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## **Minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> NSC Executive Committee Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in the Clarion Ernst hotel in Kristiansand, Vest-Agder, Norway**

### **NSC Executive Committee Participants:**

President	Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen (Telemark)
Vice - President	Cllr. Sandy Cluness (Shetland)
Vice – President	Cllr. Rinske Krusinga (Netherlands)
Danish Representative	not represented
Dutch Representative	not represented
English Representative	not represented
French Representative	not represented
German Representative	not represented
Norwegian Representative	Cllr. Gisle Handeland (Hordaland County Council)
Scottish Representative	Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City)
Swedish Representative	Cllr. Annelie Stark (Region Västra Götaland)
Executive Secretary	Lars Haukvik
Assistant Executive Secretary	Vibeke Jakobsen

### **NSC Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Thematic Groups present:**

Culture and Tourism	not represented
Innovation and Education	Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City)
Sustainable Development	Cllr. John Lamb (EERA)
Marine Resources	Cllr. Anders Fasth (Region Västra Götaland)
Transport	Cllr. Leif Blomquist (Region Västra Götaland)

### **NSC Thematic Group Advisers present:**

Culture and Tourism	not represented
Innovation and Education	Erik Lindboe (Rogaland)
Sustainable Development	Yasa Ratnayeke (Aberdeen City)
Marine Resources	not represented
Transport	Jon Halvard Eide (Vest-Agder)

### **Supporting officers and Observers:**

Cllr. Mimi von Troill Region Västra Götaland)  
Cllr. Oddvar Skaiå (Aust-Agder)  
Cllr. Thore Westermoen(Vest-Agder)  
Martin Brebner (Aberdeenshire)  
Michelle Armstrong (EERA)  
Connie Boersma (Zeeland)  
Sally Spence (Shetland)  
Cecilia Lagerdah(Region Västra Götaland)  
Lisa Belfrage (Region Västra Götaland)  
Hilde Donker (Noord - Holland)  
Jean Didier Hache (CPMR)



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Twan Jansen (Fryslan)  
Ingebjørg Astrup (Hordaland)  
Christian Byrith (Northsea Interreg. Secretariat)  
Martijn Lucas (Noord-Holland)  
Erik Ørskov (South Jutland)

### **Apologies:**

Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen  
Cllr. Kevan Lim  
Cllr. Josie Simpson  
Cllr. Martine Filleul  
Cllr. Jeannine Marquaille  
Cllr. Sjoerd Galema  
Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen  
Cllr. Harry Jensen  
Cllr. Martin Kayenburg  
Cllr. Uwe Döring  
Cllr. Anne Robertson  
Adviser Geir Sør-Reime  
Adviser Ann Bell  
Michael Nielsen  
Henrik M Jensen

### **Welcome by the president who gave the word to Tore Westermoen**

Presentation from the Vest-Agder County council (presentation available on website)  
Challenge the regions on cheering best practice. He gave examples on different subjects.  
Tall ship race next year and would welcome us back then. Present for all a book with histories from the region

### **1. Minutes last meeting**

***Decision:***  
***Minutes last meeting, approved.***

### **2. Next General Assembly.**

Martijn Lucas went through the program in the meeting the previous day. (Updated programme available at the website).

Political seminar will have the working title; "A Strategy for the North Sea", Interreg and the Secretariat will prepare a paper for the seminar. The thematic groups are asked to come up with input. The work must be based on our "old" strategies; From Vision to Action and NorVision.

***Decision:***  
***For information***



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### 3. Reports.

#### from the Interreg secretariat

Christian Byrith gave a presentation (presentation available at the website).  
20-30 applications expected this call that ends 30 March.

#### from the thematic groups (detailed reports available at the website)

##### **Transport**

Monitoring and responding on the EU agenda on transport. Cooperation with BSC transport group. Will look further into sustainable transport.

##### **Culture and Tourism**

Had a seminar in Middleburg where the group adopted Position papers, enclosed in the papers.  
Next meeting in April.

##### **Innovation**

Meeting in Aberdeen this week with the theme Innovation.  
Next meeting in Ålesund in Oktober.

##### **Marine Resources**

Have had two meetings in Hirtshals and in Kiel.  
Mercury information; The Norwegian government has decided to salvage the sunken submarine.  
Kiel they was the first group to meet in Germany.  
Meeting in Gotland in May.

##### **Sustainable**

Focus on energy issues and cooperation with the CPMR energy group. Next meeting in June.  
The group needs a new Adviser.

#### from Brussel.

Report from the Plenary session Committee of the Regions (CoR) 12-13 February 2009 and -  
European Summit of Regions and Cities on 5 and 6 March – Prague

#### NSC-BSC cooperation

Anneli Stark gave information. There is a lot of cooperation between the groups going on. Baltic Sea Strategy is on the agenda in the next meeting in the CoR at their April meeting.  
The Presidency had a meeting in Århus in January.

#### Territorial cohesion

NSC and BSC gave a joint response. Response is on the DG Regio website now. It is a question how the process and results of the Green Paper will turn out.

#### CPMR energy group.

Jean Didier Hache informed about the Eu recovery package and the groups last conference in Aberdeen.

