

25th NSC Annual Business Meeting,

17th June 201

Vejle, DK

Draft Minutes

NORTH SEA



COMMISSION

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The Annual Assembly is able to vote if at least one quarter of its members are present. When decisions are to be adopted, the President, the vice-presidents and each member Region shall have one vote.

22 members were present to vote

The Region of Zeeland (NL) had given proxy to Nienke Homan, NL to vote for them.

Acting-President Kerstin Brunnström and Vice-President John Lamb each had one vote.

Attending:

Politicians		
Aust-Agder fylkeskommune	Jon-Olav	Strand
	Torunn	Ostad
Buskerud fylkeskommune	Anders	Wengen
Hordaland fylkeskommune	Daniel Charles	Hextall
Land Schleswig-Holstein	Anke	Spoorendonk
Møre & Romsdal fylkeskommune	Erik	Kursetgjerde
Region Halland	Dag	Hultefors
Region Nordjylland	Otto Kjær	Larsen
	Arne	Nielsen
Region Syddanmark	Preben	Friis-Hauge
Region Västra Götaland	Kerstin	Brunnström
	Anders	Fasth
	Birgitta	Adolfsson
Region Örebro County	Erik	Johansson
Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland	Nienke	Homan
	Tjisse	Stelpstra
Southend on Sea	John	Lamb
Telemark fylkeskommune	Hans Edvard	Askjer
Vest-Agder fylkeskommune	Tore	Askildsen
	Beate Marie	Johnsen
Vestfold fylkeskommune	Kåre	Pettersen
Østfold fylkeskommune	Andreas	Lervik
Presidency		
Acting President	Kerstin	Brunnström
Vice-President	John	Lamb
NSC Secretariat		
Executive Secretary	Kate	Clarke
Ass. Executive Secretary	Camilla	Stavnes
Administrative officer	Einar	Stokka

Officers		
Aberdeen City	Stuart	Bews
Bremen	Torsten	Raff
Buskerud fylkeskommune	Trond	Myrland
Buskerud fylkeskommune	Bard	Oyen
Hordaland fylkeskommune	Kathrin	Jakobsen
Hordaland fylkeskommune	Karen	Nybø
Møre og Romsdal fylkeskommune	Birgit	Aaroenæs
Noord Holland	Joram	Snijders
Region Halland	Ulrika	Bertilsson
Region Midtjylland	Henrik	Jensen
Region Nordjylland	Karen Greve	Somerset
Region Syddanmark	Kia Sofie	Abildtrup
Region Syddanmark	Erik	Ørskov
Region Syddanmark	Mette	Bro Lund
Region Västra Götaland	Magnus	Engelbrektsson
Region Västra Götaland	Gustaf	Rehnström
Region Västra Götaland	Charlotta	Lundström
Rogaland fylkeskommune	Simon	Rimehaug
Rogaland fylkeskommune	Eli	Viten
Samenwerkingsverbank Noord Nederlands	Elmer	Koole
Samenwerkingsverbank Noord Nederlands	Martien	Haasjes
Samenwerkingsverbank Noord Nederlands	Paulien	Kooistra
Samenwerkingsverbank Noord Nederlands	Simon	Tijmsma
Schleswig Holstein	Eileen	von Elsner
Schleswig Holstein	Thomas	Pfannkuch
Sør Trøndelag fylkeskommune	Leif Harald	Hanssen
Telemark fylkeskommune	Vibeke	Jakobsen
Telemark fylkeskommune	Dawn Marie	Syvertsen
Vest Agder fylkeskommune	Siv	Hemsett
Vest Agder fylkeskommune	Jon Halvard	Eide
Vestold fylkeskommune	Karen Anne	Kjendlie
Zuid Holland	Foky	Lamboo
Østfold fylkeskommune	Kjersti Helene	Garberg
Thematic Group chairs/vice-chairs		
Marine Resources Group	Anders	Fasth
Transport Group	Preben	Friis-Hauge
	Kaare	Pettersen

Energy and Climate Change Group	Jon Olav	Strand
Culture and Tourism Group	Otto	Kjær-Larsen
Economic Development Group	Apologies	
Thematic Group advisers		
Marine Resource Group	Camilla	Stavnes
Transport Group	Jon Halvard	Eide
Energy and Climate Change Group	Paulien	Kooistra
Culture and Tourism Group	not present	
Economic Development Group	Simon	Tijisma
Observers		
North Sea Interreg Programme	Christian	Byrith
Strathclyde University	Irene	Thomas
Lower Saxony	Monika	von Haaren

Welcome

Welcome by Acting President Kerstin Brunnström

1. Approval of the agenda

Decisions and conclusions:

The agenda was approved

2. Approval of the minutes

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting approved the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting on 18th June 2015

