

76th NSC Executive Committee meeting

15th March 2018, Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein

Draft minutes

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Formalities

Welcome by **Thomas Pfannkuch**, Head of Unit, Schleswig-Holstein

Introduction by Cllr **Kerstin Brunnström**, NSC President

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of new members of the Executive Committee
3. Approval of the minutes of 75th ExCom in Cardiff 15th November 2017

Reports on NSR 2020 priority areas

4. Managing Maritime Space by Cllr **Anders Fasth**, Chair of Marine Resources Group
5. Increasing Accessibility and Clean Transport by Cllr **Preben Friis-Hauge**, Chair of Transport Group
6. Tackling Climate Change by **Paulien Kooistra**, Advisor of Energy and Climate Change Group
7. Attractive and Sustainable Communities by Cllr **Otto Kjaer-Larsen**, Vice Chair of Smart Regions Group

Other reports

8. Brexit update by **Magnus Engelbrektsson**, Ex. Secretary
9. Update from the CPMR with focus on MFF/Cohesion Policy by **Nicolas Brookes**, Director
10. Reports from national representatives (max 5 minutes each)
11. Interreg North Sea Programme – state of play by **Christian Byrith**, Director
12. Presentation of Interreg North Sea project “Northern Connections” by **Thomas Pfannkuch**, Schleswig-Holstein

Strategic issues

13. Process for development of the post-2020 NSR strategy by **Magnus Engelbrektsson**, Ex. Secretary
14. Action plan 2018-2019 by **Melissa Frödin**, Assistant Executive Secretary
15. Communication activities plan 2018-2019 by **Irma Ganibegovic**, Assistant Executive Secretary

Organisational issues and finances

16. Election of a Vice Chair for the Transport Group
17. NSC Secretariat 2018-2021 by Vice President **Andreas Lervik**
18. Finances
19. The 27th Annual Business Meeting and North Sea Conference, Fredrikstad
20. Next ExCom meetings
21. AOB

Attending

President	Kerstin Brunnström
Vice President	Andreas Lervik
Danish Representative	Otto Kjaer Larsen
Dutch Representative	not present
English Representative	not present
French Representative	not present
German Representative	Antje Grotheer
Norwegian Representative	Marianne Chesak
Scottish Representative	John Reynolds (substitute)
Swedish Representative	See President

NSC Thematic groups Chairs/Vice Chairs

Energy and Climate Change	Not Present
Marine Resources	Anders Fasth
Transport	Preben Friis-Hauge
Smart Regions	See Danish representative

NSC Secretariat

Executive Secretary	Magnus Engelbrektsson
Assistant Executive Secretary	Melissa Frödin
Assistant Executive Secretary	Irma Ganibegovic

NSC Thematic group Advisors

Energy and Climate Change	Paulien Kooistra
Marine Resources	Yolanda Schmal
Transport	Jon Halvard Eide
Smart Regions	Geir Sør-Reime

Supporting Officers and speakers

Christian Byrith, Interreg North Sea Programme	Karen Greve Somerset, Nordjylland
Nicolas Brookes, CPMR	Kia Sofie Abildtrup, Syddanmark
Monika von Haaren, Niedersachsen	Kjersti Garberg, Østfold
Thomas Pfannkuch, Schleswig-Holstein	Laura Paterson, Aberdeen City
Eileen von Elsner, Schleswig-Holstein	

Kerstin Brunnström, President of the North Sea Commission, welcomes everyone to the 76th Executive Committee meeting, and gives a special thank you to Land Schleswig-Holstein for hosting the meeting. She reported from last week's CPMR Political Bureau meeting, where she was a speaker on clean transport and made an intervention on marine litter.

Thomas Pfannkuch, Head of unit in the Ministry of Justice, European Affairs, Consumer Protection and Equality, welcomes the members of the NSC Executive Committee to Kiel, Land Schleswig-Holstein, on behalf of Minister Sabine Sütterlin-Waack, who had fallen ill.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee approves the agenda.

