

Memo to: NSC Executive Committee

From: NSC Secretariat

Skien 01.10.04

## **North Sea Commission, an organisation for the future.**

The NSC is a strong organisation with dedicated members. The work within the NSC is seen as a good example for other organisations. The work within the NSC is based on following key factors:

- The work carried out by members of the Executive Committee
- The work done by Co-ordinators
- The work carried out in the Thematic groups
- The Secretariat

But the NSC is vulnerable because many of these factors are based on the efforts of dedicated persons and not enough on the organisations they represent. The work of the NSC is very much dependent on the work of the Co-ordinators who do a tremendous job given their conditions. What can be done to make the NSC more robust and better provide more support for those who carry out work for the organisation?

President Gunn Marit Helgesen invited the members of the Executive Committee for an informal discussion in Skien September 3<sup>rd</sup> on the theme “NSC in the future”. The following issues were included in the discussion:

- Which political issues would be the most important for the NSC? (Enlargement, future funding, environment, fisheries, economic position of North Sea Countries)
- How can the Executive Committee work together as a cohesive team
- How can important political issues be raised, where and by whom
- How can the political work of the NSC be organised and how can co-operation with external bodies e.g. Baltic Sea Commission, AER, COR and others be developed and strengthened.

Administrative issues such organisation, number of and co-operation between the Thematic Group. Also discussed were the role of co-ordinators and how the Secretariat can be organised and funded in the future.

Before the meeting in Aberdeenshire October 15<sup>th</sup> there are several vacant positions as Chairs, Vice Chairs and Co-ordinators (see enclosed chart)

### **Economy;**

The role of CPMR and the fees was debated. At the CPMR General Assembly the fees was raised with 4%. This could cause a problem if the NSC wished raise it fees to cover the cost of co-ordinators and other tasks. With the challenges ahead, the NSC needs more money to finance the activities. There are different solutions for this;

- Raise the fee of the NSC
- Look at project and use them to part finance the organisation. An example is to look at the financing of the NSC Fisheries Partnership.
- Other?

## Political organisation

It was also highlighted and agreed that both vice presidents should have specific roles e.g.

- Organisational.
- External.

There is a proposal to make a Strategic Committee, consisting of the President, Vice Presidents and the Chair of NSC-BSC cooperation.

The argument for this is to have a smaller Committee for preparing the political aspects for the NSC. The meeting in Skien identified the two main areas for external cooperation as connection with the EU and CoR as one and the cooperation between NSC and BSC as the other. That's why it's important that the person responsible for this task also has a place in the Strategic Committee.

The Country member representatives should also have responsibilities and the Thematic Chairs could also be NSC spokes persons for their particular themes e.g. if there were an environmental issue/debate to take place in Brussels the NSC could field a spokesperson to attend and put forward a NSC view. This would raise the political profile of the NSC at EU level.

The President said that she would be standing down as Chair of Environment Group and both she and Cllr. Findlay felt that Cllr. McInnes should become Chair of Environment. Group. After some discussion it was agreed that this suggestion would go forward to the Executive Committee meeting in Aberdeenshire.

Cllr. Findlay intimated that should be stepping down as chair of the Economic Development Group as she felt, as Vice President should have to fulfil another role. It would also open the possibility for more politicians to have an active role in the Executive Committee. She has agreed to take the responsibility of being the Vice-President in charge of the Organisational.

It was also felt that the NSC Constitution regarding, Chairs of Thematic Groups coming from the Executive Committee only, should be re considered.

## Proposed NSC Political Organisational Chart

<b>President</b>		
<b>Vice-President External</b>	<b>Strategic Committee (President, Vice-Presidents)</b>	<b>Vice-President Organisational</b>
<b>Executive Committee</b>		
Country Representatives Members with responsibilities for specific themes. (e.g. Interreg, Regional policy, Environment, Fisheries)		
<b>Thematic Chairs/Spokesperson</b>		
Economic Development - Fisheries - Environment – Culture/Tourism – Transportation/Communication – Education/Research		
<b>General Assembly</b>		

President Gunn Marit Helgesen; Overall NSC responsibilities  
Vice- President Audrey Findlay; Organisational; NSC/CPMR.  
Vice-President; External

Members of Executive Committee; Members have responsibility for specific theme

- Roland Andersson, is proposed to have the responsibility of Baltic Sea-North Sea Cooperation.
- Peter Byman, is proposed to have the responsibility of cooperation between NSC and EU institutions and CoR.

Thematic Chairs/Spokesperson; NSC spokesperson, responsibility for their theme.

### **Administrative organisation;**

The issues of future funding for the Thematic Groups, Co-ordinator/advisors and Secretariat needed to be looked at. A small working group was set up and they meet in Stavanger (during CPMR General Assembly) to look at what funding could be accessed. They agreed to prepare a model, based on the NSC Fisheries Partnership, as a starting point for future funding of NSC Thematic Groups.

The co-ordinators could be become NSC advisors.

The purposed new roles of the administrative as follows;

**Secretariat:** Overall responsibility for the administrative work of the NSC.  
Preparation of political issues.

**NSC Advisors;** Advisors to Executive Committee and the thematic groups,  
Chairs/Spokesperson on the issues; Economic Development -  
Culture/Tourism - Transportation/Communication - Fisheries -  
Education/Research – Environment.  
Administrative responsibility for their thematic group.  
Preparation of political issues.

**Project co-ordinators.** Project preparation and seek funding for NSC projects.

Function/Land	England	Scotland	France	Netherlands	Germany	Denmark	Sweden	Norway
<b>Fisheries</b>								
Chair						Harry Jensen		
Vice-Chair		Sandy Cluness						
<b>Vice-Chair</b>								
Co-ordinator		Ann Bell						
<b>Environment</b>								
<b>Chair</b>								<i>Gunn Marit Helgesen</i>
Vice-Chair		Alison McInnes						
Vice-Chair				Peter Byman				
Co-ordinator							Per Hörberg	
<b>Economic Development</b>								
Chair		Audrey Findlay						
Vice-Chair								Thore Westermoen
Vice-Chair				Rinske Kruisinga				
<b>Co-ordinator</b>		Vivien Collie						
<b>Transport &amp; Communication</b>								
Chair							Jan Hallberg	
Vice-Chair	Jim Wade							
Vice-Chair								Tor Ottar Karlsen
Co-ordinator								Jon Halvard Eide
<b>Culture and Tourism</b>								
<b>Chair</b>	Ros Scott							
Vice-Chair				Jacques Suurmond				
Vice-Chair							Annelie Stärk	
Co-ordinator								Geir Sør-Reime
<b>Education &amp; Research</b>								
Chair		Alec Thompson						
Vice-Chair						Birgitte Josefsen		
<b>Vice-Chair</b>								
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	<i>Ann Brown</i>							

Vacant or to be vacant soon