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Memo to the Executive Committee

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## “The important policy areas for NSC in the future”

As a political organisation NSC needs long term priorities, to give the organisation the route ahead. Also this gives the organisation a more clear identity and gives the members a better overview of the work carried out by NSC. Further there is a request from the thematic groups to get some clear guidance from the Executive Committee on the political priorities of the organisation.

The last years the priorities were:

- Territorial Cooperation
- Maritime Policy
- NSC-BSC cooperation on Transport, Fisheries, Sustainable Development

Now the new Interreg programmes start up during 2007 and the consultation process for the Maritime Policy ends 30. June 2007, there is a need to find the important policy areas for the future. The cooperation between NSC and BSC will continue, there is scheduled a meeting between the commissions on 12 April to discuss further cooperation. Areas for cooperation for this meeting are

- Fisheries
- Transport
- Sustainable Development and specific Energy
- Innovation and Education

The cooperation with the BSC must be a long term commitment and continue as both commissions' benefits from a close link between them, both politically and on the administrative level. The annual meetings between the commissions must determine the level of cooperation and the issues for cooperation.

Looking at the European agenda there are a few issues that will be important for many years;

**Sustainable Development especially focused on Energy;** will an important issue and there is a lot of activity in this field. Looking at the future European and Global energy challenges the regions has a role to play and it's important the regions are prepared for the future discussions. Energy is important for the NSC-BSC cooperation, CPMR has an Energy Intercom group and NSC has for some years had an Energy sub group. NSC need to clarify it's position in the energy field and how to promote our views.

**Food;** the importance and demand local food and quality food will be important for the future. The Food conference in August 2006 showed a need for the need for a greater consciousness on this matter. The conference concluded this included several policy areas, and then a matter for several of our thematic groups. There was a need for cross sectoral cooperation and making of a project.



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**Innovation & Education;** follow up of the Lisbon strategy, and an issue that involves all our thematic groups. The implementation of the strategy is one of the major tasks for the EU for the years to come. The Northsea region (NSR) must be one of the regions in Europe to be able to implement the strategy more easy and the NSC should be the major regional organisation to make this happen. Then, what are our priorities? How do we show the NSR can take upon this challenge? How do we use the new programmes to promote the NSR?

These are the policies discussed at earlier meetings, are there other policies?

How do we then implement the policies into practical work of the NSC? How can we make use of the whole organisation and maybe involve/recruit more politicians and officers to NSC work? The thematic groups must find their part/niche of the policies, how do they see their work linked to the policies? Some consequences will be;

- The Thematic Groups must continue to strengthen their internal and external networks, both for politicians and for officers.
- The Thematic Groups must investigate the possibilities for using projects as a tool for their work.

The Executive Committee must then ensure the links between the groups, to avoid double work and to prioritise what to do.

To show the changes within the organisation there is a suggestion to change the title of the Co-ordinator to Adviser. This reflects the wish to continue to keep the NSC as a political organisation; the Adviser is there to advise the politicians on their field of expertise. The adviser is the administrative link between the thematic group and the secretariat, but can of course involve other members of the group in tasks where they have their strengths.

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