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## **NORTH SEA COMMISSION EUROPEAN MARITIME POLICY GROUP**

### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report requests the North Sea Commission establish an NSC European Maritime Policy Ad Hoc Group.

### **2 Background**

- 2.1 At the meeting of the NSC Strategic Committee, Chairs, Vice-Chairs & Co-ordinators of the Thematic Groups on 4 July 2005 the group agreed that one of the priority issues in the Executive Committee Action Plan for 2005-2006 was that related to the forthcoming European Maritime Policy Green Paper.
- 2.2 The group also agreed that an Ad Hoc Group, which is time limited, be set up to action this key activity and Vice President Audrey Findlay was asked to Chair the group. The key activity as described in the Executive Committee Action Plan 2005-2006 is 'To ensure North Sea Commission influence on the new European Maritime Policy Green Paper'.

### **3 Proposal**

It is proposed that the NSC

- 3.1 Take the appropriate steps to establish a European Maritime Policy Ad Hoc Group.

### **4 Discussion**

- 4.1 The European Maritime Policy Green Paper is a key development for the North Sea Commission, as reflected in its prominence in the workplans of the NSC Thematic Groups on Environment, Fisheries, Transport, and Culture and Tourism. Therefore the issue was identified as a high priority by the Executive Committee for work by an ad hoc group.
- 4.2 Draft Terms of Reference for the group are attached as Appendix 1 for discussion by the first meeting of the group.

### **5 Policy Implications**

- 5.1 The proposal fits with the North Sea Commission Executive Committee aim for the thematic groups to work in an increasingly co-ordinated manner as well as increase the political influence of the organisation.

### **6 Recommendations**

**It is recommended that the North Sea Commission**

- 6.1 Take the appropriate steps to establish a European Maritime Policy Ad Hoc Group.**

04 October 2005