

North Sea Commission Environment Group (NSCEG)
DRAFT Work Programme 2004

Generally, the work of the NSCEG should focus on the implementation of the Porsgrunn Challenge (PC), with additional activities as required by developments in the North Sea area and the commitments of the NSC in various fora.

One important NSCEG task is also to arrange, in connection with its Annual Meeting, a major annual event on a theme of great relevance to NSCEG members and to the hosting region.

This Work Programme starts with the priorities established following the Porsgrunn Challenge Review 2001, with amendments and additions decided by the Annual Meeting 2003 and the Project Working Group meeting on Nov. 15, 2003. Then follow other activities which are linked to the PC Review 2001. After that come activities which are “required by North Sea developments”, i.e. prompted by things happening which affect the North Sea area or things which are requested by the NSC Executive Committee.

Area of responsibility	Activities	Responsible/Contact person(s)	Comments	Outputs
1. Training on sustainability for staff and members.	Contact all members who have expressed interest in this field. Ask for their experience and plans and, possibly, about their interest in environmental management systems.	Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, SE per.horberg@vgregion.se	Co-operation should be sought with the NSC Education & Research Group, where is potential interest.	Contact between members with an interest in sustainability training. Possibly joint projects.
2. Green purchasing	Exchange of experience; Develop regional purchasing policies, try these in pilot project.	Lars Haukvik Telemark Fylkeskommune, NO E-mail: lars.haukvik@t-fk.no	Interreg IIIB application envisaged found difficult; other ways to be sought?	Application for Interreg IIIB or other funding.

Other activities linked to the Porsgrunn Challenge Review 2001:

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3. Member Profiles update	The Members Profiles for the NSCEG are updated twice a year, in Spring and Autumn. This gives members the opportunity to provide updated information on contact persons, project interests, etc, frequently enough to keep this information truly useful.	Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, SE per.horberg@vgregion.se PWG Country Representatives. NSC secretariat, nsc@northsea.org	There is great need for more active involvement of more NSC members in the NSCEG. Improved Member Profiles would facilitate the work of the PWG Country Representatives. Consultant assistance is used for this activity.	NSCEG Member Profiles updated two times a year and put on NSC website.
4. Sustainability questionnaire to NSC members	The NSC should carry out a review in 2004 of the progress being made by its members on the Porsgrunn Challenge. The mailout could include information on earlier expressions of interest by members to co-operate on various topics – and on the ensuing co-operation taking place.	Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, SE per.horberg@vgregion.se	Consultant assistance is needed for this activity. The mailing list should be selected in close contact with PWG. Focus should be on what has “been improved” or “been initiated” since last questionnaire – and on what is planned for the future.	Updated knowledge about sustainability work among NSC members. Results to be presented at NSC General Assembly 2004?
5. Achieve (continued and increased) involvement of the NSC Executive Committee in implementation of Porsgrunn Challenge.	Raise issues in Executive Committee. Politicians from each country could report to various NSC fora about Porsgrunn Challenge work in their country.	Councillor Gunn Marit Helgesen Telemark Fylkeskommune, NO E-mail: lars.haukvik@t-fk.no Councillor Alison McInnes, Aberdeenshire, SCOTL E-mail: cllr.a.mcinnis@aberdeenshire.gov.uk		Continuing activity by the NSC Executive Committee to actively promote the adoption and the implementation of the PC across all its members.

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Activities required by North Sea developments				
6. Wind energy	Contribute to NSC Position Paper on wind energy. Comment on OSPAR's new guidelines for offshore wind energy – and promote their implementation at national and international level (if they are considered by the NSC to be adequate)	NSC secretariat Susy Lauesen, North Jutland, DK sl@nja.dk Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, SE per.horberg@vgregion.se		NSC Position Paper on offshore wind energy ready at end of January. Events to raise awareness and knowledge. (Like joint seminar with NSC Fisheries Group, Jan. 22-23)
7. Water Framework Directive	Hans v M will inform the PWG of important events and developments in the new Interreg project NOLIMP-WFD. Each country representative should follow up WFD work at home.	Hans van Meerendonk, Provincie Fryslân, NL j.h.vanmeerendonk@fryslan.nl PWG Country Representatives	NOLIMP-WFD is a pilot project on the practical consequences of the WFD. The project can support other regions, in addition to present partners, over the next years.	
8. Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Follow general development with relevance to North Sea area.	Jerry Hindle Suffolk County Council jerry.hindle@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk	Highly relevant topic for all NSC members and the focus of much attention and work within the EU – and not least the CPMR.	

