



CPMR NORTH SEA
COMMISSION



CPMR
CRPM

26th NSC Annual Business Meeting

28th June 2017
Göttingen, Germany

Draft minutes

26th NSC Annual Business Meeting, 28th June 2017, Göttingen

13.00-13.30 Opening session

Welcome to Lower Saxony *Mr Stefan Wenzel, Minister for the Environment*

Opening speech: State of the North Sea Region *Cllr Kerstin Brunnström, NSC President*

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the 25th Annual Business Meeting 17th of June 2016 in Vejle

13.30-14.30 Thematic Priorities

3. Managing maritime space *Cllr Anders Fasth, Chair of Marine Resources Group*
4. NorthSEE project *Mr Lodewijk Abspoel, Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment*
5. Increased accessibility and clean transport *Cllr Preben Friis-Hauge, Chair of Transport Group*
6. Tackling Climate Change *Cllr Jimmy Gray, Chair of Energy and Climate Change Group*
7. Attractive and sustainable communities *Cllr Barney Crockett, Chair of Smart Regions group*
8. Interreg projects relevant to NSR 2020 *Mr Christian Byrith, Director Interreg North Sea secretariat*

14.30-15.00 Coffee

15.00-16.30 Future of Europe, future of the North Sea

9. CPMR and the Future of Europe *Ms Eleni Marianou, Secretary General, CPMR*
10. Brexit and the North Sea *Mr Magnus Engelbrektsson, NSC Executive Secretary*
11. Blue growth in the North Sea *Ms Dora Barreira Ramos, European Commission/DG MARE*
12. North Seas Energy Cooperation
Discussion

16.40-18.10 Internal affairs

13. Annual report 2016-2017
14. Action plan 2017-2018 *Ms Melissa Frödin, NSC Assistant Executive Secretary*
15. Communication strategy and plan *Ms Irma Ganibegovic, NSC Assistant Executive Secretary*
16. New model for the NSC Secretariat *Mr Magnus Engelbrektsson, Executive Secretary*
17. Process for a North Sea Strategy post 2020 *Mr Magnus Engelbrektsson, Executive Secretary*
18. Finances *Mr Magnus Engelbrektsson, Executive Secretary*
 - a) Accounts 2016
 - b) Auditor's report on accounts 2016
 - c) Statement of accounts per May 2017
 - d) Budget 2018
19. Election of one Vice President 2017-2019
20. Confirmation of members and substitute members of NSC Executive Committee
21. Meeting plan 2017-2018

18.10-18.30 Closing session

22. Resolutions and policy positions
23. Final declaration
24. Annual Business Meeting 2018
25. AOB
Concluding remarks *Cllr Kerstin Brunnström, NSC President*

Kerstin Brunnström, President of the North Sea Commission, welcomes the members of the North Sea Commission to the 26th Annual Business Meeting. A special welcome to the external guests and to those who are attending the ABM for the first time.

Mr Stefan Wenzel, Minister for the Environment, welcomes the North Sea Commission to Göttingen, Lower Saxony, Germany.

Attending - North Sea Commission Annual Business Meeting 28th June 2017, Göttingen (DE)		
Region	Councillor	Official
Aberdeen City Council	Barney Crockett (Chair SRG)	Laura Paterson
	John Reynolds	Stuart Bews
Aberdeenshire Council		Martin Brebner
Aust-Agder fylkeskommune	Gro Bråten	Lars Holmer Hoven
	Torunn Ostad	
	Inger Lise Aasen	
Buskerud fylkeskommune	Anders Wengen	Bård Øyen
		Trond Myrdal
Freie Hansestadt Bremen	Antje Grotheer	Torsten Raff
Highland Council	Jimmy Gray (Chair ECG)	
Hordaland fylkeskommune	Roald Kvamme	Kate Clarke
Land Niedersachsen	Stefan Wenzel	Franz-Josef Sickelmann
		Monika von Haaren
		Ingrid Möller
		Ingo Stürmer
		Daniel Schmidt
Land Schleswig-Holstein		Nikolaus Jansen
		Eileen von Elsner
Møre og Romsdal fylkeskommune	Jon Aasen	Birgit Aarønaes
	Erik Kursetgjerde	
Provincie Noord-Holland	Cees Loggen	Wim Stooker
		Paul Strijp
		Yolanda Schmal
Region Halland	Dag Hultefors	
Region Midtjylland		Henrik Michael Jensen
Region Nordjylland	Otto Kjaer Larsen (V. Chair SRG)	Karen Greve Somerset
	Arne Nielsen	
	Erik Harbo Larsen	
Region Syddanmark	Preben-Friis Hauge (Chair TG)	Kia Sofie Abildtrup
		Erik Ørskov

