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Report NSC-BSC cooperation

On the agenda for NSC groups

Sustainable development group

The joint meeting will be taking place 23-24 April 2008 in Umeå between the sustainable development groups in NSC and BSC. The cooperation is working well and the groups are hoping to have a similar meeting soon depending on the interest from the Umeå meeting.

Marine group

The BSC and NSC maritime groups are not having any cooperation for the moment. A common date for further discussion is set to April/May 2008. The BSC as whole is trying to work closer with the CPMR Aquamarina group which is in charge of following up the Bluebook on maritime policy.

Innovation/education group+ Cultural and tourism group

The innovation/education and Cultural and tourism group do not have counterparts in the Baltic Sea but are cooperating with the intercommission groups run by the CPMR as a whole.

Within the NSC the chairs of the groups had a meeting in February discussing possible common issues. Cooperation is at the moment taking place in "a common project food project in an innovative way".

Other common interests include how culture can be connected to innovation in society today and the second possible cooperation theme is tourism and life long learning. The groups will meet again to discuss further.

Transport group

During the group meeting in Gothenburg in February cooperation with BSC was discussed. New president of the BSC transport group is region Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Discussions are taking place on who is coordinating the BSC group. It was concluded at the NSC meeting that the NSC cooperation needs the coordinatorship to be clarified in order for cooperation to take place.

The NSC-BSC groups are planning a meeting during the GA in Denmark. The intention is to strengthen the cooperation NSC-BSC.



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From the BSC agenda

There has been a meeting between all Baltic Sea region organizations where they have discussed common issues. Among other things there is a large consensus about a joint energy and climate platform for the whole of BSR.

Since there are many BSC organizations working in the BSC this is first step to see if it is possible to work together on certain issues.

The different BSC groups have discussed the following priorities for a joint cooperation:

- Analysis of the current Energy and Climate situation in the BSR
- Addressing concerns and considerations of the regional level on Energy and Climate issues to the high political level should be given priority.
- Raising awareness among the inhabitants of the BSR is crucial.
- Further involvement of a broader range of actors (representatives of business, science, NGOs) working with Energy and Climate-related issues and obtaining financial support to implement joint activities
- A broader involvement of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Russia is highly desired.

Following the discussion at the meeting in February the participants agreed on the following further steps:

- Amend and further elaborate the concept paper for the Joint Energy and Climate Platform
- Identify joint activities. The BSR organisations are asked to submit their priorities (3 to 4) to the BSSSC.
- Continue with information/knowledge exchange and dissemination
- BDF will issue a BDF Magazine in early Summer 2008. The publication will be about energy and will include semi-academic analyses, interesting articles and good examples from the BSR. .
- The platform agreed that a Tripple Helix approach is needed and the industry should be involved.
- The organisations agreed that the upcoming **BDF Summit** (Copenhagen-Malmö, 30 November - 2 December) would serve as the common platform to present the challenges of regional cooperation in the field.

From BSC Ex com

The BSC met the 13th February in Brussels. The issue of FOGAR was discussed. The intention is to accept the FOGAR until 2009 when the GA should take a formal decision in Gothenburg.

The future of the CPMR was also discussed and decided that the CPMR should continue to work with the issues important to member regions vis à vis the EU.