

74th NSC Executive Committee, 28th June 2017, Göttingen

The meeting starts 18.30 or immediately after the ABM

Draft agenda

Welcome by Cllr **Kerstin Brunström**, NSC President

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes from the 73rd ExCom
3. Follow-up on decisions from the Annual Business Meeting
4. Election of Chairs of thematic groups 2017-19¹
 - a. Energy and Climate Change Group
 - b. Marine Resources Group
 - c. Transport Group
5. Election of one Vice Chair of Marine Resources Group 2017-18
6. Next Executive Committee meeting
7. AOB

¹ The Chair of the Smart Regions Group was elected in October 2016 for the period 2017-2019



74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen

1. Approval of the agenda

Recommendation:

The Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee

- 1. Approves the agenda for the meeting***



74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen

2. Approval of the minutes

Recommendation:

The Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee

- 1. Approves the minutes of the 73rd ExCom meeting, 24th March 2017, Southend-On-Sea***



74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen

73rd NSC Executive Committee meeting

24th March 2017 – 08.30 –13.00, Southend-on-Sea

Draft minutes

73rd NSC Executive Committee, 24th March 2017, Southend-On-Sea

Formalities

Welcome by Cllr **Kerstin Brunström**, NSC President

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of 72nd ExCom in Brussels 21st October 2016

Managing Maritime space

3. Report by Cllr **Anders Fasth**, Chair of Marine Resources Group
4. NSC involvement in European Maritime Day, Poole (UK) 18-19 May

Increasing Accessibility and Clean Transport

5. Report by Cllr **Preben Friis-Hauge**, Chair of Transport Group

Tackling Climate Change

6. Report by **Paulien Kooistra**, Advisor of Energy and Climate Change Group
7. Report by NSC President **Kerstin Brunström** from North Seas Energy Forum

Attractive and Sustainable Communities

8. Report/presentation by Cllr **Otto Kjaer-Larsen**, Vice Chair of new thematic group
9. Name of the new thematic group

Other reports

10. Presidency and secretariat activities by Cllr **Kerstin Brunström**, NSC President
11. Interreg North Sea Programme – state of play, **Christian Byrith**, Director
12. CPMR report, including the Future of Europe process, **Gregg Jones**, Director, CPMR
13. Reports from **national representatives**

Strategic issues

14. Brexit (Secretariat)
15. Action plan 2017-18 (Secretariat and advisors)
16. Communication strategy 2017-19 and communication activities plan 2017-18 (Secretariat)

Organisational issues and finances

17. New model for the NSC Secretariat
18. Accounts 2016
19. Statement of accounts
20. Budget 2018
21. The 26th Annual Business Meeting and North Sea Conference, Göttingen
22. Next ExCom meetings
23. AOB



74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen

Attending

President

Vice President

Danish Representative

Dutch Representative

English Representative

French Representative

German Representative

Norwegian Representative

Scottish Representative

Swedish Representative

Kerstin Brunnström

Andreas Lervik

Preben Friis-Hauge

Nienke Homan

John Lamb

not present

Antje Grotheer (substitute)

Marianne Chesak

not present (proxy for Martin Brebner)

Dag Hultefors

NSC Thematic groups Chairs/Vice Chairs

Energy and Climate Change

Marine Resources

Transport

Smart Regions

Not Present

Anders Fasth

see Danish Representative

Otto Kjaer-Larsen

NSC Secretariat

Executive Secretary

Assistant Executive Secretary

Assistant Executive Secretary

Magnus Engelbrektsson

Melissa Frödin

Irma Ganibegovic

NSC Thematic group Advisors

Energy and Climate Change

Marine Resources

Transport

Smart Regions

Paulien Kooistra

Camilla Løvaas Stavnes

Jon Halvard Eide

Geir Sør-Reime

Supporting Officers and speakers

Christian Byrith, Interreg North Sea Programme

Elmer Koole, Groningen

Gregg Jones, CPMR

Karen Greve Somerset, North Denmark

Kia Sofie Abildtrup, South Denmark

Martin Brebner, Aberdeenshire

Torsten Raff, Bremen

Wim Stoker, Noord-Holland



74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen

Kerstin Brunnström, President of the North Sea Commission, welcomes everyone to the 73rd Executive Committee meeting, and gives a special welcome to Antje Grotheer, Bremen (DE), Christian Byrith, Interreg North Sea Programme, and Gregg Jones, CPMR. Brunnström thanks John Lamb for the kind invitation to host the meeting in Southend-on-Sea, UK.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee approves the agenda.

