

## North Sea Commission Action Plan 2017-2018

NSR 2020 Priority: Managing Maritime Space			
Key action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline
Use maritime spatial planning (MSP) as a tool to promote dialogue between different governmental levels and stakeholders	Increase dialogue with relevant authorities on national level	Coordinate/contribute to NSC activities within the NorthSEE project	Continuous; NorthSEE is a 3 year Interreg-project
	Ensure that relevant EU institutions and member states have a high level of knowledge about the NSR and the NSC's priorities within the field.	Establish contact with the new desk officers at DG Mare	Continuous
		Regular meetings and/or contact with relevant officials and stakeholders to keep them up to date with NSR developments.	2-3 times/year, when Advisors are in Brussels
Ensure sustainable and innovative exploitation of marine resources	Establish a NSC position on Brexit to make sure regional interests are heard	Actively follow Brexit's potential implication on the marine sector	Continuous
	Establish a NSC position on environmental protection	Identify areas of cooperation with Waddensee cooperation and KIMO in field of environmental protection	Q 2, 2018
	Ensure a skilled workforce to meet the needs of the future and livelihood in coastal communities	Boost exchange of experience between member regions regarding maritime skills	Continuous, during working group meetings
		Contribute to the European Commission's blue careers initiative Inform group members and other stakeholders in NSR about relevant EU calls.	Continuous

NSR 2020 Priority: Increasing accessibility and clean transport			
Key action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline
Ensure good access to the TEN-T Core Network for peripheral and maritime regions through funding instruments (the CEF) and governance mechanisms (Core Network Corridor Forums)	The revised and post 2020 CEF regulation is more beneficial for the North Sea Region in terms of accessibility and framework conditions for maritime transport.	Follow up input to revision of CEF-regulation through the CPMR and submit a response to the consultation on behalf of the NSC	Q 3-4 2017
		Inform group members and other stakeholders in NSR about upcoming CEF calls.	Continuous
	More CEF transport projects with involvement of stakeholders in, and/or of benefits to NSC member regions are generated.	Discuss project ideas and exchange information about members' involvement at group meetings.	2-3 times/year at working group meetings and other conferences
	More projects from the NSC member regions are included in the Core Network Corridors' project lists	Provide input and arguments at meetings of relevant Corridor Forums.	2-3 times/year, at Corridor Forum meetings
Facilitate modal shift from road to rail and sea	More funding and higher co-financing rates for MoS projects in the CEF	Provide views on EU implementation plan for MoS through the CPMR	Q 3-4, 2017 as part of input to CEF post 2020
	More favourable conditions for participation in the CEF of actors from peripheral regions and 3 <sup>rd</sup> countries	Collect views and input from, and possibly meet with maritime and rail transport stakeholders in the NSR	Continuous, at least 2-3 meetings/year in relation to working group meetings.
Support measures and incentives to promote clean, efficient and inclusive transport, incl. Clean Shipping	Better policy frameworks, funding opportunities and technological development in support of clean efficient and inclusive transport solutions	Further develop the survey on the use of alternative fuels in public transport and other transport services among NSC members, and keep DG move up to date – use survey as a basis for policy positions and project development	Finalise survey Q 1-2, 2018. Disseminate to dg move continuously.

<p>(cont.)</p> <p><b>Support measures and incentives to promote clean, efficient and inclusive transport, incl. Clean Shipping</b></p>	<p>(cont.)</p> <p>Better policy frameworks, funding opportunities and technological development in support of clean efficient and inclusive transport solutions</p>	<p>Disseminate information on relevant calls under CEF, Horizon 2020 and interreg and initiate/support/shadow projects</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
		<p>Organize and follow-up on project development seminar in cooperation with the NSR programme secretariat on 2 March 2017.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
		<p>Investigate the possibility of using Financial Instruments to promote/develop projects on the greening of transport</p>	<p>Continuous</p>

NSR 2020 Priority: Tackling climate change			
Key action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline
Facilitate climate change adaptation and mitigation through local, regional and national levels	Boost exchange of best practices within climate change and climate change adaptation	Distribute and communicate the brochure for the North Sea based on its best practices.	Continuous
		Develop and communicate factsheets within this brochure for participating regions	Continuous
	Adopt and disseminate a North Sea position on parts of Winter package Energy Union	Give continuous input to the relevant work of the CPMR Climate Taskforce	Continuous
		Develop and communicate the NSC position, in cooperation with the NSC regions and other stakeholders	Statement proposal in June 2017 ABM
			Q 3-4 2017 (communication and dissemination of position)
			Q 4 2017 – Q 1, 2018
Facilitate for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	Monitor developments in the regions, stimulate exchange of best practices.	Exchange of best practices between regions in the group. Focus on reduction of emissions from industries	2-3 times/year Exchange of activities during working group meetings.
		Inform group members and other stakeholders in NSR about relevant EU calls.	Continuous
Promote energy efficiency as well as innovation and green growth in	Monitor developments in the regions, stimulate exchange of best practices	Exchange of best practices between regions.	2-3 times/ year Activities during working group meetings

