



Wednesday 14 September 2016, 13.00 – 16.00, BSSSC Board Meeting

Meeting venue: **Conference Room 2**, Verkatehdas Arts & Congress Center, Paasikiventie 2, Hämeenlinna

Present: Chair Mr Ossi Savolainen (Board member, Helsinki-Uusimaa), Mr Stefan Musiolik (Board member, Schleswig-Holstein), Ms Marlene Rothe (Board civil, Schleswig-Holstein), Mr Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp (Brandenburg, Board member), Mr Wieslaw Byczowski (Pomerania, Board member), Ms Krystyna Wroblewska (Pomerania, Board civil), Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek (West Pomerania, Board civil), Mr Lars Birger Salvesen (Board member, Eastern Norway County Network), Mr Rune Bakkevol (Board civil, Akershus), Incoming chair Mr Roger Ryberg (Eastern Norway Country Network), Ms Ann Irene Saeternes (Board civil, Eastern Norway County Network), Mr Jon Halvard Eide (Board Civil, Vest-Agder), Mr Iisakki Kiemunki (Board member, Häme), Mr Matti Lipsanen (Board civil, Häme), Ms Marili Niits (Board member, Estonia), Mr Arne Tilk (Board member, Estonia), Mr Toivo Riimaa (Board civil, Estonia), Ms Kari Lie (Board member, BSSSC Youth)

Secretariat: Secretary-General Mr Janne Tamminen (Member of the Secretariat, Helsinki-Uusimaa), Mr Jaakko Ranta (Member of the Secretariat, Helsinki-Uusimaa)

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening of the Board Meeting (13.00)

- 1.1. Opening of the meeting - **Mr. Ossi Savolainen**, BSSSC Chair, opened the meeting and introduced the new board member **Mr. Iisakki Kiemunki** (Häme Region). **Mr. Kiemunki** presented himself.
- 1.2. Adoption of the agenda – *The agenda was adopted.*
- 1.3. Adoption of Board meeting minutes Gdansk 24 May 2016 – *Revisions were suggested to the minutes of the last Board meeting. There was no mention of the debate on round-table on Youth affairs and some details in the country specific reports were incorrect. It was agreed that date needs to be set for comments before the minutes can be adopted.*
- 1.4. Presentation by the representative of hosting region Häme
Mr Matti Lipsanen presented the hosting Häme region and the range of event that were taking place in Hämeenlinna during the 'Baltic Superweek'.

2. BSSSC member regions and Board members

- Country specific reports from Board members – tour de table



- information about ongoing/planned local/regional reforms (if any)
- important issues/policy areas in focus at the moment

The chair **Mr. Savolainen** suggested that the board would skip this section. Board agreed and it was moved for the next meeting. **Mr. Savolainen** added that the greatest municipal and local government reform in Finnish history would be dealt with more detail in the next meeting.

3. Policy Sectors and Working Groups

3.1. Maritime Issues - **Mr Janne Tamminen** reported that much has not happened since last time. **Mr Tamminen** will participate in Maritime Planning Event in November.

3.2. Youth Policy – Annex 1 and 2 – **Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek** and **Ms Kari Lie** reported from the Youth meeting. **Ms Ludwiczek** stressed that at the moment youth participation is not satisfactory and more nationalities are needed in the youth events. It should be discussed in more structural way how to include young people better. The board expressed hopes of creating a task force on how to include young people better. **Ms Lie** challenged all board members to take more active role in taking the youth on board. **Mr Musiolik** suggested implementing an early-warning system for youth events, so regions could react if youth participation seems to be remaining on a low level. The problem is that at the moment youth politicians do not know about BSSSC or its board members. **Mr Lars Birger Salvesen** added that a later time in autumn for Youth events would be more convenient for some regions. The board agreed that a more structural way is needed for ensuring the sufficient youth participation and that an early-warning system would be a good idea.

