



**Minutes of the 38th
Executive Committee Meeting
March 1st 2005**

**Minutes of the 38th Executive Committee Meeting on 1st March
2005, Hotel Fjordgården, Ringkøbing, Denmark**

NSC Executive Committee Participants:

President	Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen (Telemark)
Vice-President	Cllr. Audrey Findlay (Aberdeenshire) accompanied by Paul Kane and Iain Gabriel (Aberdeenshire)
Vice-President	Cllr. Peter Byman (SNN) accompanied by Toine Janssen (SNN)
Danish Representative	Cllr. Harry Jensen (Ringkøbing) accompanied by Karsten Bækgaard (Ringkøbing)
Dutch Representative	Cllr. Rinske Kruisinga (Noord Holland)
English Representative	Cllr. Tony Thomkinson (Norfolk)
France:	Not represented
German Representative	represented by Peter Wieland (Niedersechen)
Norwegian Representative	Cllr. Gisle Handeland (Hordaland)
Scottish Representative	Cllr. Alexander Thomson (Fife) accompanied by Bruce Manson, (Fife)
Swedish Representative	Not represented
Executive Secretary	Lars Haukvik
Assistant Executive Secretary	Vibeke Jakobsen

NSC Chairs/Vice-chairs of Thematic Groups present:

Environment Group:	Cllr. Alison McInnes (Aberdeenshire) Cllr. Andreas Lervik (Østfold)
Fisheries	Cllr. Sandy Cluness (Shetland) Cllr. Anders Fasth (Västra Götaland)
Transport	Cllr. Tor Ottar Karlsen (Buskerud)

CPMR

Fanny Branchu, CPMR Secretariat
Cllr. Joseph Gilbert Simpson, Chair CPMR Fisheries
Intercom group

Observers :

Henrik M. Jensen, (Viborg)
Torhild Kongsness (Østfold)
Erik Lindboe (Rogaland)
Cllr. Kevan Lim (Suffolk)
Jörgen Niemann (Västra Götaland)
Prof. Tony Hawkins (North Sea RAC)

**Minutes of the 38th
Executive Committee Meeting
March 1st 2005**

NSC Thematic Group Co-ordinators present:

Culture & Tourism	Geir Sør-Reime (Rogaland)
Economic Development	Vivien Collie, (Fife)
Education & Research	Ann Brown (Suffolk)
Environment	Per Hörberg (Västra Götaland)
Fisheries	Ann Bell (Aberdeenshire)
Transport	Jon Halvard Eide (Vest-Agder)

Apologies.

Cllr Björn Thümler, (Niedersachsen)
Cllr Albrecht Harten, (Niedersachsen)
Cllr Kathleen Matheson, (Highland)
Cllr Roland Andersson, (Västra Götaland)
Cllr Jan Hallberg, (Västra Götaland)
Cllr. Martine Filleul, (Nord-Pas de Calais)
Cllr. Jeannine Marquaille, (Nord-Pas de Calais)
Programme Manager Lorraine George, (North Sea Interreg Secretariat)
Natalie Mandaron, (Nord-Pas de Calais)

The President started by welcoming everyone to the 38th Executive Committee and thanked Harry Jensen and his staff for organising and hosting the meeting.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

1. Minutes of the 37th North Sea Commission Executive Committee Meeting held at Ardoe House Hotel, South Deeside Road, Blairs, Aberdeenshire, Scotland on October 15th 2004.

Adopted, with no comments.

2. Financial Statement.

No comments, approved.

3. Elections

a. Vice-Chairs of the following thematic groups;

Economic Development; Kevan Lim, Suffolk, was elected.
Culture & Tourism; Alan Livingstone, Pert/Kinross, was elected.
Education & Research; Bernard Cailliau, Nord Pas de Calais, was elected.
Environment Henrik Ringbæk Madsen, Nordjylland was elected.

b. Co-ordinators of the following thematic groups;

Economic Development; Erik Lindboe was elected.
The NSC wants to hire Vivian Collie in a transition period until General Assembly in June 2005 is ended.

Education & Research; Ann Brown is hired until October 2005.

The position for co-ordinator in the thematic group Education & Research is still vacant.