low-carbon technologies			
Foster strong regional, national and European support for the development of the North Sea Grid	Visibility of NSC positions in relevant statements and documents.	Follow up on participation in Stakeholder Conference Political Declaration in March 2017	Continuous
	Promoting the role of regions in the work related to the MS political declaration off shore wind.	Follow, take part in or contribute with written input to the working group meetings within the countries' cooperation on energy around the NS	MS WG meetings are expected approx. 2 times a year.
	Establish the NSC and its member regions as an active partner in the energy cooperation around the North Sea	Exchange of practices of regional cross border grids interconnections	2-3 times/year at ECCG meetings.
		Meeting with Atlantic Arc Commission of the CPMR on off shore wind.	Q 4, 2017

NSR 2020 Priority: Attractive and sustainable communities			
Key action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline
Support the development of creative and sustainable economic diversification in North Sea communities	Raise awareness of digital economy opportunities and challenges with focus on e-commerce, collaborative economy/digital platforms, broadband connections and creative business development.	Exchange of practice between members, visits to relevant businesses during group meetings	Continuous
	Raise awareness of the circular economy with focus on waste management and industrial opportunities		
	Exchange good practices on tourism development, focus on new types of offers, culinary tourism, activity tourism and health tourism	Continue work on creating a North Sea Seafood Route	
Support the development of permanent networks for cultural actors	Support youth networks in culture	Ensure broad youth representation at Norwegian Youth Culture Festival 2017, and at the 2017 Cultural Summit on Mors	Q 3-4, 2017
Improve policy coordination to address demographic and migration challenges	<u>Exchange knowledge and experiences</u> on migration and work	Arrange a seminar in Aberdeen on migrants and work opportunities - combined with technical visits to selected businesses	Q 4, 2017
Promote maritime clusters to continue to play an important role as provider of blue growth, jobs and innovation.	Joint NSC seminar/conference on Blue Growth	Prepare a 2018 conference on this theme together with the marine resources group and other relevant partners, place to be confirmed, probably Brussels	2018

<p><b>Promote knowledge transfer and cross-overs between different sectors in the North Sea Region</b></p>	<p>Increase knowledge among all member regions about each other's activities and practices in promoting smart development of blue and green growth, infrastructure, climate adaptation, sustainable tourism, inclusion and culture.</p>	<p>Presentations, exchanges and discussions at meetings, presentation of project ideas</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
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### NSR 2020 Guiding principles

Innovation, excellence, sustainability, stakeholder involvement, skills and R&D and visibility are horizontal priorities and are therefore included in all the other priorities.

Strategic issues			
Initiative	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline
<b>Strategic cooperation in the North Sea Region</b>	Promote regional interests in EU actions for the North Sea  Mobilising EU institutions/MS in North Sea cooperation	Follow-up on the EU North Sea Energy cooperation (see above)	Continuous
		Follow-up on preparatory action	Q 3-4, 2017
		Organise a North Sea stakeholder Conference	Q 2, 2018
		A combined NSC-BSC Brussels offices meeting, prior to the CPMR ABM 2017	Q 3, 2017
		Start process for a revised NSR Strategy post 2020	Q 3, 2017
<b>Interreg North Sea Post 2020</b>	Ensure the continuation of interreg B programmes post 2020.	Follow the post 2020 cohesion policy process	Q 3, 2017 - 2018
		Organise a conference on innovation and smart specialisation strategies in the NSR	Q 2, 2018
<b>Use of ad hoc task forces</b>	Ensure that interests of the North Sea Region are heard in the Brexit process	Create and maintain a Brexit task force	2-3 meetings/ year
		Follow Brexit negotiations from a North Sea perspective	Continuous
		Prepare NSC positions and activities when appropriate	Continuous



<b>Strengthen the NSC role within the CPMR</b>	Promote the North Sea perspective in the work of the CPMR	Promote participation of NSC member regions in CPMR working groups and task forces	Continuous
	(cont.)	Speak for North Sea interests in the Future of Europe process and other CPMR position papers	Process with deadline
	<b>Strengthen the NSC role within the CPMR</b>	Promote the North Sea perspective in the work of the CPMR	Promote NSC members as speakers in meetings of the CPMR governing bodies
<b>Attract new members and keep the existing</b>	Strengthen NSC legitimacy as a representative for the entire North Sea region	Building relations with potential new members	Meetings in UK and Schleswig-Holstein 3-4, 2017
	Increase income in order to cover more secretariat costs from the budget	Contact with member regions after elections and mergers	Meetings with Danish members and Trøndelag in Q 1-2, 2018 Meetings with Flevoland and with Belgian regions when appropriate
	Separate the functions of Presidency and Secretariat (subject to ABM:s approval)	Issue call for a member region to host the NSC secretariat 2018-2021	Q3 2017