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**NORTH SEA COMMISSION
THEMATIC GROUPS WORK PROGRAMMES 2005-2006**

THEMATIC GROUP & ACTIVITIES					
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	ENVIRONMENT	EDUCATION AND RESEARCH	TRANSPORT	FISHING	CULTURE & TOURISM
Undertake a Knowledge Audit of EDG members to establish areas of mutual interest.	Influence so that a future "INTERREG IV" reflects NSCEG priorities	Identify future significant areas of importance for the NSC member regions in the context of education and research	Influencing EU transport policy	Continue to improve relations between fishers and scientists relations - Form small steering group to discuss the future of NSCFP	<i>Culture 2007</i> Objective: Support the work to include local and regional authorities as partners in Culture 2007 projects
Create a small number of specialist clusters within the group.	Green Purchasing	Plan the ERG Work Programme	Promoting partnerships on ports and sea transport (approach relevant co-operation partners)	Improve Stakeholder participation and stewardship - Arrange a seminar on the advantages & disadvantages of different fishing rights systems	<i>Interreg IV</i>
Work with the specialist clusters to deliver a total of three themed EDG meetings per year.	Environmental Training	Agenda for 2010 (Lisbon etc) and related matters	Promoting sustainable transport	Use of the North Sea – safety on and in the North Sea	<i>European framework for sustainable tourism</i> Objective: Secure that the framework is in line with our member regions interests and that it is relevant to the North Sea region

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Investigate the feasibility of creating a Job Shadowing scheme for group members.	Promoting Environmental Management Systems, EMS, in Regional Authorities	Build on ERG group strengths	Promoting role of transport in a future North Sea / other Interreg programmes	CPMR Fisheries INTERCOM GROUP - Support CPMR FIG Chair & Secretariat with future work	<i>Culture, Tourism and Regional Development in Rural Areas</i> Objective: Best practice exchange between member regions of the NSC
Create a database of group members work profiles.	Regional Development Plans	Encourage employability	Develop strategic role and promotion of the Transport group: Role of group in relation to Interreg/ Promotion strategy	Take forward actions from NSC Conference "The North Sea – Today and Tomorrow"	<i>Archives, libraries and museums, and lifelong learning</i> Objective: Best practice exchange between member regions of the NSC; establish cooperation with the Education and Research Group
Identify initiatives that will add value for active EDG members.	OSPAR Observership	Support SMEs	Organisation and working methods	OSPAR Observership	<i>North Sea Tourism Framework (Interreg IIIB focused call)</i> Objective: Assist and advise project initiative

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Strengthening the EDG member s network	Take forward actions from NSC Conference “The North Sea – Today and Tomorrow” in Ringkøbing	Promote Lifelong Learning		CONSSO - Take part in meetings of CONSSO issue group on fisheries	<i>Encourage and support new project initiatives</i> Objective: Develop and support project initiatives relating to culture, heritage, leisure or tourism in relation to Culture 2007 and/or Interreg I
Attract new members to the group - by updating EDG promotional material and approaching new potential group members.	Promote environmentally sound “sustainable” shipping	Baltic Sea links			<i>Strengthening Co-operation between thematic groups</i> Regional Food, Tourism, and Community Development Objective
Active group members to identify and approach potential EDG participants in neighboring areas.	Action on query from Seaham Environmental Association, UK	Work in conjunction with CPMR			

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Identify and establish contact with key economic development organisations around the North Sea.	Conference reports	Work with other thematic groups			
Identify key policies and organisations the group wish to influence.	Member Profiles updates				
Provide a forum for group discussion in order to agree strategy and response to key policies, and formal approaches to other organisations.	Promotion of NSCEG				
Examine Action Plans produced by each of the other NSC Thematic Groups in order to identify existing key areas of mutual interest.	Sustainable Transport Conference				

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Create a strategy and programme of joint initiatives in association with the other NSC Thematic Groups	Inform group on Water Framework Directive				
Investigate new opportunities for the EDG to participate with other NSC Thematic Groups on areas of mutual interest.	Ministerial Meeting preparation				
	Increasing links with the other NSC Thematic Groups				
	Assume the full responsibility for the promotion of Sustainable Development within the NSC and in the North Sea area.				
	Follow up on the implementation of the Porsgrunn Challenge among NSC members.				

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	Start a timetabled business planning process, implemented across thematic groups and integrated. Template for work agreed.				
	Create a clear “political platform” for the NSC				
	Produce corporate communication on paper/website				