



Baltic Sea States
Subregional
Co-operation

to
Karolina Gnacinska
BSSSC Secretariat:

Please find enclosed the update requested
(changes marked). **TPF**

13 August 2004
Thomas Pfannkuch
Vice Chairman of
BSSSC ad-hoc WG ND

Updated Internet Presentation of BSSSC WG Northern Dimension

The BSSSC has established an ad hoc Working Group for strengthening subregional contribution to the implementation of the Action Plan for the ND and for identifying and initiating concrete actions to the ND.

Objectives

- to strengthen subregional contribution to the implementation of the Action Plan for the Northern Dimension
- to coordinate the BSSSC activities on Northern Dimension
- to follow and to report the BSSSC Board on the development of the Northern Dimension by the European Union, by the Council of the Baltic Sea States and by the national governments in the Baltic Sea Region
- to identify and to initiate concrete actions for the subregional contribution to the Northern Dimension

The first ad-hoc Working Group was chaired by Mr **Hannu Vesa** (Southern Savo Region, Finland, February 1999 until October 2000), the second WG by Mr **Aimo Lempinen** (Uusimaa Region, Finland, October 2000 until October 2001), the third one by Mr **Uno Aldegren** (Skane Region, Sweden, October 2001 until October 2003).

The current and fourth Working Group was established in January 2004. It is chaired by Ms **Marjatta Vehkaoja** (Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Finland) and Mr **Thomas Pfannkuch** (Schleswig-Holstein Land, Germany 2004). In addition, this Working Group has been tasked to follow the new EU policy "**Wider Europe – European Neighbourhood Policy**" and to investigate necessities & opportunities for political initiatives and/or other related actions on this subject.

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Expertise and importance of cooperation on the subnational level is referred to by the Guidelines for a 2nd ND Action Plan (adopted by the Ministerial meeting in Luxembourg, 21 October 2002) as follows:

“Regional and cross-border co-operation and twinning projects should contribute to developing adequate management capability at the regional and local level. The experience of actors at sub-state level such as the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation and the Union of the Baltic Cities and the Barents Euro-Arctic Regional Council could be used to ensure better coordination.” (para 4.4.3.)

Main BSSSC activities and reports related to Northern Dimension:

- Position Paper of BSSSC regarding the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan (elaborated by the WG and adopted by the BSSSC Board in February 2003)
- A previous paper “The position of the BSSSC Board on the reform of the Northern Dimension Action Plan” (elaborated by the WG and adopted by the BSSSC Board in June 2002)
- BSSSC Conference “The Northern Dimension and Kaliningrad Oblast - contributions by subregional co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region”, arranged in Kaliningrad in March 2001
- Comprehensive report “The Northern Dimension: A Subregional Contribution” (October 1999)

In addition the Working Group arranged a number of seminars on subjects related to Northern Dimension, i.a.

- **2nd Northern Dimension Seminar** on regional co-operation with Northwest Russian Regions (held alongside the 11th BSSSC Conference, St Petersburg, Russia, 23 October 2003) – see Post-Conference Material available from this website
- Seminar with representatives from regional authorities in the then EU Accession Countries of the area on needs & perspectives related to EU funds for regional co-operation & development (Riga, Latvia, 7 April 2003)
- **1st ND Seminar** on perspectives & contributions from regional co-operation related to a 2nd ND Action Plan (then still to be elaborated), together with representatives of CBSS, the European Commission and the then current Danish EU Presidency (held alongside the 10th BSSSC Conference, Lillehammer, Norway, 24 October 2002).