



BSSSC BOARD MEETING  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

MINUTES

**Date: 7 December 2020**

**Online meeting**

**10:00 – 14:00**

**Present:**

**Board Members:** Mr Ričards Gailums (Vidzeme Planning Region Development Council, Latvia), Ms Venla Hatakka (BSSSC Youth Board Member, Häme Region, Finland), Mr Reiner Kneifel - Haverkamp (Brandenburg Ministry of Finance and for European Affairs, Germany), Ms Alla Ivanova (Agency for International Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Kaliningrad Region, Russia), Ms Maria Lindbom (Region Skåne, Sweden), Mr Stefan Musiolik Ministry of Justice, European Affairs and Consumer Protection of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany), Ms Julia Orluk (BSSSC Youth Board Member, Pomorskie, Poland), Mr Kåre Peterssen (Vestfold and Telemark County Council, Eastern Norway County Network), Ms Sari Rautio (Vice-Chairperson of the Managing Board Regional Council of Häme, Finland), Mr Ilmar Reepalu (Region Skåne, Sweden), Mr Mieczysław Struk (BSSSC Chairman - Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship, Poland).

**Board Civil:** Ms Laila Gercāne, Ms Klaudija Kionies (Managing Director of the Association Klaipeda Region, Lithuania), Mr Matti Lipsanen (Director of Regional Development Regional Council of Häme, Finland), Mr Christopher Lucht (BSSSC Youth Coordinator - Brandenburg, Germany), Ms Marlene Rothe (Senior advisor Baltic Sea Affairs, Schleswig - Holstein, Germany), Ms Ann Irene Sæternes (Head of European Affairs, Eastern Norway County Network), Ms Nora Schindler (Brandenburg Ministry of Finance and for European Affairs, Germany), Mr Janne Tamminen (International Advisor Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland), Mr Toivo Riimaa (Association of Estonian Cities).

**Special guests:** Mr Bodo Bahr (BSPC Conference), Mr Bernd Hemingway ( Council of the Baltic Sea States).

**Others:** Ms Monika Pochroń - Frankowska (Head of the International Cooperation Bureau, Pomorskie Marshal's Office, Poland).

**Secretariat:** BSSSC Secretariat (Ms Krystyna Wróblewska - BSSSC Secretary General, Head of the Baltic Sea Cooperation Bureau - Pomorskie Region, Poland, Ms Małgorzata Maria Klawiter - Piwowarska - BSSSC Executive Secretary, Ms Marta Czarnecka - Gallas - BSSSC Communication Officer, Ms Agata Birecka), Ms Anna Drążek (BSSSC Brussels Antenna, Director of the Pomorskie Regional EU Office in Brussels, Poland), Mr Paweł Rygalski (Communication Officer in the Pomorskie Regional EU Office in Brussels, Poland).





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## Digital BSSSC Board meeting Minutes

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### 1. Opening of the Board meeting

1.1. Opening of the meeting – Mr Mieczysław Struk, BSSSC Chairman

**Mr Struk** welcomed the BSSSC Board Members gathered online. He thanked for the input received from the Board Members to the Board meeting. Mr Chairman welcomed special guests from the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference.

1.2. Adoption of the agenda

**Mr Chairman** asked the Board Members to approve the online meeting agenda.

**The Agenda was adopted.**

1.3. Adoption of the minutes from the Digital BSSSC Board Meeting, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The minutes of the BSSSC Board Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were presented. As there were no comments, Mr Chairman asked the Board Members to adopt the minutes.

**The Minutes were adopted.**

### 2. BSSSC Annual Conference

**Mr Chairman** expressed his gratitude to the BSSSC Board Members and the Work Group for their preparations and the organisation of the BSSSC Annual Conference. The floor was given to the Secretary General **Ms Krystyna Wróblewska** to finalise the conference resolution.

2.1. Conference resolution 2020 – Ms Krystyna Wróblewska

**Ms Wróblewska** thanked the Board Members for suggestions and input to the Resolution. Discussion on the shape of the Resolution followed with changes proposed by the Kaliningrad Oblast and introduced.

**The Resolution was adopted.**





## 2.2. Information on the Annual Conference – Ms Krystyna Wróblewska

**Ms Wróblewska** expressed her gratitude for the commitment and valuable input provided by the Board Members. She underlined huge youth involvement referring to the Digital BSSC Autumn Youth Event held on via an online platform on September 22-24<sup>th</sup>. Youth ideas were presented during the EUSBSR Annual Forum and the BSSC Annual Conference and found their way into the Final Conference Resolution.