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9. Radioactive discharges from Sellafield (and elsewhere)	Follow UK moratorium on TC-99 discharges. Write to UK government and “welcome” moratorium!	Councillor Gunn Marit Helgesen Telemark Fylkeskommune, NO E-mail: lars.haukvik@t-fk.no Sverre Fosse Aust-Agder fylkeskommune, NO sverre.fosse@aa-f.kommune.no	A national partnership is established in Norway. Discussions with Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA), UK, to use their secretariat for an international network.	Letter to UK government. Continued pressure on governments of countries responsible for radioactive discharges.

Activities required by NSC commitments in various fora

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<p>10. Take part in OSPAR work</p> <p>(Through CPMR's observership at OSPAR, the NSC now has the possibility to take part in most OSPAR work.)</p>	<p>Attend relevant meetings in OSPAR committees and other working groups, as well as in its political meetings.</p> <p>Prepare contributions to relevant meetings.</p> <p>Influence OSPAR parties and observers.</p>	<p>NSC secretariat Project Working Group</p> <p>Specifically: ASMO, Assessment and Monitoring: Allan Garvie, Aberdeenshire Council allan.garvie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>BDC, Biodiversity: Per Hörberg, Region Västra Götaland SE per.horberg@vgregion.se</p> <p>RSC, Radioactive Substances: Sverre Fosse Aust-Agder fylkeskommune, NO sverre.fosse@aa-f.kommune.no</p>	<p>OSPAR is the political framework which adopts binding regulations for the environment in the entire North East Atlantic, including the North Sea.</p> <p>To make an active contribution in these fora, the NSC will be relying on NSCEG (and possibly other Thematic Groups) and – not least – on the active contribution of individual NSC members.</p> <p>The NSC Executive Committee has dedicated €10 000 to these efforts during 2004.</p> <p>A way must be found to spread this message and raise the appropriate interest and resources for this work!</p>	<p>Positive political decisions and valuable binding agreements regarding the environment in the North Sea</p>

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11. Promoting environmentally sound shipping	<p>Use observership status at North Sea Conferences in the preparations for Ministerial Meeting 2006.</p> <p>Consider contacting relevant North Sea states to enquire about reasons for not having ratified IMO's MARPOL Annex VI, designating the North Sea as a sulphur emission control area. An overview of ratifications will be available on March 9th.</p> <p>Contribute to CPMR work on Maritime Safety.</p>	<p>Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, SE per.horberg@vgregion.se</p> <p>Sverre Fosse Aust-Agder fylkeskommune, NO sverre.fosse@aa-f.kommune.no</p>	<p>NSC is now represented through two experts from Region Västra Götaland, Sweden, in the Issue Group for Sustainable Shipping, IGSS, in the preparations for the North Sea Ministerial Meeting in Sweden, spring 2006.</p>	<p>Possible strong statement by North Sea Environmental (and perhaps Transport) Ministers at Ministerial Meeting 2006.</p>

Outstanding from Work Programme 2003:

12. North Sea Agenda 21 Network	<p>Prepare contacts with partners known to be interested in this project. Potentially arrange a preparatory meeting.</p>	<p>Gert Erlandsson, Region Halland, SE gert.erlandsson@regionhalland.se</p> <p>Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, SE per.horberg@vgregion.se</p>	<p>List of partners provided by co-ordinator Oct. 2000. Preparatory meeting may be co-financed by NSCEG, using funds available to co-ordinator.</p>	<p>Application for project support from Interreg IIIB – or other available EU Programme.</p>
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December 18th, 2003, Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator, North Sea Commission Environment Group, e-mail: per.horberg@vgregion.se