2. Approval of new members of the Executive Committee

The Danish members nominated Otto Kjaer Larsen, North Denmark (Region Nordjylland), as member and Preben Friis-Hauge, South Denmark (Region Syddanmark), as substitute member of the NSC Executive Committee.

The German members have nominated Antje Grotheer, The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, as member and Dr. Sabine Sütterlin-Waack, Land Schleswig-Holstein, as substitute member of the NSC Executive Committee.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee approves the nominated members and substitute members from Denmark and Germany.

3. Approval of the minutes from the 75th Executive Committee meeting

Sidony Venema (Flevoland) attended the meeting but is not on the list of attendees. The NSC Secretariat will add Venema to the list.

Decisions and conclusions

2. The Executive Committee approves the minutes of the 75th Executive Committee meeting, November 15 2017 in Cardiff, UK.

4. Managing Maritime Space

An oral report was delivered by Cllr Anders Fasth, Chair of Marine Resources Group, and Yolanda Schmal, Advisor of the Marine Resources Group, on the work of the group.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

5. Increasing Accessibility and Clean Transport

An oral report was delivered by Cllr Preben Friis-Hauge, Chair of Transport Group, on the work of the group.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

6. Tackling Climate Change

An oral report was delivered by Paulien Kooistra, Advisor of the Energy and Climate Change Group, on the work of the group. The written report on the Energy and Climate Change Group will be sent out after the meeting.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

7. Attractive and Sustainable Communities

An oral report was delivered by Cllr Otto Kjaer Larsen, Vice Chair of the Smart Regions Group, on the work of the group.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

8. Brexit updates

A presentation was delivered by Magnus Engelbrektsson, Executive Secretary, on the work and progress of the NSC Brexit Task Force and an updated report on the Brexit impacts on the North Sea Region.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the activity report and its recommendations.

9. Update from the CPMR

Nicolas Brookes, CPMR Director, gave a presentation on the coming Multi-Annual Financial Framework of the EU and gave a state of play on the outlook for future Cohesion Policy. Brookes presented the time frame for the future of EU budget, key points from the European Commission communication on the future of EU budget that was published 14 February 2018) and a view on that the cohesion policy will focus on after 2020.

The presentation will be sent out with the draft meeting minutes and published on the NSC webpage after the meeting.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

10. Reports from national representatives

Norwegian representative, Marianne Chesak, informed that the Norwegian government is currently discussing to cut their co-financing of Interreg programmes post 2020. A lot of activities on informing the government of the added value of the Interreg programmes for Norway. Chesak also informed about the regional reform where 19 regions will merge to 11 in 2020. The Norwegian government will decide on the tasks and responsibilities of the regional level in June 2018.

Danish representative, Otto Kjaer Larsen, informed that there's a relocation of public jobs (4000 jobs) from Copenhagen to other parts of Denmark. It's been proposed to have a new system for calculating money that is transferred between municipalities. Today there's a "Robin Hood"-system to ensure a good service everywhere, so a new system can lead to consequences for the poorer municipalities. Kjaer Larsen will give an update on this on the next Executive Committee meeting. Michel Barnier, European Chief Negotiator for the UK exiting the EU, visited fishing industries and communities in Denmark.

Scottish representative, John Reynolds, informed about the process around Brexit and that the UK government lacks in keeping Scotland informed. There are a lot of investments in Aberdeen on green hydrogen and electricity. Hopefully the city council will approve hydrogen trains between Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

German representative, Antje Grotheer, informed that there is a new federal government in Germany that is pro EU and have already begun talks on higher membership fees to the EU, to compensate for Brexit. The EU Committee of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen is discussing to adopt the CPMR Cardiff position on Brexit.

