

Participation of the Intergroup “North Sea – English Channel” in the Open Days 2009

1. Background

The OPEN DAYS 2009 will be held on 5-8 October 2009. They give the opportunity to convey to the European institutions how partner regions and cities are responding to the challenges ahead. There will be four priorities:

1. Restoring Growth : Innovation in Europe’s regions and cities
2. Regions and climate change: Europe’s way
3. Territorial cooperation: Working together across borders
4. Achieving results, looking ahead: EU cohesion policy’s evaluation and future prospects

2. Conditions for an application:

Regional partners must comprise at least 5 and not more than 12 European regions/cities and represent at least four different countries. Each regional partnership is expected to organise at least one and not more than two session(s) in Brussels (seminar/workshop/debate). Each participating region and city is requested to organise at least one event on their home ground during the month of October 2009. Regional Partners have to be headed by a “lead office” and a “deputy office” that are responsible for managing the tasks within the regional partnership.

Deadline for applications: 13th March 09.

3. Regions, who intend to participate in a conglomerate “North Sea – English Channel” to apply for the OPEN DAYS 2009:

Region Haute-Normandie (FR), East Midlands (GB), Northern Netherlands Provinces (NL), Province of South-Holland (NL), West Sweden (SE), Lower Saxony (DE), Bremen (DE)

= 7 European regions, 5 member states

4. Regions/cities, who showed interest to participate:

Département du Finistère (FR), City of Aalborg (DK)

5. Discussion on working level:

During an exploratory discussion on 4th February 09 of representatives (working level) from those regions, who intend to participate in a conglomerate “North-Sea – English Channel” (see point 3), the participants agreed that the Intergroup “North Sea – English Channel” should apply for the OPEN DAYS 2009. It would be a chance for the Intergroup and its regions “to grow closer together”. One workshop should be organised as well as a side-event together with the Baltic Sea regions on political level (f. ex. panel discussion with reception). The side-event should not be part of the application, because the “Baltic Sea regions” will apply for the OPEN DAYS with their own program. It was agreed to concentrate on a “global theme” like “The creation of North Sea and English Channel maritime Strategies”. This overlapping topic could deal with the issues of growth, climate change/energy, innovation and territorial cooperation.

6. Proposal for decision:

The members of the Intergroup “North Sea – English Channel” declare their wish, that a conglomerate of interested regions in the frame of the Intergroup shall be founded to take part in the OPEN DAYS 2009. The representatives (working level) of the participating regions are asked to write an application. The Representation of Northern Netherlands will be the “lead office”, the Representation of Lower Saxony will be the “deputy office”.

Brussels, 10th February 2009
Constanze Ripke