2. Approval of the minutes from the 72nd Executive Committee meeting

Nienke Homan asks about the agenda point 14. Status on a Preparatory Action for the North Sea Region, and whether DG MARE has made their final report to the European Parliament. Magnus Engelbrektsson informs that DG MARE will attend a meeting with the European Parliament's Intergroup for Seas, rivers, islands and coastal areas (SEARICA) on the 28th of March in Brussels, which technically is the report from DG MARE of the matter. The meeting will however focus on current examples of cooperation in the North Sea, and not on strategic future cooperation. Kerstin Brunnström will attend the meeting.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee approves the minutes of the 72nd Executive Committee meeting, 21st October 2016, Brussels.

3. Managing Maritime Space

An oral report by Cllr Anders Fasth, Chair of Marine Resources Group, and Camilla Løvaas Stavnes, Advisor for the Marine Resource Group, on the groups work. Fasth highlighted that the group followed up their work with discard ban/landing obligation by arranging a seminar with external presentations from Norwegian authorities.

The issue on Brexit and how it may affect the North Sea region is a permanent point on the agenda for the group's meetings, and Fasth encourages the other thematic groups to do the same. Fasth also informs that the cooperation with CPMR on maritime issues is very good.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

4. NSC involvement in European Maritime Day, Poole (UK), 18-19 May

Camilla Løvaas Stavnes informed that NSC applied for a workshop and has now been approved and merged with CPMR. The workshop will focus on skills related challenges in the maritime technology and fisheries sectors.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

5. Increasing Accessibility and Clean Transport

An oral report by Cllr Preben Friis-Hauge, Chair of Transport Group, and Jon Halvard Eide, Advisor for the Transport Group. Friis-Hauge informs that the group appreciates that the Presidency has the ambition to attend thematic group meetings, and a special thanks to Vice President Andreas Lervik for attending the previous meeting. The group has discussed TEN-T post 2020 and has given input to CPMR on the public consultation on the revision of CEF (Connecting Europe Facility).

Friis-Hauge informs that the group also attended a meeting with the Interreg North Sea Programme, in order to inspire member regions to be active in projects.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

6. Tackling Climate Change

An oral report by Paulien Kooistra, Advisor of Energy and Climate Change Group, on behalf of Cllr Jimmy Gray, Chair of Energy and Climate Change Group. Kooistra informs that the group is planning a joint meeting with the Atlantic Arc Commission where the focus will be on public acceptance on offshore wind. Furthermore, the group will monitor the winter package, develop a position for the NSC and give input to CPMR's climate change taskforce.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

7. Report from North Sea Energy Forum, 23rd March, Brussels

Kerstin Brunnström, NSC President, informed that she attended the North Sea Energy Forum as a key speaker on the first panel, "Visions for the North Sea". During the panel Brunnström informed about the NSC's bottom up-approach and role for facilitating dialogue between regions and stakeholders in the North Sea region.

For the NSC, the next step is to be active and give input to the European Commission on good practices in the North Sea.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

8. Attractive and Sustainable Communities

An oral report by Otto Kjaer-Larsen, Vice Chair of the new thematic group and Geir Sør-Reime, Advisor of the new thematic group. Kjaer-Larsen informed that the new thematic group has had a good first meeting where they discussed priorities and upcoming activities. The group has some priorities that interface with the other thematic groups' priorities, which means that there are opportunities for joint activities.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

9. Name of the new thematic group

The new thematic group proposes that their new name should be “Smart Regions – prosperous and sustainable communities”, or Smart Regions Group (SRG) shortly.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee approves the proposal and decides to name the new thematic group “Smart Regions – prosperous and sustainable communities”.

10. Presidency and Secretariat report

Kerstin Brunnström and the NSC Secretariat informs about activities since last executive committee meeting. Regarding Brexit and efforts to strengthen cooperation with UK regions, the CPMR, Atlantic Arc Commission and French member regions have started an English Channel task force, and will invite regions from the UK South coast to a meeting back to back with the European Maritime Day in Poole in May. Vice President John Lamb gave a brief account of yesterday’s meeting with a councilor from Kent County Council, who seems very positive to NSC membership. Elmer Koole announced that the province of Flevoland will probably apply for membership later this year.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

11. Interreg North Sea Programme – state of play

Christian Byrith, Director of the Interreg North Sea Programme, informs about the state of play and encourages a closer cooperation between the Interreg North Sea Programme and the NSC.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

12. CPMR report, including the Future of Europe process

Gregg Jones, Director of Finance and Programmes, gives an update from CPMR’s political bureau in Gozo, Malta, on the 10th of March, and about the process on the Future of Europe. CPMR is proposing a 6th scenario for the Future of Europe (instead of the five scenarios in the European Commission’s white paper) with more focus on the role of regions, territorial cohesion and the importance of cooperation and partnerships.