Region Västra Götaland/NSC pres./secr.	Kerstin Brunnström (President)	Magnus Engelbrektsson (ExSec)
		Melissa Frödin (A. ExSec)
		Irma Ganibegovic (A. ExSec)
Region Västra Götaland	Anders Fasth (Chair MRG)	Hans-Åke Persson
	Birgitta Adolfsson (V. Chair SRG)	
Region Örebro län	Erik Johansson	Fabian Ilgner
Rogaland fylkeskommune		Geir-Sør-Reime (Advisor SRG)
Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland		Paulien Kooistra (Advisor ECCG)
Sogn og Fjordane fylkeskommune	Åshild Kjelsnes	Lena Søderholm
Sør-Trøndelag fylkeskommune	Karin Bjørkhaug	Leif Harald Hanssen
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	John Lamb (V. President)	
Telemark fylkeskommune	Tone Elisabeth Berge Hansen	Lars Haukvik
		Vibeke Jakobsen
Vest-Agder fylkeskommune	Tore Askildsen	Jon Halvard Eide (Advisor TG)
Vestfold fylkeskommune	Karl Einar Haslestad	Per Jørgen Olafsen
Østfold fylkeskommune	Andreas Lervik (V. President)	Kjersti Helene Garberg
Organisation		
		Name
CPMR		Eleni Marianou
European Commission/DG MARE		Dora Barreira-Ramos
Interreg North Sea Programme		Christian Byrith
Ministry for Infrastructure and environment (NL)		Lodewijk Abspoel

1. Approval of the agenda

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting approves the agenda of the meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 25th Annual Business Meeting

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting approves the minutes of the 25th Annual Business Meeting 2016

3. Managing maritime space

The Chair of the NSC Marine Resources Group, Cllr Anders Fasth, Västra Götaland (SE), gave a report on the developments in the area and on the work of the Marine Resources Group.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the information.

4. NorthSEE project

Mr Lodewijk Abspoel from the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment in the Dutch government gave an update on the project.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the information.

5. Increased accessibility and clean transport

The Chair of the NSC Transport Group, Cllr Preben Friis-Hauge, South Denmark (DK), gave a report on the developments in the area and on the work of the Transport Group.

Friis-Hauge informs that Cllr Peter Argyle has resigned as Vice Chair of the Transport Group, the Secretariat should therefore send out a call for a new Vice Chair of the Transport Group.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the information.

6. Tackling climate change

The Chair of the NSC Energy and Climate Change Group, Cllr Jimmy Gray, Highland (UK), gave a report on the developments in the area and on the work of the Energy and Climate Change Group.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the information.

7. Attractive and sustainable communities

The Chair of the NSC Smart Regions Group, Cllr Barney Crockett, Aberdeen City (UK), gave a report on the developments in the area and on the work of the Smart Regions Group.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the information.

8. Interreg projects relevant to NSR 2020

The Director of the Interreg North Sea Joint Secretariat, Mr Christian Byrith, gave an update from the programme, with focus on ongoing projects of relevance for the priority areas in the North Sea Region 2020 strategy.

The Annual Business Meeting discussed the importance of promoting good examples and highlighting tangible results from the North Sea Commission.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the information.