3. Report from the Interreg North Sea Region Programme

Head of the North Sea Region Interreg Secretariat, Christian Byrith, presented a status report of the first year of the new programme period.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting took note of the information

4. President's Report

Acting President Kerstin Brunnström presented the president's report. We are a unique organisation in the North Sea basin. 31 regional authorities working together to exploit the opportunities the North Sea has to offer. Our partners in the member states and in Brussels have high expectations with regards to us. We have local knowledge and we know the stakeholders in our regions. They expect us to be able to give input to important policy processes, develop projects and draw on our network of stakeholders around the North Sea to implement projects and processes. We can play an important part in the future of the development of our region if we truly exploit these opportunities. As an organisation we must be aware of these expectations and develop ways of working so that we can truly deliver under these expectations.

Acting President Kerstin Brunnström thanked all members for their hard work and important contributions during the past year.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting adopted the President's report.

5. Report from NSC Secretariat

Executive Secretary Kate Clarke gave a short presentation of the written NSC Secretariat report, highlighting the importance of the thematic groups, our network, important events and development of the organisation.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting took note of the information.

6. Report from European Maritime Day

Acting President Kerstin Brunnström gave a report from her participation in the European Maritime Day 2016, focusing on her participation in the DG Mare event on blue growth and clusters.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting took note of the information.

7. Annual Reports from the Thematic Groups

The thematic groups summarized their annual reports. The Transport group went more in depth presenting their report on alternative fuels.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting approved all the annual reports of the thematic groups

8. Report from CPMR

The agenda for the CPMR Political Bureau meeting in Finland 17th June and the Final Declaration from the CPMR General Assembly in November 2015 were sent out with the papers.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting took note of the information

9. External Presentation by Dr. Irene McMaster – North Sea in Numbers

The necessity to establish a common evidence base for the North Sea Region was identified early in the revision process of the North Sea Region 2020 strategy document. There is a need to establish North Sea specific statistics and information in order to support our argumentation for more structured cooperation in the North Sea region.

Irene McMaster presented the results at the Annual Business Meeting.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting took note of the information

10. Status on the preparatory action for the North Sea Region

Acting President Kerstin Brunnström gave an update on the status of the preparatory action.

DG Mare is responsible for implementation of the preparatory action. They have decided to organise it in a form of a series of stakeholder conferences. The first one was organized in Edinburgh in January 2015. The next one is taking place in Den Haag 20th-21st June 2016; focusing on strategic cooperation regarding blue growth in the North Sea. The North Sea Commission have been continuously working on closer North Sea cooperation and the role NSC can play – both thematically and strategically. Acting President Kerstin Brunnström has been asked to make concluding remarks to sum up the conference.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting took note of the information

11. Resolution on landing obligation

The Marine Resources group has prepared a resolution on landing obligation, commonly known as discard ban. The paper comments on the implementation of the landing obligation under the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). There is a general support of the landing obligation as a means to prevent overfishing. The changes are already in place, and there is a need to find efficient

ways of implementation. The resolution outlines the concerns that need to be raised to European Commission and member states.

The Dutch members suggested additional remarks on survival rate and social impacts in the meeting, which will be included in the continued work.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting adopted the resolution

12. Political statement on transport

The transport group has prepared a policy statement on transport highlighting some core requirements for the promotion of accessibility to peripheral and maritime regions and for sustainable transport solutions, in line with the NSR 2020 Action Plan. The policy messages in this statement are targeting relevant services of the European Commission, national transport authorities, the CPMR Secretariat and to some extent also our member regions.

The Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland suggested to change point 5 in the statement to read:

'5 In order to ease the compliance with the EU Sulphur Directive for shipping, the European Commission should strengthen the support for alternative shipping fuel like LNG and Methanol'.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting adopted the political statement with the proposed changes from Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland.

13. Revised NSR 2020 Strategy

Ass. Executive Secretary Camilla Løvaas Stavnes summarized the revision process, highlighting the involvement, stakeholder engagement and the different milestones.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting adopted the revised North Sea Region 2020 strategy document.

14. NSR2020 Action Plan 2016-2017

The first action plan for the North Sea Region 2020 strategy paper was approved by the Annual Business Meeting in June 2013 and the NSC Executive Committee and the NSC thematic groups have since then worked on implementing the action plan. It has been decided that a new action plan shall be adopted on an annual basis and the proposal for action plan June 2016 –June 2017 was sent out with the papers. A few structural changes to the action plans were made during the revision process of the North Sea Region 2020. The groups have been challenged to highlight the role of the North Sea Commission in the activities and outcomes.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting adopted the North Sea Region 2020 action plan for June 2016 – June 2017.

