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Item 5

**46th NSC Executive Committee Meeting,
2 November 2007.**

Maritime Policy Blue Paper and support of the Brussels Call

You find the Maritime Policy Blue Paper using this link;
http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/subpage_en.html#policy

The Maritime Policy Blue Paper was launched on 10th October. Martin Brebner from Aberdeenshire has made a table comparing suggested actions from NSC with Blue Paper actions.

At the Strategic Committee meeting in Skien 7th September it was proposed to try to write a paper making the North Sea a pilot area for implementation. Looking at the Blue Paper there are a few areas where NSC can play a role. One action listed is ICZM, there has for years been a network for regional planner associated with NSC. And they have several times discussed the challenges for a common ICZM around the North Sea. Is this a relevant theme for NSC to look into?

The NSC has received a request from our member Schleswig-Holstein to support the Brussels Call for the Protection of the Sea. The goal with the Brussels Call is to influence the ongoing negotiations between EU Council and EU Parliament on the EU Marine Strategy Directive with the arguments and interest of Europe's maritime regions in order to end up with a strong and legally binding directive. The Brussels Call is attached.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. For information and decision
2. The NSC support the Brussels Call



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SUSTAINABLE COASTAL COMMUNITIES		
ACTION	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	BLUE PAPER ACTIONS
1 Facilitate exchange of best practice and promote the examples identified	Support and develop (through policy and financial instruments) networks of experts and stakeholders. Linkages between these networks should also be supported. Successful initiatives should then be promoted across Europe and beyond. Ensure that the maritime dimension is given sufficient focus in Objective 3 of the Structural Funds and other relevant funds.	Action 2.3 covers all these items except promotion, which is evident in Actions 6.1 and 7.1.
2 <i>Bring together stakeholders</i>	Support and develop networks which bring together stakeholders to implement policies and develop solutions to common problems.	Actions 2.1 and 2.3.
3 <i>Build capacity in local communities</i>	Support the mobilisation of local communities through capacity-building initiatives such as LEADER +.	Hinted at in Action 6, although only appears to focus on outermost regions and no mention of funding.
4 Raise public awareness of the environmental impacts of human activities in the marine environment	Develop a factual awareness-raising campaign based on sound knowledge of the impacts of human activities on the marine environment.	Not evident in Blue Paper.
5 Develop strategies for flood prevention and coastline management	Co-ordinate the strategies and activities of neighbouring States to ensure that they are compatible and complementary.	Action 6.3 (a), 2.1 and 2.3.



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COASTAL ECONOMIES

	ACTION	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	BLUE PAPER ACTIONS
1	Produce a toolkit for maritime businesses	Develop advice and tools of particular relevance to maritime businesses through the work of DG Enterprise. Finance projects through the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme/FP7 which aim to develop tools for maritime businesses.	Not evident in Blue Paper.
2	Promote benefits of corporate social responsibility to maritime businesses	Set up a voluntary code of conduct which maritime businesses sign up to, leading to accreditation and the establishment of minimum standards, agreed in consultation with stakeholders.	Action 4.3 (b) touches on this issue, but nothing specific to corporate social responsibility is evident in the Blue Paper.
3	<i>Promote modal shift from land to sea-based transport</i>	Develop policies which make sea-based freight transport more competitive and ensure that adequate infrastructure in and around ports is in place (legislative and financial contribution).	Action 4.2.
4	Develop and implement a safety and training package for maritime workers	Establish a pan-European qualification which equips maritime workers with adequate training and expertise to work safely, understand the marine environment and innovate in maritime industries.	Action 4.3 (b).
5	Support development of alternative fuels and renewable energy	Continue work (both legislation and financial support/incentives) to promote alternative fuels and renewable energy.	Actions 4.5, 4.7 and 6.3.



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GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE		
ACTION	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	BLUE PAPER ACTIONS
1 <i>Develop new legislation and implement/ progress existing initiatives</i>	Develop Directives to regulate ship-ship transfers of oil and the quality of maritime fuels. Build upon and expand the geographical scope of policies on Motorways of the Sea and Short Sea Shipping. Closely monitor progress in meeting the Kyoto Protocols.	Ship-ship transfers: not evident in blue paper. Maritime fuels: Action 4.5 MoS: Action 4.2 Kyoto: Action 6.3.
2 Examine legislative conflicts and co-ordinate existing policies	Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the main policies which have a maritime dimension and examine conflicts. Continue the work of the Maritime Policy Taskforce who would be charged with ensuring that the maritime dimension is taken into account in relevant policies.	Actions 2.1 and 2.2.
3 Consult stakeholders on proposed legislation which affects them	Ensure that adequate (both in content and time allowance) consultations are undertaken to allow stakeholders to input into policy developments.	Action 2.1 touches on this, but relies on Member States consulting coastal communities when formulating national plans.
4 Develop specific maritime financial instruments	Ensure that a maritime dimension to existing financial instruments is promoted and develop specific instruments to support maritime goals.	Action 5.1 identifies the 7 th Framework Programme as a means of EU financial support. However, there is little evidence of financing of initiatives elsewhere in the Blue Paper.
5 Establish and support a European Marine Related Research Strategy and Technology Platform	Set up a research strategy for marine research and a related Technology Platform through the Seventh Framework Programme. Encourage universities and other stakeholders to work together in areas of marine research.	Action 5.1.



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MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY			
	ACTION	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	BLUE PAPER ACTIONS
1	Conduct a risk assessment for European waters	Assess the potential risks of incidents at sea, climate change and natural disasters. Develop strategies to mitigate against risks. Co-ordinate the activities of Member States with regards to preparing for and responding to the effects of natural disasters.	Actions 3.1, 3.3, 6.3.
2	Produce and update a map of the seas	Commission projects which contribute to maps of the seas. Data must be accessible to those who need it and interoperable with current systems.	Actions 3.2, 3.3 and 8.2.
3	Introduce compulsory vessel tracking systems	Legislate for the introduction of compulsory, interoperable vessel tracking systems for ships operating in European waters. Make data available to relevant authorities.	Action 3.1 touches on this issue, although no proposals for compulsory tracking are put forward (may come out of consultation set out in Action 4.2).
4	Enhance co-operation in policing coastal waters	Co-ordinate the activities of Member States with regards to policing coastal waters.	Action 3.1 touches on this issue.
5	Enhance Europe's global position in maritime affairs	Promote European policies and expertise throughout the world through participation in international fora. Put diplomatic pressure on States and international organisations to ensure that a level playing field for maritime industries exists. Support developing countries financially in meeting their international obligations.	Actions 7.1, 7.2 and 7.4 cover most of this, although again there does not appear to be a financial aspect to the Blue Paper.



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