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Draft Minutes of the 46th NSC Executive Committee Meeting November 2nd 2007, Crown Plaza Hotel, Cambridge, UK

NSC Executive Committee Participants:

President	Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen (Telemark)
Vice - President	Cllr. Rinske Kruisinga (Noord Holland)
Danish Representative	Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Region Nordjylland)
Dutch Representative	not represented
English Representative	Cllr. Kevan Lim (East of England Regional Assembly)
French Representative	not represented
German Representative	not represented
Norwegian Representative	not represented
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	Cllr. Annelie Stark (Region Västra Götaland)
Innovation and Education	Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen (Region Nordjylland)
Sustainable Development	Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Region Nordjylland)
	Cllr. John Lamb (EERA)
Marine Resources	Cllr. Anders Fasth (Region Västra Götaland)
Transport	Cllr. Leif Blomquist (Region Västra Götaland)
	Cllr. Anne Robertson (Aberdeenshire)

Observers:

Cllr. Josie Simpson (Shetland)
Rikard Nilsen (Region Nordjylland)
Martin Brebner (Aberdeenshire)
Sally Spence (Shetland)
Michelle Armstrong (EERA)
Cecilia Lagerdahl (Region Västra Götaland)
Hilde Donker (Noord Holland)
Toine Janssen(SNN)

NSC Thematic Group Advisers present:

Culture and Tourism	Geir Sør-Reime (Rogaland)
Innovation and Education	Erik Lindboe (Rogaland)
Sustainable Development	Yasa Ratnayeke (Aberdeen City)
Marine Resources	Ann Bell (Aberdeenshire)
Transport	Jon Halvard Eide (Vest-Agder)

Apologies:

Vice-President Sandy Cluness
Cllr. Harry Jensen
Cllr. Uwe Döring
Cllr. Martin Kayenburg
Cllr. Andreas Lervik
Cllr. Sjord Galema
Cllr. Marten Wiersma

Agenda

The President started by welcoming everyone.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

The prepared papers for the meeting are available on the NSC website;
http://www.northsea.org/nsc/executive_committee/0711_uk/agenda021107.html

1. Minutes of the 45th Executive Committee meeting, June 22nd 2007, Brunstad, Norway

Regarding Sealing, the question have not yet been dealt with.

Decision:

The Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Reports

Culture & tourism group: The participation from politicians have increased in the group. A new term was introduced: "Project bourse" this means an open agenda to send ideas for projects.

Transport group: In this group they could also see more political involvement.

Innovation & Education group: All actions in the work plan are worked with. The sustainable school project network is now up and going. Schools from England, Scotland, Germany and Norway participate. All the other groups are welcome to shadow the project.

Marine Resources group: More politician involvement in this group as well. The group have appointed a contact person to deal with climate changes purely relating to marine questions.

Sustainable Development group: They are in contact with BSC. Work with sustainable building and housing.



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NSC-BSC Cooperation: The report summed up the joint activities between the two commissions. Västra Götaland is from now co-chairing the CPMR Tourist group and participants in the CPMR “CAP group”.

CoR: The written report summed up the main activities. In connection to the report it was discussed if the NSC wanted to be more visible and to be an active part in the Open Days 2008. Hilde Donker will investigate the possibilities and follow up this issue. CoR has started the discussions regarding the budget for 2014-20, this will be an important discussion for the future regional cooperation.

CPMR: The GA had many interesting and lively debates. FOGAR was discussed and a report regarding the CPMR involvement will be given at the Political Bureau meeting in January 08.

Maritime Policy Blue Paper was presented by Commissionaire Borg. Most of the NSC comments are in the paper. We must try to have the North Sea Region as a pilot area for implementation of the policy.

The CPMR membership fee will be raised by 5% in 2008 and just by inflation in 2009 and 2010.

Decision:

The reports was approved

3. Elections of NSC Office bearers

The NSC Secretariat had received these candidates for the vacant positions ;

Cllr. Harry van Waveren from the Zeeland Region, is today one of the Vice-Chairs of the Culture & Tourism group. He has stated his interest for the position of chair of the group.

