

**Report NSC-BSC cooperation  
June-September 2008  
080926**

**NSC working groups and their cooperation with the Baltic Sea**

**Innovation and education group**

The Innovation and education group will have a meeting on innovation issues in Göteborg 22-24 October. This meeting is in joint cooperation with the Intercom group on innovation issues led by Stockholm region. Mr Dag Boman will be speaking on the subject of TNRIS and innovation climate.

**Tourism group**

There is newly formed tourism group in the Baltic Sea led by Gotland. It is possible that the NSC tourism group will be working closely with them. Both groups are taking part in the matters currently dealt with in the CPMR Intercom group on tourism.

**Marine resources group**

The marine resource group is at the moment not having any cooperation with a Baltic counterpart, due to the lack of an established group in the Baltic Sea.

**Sustainable development group**

The group is not at the moment pursuing its Baltic Sea cooperation. The cooperation is for the moment "resting". SDG have been active in the process of the energy/climate opinion that was up for discussion at the CPMR General Assembly in Bayonne.

**Transport group**

Some newly contacts have been made regarding cooperation with the Baltic Sea transport group. Transport will be one of the major themes for the CPMR in the years to come, especially regarding the TEN revisions in 2010. The CPMR has asked for experts from all geographical commissions.

**The Baltic Sea Strategy**

The EU is currently under way to prepare a Baltic Sea Strategy. Many stakeholders have been invited to participate in the discussion and many regions are making an input. CPMR Swedish member regions have proposed a concrete action plan and it was discussed at the BSC Ex com in September. The document has also played a significant part in the writing of the BSC input to the strategy. The actions will be distributed to the Commission.

The Baltic Sea strategy consists of 4 different themes making the strategy a fully covered object. The strategy will be debated in 4 round table talks taking place during this fall. A

bigger stake holder conference was held in Stockholm on 30<sup>th</sup> September and another will be held in January of 2009 in Rostock, Germany.

The time table for the strategy is that it will be finalized during the second half of 2009 under the Swedish presidency of the European Union. The Swedish government has made the Baltic Sea one priority during its presidency in the fall of 2009.

### **From the BSC agenda**

#### **BSC Executive Committee 11 September**

The BSC organized its Executive committee meeting in Poorvo, Finland. Items discussed included the hosting for one of the round table talks about the Baltic Sea Strategy which will be taking place in Gdansk on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Other issues were the Baltic Sea strategy and the planning of the new web site jointly with the NSC.

#### **The BSSSC annual conference 2008**

The BSSSC yearly conference took place 17-19<sup>th</sup> September in Kaunas, Lithuania. This was the place for another round table discussion about the Baltic Sea strategy discussing the themes of accessibility.

Other organizational meetings have included a joint meeting between many Baltic Sea organizations to discuss a common position regarding the Baltic Sea Strategy. The BSSSC has taken the lead in this matter and is preparing a joint paper which they hope many BS organizations will be able to sign.