Swedish representative, Kerstin Brunnström, informed about the coming Swedish election in September and about the EU summit on fair jobs and growth that was held in Gothenburg, November 17 2017.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

11. Interreg North Sea Programme

A presentation by Christian Byrith, Director of the Interreg North Sea Programme, on updates from the programme. The presentation will be sent out with the draft meeting minutes and published on the NSC webpage after the meeting.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

12. Presentation of the Interreg North Sea project “Northern Connections”

A presentation was given by Thomas Pfannkuch, Schleswig-Holstein, on “Northern Connection”, a partnership of 21 clusters, cities, regions and knowledge institutions working together to create innovation connections between enterprises and clusters in the energy sector. The City of Aalborg is lead partner, and several NSC member regions are involved in the project directly or through an organisation.

The presentation will be sent out with the draft meeting minutes and published on the NSC webpage after the meeting.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

13. Process for development of the post-2020 NSR Strategy

Presentation by Magnus Engelbretsson, Executive Secretary, on the process for developing a post 2020 NSR strategy.

Decisions and conclusions

The Executive Committee

1. Adopts the timeline for the strategy process
2. Confirms the need for a 50,000 EUR budget for the process, and takes this figure further to the agenda point of finances
3. Asks the Annual Business Meeting to set up a task force for the strategy process, coordinated by the Secretariat
4. Asks the Annual Business Meeting to appoint the Executive Committee as steering group for the strategy process

14. Action Plan 2018 – 2019

Presentation by Melissa Frödin, Assistant Executive Secretary, on the draft action plan 2018-2019.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee approves the draft action plan 2018 – 2019 for final decision at the Annual Business Meeting.

15. Communication activities plan 2018 - 2019

Presentation by Irma Ganibegovic, Assistant Executive Secretary, on the draft communication activities plan 2018-2019.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee approves the draft communication activities plan 2018 – 2019 for final decision at the Annual Business Meeting.

16. Election of Vice Chair for the Transport Group

Cllr John Reynolds, Aberdeen City, is elected for the position of Vice Chair of the Transport Group 2018-2020.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee elects Cllr John Reynolds, Aberdeen City, as Vice Chair of the Transport Group for the period 2018 – 2020.

17. North Sea Commission Secretariat 2018 – 2021

Presentation by Andreas Lervik, Vice President, on the process of electing a host region for the North Sea Commission Secretariat 2018-2021. There were two candidates, Vestlandsrådet, Norway, and Region Västra Götaland, Sweden, but in February Vestlandsrådet withdrew from the process leaving Region Västra Götaland as the only candidate. Magnus Engelbrektsson presented the ambitions of Region Västra Götaland for the future secretariat work.

Decisions and conclusions

The Executive Committee

1. Appoints Region Västra Götaland to host the NSC Secretariat from the Annual Business Meeting 2018 to the 31st of December 2021.
2. Asks the Vice Presidents to draft and conclude on behalf of the North Sea Commission an agreement between Region Västra Götaland and NSC to be signed at the Annual Business Meeting in Østfold in June 2018.

18. Finances

A report was given by Magnus Engelbrektsson, Executive Secretary. The different models for membership fees will be sent out with the draft meeting minutes.

It was agreed by the members to propose to the ABM that the Executive Committee can use money from the free reserves to support joint meetings of thematic groups if needed.

Decisions and conclusions

The Executive Committee

1. Approves the accounts for 2017 or final approval by the Annual Business Meeting
2. Takes note of the statement of accounts by the 25th of February 2018
3. Approves the budget proposal for 2019 for final decision by the Annual Business Meeting

4. Discusses the financial situation for 2020 and the proposal for a lower breaking point

19. The 27th Annual Business Meeting and North Sea Conference, Fredrikstad

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

20. Next Executive Committee meetings

It was proposed to have a short meeting in Fredrikstad on 13 June in connection with the ABM, a meeting in Brussels on the 11 October in connection with the European Week of Regions and Cities, and a meeting in January (date to be confirmed) dealing mainly with the post-2020 strategy.

Otto Kjaer Larsen informed that Nordjylland can host the Executive Committee meeting either during 2019 or 2020.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee decides adopts the timetable for the next meetings.

Kerstin Brunnström thanked the participants for engaging discussions and informative presentations, and closed the meeting.