**Ms Wróblewska** provided some statistics regarding the Digital BSSC Annual Conference: 184 registered participants. 61 visitors in the expo zone, 161 persons had appeared.

**Mr Chairman** gave the floor to Brussels antenna, Ms Anna Drążek to share the most updated information on the EU issues.

## 3. Report from Brussels antenna - Ms Anna Drążek, Director of the Pomorskie Regional EU Office

**Ms Drążek** briefed to the Board on the newest European affairs. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

**Ms Drążek** started with the information on the threat of veto affirmed by Poland and Hungary. The veto is expected to come up during a European Council summit on December 10 – 11<sup>th</sup>, when leaders will discuss also the response to the COVID - 19 pandemics, relations with Turkey and the US, climate, future relationship with the UK, whose post - Brexit transition period expires on 31<sup>st</sup> December. The position of the European institution remains very firm - no European money should be given to a Member State that does not observe the rule of law.

### 3.1. Priorities of the new EU Presidency

Portugal will assume the rotational presidency on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. 1) digital rights & digital democracy, 2) values of democracy and pluralism, 3) digitalisation of the public sector will be crucial for Lisbon, which is expected to put forward an own initiative on this matter in early 2021.

**Ms Drążek** encouraged the Board meeting participants to learn more about the 2020 - 2021 Trio Presidency work programme.

### 3.2. Update on Green Deal

**Ms Drążek** presented a couple of initiatives published recently including 1) presentation of the 2030 Climate Target Plan, 2) Renovation wave & chemicals strategy for sustainability, and 3) Offshore renewable energy.





The European Union wants to increase offshore wind capacity by 2050. Wind energy will be topped up by ocean energy. The bench of the new investment should be made possible by the Recovery and Resilience Facility. 37% of its funds will channel to the green transition.

Other initiatives under the EU Green Deal include 1) Fit for '55 package' to reduce emissions by at least 55% by 2030. **Ms Drążek** encouraged also everybody gathered online to follow the European Climate Pact launch event on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### 3.3. Update on R & I and education initiatives

**Ms Drążek** presented a list of recent papers published to increase the competitive edge in the EU and reinforce its capacities in terms of innovation: 1) A new ERA for Research and Innovation, 2) Achieving European Education Area by 2025, 3) Digital Education Action Plan 2021 – 2027. Resetting education and training for the digital age.

**Ms Drążek** shared also the information on an event called the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Education Summit: Digital Transformation. It will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> in an online mode. The event will focus on specific subjects as 1) COVID - 19 education challenge and mastering the digital transition in education, 2) the new Erasmus program, and 3) trends in online learning.

### 3.4. EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025

Four pillars of the Strategy were defined as 1) tackling discrimination against LGBT+ people, 2) eradicating violence, 3) building inclusive societies, and 4) leading the call for LGBT+ equality around the world.

### 3.5. European Commission Work Programme 2021

The EU Commission adopted its 2021 work programme. It is the result of close cooperation with the European Parliament, Member States and the EU consultative bodies. The European Commission will start discussions with the Parliament and Council to establish a list of joint priorities on which co-legislators agree to take swift action.

Key priorities of the European Commission work programme were defined as 1) A European Green Deal, 2) A Europe fit for the digital age, 3) An economy that works for people and 4) A stronger Europe in the world, 5) Promoting our European way of life, and 6) A new push for European democracy.

### 3.6. Health - fight with COVID-19

**Ms Drążek** noticed a sixth pharmaceutical contract had been approved by the EU Commission under the EU Vaccines Strategy. The EU Commission took also its first steps towards building the European Health Union announced by President von der Leyen in her State of the Union





address. The document *A European Health Union: Reinforcing the EU's resilience for cross – border health threats* were issued in November. It is focused on 1) increasing preparedness and encouraging the EU States to prepare their plans at national levels 2) reinforcing surveillance at the EU level, and 3) improving data reporting (e. g. hospital beds availability, specialised treatment, or intensive care capacity).

As **Ms Drążek** goes on maternity leave, she thanked for cooperation with the BSSSC so far. She informed that the Brussels antenna would be taken over by Mr Paweł Rygalski.