CPMR is eager to include the geographical commissions in the work and there will be several opportunities for NSC to give input to the Future of Europe process.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.
2. The Executive Committee ask the Secretariat to prepare, in cooperation with CPMR, a Future of Europe workshop in connection with the Annual Business Meeting and the North Sea Conference in Göttingen in June.
3. The Executive Committee recommends the thematic groups to discuss Brexit during working group meetings.

13. Reports from national representatives

English representative, Cllr John Lamb, informs that the work on recruiting new member regions from UK continues.

Swedish representative, Cllr Dag Hultefors, informs that a committee assigned by the Swedish government proposed for larger geographical regions in Sweden, however there wasn't enough support from the political parties so the proposal is dropped for now. The Scandinavian Arena, where Norway, Sweden and Denmark cooperate on regional development, decided to have the OECD do a territorial review of the so called Megaregion Western Scandinavia. The report will be published early 2018.

Dutch representative, Cllr Nienke Homan, informs that there was a general election in the Netherlands 15th March. The Prime Minister's party, People's Party for Freedom, lost some seats, but is expected to lead a new coalition. The nationalist party increased slightly, but not as much as the polls had predicted. Homan's own party, the Green Left, got strong support.

Danish representative, Cllr Preben Fries-Hauge, informs that in November this year there will be local and regional elections in Denmark.

Norwegian representative, Cllr Marianne Chesak, informs that the Norwegian government has proposed to reduce the number of regions from 19 to 10, and a final decision on which regions need to merge will be discussed in the Norwegian parliament in June. However, there will be national elections in September, so there's some uncertainty around the decision in June.

German representative, Antje Grotheer, informs that in there will be a general election September in Germany.

Scottish representative, Martin Brebner, informs that there are local elections in Scotland in May. In light of Brexit, the Scottish regions have gone from a reactive approach to active and will demonstrate the value of EU funded projects to the national level in UK. Fisheries, aquaculture and tourism are some of the areas that can be especially affected by a hard Brexit. According to the position of the Scottish Government, there are three ways: 1. UK stays in the EU's internal market, 2. Scotland stays in the EU's internal market or 3. A Scottish independence from the UK. Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish First Minister, has proposed an independence referendum for the Scottish Parliament.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

14. Brexit

Magnus Engelbrektsson, NSC Executive Secretary, informs that Theresa May, Prime Minister of UK, has said that UK will trigger article 50 and set Brexit in motion 29th March. There is a big uncertainty on how a Brexit can affect the EU and the North Sea, and therefore it is necessary for the NSC to monitor the upcoming process and negotiations. Since last meeting, the NSC has given written evidence to the UK House of Commons Committee on Exiting the EU.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the evidence to the UK House of Commons.
2. The Executive Committee establishes a task force with the responsibility to report to the Annual Business Meeting and the Executive Committee on developments in the Brexit negotiations, to draft opinions and propose NSC action when appropriate, and to involve actively in the CPMR Future of Europe process.
3. The Executive Committee elects Cllr Nienke Homan as political representative to chair the task force.

15. Action Plan 2017-2018

Melissa Frödin, NSC Assistant Executive Secretary, informs that the draft has been issued together with the advisors of the thematic groups and builds on previous action plan and key action areas. Geir Sjør-Reime remarks that the key actions in priority area “Attractive and sustainable communities” do not include changes that were agreed already in 2015, and focus too much on tourism. He will make proposals for changes before the ABM. It is also remarked that two thematic groups will discuss the draft at meetings in April and may want to make changes.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee approves the draft action plan 2017-2018 for final decision at the Annual Business Meeting.

16. Communication strategy 2017-2019 and Communication activities plan 2017-2018

Irma Ganibegovic, Assistant Executive Secretary, informs that the draft has been discussed with the advisors of the thematic groups and aims to complement the action plan.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee approves the draft communication strategy 2017-19 and draft communication plan 2017-18 for final decision at the Annual Business Meeting.

17. New model for the NSC Secretariat

Magnus Engelbrektsson presents the proposal that was drafted together with the task force for a permanent secretariat.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee supports the enclosed proposal to be decided at the Annual Business Meeting.