Ms Ludwiczek wanted to know about the discussions on round-table for youth affairs. Conversations have taken place, but CBSS has not officially answered to the letter that was sent by the BSSSC Chair. **Ms Iris Kempe** from CBSS has ensured that the letter will be answered. BSSSC will get maximum two seats in the youth table. It was noted that it would be important if **Ms Lie** could make an application to participate in the round-table



discussions in Berlin.

- 3.3. Energy and Climate Issues – *No report from this policy area.*
- 3.4. Northern and Arctic Dimension – **Mr Roger Ryberg** reported on Eastern Norway County Network's meeting with **Mr Kim Kymäläinen** in Brussels. **Mr Ryberg** hopes to bring new synergies with the Norwegian chairmanship of the ND steering group and working closely with the new Norwegian member of this group. **Mr Ryberg** will report on progress in the next meeting in Stockholm.
- 3.5. Transport and Infrastructure – **Mr Jon Halvard Eide** reported on European Ten-T-Days in Rotterdam. CPMR is currently performing a territorial assessment on how to deal with territorial regions in project calls. At the moment several good projects have been rejected because of budget constraints.
- 3.6. Culture – **Mr Stefan Musiolik** presented an idea of the title/trademark of Baltic Sea City of Culture that could be awarded to cities as a smaller version of European Capital of Culture. City of Kiel wants become a Baltic Sea City of Culture by 2020, but does not want to do it on their own. BSSSC could pick this idea up on a later stage within the context of EU Baltic Sea Strategy. **Ms Krystyna Wroblewska** said that this would also be a good initiative for the UBC. It was agreed that this idea would be discussed in the next board meeting.

Mr Musiolik also wanted to bring up the political culture of co-operation with Russia. The Bundesland of Schleswig-Holstein had experienced problems with their Hanse Bureau in Kaliningrad and a partnership on municipal level had proved to be more problematic in recent times. **Mr Musiolik** suggested that someone should represent BSSSC in the upcoming conference in Kaliningrad that it has received an invitation into. It was agreed that **Ms Wroblewska** would take part and enquire Russian willingness of returning into the BSSSC. BSSSC is ready to organize a board meeting in Kaliningrad and this would give the Russians a chance to come back into the organization.



- 3.7. Cohesion Policy – *It was decided that an ad hoc working group for Cohesion Policy is needed and regions need to think for the next meeting if they want to take part in the working group. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp declared his willingness to be rapporteur on Cohesion Policy and chair this ad hoc working group.*
- 3.8. Baltic Sea Region Programme – **Ms Ann Irene Saeternes** reported that there is now Russian national funding for the INTERREG Baltic Sea Region program. Russia has reserved 4, 2 mill Euro to open up for project co-operation with Russian partners from the 2nd call. **Mr Lipsanen** reported that the next application period deadline is on 17th January and there is still one more application round next year. The guess is that after this final round there will be only small amount of money left.

4. Current issues at other co-operation organizations

- 4.1. CBSS – *Iceland has started its presidency. Mr Gudmundur Arni Stefansson is the new chair, Ms Maira Mora from Latvia is the new secretary-general. BSSSC has been invited to many expert groups.*
- 4.2. CPMR – *Next CPMR meeting will be held in the beginning of October. Mr Jari Sainio has been selected for the second 2-year period as a president of the organization at the end of May. Mr Savolainen and Mr Tamminen will join Mr Sainio in the executive committee meeting in Hiiumaa. General Assembly is held in November in the Azores.*
- 4.3. Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference – **Mr Savolainen, Mr Tamminen and Ms Ludwiczek** reported on the meeting in August in Latvia. Security issues came up in the meeting, the working environment of the conference has changed and Russia has become an active member in it. Organisation is very important. Chairmanship has moved from Latvia to the City of Hamburg. Next year's conference will be held in Hamburg.

5. BSSSC Annual Conference 2016

Presentation by **Mr. Matti Lipsanen**, Vice Executive Director, Regional Council of Häme



Mr. Lipsanen presented the conference program for the board. There was one change to the program that was planned in Gdansk. Workshop on growth corridors had been removed from the program.