**Ms Rautio** thanked for the informative and professional presentation prepared by Ms Drążek.

**Mr Kneifel - Haverkamp** expressed his gratitude for all the information shared and introduced Ms Nora Schindler, who will work with him on Baltic Sea matters. He asked Ms Drążek if there was a link between contracts for the vaccines with pharmaceutical companies and the new MFF and Next Generation EU.

**Ms Drążek** responded the new MFF was a whole package and the EU would have money for the vaccination.

**Mr Chairmen and Ms Wróblewska** officially welcomed Ms Nora Schindler into the BSSSC family.

**Ms Wróblewska** thanked for the presentation and draw attention to three issues 1) a strong no - veto approach expressed by the Polish self - governments, 2) a European dispute on digital and regular democracy, and 3) the EU Strategy on the rights of children.

#### 4. Interreg BSR 2021-2027 programming

**Mr Chairmen** asked Mr Lipsanen to refer on the Interreg BSR 2021-2027 programming.

##### 4.1. Report from Mr Matti Lipsanen, Häme

**Mr Lipsanen** welcomed the BSSSC Board and participants of the meeting. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

**Mr Lipsanen** reported on the Joint Programming Committee meeting held on December 2 - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. The Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021 - 2027 will offer funding under four priorities: 1) Innovative Societies, 2) Water-Smart Societies, 3) Climate - Neutral Societies and 4) Cooperation Governance, covering nine Programme objectives altogether.

The Joint Programming Committee members agreed the future Programme will offer several types of projects 1) regular cooperation projects, 2) projects platforms, 3) projects supporting the EUSBSR governance. This includes also a new type of small projects to be attractive to new





beneficiaries who only enter the Interreg transnational setting with their smart ideas of how to shape the region.

The JPC members discussed simplifications in procedures, for example, the provisions for State Aid as well as for planning and reporting costs.

**Mr Lipsanen** shared also information on meetings scheduled for 2021: 1) JPC meeting, March, 2) April - May: national approval procedures, 3) mid-2021: submission of the Programme to the European Commission, 4) 2<sup>nd</sup> half 2021: kick-off events, 5) end of 2021: first application round.

**Mr Lipsanen** presented future aims as 1) to agree on programme budget, 2) to approve of Programme document, 3) to approve of MCS - Agreement, 4) to agree on implementing provisions, 4) to discuss on application rounds, timeline, assessment criteria, 5) kick-off events, and 6) launch of the first application round.

**Mr Chairmen** thanked for this update and asked if there any comments.

**Mr Musiolik** thanked Mr Lipsanen for his informative presentation. He underlined the very good work of the Joint Programming Committee members. Mr Musiolik said he was happy to have the regional identity topic based on culture and cultural heritage in the Interreg 2021 - 2027. He said it was good that cost options had been simplified and new actors could be partners in the Interreg BSR Programme within small projects.

**Mr Lipsanen** added that the letter from the BSSSC had been meaningful for the preparations.

**Mr Lipsanen** thanked Mr Struk for given support.

**Mr Wróblewska** said that the BSSSC also had supported the continuation of the South Baltic Programme.

## 5. MFF 2021-2027 and Cohesion Policy

**Mr Struk** asked Mr Kneifel – Haverkamp to report on the Cohesion Policy

### 5.1. Update from Rapporteur, Mr Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp, Brandenburg

**Mr Kneifel - Haverkamp** thanked for giving him the floor and reported on the newest negotiations between the European Parliament, Commission and the Council. The information is attached to the minutes.

The European Parliament has reached a compromise with the Council Presidency outlining the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2021- 2027) and new Own Resources,





following weeks of negotiations. In the compromise, the EU Parliament obtained €16 billion. Research and innovation programs, including Horizon Europe, EU4Health and Erasmus+, will receive a €15 billion boost through additional means and reallocations. €1 billion will increase flexibility to address future needs and crises.

Parliament's top priority was to secure an increase for flagship programmes that were at risk of being underfinanced under the European Council's July 2020 agreement.

**Ms Secretary General** thanked for an update and apologized on Mr Marshal's behalf, who had had to leave due to other duties.