4. Interreg III B North Sea Programme

A report from Programme Manager Lorraine George, Interreg Secretariat was distributed in advance of the meeting.

No comments to the report.

5. Report from CPMR.

The President welcomed Fanny Branchu as the new CPMR contact person. Her report was distributed in advance of the meeting.

No comments to the report.

5a. Appeal from CPMR; Regional Policy is under threat.

The Resolution was debated and the Executive Committee made this decision;

- The North Sea Commission supports the initiative from the CPMR Political Bureau and adopts the "RESOLUTION OF THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES".
- The Executive Committee invites all the NSC Member regions to submit and adopt the "RESOLUTION OF THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES".

5b. The Territorial Impact of DG Competition s proposal on the review of Regional State Aid.

The Executive Committee noted the paper for information.

5c. Joint Memorandum of Regions in support of the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective 2007-2013

The Executive Committee noted the paper for information.

**Minutes of the 38th
Executive Committee Meeting
March 1st 2005**

6. Report from the Thematic Groups.

The Action Plans of the Thematic Groups was distributed in advance of the meeting:

The Draft Action Plans were accepted.

The Executive Committee wants to have the plans in a Uniform Style. The secretariat makes a set up for this standard. The plans are to be presented at the Executive Committee and General Assembly in June.

The Executive Committee wants the groups to concentrate on fewer themes in their action plans.

The Executive Committee decided;

- a. The Executive Committee co-fund the continued preparations of the North Sea Ministerial Meeting on Environmental Impacts of Shipping and Fisheries by (a maximum of) 50 000 SEK (approximately 4.500 Euro).
- b. The Executive committee grants the Transport Group 50.000 NOK in support for the conference May 31st and June 1st 2005

7. 14th NSC General Assembly, Zeeland 2005

The Executive Committee was update on the preparations for the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee noted the paper for information.

Resolutions for the General Assembly must be sent to the Secretariat no later then May 10th 2005.

8. North Sea Commission, an organisation for the future.

Conclusions from the discussions on February 28th -2005.

The Executive Committee decided;

1. The Executive Committee allocates maximum 7.000 Euro for each co-ordinator, 14.000 Euro in total for the two co-ordinators, Vivien Collie and Ann Brown for 2005.
2. To cover for the expenses the Executive Committee proposes for the General Assembly to raise the membership fee with 10% from 2006, from 2.684 Euro to 2.952 Euro. This gives a total rise of the membership fee for the NSC of 14.000 Euro. This is the first raise in membership fee since 2001, and is an adjustment of the inflation in this period.
3. The Executive Committee would suggest that there is a need to take some time to look at the existing objectives of the current NSC Thematic Groups and to compare

**Minutes of the 38th
Executive Committee Meeting
March 1st 2005**

these with the objectives of the work areas of the CPMR and the Spatial Agenda all as summarised in the paper "The future of the NSC". By doing this we will be able to identify where the objectives of the various organisations fit and indeed where there are "gaps". This process could also be extended to include the Baltic Sea Commission.

4. The Executive Committee wants an active cooperation with the CPMR and their work of Sectoral issues.

9. Joint meeting NSC BSC Århus 18.02.05

The conclusions from the meeting were distributed in advance of the meeting,

The Executive Committee was asked to point out members to working groups;

Chairs and co-ordinators of the Transport Group and Environment Group were pointed out as contacts to their respective BSC groups.

The following persons are elected from the BSC:

Transport group:	Bente Nielsen (Århus), Per Strømhaug (Nordland)
Demographic Change:	Inger Linge (Stockholm), Tommy Karlsson (Stockholm)
Environment:	Valli Laas (Ida-Viru, EST), none chosen

It was furthermore decided that the President in BSC would be invited to meetings in the NSC Executive Committee.

10. Date and location of next meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday June 15th in Zeeland, NL.

The President closed the meeting thanking Ringkøbing Council once again for the wonderful arrangement.

The papers for the meeting is available on the NSC website, <http://www.northsea.org/>, or this link is directed to the papers;
http://www.northsea.org/nsc/documents/executive_committee/Agenda_ringkobing_march05.htm

Lars Haukvik and Vibeke Jakobsen
North Sea Commission
March 2005