Vice-Chair for the Marine Resources group

Cllr. Josie Simpson, Shetland Island Council

Vice-Chair for the Culture & Tourism group

Cllr. Lars Nordström, Region Västra Götaland

Cllr. Eddie Carrick, ESEC

Cllr. John Reynolds, Aberdeen City Council

Decisions:

- ***Cllr Cllr. Harry van Waveren, Provincie Zeeland, was elected as Chair of the Culture & Tourism group***
- ***Cllr. Josie Simpson, Shetland Island Council was elected as Vice-Chair for the Marine Resources group.***
- ***Cllr. Lars Nordström, Region Västra Götaland was elected as Vice-Chair for the Culture & Tourism group***

4. NSC Work Plans 2008 - 2010

The Work Plans and a paper from each group how to focus their work had been prepared for the meeting. Energy is the main topic for 2008.

Marine resources group have a aquaculture and climate change conference in Bergen in February 2008. The Sustainable group are invited to join.

The Sustainable Development group plan for a joint conference with our BSC colleagues in March 2008.

Innovative coastal defence, England and Netherland have different ways on working with this, SDG will look into this matter.

There are many initiatives regarding energy in NSC, to sort out all initiatives and to get a closer connection with the CPMR Energy group a coordination group of all Thematic Group Chairs and Advisers was established.

Decision:

The Work Plans was approved

Kevan Lim was elected to chair the Energy coordination group.

5. Maritime Policy Blue Paper

NSC will try to be a Pilot area for implementing the Blue Paper.

The Marine Resources group has the responsibility and will start working with issue together with Martin Brebner and Anders Karlberg who will assist the Adviser

Schleswig-Holstein sent a request to NSC for support of their Brussels Call for the Protection of the Sea. The goal with the Brussels Call is to influence the ongoing negotiations between EU Council and EU Parliament on the EU Marine Strategy Directive with the arguments and interest of Europe's maritime regions in order to end up with a strong and legally binding directive.

Decision:

The NSC supports the Brussels Call.

6. CAP an the future cohesion policy

The paper was discussed. It will be important to follow up the work in CPMR to monitor and influence their future work.

Decision:

Rinske Krusinga and Annelie Stärk will monitor the work and report back.

7 Finances.

The accounts was presented in the papers for the meeting. There are still some members who have not paid their membership fee. CPMR is responsible to collect the fee. The Secretariat will follow up the non paying members to, to try to collect the fee for 2007.

The Secretariat have control over money flow for 2007 and expects a surplus for 2007.

Executive Committee would like for the future to see a forecast for expected use for the whole year. There is a discussion of how big the Executive Committee want the surplus to be.

Decision:

The presented budget and accounts was accepted.

8. NSC Organisational issues

This proposal is for a short consultancy project that would involve work with the North Sea Commission in raising awareness of its achievements and the benefits which it provides to participants and member organisations.

It is a method to collect what we are and have been doing using a method called story telling. NSC would like it to use the work with the Green/Blue paper on Maritime Policy as a case for the study on approaching external informers.

It is important to be able to use the documentation for improvements afterwards. NSC would like the final report to be a platform, a background paper, for further action as a result of the evaluation.

Decision:

The Executive Committee decide to go for option A that costs £ 6.000,-.

9. The 17th General Assembly

The General Assembly 2008 will be in Herning, Region Midjylland 11th to 13th of June. The proposed setup for the conference was agreed upon. Wednesday is the "Interreg day" most their technical information regarding projects, Thursday is the joint conference day for NSC, BSC and Interreg, ending up with 5 different study tours. Friday is the Annual Business meeting and meeting of the Executive Committees for the NSC and BSC.

The work with finding a key speaker have started. We got a lot of good suggestions from the delegates and who will be approached.



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The theme of the conference is “**Shaping a Sustainable Future for the North Sea and Baltic Sea Regions**”.

Decision:

The Executive Committee agreed on the setup and the theme of the conference.

10. Next meeting

Region Västra Götaland will host the next Executive Meeting 3rd and 4th. of April 2008.

11. AOB

The president thanked East of England Regional Assembly for hosting the meeting.