## 6. Youth involvement and empowerment

### 6.1. Report from recent youth activities and initiatives - Mr Christopher Lucht

**Mr Lucht** shared a presentation on the latest BSSSC youth activities. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

**Mr Lucht** focused the attention on the results of the Digital BSSSC Autumn Youth Event 2020. He mentioned also the Baltic Sea Youth Camp held on October 17<sup>th</sup> as well as the *Youth Manifesto* by Interact. Mr Lucht reported on cooperation with the ReGeneration 2030 and presented the details of the Erasmus Youth Application 2021. He shared information on the upcoming events in 2021.

### 6.2. Rules of procedure for BSSSC Youth Coordinator, BSSSC Regional Youth Coordinators and the BSSSC Youth Network - Ms Krystyna Wróblewska, Mr Christopher Lucht

**Ms Wróblewska** asked for comments referring to the rules of procedure sent to the Board. The Documents are attached in supporting materials.

**Ms Sæternes** underlined the BSSSC represented all regions. She suggested to precise the age group and the number of physical meetings could be considered. She proposed to rename the *Regional Youth Coordinator* to the *Regional Youth Contact Person*.

It was agreed the BSSSC Youth Network consisted of youth representatives of all BSR regions.

It was agreed the age of youth network participants should be 16 – 25 years.

**Mr Musiolik** said it was good to have a framework for youth participation

It was agreed each BSSSC Board member identified a person from his/her region who will act as a Regional Youth Contact Person and provided him/her with the necessary support.







**Ms Orluk** thanked the Secretariat and Mr Lucht as the youth coordinator for the commitment. She underlined the importance of the youth network within the BSR. She gave the floor to **Ms Hatakka** to present a vision of the youth network.

**Ms Hatakka** shared information as follows: 1) the BSSSC Youth Network will consist of youth representatives (1 – 3 persons) of all Baltic Sea regions, 2) the BSSSC Youth Network will be coordinated and led by the BSSSC Youth Coordinator with support from the BSSSC Regional Youth Contact Persons and the BSSSC Secretariat, 3) the youth leaders of the Network will be the two Youth Board Members elected by the youth for two years in transparent elections according to the Rules of Procedure for the BSSSC Youth Coordinator, 4) the Network will meet at least twice a year before the Spring Youth Event and Autumn Youth Event followed by the BSSSC Annual Conference to prepare the events, 5) the network will be there for the youth opinions and the discussion.

**Mr Kneifel – Haverkamp** suggested to making the youth guidelines less formal.

### *6.3. Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Territorial Policy*

The Manifesto does not concern cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region. This is a document on broad youth cooperation and it both covers EU partners and external partners. It has been born in the association of the European border regions. The Manifesto was officially presented to the EU Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms Elisa Ferreira and the German Presidency of the EU Council on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Interreg Annual Event (Interreg celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary) during the session dedicated to the youth dialogue.

The Manifesto has been prepared by the European Commission and Interact Programme and presents youth ideas on the importance of the youth involvement in the European Territorial Cooperation.

**Ms Wróblewska** underlined the young people should be presented in the decision – making structure on the Interreg.

<Coffee break>

## **7. Reports from policy areas**

### **7.1. Transport**

**Mr Eide** could not participate at the BSSSC Board meeting. Information from the Rapporteur will be attached to the minutes.







## 7.2. Culture

**Mr Musiolik** provided information on recent developments in the culture sector. An overview from Rapporteur is attached in supporting materials.

Information provided by the Rapporteur included results of the Session on Culture & Regional Identity during the BSSSC Annual Conference as well as the latest developments in the *Baltic Sea Cultural Cities* project.

**Mr Musiolik** presented a concept note of the *Baltic Sea Cultural Cities* initiative. He informed the CBSS was a leading partner for the project. Partners include Union of Baltic Cities, Agency for International Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Kaliningrad, and Department of Youth and Culture of the City of Kiel, as well as City Culture Institute in Gdańsk, Cultural Department of the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Kaunas Artists' House, Ministry of Justice, European Affairs and Consumer Protection of Schleswig- Holstein.