18. Accounts 2016

Magnus Engelbrektsson informs that the accounts for 2016 will be audited in April. There is a surplus on 7,122€, which gives a total reserve of 225,433€. Of the reserve, 100,000€ is tied-up according to an earlier decision. The rest is a free reserve.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee approves the accounts for 2016 for final approval by the Annual Business Meeting.

19. Statement of accounts

Magnus Engelbrektsson gives an update on incomes and expenses per 21 March, and informs that two thirds of the membership subscriptions for 2017 have been paid.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

20. Budget 2018

Magnus Engelbrektsson presents a draft budget for 2018. The main difference from 2017 is a budget line “Secretariat support” to facilitate the proposed new secretariat model. The budget has a planned deficit of 10,000€, based on the fact that the NSC has had a surplus for several years and has a free reserve of more than 125,000 €.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee approves the budget proposal for 2018 for final decision by the Annual Business Meeting.

21. The 26th Annual Business Meeting and North Sea Conference, Göttingen

Magnus Engelbrektsson informs that the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) and the North Sea conference will take place in Göttingen, Germany, with the ABM on Wednesday the 28th June, and the North Sea conference 29-30th June. The North Sea conference will focus on the four priorities of the North Sea Region 2020 strategy, and there will be a fifth session on Future of Europe. The Chairs of the thematic groups are encouraged to take a part in the session connected to their thematic group’s priority.

Information will be posted on the website and the registration will open in mid-April. All members are recommended to book hotel as soon as possible, in order to get a room at the conference venue and to benefit from the special price with a deadline on 4th of May.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee takes note of the information.

22. Next Executive Committee meetings

Cllr Preben Friies-Hauge proposes to have the autumn Executive Committee meeting in connection with the CPMR’s General Assembly, 18-20th October, in Helsinki, Finland, and not in Brussels. Kerstin Brunnström informs that the Presidency will discuss the two options for next Executive Committee meeting and give an answer before the Annual Business Meeting.

The Executive Committee meeting in spring 2018 will be in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.



74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Executive Committee asks the Presidency to explore the alternative to have the autumn Executive Committee meeting in connection with CPMR's General Assembly instead of in Brussels, and to come back with a recommendation at the meeting in Göttingen.

Kerstin Brunnström thanks the participants for engaging discussions and informative presentations. Brunnström closes the meeting.



74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen

3. Follow-up on decisions from the Annual Business Meeting

Recommendation:

The Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee

- 1. Discusses and takes necessary actions according to the decisions from the Annual Business Meeting***



74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen

4. Election of Chairs of thematic groups 2017-19

The Chair of the **Smart Regions Group** was elected in October 2016 for the period 2017-2019. The other three thematic group Chairs will be elected this year for the period 2017-2019.

By the 24th of May, there are no nominations to the position as Chair of the **Energy and Climate Change Group**. The current Chair, Councillor Jimmy Gray, was re-elected to Highlands Council in May, and may stand for re-election depending on the nomination process in his Council.

The current Chair of the **Marine Resources Group**, Councillor Anders Fasth, Region Västra Götaland (SE), has declared his will to stand for re-election. No other candidates have been nominated.

The current Chair of the **Transport Group**, Councillor Preben Friis-Hauge, Region South Denmark (DK), has declared his will to stand for re-election. No other candidates have been nominated.

Recommendation:

The Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee

- 1. Elects Chairs of the Energy and Climate Change Group, the Marine Resources Group and the Transport Group***



**74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen**

5. Election of one Vice Chair of Marine Resources Group 2017-18

There is a vacant position as Vice Chair after Councillor Jonathan Wills, who has stepped down from his post as a member of Shetlands Council.

Councillor Åshild Kjelsnes, Sogn og Fjordane (NO), has applied for the position (see attached). No other applications have been received.

Recommendation:

The Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee

- 1. Elects one Vice Chair of Marine Resources Group 2017-18***



**74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen**



**SOGN OG FJORDANE
FYLKESKOMMUNE**

Nærings- og kulturavdelinga

Sakshandsamar:

Lena Merete Söderholm
E-post: lena.soderholm@sfj.no
Tlf.: 97035449

Vår ref.

Sak nr.: 17/4582-1
Gje alltid opp vår ref. ved kontakt

Internt l.nr.

19225/17

Dykkar ref.

