Policy Paper. She noted that the BSC now needs to influence the European Parliament. She presented the timetable and noted the deadline for amendments is January.
Mr Markku Markkula agreed on the important elements from Ms Lindbom and Ms Ehrhart and pointed out the need to have a long-term view of the work.

Ms Tiina Perho informed participants that she is working on a daily basis with forest issues, and to contact her if they need anything relating to this really important issue.

7.4 Update on the Arctic Task Force, by the Chair Mr Tomas Mörtsell, (Region Västerbotten)

Mr Tomas Mörtsell gave a brief update on the recent activities of the Arctic Task Force, including the organisation of a seminar in the framework of the EUSBSR Annual Forum (see presentation here).

Ms Lucille Ehrhart provided feedback from the recent Arctic Circle Conference in Iceland, in which she and Mr Jari Nahkanen participated.

Mr Tomas Mörtsell continued with information on the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2022 and promoting the Arctic topic in the CPMR. He concluded by presenting the next steps for the Task Force, including influencing the Council conclusions on the new Arctic Policy and organising a SEArica event in Brussels in spring 2022.

8. Membership
8.1 Increase cooperation with Regions from the Russian Federation

Ms Lucille Ehrhart gave an update on membership issues and addressed the issue of the membership strategy. She noted that now that travel was easier, she will travel to visit the member regions. She is going to travel to Päijät-Häme and Helsinki-Uusimaa in November. She also discussed the actions undertaken to attract new members including Lapland and Nordland, which have a specific interest in Arctic issues. She also addressed how the BSC can work with Russian partners and how Executive Committee members can help to build and facilitate contact with potential new Member Regions (see presentation here).

Participants had a brief discussion on which regions have previously been members and which regions it was realistic/unrealistic to target.

9. Positions of Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group and Vice-Chair of the BSC Transport Working Group

Mr Tomas Mörtsell introduced the proposal from Mr Kari Häkämies, Regional Mayor of SouthWest Finland for Ms Tiina Perho to continue as Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group.

The proposal was unanimously approved. Ms Tiina Perho will continue to be Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group.
Mr Tomas Mörtsell explained that Ms Kristiina Hämäläinen from Region Päijät-Häme (Finland) is no longer holding the position of Vice-Chair of the BSC Transport Working Group. On behalf of the President and the Executive Committee, he warmly thanked Ms Hämäläinen for her commitment and her implication in the CPMR and Baltic Sea Commission over the years. He explained to participants that the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme has informed the BSC Secretariat they will provide the name of the new Vice-Chair in a few weeks. The Executive Committee will be informed about the name of the new representative of Päijät-Häme for the Transport Working Group, for approval.

10. Financial documents
10.1 Update on the Financial Report 2021

Mr Tomas Mörtsell provided an update on the Financial Report 2021 until August based on the invoices paid by the CPMR. He noted that all BSC Member Regions have paid their membership fee for 2021. He noted that the surplus is the BSC’s own capital and will be held in a CPMR account earmarked for the Baltic Sea Commission.

10.2 Proposal of change in the Forecast Budget for 2022

Mr Tomas Mörtsell noted a change to the Forecast Budget for 2022 to take into account the recent membership of Region Östergötland.

*The proposed Forecast Budget for 2022 was unanimously approved.*

11. Closing session
11.1 Any other business
No extra issues were raised.

11.2 Next Executive Committee meeting
It was suggested that the next meeting be held in March 2022. A date will be communicated to the Members by the Secretariat.

Mr Wolf Born asked that the next meeting also be held in hybrid format due to the on-going pandemic. He also noted that if the Executive Committee meets in March, it will be difficult to organise the General Assembly in May.

Mr Evert Kroes noted that as physical meetings are becoming more possible, it would be beneficial to consider strategically whether meetings need to be held physically and which meetings could be held online or in person.

Mr Wolf Born suggested that the Presidium make a proposal on this.

11.3 Calendar of the year
The timetable of event was presented and agreed upon.
11.4 Closing remarks from Mr Tomas Mörtsell, BSC Vice-President

Mr Tomas Mörtsell thanked the speakers for the interesting presentations and all participants for the productive discussions, especially the discussion with the representatives of the CBSS. He recognised that it is important that the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission strengthens cooperation with the CBSS. He thanked Region Stockholm for hosting the meeting and for the kind hospitality in such a beautiful setting. He thanked all the Executive Committee Members and supporting officers and BSC Secretariat for the work and closed the meeting.
CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Executive Committee

List of participants

Daria Akhutina, Senior Adviser for Sustainable & Prosperous Region, CBSS
Bosse Andersson, 2nd Vice-president Regional Assembly, Region Stockholm
Clare Booth, Policy Assistant, CPMR
Wolf Born, Head of Unit Baltic Sea Cooperation, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Ministry of the Interior and for Europe
Lucille Ehrhart, Executive Secretary, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission
Håkan Hägström, Project Manager, County Administrative Board of Stockholm
Gustav Hemming, Regional Chair for Growth, Regional Planning and the Archipelago, Region Stockholm
Hanna Honkamäkilä, Manager of International Affairs, Council of Oulu Region
Britt Karlsson-Green, Region Skåne, Strategist Sustainable Fuels
Daniela Kober, Baltic Sea Unit, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Evert Kroes, International Strategist, Region Stockholm
Maria Lindbom, Advisor Regional Development & International Affairs, Region Skåne
Micaela Löwenhöök, Civil Servant, Region Västerbotten
Markku Markkula, President of the Board, Region of Helsinki-Uusimaa
Otto Meri, Member of the Assembly, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council
Tomas Mörtsell, Second Vice-President of the Regional Development Board, Region Västerbotten
Jari Nahkanen, Chairman, Council of Oulu Region
Sonja Palhus, Manager of International Affairs, Regional Council of Southwest Finland
Tiina Perho, Member of the Board, Regional Council of SouthWest Finland
Fanny Pettersson, Growth Strategist, Region Stockholm
Grzegorz Poznanski, Director General, CBSS Secretariat
Marlis Rettau, Adviser, Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities
Charlotta Solerud, Environmental Strategist, Ports of Stockholm
Inger Starheim Lagerquist, Head of Unit for International Affairs, Region Stockholm
Konrad Stralka, Executive Member of the Board, Baltic Waters 2030
Davide Strangis, Executive Director, CPMR
Janne Tamminen, Senior Advisor, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council
Martin Tollèn, Vice-Chair of the Regional Development Committee, Region Östergötland