**Mr Musiolik** shared the timeline of the project. He mentioned that the concept note had been developed and would be discussed with the stakeholders. The key objectives of the project were defined as 1) to strengthen the "we-feeling" of the people and empower citizens within the BSR, 2) to increase sustainable cross - border cooperation between cities and regions, cultural organisations and professionals, 3) to celebrate the region's immense creativity, rich cultural heritage and diversity, 4) to raise visibility and awareness of region's vast cultural potential, 5) to improve quality of life in region's cities, regions through culture and creativity, 6) to provide smaller cities and regions more opportunities to attract international audiences, 7) to contribute to the UN SDG's through enhancing cultural crossovers to other sectors

**Mr Musiolik** noticed also that the current title for the project was the *Baltic Sea Cultural Cities and Regions*.

**Mr Musiolik** characterised the *Baltic Sea Cultural Cities and Regions* project. The BSCCR title is awarded annually for a period of one year to 3-5 cities or regions, a maximum one per country. Each year an additional focus theme will be agreed to highlight one of the SDGs, including education, environmental sustainability, reduced inequalities or less waste.

**Mr Musiolik** encouraged the Board Members to share the idea of the *Baltic Sea Cultural City and Regions*. He expressed his hope that the culture topic would be one of the core elements of the Action Plan of the EUSBR.

**Ms Secretary General** gave the floor to Ms Alla Ivanova. She asked if the list of positive impacts of the project could be more devoted to the culture and creativity, not only to the SDGs.

**Mr Musiolik** answered that the cultural heritage and creative industries were a core point, indeed and were used as a tool to achieve other tasks.





**Mr Reppalu** said that innovation should be more stressed in the BSCCR project.

**Mr Musiolik** thanked for all the suggestions.

### 7.3. Plastic-free sea

As there were no new developments in the field of plastic, **Ms Secretary General** asked Ms Sari Rautio to give an update from the Committee of the Regions Interregional Group.

## 8. Cooperation with the Committee of the Regions (CoR)

### 8.1. Updates from CoR Interregional Group Baltic Sea Macroregion – Ms Sari Rautio

**Ms Rautio** thanked for giving her the floor. She shortly summarized current issues in the CoR Interregional Group. The plenary session will be held remotely on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 09:00 a.m. Discussions will focus on the regional and national preparations of new financial tools (Green Deal, Recovery and Resilience Facility).

**Ms Rautio** announced it was her last presence within the BSSSC. She expressed her gratitude for great co-operation so far.

On behalf of Mr Chairman and the Pomorskie region, **Ms Wróblewska** thanked Ms Sari Rautio for her commitment to the BSSSC issues.

**Mr Stefan Musiolik** expressed his regret that Ms Sari Rautio left the BSSSC Board and thanked for her very good work.

**Ms Sari Rautio** declared to stay in the loop.

## 9. Reports from events

**Ms Secretary General** shared information on past events.

9.1. 11<sup>th</sup> EUSBSR Virtual Annual Forum - October 20<sup>th</sup> including Common Road Map for Cooperation in BSR: Joint actions for Sustainable Region - CBSS Workshop at the EUSBSR - October 6<sup>th</sup> - Ms Krystyna Wróblewska

**Ms Secretary** underlined the EUSBSR forum had been cross-sectorial and multidisciplinary.

**Ms Secretary General** was a speaker at the workshop *Common Road Map for COOPERATION in BSR: Joint actions for Sustainable Region* proceed the Annual Forum and gathered the key actors from the Baltic Sea Region to discuss the Road Map and the possibility to draft a Joint Action Plan for Sustainability and the instruments needed for that purpose.





**The BSSSC Secretary General** was invited to be a speaker at one of the main panels on *Working together, merging knowledge and skills! Emerging areas of joint, multidisciplinary actions*. Ms Sæternes was invited to be a speaker at the panel *Shaping the prosperous, competitive and sustainable future of the Baltic Sea Region – what will guide us for the next 10 years?*

9.2. 31<sup>st</sup> Northern Dimension Steering Group – November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ms Krystyna Wróblewska

**Ms Wróblewska** was invited to the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Northern Dimension Steering Group held online. Ms Secretary general expressed her hope that the presence of the BSSSC would be heard in a meeting also in the next year.

**Ms Wróblewska** gave the floor to Mr Hemingway to report on the latest CBSS events.

## 10. Reports from other BSR organizations

10.1. CBSS - Deputy Director, Mr Bernd Hemingway

**Mr Hemingway** thanked for the invitation to the Board meeting. He provided information on the 11<sup>th</sup> Virtual Annual Forum of the EUSBR. Mr Hemingway underlined that it had been a big challenge due to the COVID - 19 pandemic. He expressed also his gratitude to the BSSSC for organizational support.