Dato

LEIKANGER, 11.05.2017

North Sea Commission

att. Executive Secretary Magnus Engelbrektsson

Application - position as Vice-Chair of the Marine Resources Group

Personal information

Åshild Kjelsnes,

Deputy chair of Sogn og Fjordane County Council

Address: Sogn og Fjordane County Council, Fylkeshuset, N-6863 Leikanger, Norway

Phone: +47 918 88 568

Born: 1957

Married

Three grown up children



74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen

Application

I hereby apply for the position as a Vice-Chair in the NSC Marine Resources Group.

I feel that the work carried out by the North Sea Commission is vital for my county, for my country and for the North Sea Region. Links between local engagement and international cooperation are important as important as ever, and I consider international cooperation particularly important in times of general uncertainty and with great challenges coming up e.g. with respect to climate changes.

Sogn og Fjordane County has a variety of resources and important competences within marine and maritime sectors (e.g. fisheries, aquaculture, shipbuilding, offshore renewable energy). We have recently joined the cooperation within S3P-MRE (marine renewable energy). I would like to contribute to building the bridge from a fossil to the zero-emission society. In order to achieve this, we need to build on innovative expertise developed within the marine sectors. I view clean energy, clean oceans and sustainable use of marine resources as very important for our future. In Norway, we have been recently reminded that littering of the oceans is a huge international problem, with birds and whales who die with stomachs filled up with plastic waste. The North Sea Commission could as an international organisation target this problem.

In the position as deputy chair of the County Council I will find the time and opportunity to give priority to the work of the North Sea Commission.

My application is supported by the Chair of the County Council (appendix).

Curriculum Vitae

Education:

Public administration; upper secondary level including additional courses

Political experiences:

Member of Sogn og Fjordane County Council since 1992. In-depth policy areas: economic development, communications and transport including transport safety and climate change mitigation.

Political positions:

2001 -	Member of Sogn og Fjordane County Council's Executive County Board
2009-2011	Deputy chair of Sogn og Fjordane County Council
2011-2015	Chairman of Sogn og Fjordane County Council
2015 -	Deputy chair of Sogn og Fjordane County Council



74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen

- 2008 - Member of West Norway Council (Chairing the WNC in 2012)
- 2009-2015 Member of the board of County Mayors
- 2015 - Board member of KS, Sogn og Fjordane (The National association for municipalities and counties)
- 1997-2003 Board member of SFE (regional energy-supply company)
- 2004-2009 Board member of Fjord 1 (Norway's largest ferry shipping company)
- 2004 - Chair of the Norwegian committee on avalanches and security (Nasjonal rassikringsgruppe)
- 2004-2008 Vice chair of Safe Traffic Norway (Trygg Trafikk Norge)
- 2000-2011 Chairing the Committee on Traffic Safety, Sogn og Fjordane
- Member of the Council of UNESCO world heritage sites (The Norwegian fjord landscape and Urnes stave church)

International experience

- 2012-2016 Board member of Euromontana
- 2013 - Board member of West Norway Brussels Office
- 2015 - Chairing the association owning West-Norway Brussels Office

Sincerely,

Åshild Kjelsnes
Deputy chair of the County Council

Lena Merete Søderholm
Coordinator aquaculture and fisheries

Brevet er elektronisk godkjent og er utan underskrift



74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen

Appendix: Letter of support from Chair of the County Council

Appendix

Hei,

Eg stadfester hermed at fylkesvaraordfører Åshild Johanne Kjelsnes har støtte frå politisk leiing i fylkeskommunen som kandidat til Nordsjøkommissjonen, i rolla som vise-president i marin ressursgruppe. Fylkesutvalet vart informert om saka under FU 3. mai.

Hi,

I hereby acknowledge that county-vice-major Åshild Johanne Kjelsnes has support from the political govern in the county as a candidate for the North Sea Committee, as vice president in the maritime resource-group. Fylkesutvalet, the county executive group, were informed during their meeting Wednesday 3rd of May.

Med helsing

Jenny Følling

Fylkesordfører/ Chair of the County Council

Sogn og Fjordane fylkeskommune/county

Askedalen 2, 6863 Leikanger

Norway



**74th NSC Executive Committee Meeting
28th June 2017
Göttingen**

6. Next Executive Committee meeting

The Secretariat proposes that the 75th meeting of the NSC Executive Committee will be held in Helsinki (FI), on the morning of the 18th October 2017, in connection with the CPMR General Assembly on the following days.

The 76th meeting of the NSC Executive Committee will be held in Schleswig-Holstein (DE) in the spring of 2018, but the exact date is yet to be confirmed.

Recommendation:

The Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee

- 1. Confirms the date for the next ExCom meeting***