



Fylkeshuset,  
3706 Skien, Norway  
Tel.: +47 35 58 42 00  
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44  
nsc@northsea.org  
www.northsea.org

## Item 6

### 52<sup>th</sup> NSC Executive Committee Meeting, 30 November 2009.

## NORTH SEA STRATEGY.

At the last meeting in Haarlem the ExCom decided;

*It was agreed that the Committee would accept the outcomes of the Annual Seminar for Politicians – that there was a need for a new Strategy for the North Sea.*

*The NSC Secretariat will produce a paper advising on the NSC's future involvement in the development of a new North Sea Strategy, and how to start this open process. This paper will be discussed at the next NSC Executive Committee meeting.*

This issue shows that the activities and NSC involvement already has started before this has been possible to discuss with the ExCom. The process has been lead by the President in discussion with the Strategic Committee and all activities has been reported on our website.

This paper is a summing up of the activities so far as a basis for the ExCom to discuss the way ahead.

### Activities since June 09;

- The Strategic Committee met 13 August in Brussels. Several papers had been prepared a paper for the meeting as a basis for discussion. At the meeting a representative from the CoR Intercom group for the North Sea and the English Channel was present.

The meeting decided to establish a writing group coordinated by Martin Brebner and a planning group coordinated by Ann Bell.

From the discussion at the meeting a first draft position paper was made.

- 16 September meeting with Interreg to invite them to participate in the work to prepare a North Sea Strategy.
- 30 September, a draft paper on a North Sea Strategy was presented at the NSC meeting during the CPMR General Assembly.
- 7 October at an Open Days 09 seminar hosted by the CoR Intercom group, the President presented and discussed a draft paper outlining a North Sea Strategy.
- 4 November the writing group met to update the paper.
- 5 November the Strategic Committee met to discuss the paper and further actions. It was decided to hold a Stakeholder conference 13 April in Brussels.

Background papers and minutes from the meetings are available at our website and are enclosed this ExCom agenda. The website will be updated continuous as there is news or new papers.



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#### **From the discussion at the meetings the decisions so far are;**

The strategy aims wide for the moment; there is a need to involve as many stakeholders as possible in the region to succeed.

A Stakeholder conference is important for involve the stakeholders of the region. The date for the Stakeholder conference was set to 13 April 2010 in the premises of CoR in Brussels. The conference will be important to decide for the aims and priorities for the strategy and the implementation of the strategy.

The Stakeholder conference will be crucial for the future work on the strategy, to get acceptance for the strategy and the priorities. The invitations to the conference must be wide and the aim is to get participant from public and private sector European, national, regional and local. This conference will be the main NSC event together with the General Assembly in June. NSC has to support the event financially, how much isn't decided yet.

Today there are two papers'; the NSC paper and the one of the CoR Intercom group if both organisations agree there will be a joint paper for the Stakeholder conference. A joint invitation letter describing the strategy must be prepared.

Telemark County Council as lead partner together with 6 partners has applied ESPON for funding of background data for the strategy.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. For discussion and decision.**
- 2. The Executive Committee supports the paper "A Strategy for the North Sea" dated 1 October 2009.**
- 3. The Executive Committee supports the Stakeholder conference; the Strategic Committee can decide the financial support from NSC to the event.**
- 4. The NSC President lead the work in cooperation with the Strategic Committee, the Executive Committee will between meetings be informed of the work through the website and e-mail.**