The Annual Forum took place on October 20<sup>th</sup> and was organised in collaboration with the City of Turku, the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. The program was structured in three plenary discussions. Before the Forum, a series of online workshops were organised in cooperation between the different Policy Areas of the EUSBSR and other relevant stakeholders. The Annual Forum included a virtual Networking Village that offered the participants a chance to meet, network and learn about the work in the EUSBSR.

**Mr Hemingway** reported also on the 13<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Tourism Forum (BSTF) that was held on November, 10- 13<sup>th</sup> as four- day online event. The first Baltic Sea Sustainable Tourism Awards was given during the BSTF to support the recovery and shape the development of sustainable tourism.

**Mr Hemingway** briefly mentioned the CBSS seniors official meetings under the Lithuanian presidency. Two major discussion points were presented as 1) the *Vilnius 2* declaration and 2) the CBSS contribution to the EUSBSR.

**Mr Hemingway** promised to share with the BSSSC the list of events under the Lithuanian presidency in the CBSS.





BSSC BOARD MEETING  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

MINUTES

**Mr Hemingway** reported also on the annual meeting of the four Councils of the North hosted by the CBSS. The meeting took place online. Attention was paid to cooperation on including youth in the decision - making processes.

The CBSS and presidency representatives discussed also how cooperation and usual activities were affected by the COVID - 19 crisis. The meeting was welcomed by the Northern Dimension Partnership on Health and Social Well – being.

**Ms Wróblewska** thanked Mr Hemingway for taking his time. She congratulated on the very professional Annual Forum of the Baltic Sea Strategy.

**Mr Musiolik** thanked for the presentation shared by Mr Hemingway. He asked if the project initiative led by the CBSS could become anchored also in the Action Plan and the *Vilnius 2* declaration.

**Mr Hemingway** answered that the drafting process of the *Vilnius 2* declaration was strictly the government's own. Regards the Action Plan, Mr Hemingway said that he could not give a satisfactory answer, because the Action Plan was still under construction. He noticed that culture will be a factor in the *Vilnius 2* declaration.

**Ms Wróblewska** thanked and passed the floor to the representative of the BSPC.

#### 10.2. BSPC – Secretary General, Mr Bodo Bahr

**Mr Bahr** welcomed everybody gathered online and expressed his gratitude for the invitation to the Board meeting. He reported on the newest developments in the BSPC. He mentioned about three main events as Standing Committee meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> BSPC Working Group meeting on climate change & biodiversity and the joint meeting with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABASEC).

Referring to the Standing Committee meeting, **Mr Bahr** said that the BSPC President, Mr Piry Niemi had expressed his determination to maintain and intensify the parliamentary dimension of international cooperation in the BSR despite the difficult times caused by the COVID - 19 pandemic. Mr Piry Niemi indicated that the current Swedish presidency in the BSPC would focus on sustainable democracy and how to face common challenges in changing world.

**Mr Bahr** underlined the BSPC was thinking to involve young people and if it was possible back - to back meeting to the BSCP Annual Conference to be in August in Stockholm. He raised the question of how to finance youth cooperation in the long term.

**Mr Bahr** referred to the 29<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Digital - 24 August 2020. He stated that the goals had been achieved concerning the content of the conference.





BSSSC BOARD MEETING  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

MINUTES

The BSPC Standing Committee scheduled an expert seminar on democracy in the changing media landscape on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

**Mr Bahr** offered to provide more information on biodiversity and climate change to share, in particular, with young people.

**Ms Secretary General** thanked for the presentation and said that she would appreciate having in written on everything mentioned by Mr Bahr so far.

**Mr Musiolik** thanked for the presentation and asked if the *Baltic Sea Cultural Cities* project could be supported by the parliamentarians and discussed during the next BSPC Annual Conference in August.

**Mr Bahr** answered the *Baltic Sea Cultural Cities* project could be rather integrated into one of the BSPC Standing Committee meetings than into the Conference because the AC priorities had been already set.

### 10.3. CPMR Baltic Sea Commission - Executive Secretary, Ms Lucille Ehrhart

**Ms Secretary General** informed that Ms Ehrhart could not participate at the Board meeting due to her work-related duties. On behalf of Ms Ehrhart, Ms Secretary General reported on the latest CPMR developments.