Next meeting of the group will focus on 3 issues;

- EU Energy and innovation with focus on the peripheral areas.
- Implementation energy climate package in peripheral areas. How to use the structural funds after 2013.
- Distribution of bio fuel in peripheral areas



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### **Maritime policy update.**

The report focused on the Maritime Spatial Planning Action Plan and a Maritime Spatial Planning Kick-Off Seminar in Brussels on 26 March

### **CPMR issues**

Main issue is the recruitment of a new Secretary General. Applications for the position: 28 candidates; 17 men and 11 women. A pre-selection committee will evaluate the candidates and choose until 5 candidates to be presented for the Political Bureau in June.

#### ***Decision:***

***The NSC Executive Committee approves these reports and supports the work of the NSC.***

### **4 Elections**

There was two vacant positions ; Vice-Chair and Adviser both in the Sustainable Development group. No candidate for the Adviser position.

#### **Decision:**

***Cllr. Martin Wiersma, Zeeland is elected as Vice-Chair for the Sustainable Development Group.***

### **5 Work plans**

All Work Plans is available at the website. The groups was asked if the had anything to add to the written plans. None groups had anything to add to the reports. There is a general wish to recruit more regions to participate

#### **Decision:**

**The Work Plans were approved**

### **6 Finances**

The preliminary accounts for 2008 were presented with a surplus of 4.147 Euro. So far for 2009 the income is 67.486 Euro and the expenditure of 702 Euro.

#### **Decision:**

**The finances were approved**

### **7. EU Green Paper on TEN-T**

John Hallvard Eide informed on the background to the paper.

The aim is to be more flexible and marked orientated. There is a stronger emphasis on sea transport and a need for Territorial Cohesion objectives of the motorways of the sea.

Try to encapsulate to intelligence fright and costume interference. The Transport group had their meeting the day before the ExCom and had made some minor adjustments to the response.



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**Decision:**

**The NSC Executive Committee supports the Draft response to Green Paper on TEN T: A Policy Review – ‘Towards a Better Integrated Trans European Transport Network at the Service of the Common Transport Policy’ presented by the Transport group with the amendments approved by the Transport group at their meeting 26 March 2009.**

## 8 NSC and CPMR GAP group

The Executive Committee supports the recommendations in the paper.

**Decision:**

- **NSC will not nominate any candidates to the CPMR CAP group.**
- **NSC as a commission has no opinion regarding the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).**

## 9 Clean shipping Action Plan.

Co-operation with Baltic Sea regions through Schleswig-Holstein. They have developed the action plan through the BSSSC and 6 Baltic Sea organisations have supported the idea as a flagship project for the Baltic Sea Strategy. The action plan consists of 5 points earlier dealt with by the NSC and it is natural for NSC to take part and support this work

**Decision:**

**NSC will promote the Clean Baltic shipping strategy and want to take this strategy forward in to the North Sea.**

## 10 NSC Organisational issues

### Maritime Policy Pilot Project.

To bring the project to next phase is a Project lead partner needed. Region Vestra Götland are discussing to take this role, but they need to get a formal approval.

**Decision:**

**The Executive Committee agrees to pursue Maritime Spatial Planning as a theme for the pilot project and discusses the availability of resources to progress this further**

### Maritim Week 18-19 may.

Martin Brebner presented the programme and the progress of the preparations.

**Decision**

- **The Executive Committee notes the developments at the European level in the field of Maritime Spatial Planning and progress in the organisation of the Maritim Week event.**
- **The Secretariat is responsible to find a NSC representative to Chair session 3.**

### Recommendations for the Open Days 09.

Hilde Donker presented the paper she prepared for the meeting. Open days are so big and to be visible we need our own event.



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### ***Decision***

- ***The Executive Committee is positive to deliver speakers from NSC to another regional partnership for a presentation. This will give some exposure during the OD. Check university possibilities?***
- ***The Executive Committee agrees to organise a seminar with a specific NSC theme in cooperation with the CoR on a separate date in 2009. Experiences have shown that the CoR is willing to help out with rooms, equipment and translation.***
- ***The Executive Committee agrees to organise a seminar in cooperation, together with the European Commission. Here the theme should be linked with themes from e.g. DG Mare.***
- ***The Executive Committee agrees on having the Maritime Week event 18-19 May as a local Open Days event.***

### **Cooperation with CoR and its Intergroup North Sea- English channel**

This group was established in November 2008. Cllr. Annelie Stark was elected second vice chair of the group. This group will be an important contact for NSC into CoR.

### ***Decision***

- ***The Executive Committee supports the establishment of a North Sea Regions Intergroup at the CoR and encourages NSC members to take part in the work of the group.***
- ***The Executive Committee asks Cllr. Annelie Stark to help NSC to meet the group to inform them of our work and possible cooperation.***

### **Follow up of the report of the successes.**

The Executive Secretary presented the paper summing up the activities since last meeting regarding the actions for follow up the report on promoting the successes of NSC.

### ***Decision For information***

### **11 Next meeting.**

Haarlem June 26<sup>th</sup>.

The President thanked the host for arranging the meeting wished all a safe journey back home.