

**NORTH SEA COMMISSION  
EUROPEAN MARITIME POLICY GROUP**

Terms of Reference

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To ensure North Sea Commission influence on the new European Maritime Policy Green Paper

**2. Background**

- 2.1 At the 39<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting of the North Sea Commission on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2005 in Zeeland, it was agreed that '*Further discussion is required to progress the NSC Executive Committee Action Plan and proposed working structures.*' This further discussion occurred at the meeting of the NSC Strategic Committee, Chairs, Vice-Chairs & Co-ordinators of the Thematic Groups on 4 July 2005 held in Scotland House, Brussels.
- 2.2 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. 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. Membership and Meetings**

- 3.1 Chair: Vice President, Cllr Audrey Findlay, Aberdeenshire Council
- 3.2 Group members: Contributions are sought from other Executive Committee members, particularly national representatives, and officers with input from Thematic Group Co-ordinators to be requested as required.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the group try to deal with work electronically. Actual meetings of the group will be held in conjunction with other NSC meetings to ensure no duplication of travel. The group will regularly report to the NSC Executive Committee and ultimately to the Annual General Assembly in June 2006.

**4. Objectives**

- 4.1 To co-ordinate NSC activities related to influencing the Green Paper.
- 4.2 To collate the views of the NSC Thematic Groups.
- 4.3 To ensure the strategic position of the NSC is formulated.

- 4.4 To ensure coherent and consistent communication from the NSC on the Green Paper.

## **5. Outputs to meet Objectives**

- 5.1 Identify and agree the mechanisms for influencing the development of the Green Paper.
- 5.2 Collate the views and perspective of the NSC Thematic Groups.
- 5.3 Draft and agree responses to the Green Paper on behalf of the North Sea Commission Executive Committee.
- 5.4 Lobby relevant organisations and bodies on behalf of the North Sea Commission.
- 5.5 Liaise and work in partnership with organisations or agencies that share an interest in the Green Paper.
- 5.6 Monitor the timetable for development of the green paper on behalf of the NSC

## **6. Activities**

- 6.1 Collating the responses to the call for group members.
- 6.2 Meetings of the NSC European Maritime Policy Green Paper Group.
- 6.3 Thematic Groups reporting their outline positions on the European Maritime Policy Green Paper.
- 6.4 Meetings and correspondence with relevant people and organisations e.g. CPMR, EU Officials, MEPs, CoR.
- 6.5 Reports to the NSC Executive Committee and Annual General Assembly.
- 6.6 NSC Position Paper drafted.

## **Background**

The decision to develop a new and integrated European Maritime Policy was announced in March 2005 by the European Commission in the document 'Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas'. Copy attached as Appendix 1.

The Commission's rationale for the development of such a policy is that in order to maintain sustainable and competitive European maritime industry clusters a European maritime policy framework is necessary. Such a framework should encompass all the maritime and marine sectors like shipping, ports, shipbuilding, marine equipment, dredging, offshore, ports, maritime services and R&D, inland shipping, yachting, fisheries, but also has links with the navies.

A Maritime Policy Taskforce has been established to create the foundation for such a Maritime Policy. This Taskforce is chaired by the Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Joe Borg, and members consist of other Commissioners whose work is relevant to Maritime Affairs

A Green Paper on a future EU Maritime Policy, to be adopted by the Commission in the first half of 2006, will constitute a first step towards an all embracing EU Maritime Policy, in line with the Commission's strategic objectives. The role of the Maritime Affairs Task Force is to produce this Green Paper and to launch a wide public debate on the subject. Even during the preparation of the Green Paper, stakeholders are to be consulted.

An upcoming milestone in the development of the Green Paper is a conference in Brussels on 17 November at which the Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Commissioner will outline the future roadmap and consultative procedures for the Green Paper.

### **Programme and Timetable Dates**

The Group will have the opportunity to meet and report at the NSC Executive Committee meeting in Trollhättan in October, the Executive Committee Meeting in Spring 2006 and to report to the General Assembly in June 2006.

A call has been made by the secretariat for members of the group – these can be collated at the first meeting of the group.

In Trollhättan an agenda is proposed (see appendix 2) for the first meeting. A request to Thematic Groups to outline their position can then be made with a deadline for responses of 30 November 2005. These will then be collated and submitted to the group electronically for approval. Other views members of the group may wish to take account of are those of their own national and regional networks or partners.

Meantime the European Commission will be publishing their roadmap for the Green Paper in Brussels on 17 November 2005, which will give an opportunity for the group to timescale and plan its activities more accurately. Also of significance to the group is the work of the Europe of the Seas CPMR project, which will be meeting in Bergen on January 16-17, where input from the Northern European Regions to the EU Maritime Policy Green Paper is expected.

At present the Green Paper is to be adopted in the first half of 2006 according to the EU Commission therefore identification of the NSC position should take place prior to December 2005. This would enable the Group to focus on networking and influencing activities in 2006. As described in Activity 6.4

The group aims to submit a preliminary report on its activities to the first Executive Committee of 2006, with a final report going to the General Assembly in June 2006.

## Programme and Timetable

Date	NSC Activities	Date	EU Maritime Policy Activities
26-28 October 2005	Meeting No. 1 of NSC European Maritime Policy Group <b>Trollhättan</b>	17 November 2005	EU Roadmap to Green Paper published Brussels
27 October 2005	NSC Executive Committee Trollhättan	16/17 January 2006	CPMR Europe of the Seas Project meeting Bergen
30 November 2005	Deadline for Thematic Group responses		
December 2005	NSC Position Identified		
Jan – June 2006	Activities 6.4,6.5, 6.6	Jan – June 2006	Green Paper adopted by EU Commission
April 2006	NSC Executive Committee Fryslân?		
June 2006	NSC General Assembly Aviemore		