Mr Jari Nahkanen, the Member of the Board of Oulu Region, was re-elected by the General Assembly of the CPMR BSC for a second mandate as the President of the organisation. The Commission has been involved in the negotiations regarding the MFF and Cohesion Policy. The CPMR BSC has taken part in public consultations regarding a sustainable Blue Economy of the EU Commission. The CPMR is also launching a new activity regarding interregional cooperation and smart specialization strategies. In 2021 the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BSC will be held as a political event and the BSSSC is welcomed.

**Ms Wróblewska** asked Ms Czarnecka - Gallas to brief on the BSSSC communications activities.

## 11. BSSSC communication activities report

### 11.1. Report by Ms Marta Czarnecka - Gallas, BSSSC Secretariat, Pomorskie

**Ms Czarnecka - Gallas** briefed on the newest communication activities since the last Board meeting in September. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

The BSSSC communication activities were focused on the BSSSC website updated in particular with the information on the Digital BSSSC Annual Conference and the EUSBSR Annual Forum. Ms Czarnecka – Gallas presented also the Baltic Stories magazine including the interview with the BSSSC Youth Board representative - Julia Orluk and the former Youth representative -





Martin Rümmelein, both actively involved in Baltic Sea Youth Platform. She mentioned that the last newsletter will be sent out in December. Ms Czarnecka - Gallas presented the roll-up of Pomorskie Chairmanship presidency. The BSSSC supported the UrbCulturalPlanning project by creating a promotion campaign on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Coming to an end, Ms Czarnecka - Gallas said that the BSSSC Secretariat had elaborated a brochure which was presented at the digital booth during the BSSSC Annual Conference. She asked Mr Musiolik to send her materials on the *Baltic Sea Cultural Cities* project to promote it on the webpage and via social media.

**Ms Secretary General** thanked Ms Czarnecka - Gallas for promoting the BSSSC during the year.

**Mr Musiolik** thanked Ms Czarnecka - Gallas and recommended the *Baltic Stories* magazine to the Board Members.

11.2. Information about the ACTER website - Ms Małgorzata Maria Klawiter - Piwowarska, BSSSC Secretariat, Pomorskie

**Ms Klawiter - Piwowarska** welcomed everybody gathered online. The ACTER platform is one of the tools of the Baltic Sea Youth Platform. It is aimed to make organizations and people collaborate. Ms Klawiter - Piwowarska shared also a link to the webpage of the [ACTER platform](#) and said that ACTER was available as an application. Ms Klawiter - Piwowarska recommended to the Board members to register and use the platform.

## 12. BSSSC Board meetings 2021

February 24<sup>th</sup>, online format

End of May/ beginning of June (depended on the plans of the Annual Forum of the EUSBSR), Sweden

October 13<sup>th</sup> (before the Annual Conference on October 14<sup>th</sup>), Kaliningrad

December 1 -2<sup>nd</sup> (in connection with the CoR session), Brussels

**Ms Sæternes** noticed that the EUSBSR would be in Autumn in Lithuania.

**Mr Reepalu** informed that the CoR meeting in Brussels was planned on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Ms Wróblewska** thanked for the information and promised to adjust it and send it in writing.

## 13. Upcoming events

13.1. Citizen Engagement and Deliberative Democracy Festival – December 6-12<sup>th</sup>

13.2. NDPC Cultural Forum - December 10-11<sup>th</sup>

13.3. CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – December 10<sup>th</sup>

13.4. CBSS BSR Climate Change Dialogue Platform 10<sup>th</sup> Round-table meeting – December 10<sup>th</sup>

13.5. European Climate Pact. Launch event - December 16<sup>th</sup>





BSSSC BOARD MEETING  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

MINUTES

**Ms Wróblewska** informed that the BSSSC had been invited to participate in the NPDC Cultural Forum, December 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> and CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development and Climate Change Dialogue. Ms Secretary General encouraged the Board Members to register and taking part.

**Ms Wróblewska** asked if there were some other events or issues that should be covered.

#### 14. Any other business

As there were no special reports, **Ms Secretary General** thanked everybody present on behalf of Mr Mieczysław Struk for the very active participation and valuable exchange and discussion. Ms Wróblewska made Christmas wishes.

**Mr Musiolik** thanked Ms Secretary General for the very good meeting, professional guidance, and her leadership in the BSSSC.

**END OF MEETING ■**

