

Proposal of a working program 2009 for the Intergroup „North Sea – English Channel“:

13th February 2009:

- Election of the board
- Commitment on the working program 2009
- Decision about the participation at the OPEN DAYS 2009

22nd April 2009 (joint session with the Intergroup “Baltic Sea Regions”):

Discussion concerning the package “**European Maritime space without barriers**”, Rapporteur: 1. CoR-Vice President Michel Delebarre (FR/PSE).

Up to now, there have been considerations to discuss the “Green paper on the reform of the European common fisheries policy”. Unfortunately, it is not certain that the document will be published until the meeting. Therefore, it is suggested to discuss the theme mentioned above. There will be a possibility to get back to the Green paper at a later date – as proposed during the October meeting.

18th June 2009:

At the end of March, the European Commission will most likely present the **White paper** on “**Adaptation to climate change**”, which will recommend a European strategy on that subject. The Intergroup should respond to it and define a common position on that topic. The North Sea – English Channel regions are highly affected by the sea-level rise as well as the increasing risk of storms. Therefore it is important to discuss and realise transnational strategies for adaptation in order to protect the coastline.

5th – 8th October 2009:

According to the decision made at the Intergroup meeting in February, optional participation in the OPEN DAYS 2009.

8th October 2009 (possibility of a joint session with the Intergroup “Baltic Sea Regions”):

The **Green paper on the reform of the European common fisheries policy** – which should be published by then – will be a basis for further initiatives from the European Commission on that topic. For many North Sea – English Channel regions fishing is a mayor economic factor. At the same time, it is important to find a balance between economic interests and environmental issues (over-fishing, preservation and protection of the North Sea’s – English Channel’s ecosystem).

3rd December 2009:

It is recommended to consider the following two topics for that meeting: “**Questions concerning energy under particular consideration of offshore-wind energy**” and “**Clean Shipping**”. Depending on the state of interest and the topic’s actuality, the theme for the December session should be determined during the June Intergroup meeting.