15. Legoland declaration 2016

As a political organisation we produce policy positions and contribute under open consultations, we are present in different fora and participate in meetings, moderate workshops and deliver at conferences, either through the Presidency or the working groups and their Chairs. This past year is no exception and the intention is to gather the momentum of the past year and produce a declaration which looks back on the past year but which is also forward-looking with a clear message. The Legoland Declaration has its starting point in the Assen Declaration from last year. Here the message had a clear recipient since it was directed to the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The declaration from the ABM is meant as a general statement for the Commission and other European bodies, as well as our national governments. The papers were sent out four weeks prior to the meeting. All members were invited to submit input to the paper up until 16th June.

A few amendments from the Norwegian regions and Dutch regions were sent within the deadline, a final draft with amendments were distributed to all members.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting adopted the Legoland declaration 2016 with the amendments from the Dutch and Norwegian members.

16. Model for a sustainable NSC Secretariat

President Kerstin Brunnström introduced the papers under agenda point 16.

Decisions and conclusions:

1. The Annual Business Meeting asked the NSC Secretariat to find a solution for a permanent and sustainable Secretariat in some form, which is not part of the CPMR financial structures and without increasing the membership fees. The work is to be carried out by working with the existing task force.
2. The Annual Business Meeting asked the NSC Secretariat to clearly define the role and tasks of the Secretariat in order to better understand the resources needed to run the organisation

17. Proposal for reorganization of the groups

The reorganisation of the thematic working groups was discussed in some detail at the workshop prior to the ExCom in Brussels in October as part of the budgetary exercises. A compromise was reached by the participants following group work and discussions. The conclusions from the workshop were presented to the ExCom the following day with a clear recommendation to reduce the number of working groups from five to four. The process to revise the NSR 2020 strategy has been

running simultaneously and several issues have arisen which have given some direction to a new organisation of the groups. One could argue that the time is ripe to try to align the groups to the strategic priorities of the organisation. This is also a strong recommendation from the COWI evaluation from 2013.

Decisions and conclusions:

1. The Annual Business Meeting decided to close two of the working groups – Economic Development Group and Culture and Tourism Group by the end of 2016.
2. The Annual Business Meeting decided to set up a new thematic working group operative from January 2017, as outlined in the paper
3. The Annual Business Meeting requests the newly elected Chair, Vice-Chairs and newly appointed advisor to suggest a possible name for the new group, to be decided on by ExCom in March 2017
4. The Annual Business Meeting requests the advisors to report yearly to ABM on their financial expenses

18. Communication activity plan

Executive Secretary Kate Clarke gave a short presentation of the communication efforts carried out by the organisation the past year and the plans for the year to come.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting adopted the communication activity plan.

19. Election of NSC President

Acting President Kerstin Brunnström from Västra Götaland, SE was the only candidate that applied within the deadline

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting elected Kerstin Brunnström as the NSC President 2016-2018

20. Election of NSC Vice-President

Two candidates applied for the position as Vice-President within the deadline; Nienke Homan from Groningen, NL and Andreas Lervik from Østfold, NO. They were both given 3 minutes to present themselves to the meeting.

All member regions, NSC president and Vice-Presidents shall have one vote. 22 members were present to vote. The Region of Zeeland (NL) had given proxy to Nienke Homan, NL to vote for them. Acting President Kerstin Brunnström and Vice-President John Lamb had one vote each.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting elected Andreas Lervik from Østfold, NO as NSC Vice-President 2016-2018.

21. Confirmation of Members and Substitute Members to the NSC Executive Committee 2015-2017

The current list of ExCom members were sent out with the papers.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting took note of the list

22. Accounts 2014

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting adopted the accounts for 2015.

23. Audited report of accounts 2014

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting approved the auditor's report for accounts 2015.

24. Financial status as of 30th April 2016

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting approved the updated financial status as of 30th April 2016

25. Proposed Budget 2017

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting adopted the budget under the understanding that the budget will need with reviewing pending the decisions made during the ABM meeting. An updated budget will be presented for the ExCom in October 2016.

26. Meeting plan 2016-2017

An overview of forthcoming meetings was sent out with the papers. The information will also be made available at the NSC website.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting took note of the listed meeting dates.

27. Information regarding the Annual Business Meeting 2017

Due to budget restrictions the NSRP is not able to fund an event on this scale each year in the current programming period 2014-2020. Without the Interreg funding no region has been able to offer to host an event on this scale. The NSC Secretariat is in dialogue with the North Sea Region Programme to try to find a solution. Hordaland, NO has offered to host NSC ABM in the event where no viable solution is found.

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting took note of the information.

28. Email from Lower Saxony

Decisions and conclusions:

The Annual Business Meeting took note of the information

President Kerstin Brunnström gave a special thanks to the host region for the hospitality and for a successful North Sea Conference, as well as to the Secretariat for excellent work and support.