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**NORTH SEA COMMISSION
EUROPEAN MARITIME POLICY GROUP**

**Innovatum, Trollhättan, Västra Götaland
27 October 2005**

NOTE OF MEETING No. 1

PRESENT

Cllr Audrey Findlay (Aberdeenshire) NSC Vice-President & Chair of NSC Maritime Policy Ad Hoc Group
Cllr Annelie Stark (Västra Götaland) Chair of Tourism and Culture Group
Cllr Harry Jensen (Ringkøbing) Vice-Chair of Fisheries Group
Cllr Anders Fasth (Västra Götaland) Vice-Chair of Fisheries Group
Cllr Jan Hallberg (Västra Götaland) Chair of Transport Group
Cllr Rinske Kruisinga (Noord-Holland) Chair of Economic Development Group
Cllr Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Nordjyllands Amt) Vice-Chair of Environment Group
Cllr Kathleen Matheson (The Highland Council) Scottish Representative

Jon Halvard Eide (Vest-Agder) Transport Group Co-ordinator
Per Hörberg (Västra Götaland) Environment Group Co-ordinator
Eric Lindboe (Rogaland) Economic Development Group Co-ordinator
Ann Bell (Aberdeenshire) Fisheries Group Co-ordinator

Lorraine George, North Sea Region Secretariat
Lillemor Björnsell Hedendahl, Västra Götaland
Peter Dryburgh, North Atlantic Fisheries College
Sally Spence, Shetland Islands Council
Emma Sharp, East of England Regional Assembly
Gordon Summers, The Highland Council
Chris Kutesko, Norfolk Council
Dr Hans Meves, Network Bureau Europe
Robert Cornfield, Noord Holland
Paul Kane, Aberdeenshire Council

APOLOGIES

Cllr Sandy Cluness (Shetland) Chair of Fisheries Group
Cllr Andreas Lervik (Ostfold) Vice-Chair of Environment Group

1.0	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	ACTION
	<p>Vice President Audrey Findlay welcomed those who attended the first meeting of the group and briefly outlined the aim of the group and its timetable for meetings. A second meeting of the group will be held to coincide with the next NSC Executive Committee in Ipswich in early March 2006 and the final meeting of the group will be held in Aviemore to coincide with the NSC General Assembly in Aviemore in June 2006. Other work will be completed electronically.</p>	

2.0	POTENTIAL LINKS TO NORTH SEA REGION PROJECTS	
	Lorraine George gave an update on the work of the Maritime Safety Umbrella Organisation (MSUO) (www.maritime-safety.org). The organisation brings together the work of a number of Interreg projects (from a number of InterregIIIb areas) related to Maritime issues. Their Maritime Safety Co-ordinator is Richard Hill and the group agreed that he should be kept informed of the work of the North Sea Commission Ad Hoc Group. Paul Kane agreed to contact him to inform him of the work of the group.	Paul Kane
3.0	TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GROUP	
	Audrey Findlay described the objectives of the group as included in the terms of reference and these met with the group's approval.	
	She emphasised to the group that their aim was collate the existing views of the NSC Thematic Groups and develop an NSC position that can be used to then influence the development and final shape of the forthcoming Green Paper. The group acknowledged that their own organisations and Councils may have their own views but the key role of this group is to identify the NSC view.	
	Group members then flagged up a number of events or issues that may overlap or assist the group meeting its aims.	
	In relation to the meeting on 17 November in Brussels which is entitled 'The New EU Maritime Policy – Challenges and Opportunities' the Fisheries Group will be attending and will feed back information to the group, particularly on the 'EU Roadmap to the Green Paper' which will be published there.	Ann Bell
	Per Hörberg pointed to the CPMR 'Europe of the Sea' project meeting in Bergen on 16/17 January 2006 as a stakeholder event where the group would have the opportunity to communicate the NSC position. The group suggested that Vice President Findlay should consider attending this event as Chair of the group.	
4.0	DELEGATION OF WORK	
	The group agreed that the Thematic Group Co-ordinators should communicate their Groups' views and positions to the current secretary of the group, Paul Kane, by 30 November 2005. In particular the Environment, Fisheries, Transport and Economic Development Groups have, according to their workplans, worked on some aspect of Maritime Policy and it was agreed that this completed work should form the foundation of the NSC position. The group agreed that this was a key piece of work and should be completed as soon as possible.	NSC Thematic Group Co- ordinators



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	Vice President Findlay requested that all members of the Ad Hoc group should, however, communicate their views as well and to encourage interested colleagues to do the same.	
	These views and positions will be collated to develop the NSC position before the end of 2005. The next step in 2006 will be to identify and agree the mechanisms for influencing the Green Paper beginning with the CPMR Bergen meeting.	
5.0	NEXT MEETING	
	The next meeting of the group will be held to coincide with the next NSC Executive Committee meeting; the date for this is expected to be in March 2006.	
	Vice President Findlay then thanked everyone who had attended the meeting and reiterated her request for information to be sent by the deadline of 30 November 2005.	