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Skien 13 January 2011

Minutes from meeting NSR 2020 Ad-Hoc group, 16 December 2010.

Venue: Oslo Region office, Rue du Luxembourg 3.

Participants;

NSC:	Gunn Marit Helgesen	Ann Bell
	Anders Fasth	Peter Robinson
	John Lamb	Yasa Ratnayake
	Ole B. Sørensen	Geir Sør-Reime
	Jon Halvard Eide	Martin Brebner
	Michael Braam-Scholten	Olle Joneng
	Lars Haukvik	Bjørn Reisz

CoR: Torsten Raff / Constanze Ripke
Interreg: Carsten Westerholt
DG Regio: Fernando Coelho Moniz / ?

Agenda

Status of the stakeholder conference 9- 10 March 2011 in Middelburg.

Title for the conference agreed at the meeting;

North Sea Region 2020; are we prepared?

Minutes from the planning meeting 22 November 2010 were sent out to the meeting. After a short introduction following points came out of the discussion;

- Who is the audience for the conference? Member states must be invited and encouraged to participate. Each thematic group must see to invite relevant stakeholders for the 4 workshops on day 2. Each national member of ExCom must invite their national level.
- **What is the added value of a NSR 2020 beyond what is already being done?** This must be shown in the analysis to be produced about the NSR (see below) in order to convince reluctant member states to support the launch an official EU strategy for the North Sea (the EU Commission won't proceed without an invitation from the Council). What do we need the strategy for? Important to involve stakeholders in the discussion as we need a common understanding of the challenges. We must agree on the focus and the activities.
- Europe2020 is the overall theme, and according to DG Regio it is also important to demonstrate the added value of NSR 2020 for European integration in large. According to DG Regio, this could be demonstrated through links and synergies with other macro regional strategies currently being implemented in Europe. The demonstration of improved efficiency and better value for money would also help in this respect. Based on the long history of successful cooperation in the North Sea Region, the NSR 2020 could be promoted as a pilot for how the EU2020 could work.
- Each thematic group (except the MRG) is responsible for organising a workshop corresponding to "their" priority theme. Although there will be no separate maritime workshop, it's clear that maritime issues are integrated in the 4 other themes. There is a need for further preparations and discussions about the organisation of the workshops and their expected results. The "World cafe model" applied at the last annual conference in Stavanger could probably also be applied in Middelburg. Each workshop must identify **a few priorities** to bring forward.



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- Herman Kuhn (CoR) and Eleni Marianou (CPMR) are confirmed as speakers for the Day 1 plenary session. Confirmations from Dirk Ahner (DG Regio.), Pat Cox (EP) Danata Hübner (EP) and Anne E. Jensen are still pending. Representatives of Noord-Holland will investigate the possibility of having a Dutch government minister to speak
- An invitation to potential participants should be sent out in January, and a detailed programme should be prepared and distributed after the conference planning meeting in Brussels on 2 February
- The conference should be able to accommodate up to 100 participants
- We must not be in doubt that a NSR2020 is needed.

How to make our excellent paper and how to spring 2012?

The following questions were sent out before the meeting. The backgrounds papers for the meeting sent by mail 18.11.10 to the participants.

- If we look at spring 2012 to present our paper to the Danish EU Presidency then what actions do we have to take from now?
- Who can we hire (for a reasonable amount of money) to help us produce a paper to be finished to spring 2012?
- What kind of background material do we need?

Following issues was discussed;

- The “Vertretung der Freien Hansestadt Bremen bei der Europäischen Union” came up with a suggestion to make an analysis of the North Sea Region and held out the prospect of a cost sharing. The analysis could be perceived as a SWOT based on existing statistics and profiting from results of relevant Interreg projects. . It was agreed to investigate this further and a better description of what’s needed must be prepared. Different suggestions for “hiring” a person to put together and write the final paper were discussed. Preferably it is wanted a person who is familiar with the structure, stakeholders and challenges of the North Sea Region and who would be able to devote considerable capacity to the task. A “job description” must be available just after new year 2011 and will be send around to the members of the Ad-Hoc group as soon as possible.
- There are two previous papers that can be used as a basis for the work, “Norvision2 and “From Vision to Action”.
- The Danish EU presidency in 2012 is the only realistic opportunity for the next 6 years to present and mobilise support for NSR2020 (before the next North Sea state assumes the EU presidency). The secretariat for the Danish Presidency must be approached and a concentrate of the existing paper must be made. Ole B. Sørensen is responsible for the contact with the Danish presidency, Martin Brebner will make the concentrated report from his paper “North Sea Region 2020” presented at the meeting.
- The European Parliament must also be involved. ‘
- The NSC Secretariat prepares a “milestone paper” to draw up the time line and actions to be implemented towards the Danish presidency in 2012.