5.1. Conference resolution

Introduction by **Mr. Janne Tamminen**, Secretary General

Mr Tamminen presented the draft version of the resolution and noted that the resolution is still rather long and that texts for the draft resolution were received long after the agreed deadline. Minor changes and revisions were agreed to the draft texts. Resolution will be presented on Friday at the end of the conference. It was also agreed that board members can suggest revisions after the conference by sending their suggestions literally before the agreed deadline.

6. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

EUSBSR Annual Forum 2016, 8-9 November

Preparation for the EUSBSR AF was discussed. **Mr Tamminen** recommended registration as soon as possible. Task force led by **Ms Saeternes** had proposed Youth Voice for Baltic 2030 Vision and it was included in the program of EUSBSR AF. At the moment task force is sending in their input and collecting speakers. BSSSC will also be involved in other activities and will be visible in the EUSBSR AF.

7. BSSSC Chairmanship 2017-2018 ENCN

The preparation for the incoming chairmanship 2017 – 2018 and input to the Work Plan for 2017-2018
- Introduction by **Mr. Roger Ryberg**, the Incoming BSSSC Chair, Eastern Norway County Network

Mr Roger Ryberg presented the incoming chairmanship of Eastern Norway County Network (ENCN). The new chairmanship was decided on June 10th, 2016 and ENCN will start the chairmanship at 1 January 2017. ENCN has started the preparatory work with the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council. ENCN hopes to have persons in places to take up the function of the Secretariat before the start of next year. Persons who already had been decided were introduced. Planning of the work plan has started and it will be based on the BSSSC strategy that was adopted in March 2016. ENCN hopes to be able to present the draft version of the work plan in the next board meeting. Input from other member is needed and welcome.

ENCN will update the BSSSC web-page, prepare for a BSSSC Newsletter and update its database. They proposed for the Board to adopt a new web address - bsssc.org - from the beginning of next year.



bsssc.com will be redirected to bsssc.org. Youth policy, cohesion policy, culture, transport and infrastructure, energy and climate will be important fields also in the future work of BSSSC. The Board members supported the change of web-address to www.bsssc.org

***Mr Musiolik** added that it should be everyone's job to support the chairmanship. **Mr Musiolik** also suggested that the working group for energy is not performing at the moment and maybe another working group on another topic should be established. **Mr Musiolik** recommended a working group on digital agenda. At the moment there is a generation gap in digitalization and Baltic Sea Region should have something to offer for digital agenda. It was added that Baltic Development Forum has been really active on digitalization and BSSSC should link-up with them.*

8. BSSSC Board meetings 2016 – 2017 and Annual Conference 2017

November 2016 (Back to back with EUSBSR Annual Forum), Stockholm, Sweden

- *Will be held on Monday November 7th starting 4 PM. It will take as long as it takes and board members will go to the reception after the board meeting is finished.*

February-March 2017, Brussels? (tbc)

May-June 2017 (tbc)

- *25th Annual Conference 2017 (tbc) – It is Germany's or Lithuania's turn to hold the next Annual Conference. Schleswig-Holstein will have Landtag elections in May next year and cannot make big decisions at the moment. **Mr Musiolik** suggested linking AC with the 8th EUSBSR Annual Forum taking place in Berlin on 13/14 June 2017, arranged perhaps in the Nordic Embassies. The General Assembly of Baltic Sea Commission will be held in Berlin on 12th June, 2017. Focus topic of the AC could be youth.*

9. Coming events

AEBR, Annual Conference 22-24 September 2016, Görlitz, Germany

European week of Regions and Cities, 10-13 October 2016, Brussels

Round Table on Baltic Sea Youth Affairs, 13-15 October 2016, Berlin

CPMR General Assembly, 2-5 November 2016, Ponta Delgada, Portugal



Informal Baltic Sea Group seminar, 14 or 15 November (tbc), Brussels

VASAB MSP Seminar, 23-24 November, Riga, Latvia

10. Any other business

Presidencies of the Council of the European Union of Estonia (Jul-Dec 2017) and Finland (Jul-Dec 2019) are coming up. BSSSC should have something to say in these.

16.20 End of the Board meeting