9. CPMR and the Future of Europe

Ms Eleni Marianou, CPMR Secretary General, gave a report on CPMR's work on the Future of Europe. Regions are encouraged to be active in the discussions on the Future of Europe.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the information.

10. Brexit and the North Sea

Magnus Engelbrektsson, Executive Secretary, reported on the latest developments. The member regions are encouraged to participate in the NSC Brexit task force by attending the meetings and/or sending information and reports on Brexit to the NSC Secretariat.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the information.

11. Blue growth in the North Sea

In April, the EU maritime ministers adopted a declaration on blue growth, reaffirming their political commitment to further grow EU's sustainable blue economy. Ms Dora Barreira Ramos, Policy Officer in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG Mare) gave a report on how the blue economy of the North Sea can be developed.

To foster jobs and growth in the North Sea we need strategic cooperation, and it is for the member states to decide the next step. Therefore, the regions are encouraged to influence national governments and for that the NSC has to agree on what kind of cooperation it wants. The European Commission/DG MARE will assist thereafter.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the information.

12. North Seas Energy cooperation

Kerstin Brunnström gave a report from the North Seas energy forum, 23 March in Brussels.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the information.

13. Annual report 2016-2017

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting approves the annual report 2016-2017.

14. Action plan 2017-2018

A draft action plan was presented by Melissa Frödin, Assistant Executive Secretary.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting approves the action plan 2017-2018.

15. Communication strategy and plan

A draft communication strategy for 2017-2019, and a communication activity plan for 2017-2018 were presented by Irma Ganibegovic, Assistant Executive Secretary.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting approves the communication strategy 2017-2019.
2. The Annual Business Meeting approves the communication activity plan 2017-2018.

16. New model for the NSC Secretariat

A discussion on the new model for the NSC Secretariat arose. Cllr Cees Loggen, Noord-Holland, stressed the importance of a fallback option if there are no regions willing to host the secretariat 2018-2021. Cllr Loggen argued for the secretariat becoming part of the CPMR as the preferred fallback option. The Annual Business Meeting agreed that this could be an option if there are no regions willing to host the secretariat 2018-2021.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting approves the new model for the NSC Secretariat.
2. The Annual Business Meeting asks the Executive Committee to call for a member region willing to host the Secretariat from June 2018 to December 2021 and conclude an agreement with that region.
3. The Annual Business Meeting dissolves the task force for a permanent secretariat.

17. Process for a North Sea Strategy post 2020

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting asks the Executive Committee to start the process to form a post 2020 strategy for the North Sea Region.

18. Finances

Magnus Engelbrektsson gave a presentation on the North Sea Commission's finances. It was proposed that the budget for 2018 has a deficit of 10,000 € to cover part of the support for the secretariat. The NSC has had an annual surplus the last couple of years and has 225,000 € in reserve.

Cllr Cees Loggen stressed the importance of not using the reserves for ordinary expenses, and opposed to the suggested budget for 2018. The Annual Business Meeting agreed to reduce the budget post for travel and accommodation with 10,000 €, in order to have a balanced budget.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting approves the accounts for 2016.
2. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the statement of accounts per 15 May 2017.
3. The Annual Business Meeting approves the budget for 2018, with the amendment of reducing the total expenses to 142,215 € making it a balanced budget.

19. Election of one Vice President 2017-2019

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting elects Cllr John Lamb for Vice President of the North Sea Commission for 2017-2019.

20. Confirmation of members and substitute members of NSC Executive Committee

	Representative	Substitute representative
Denmark	Preben Friis-Hauge, South Denmark	Otto Kjær Larsen, North Denmark
England	John Lamb, Southend-on-Sea	-
France		
Germany		
Norway	Marianne Chesak, Rogaland	Åshild Kjelsnes, Sogn og Fjordane
Scotland	Peter Argyle, Aberdeenshire	John Reynolds, Aberdeen City
Sweden	Dag Hultefors, Halland	Erik Johansson, Örebro
The Netherlands	Nienke Homan, North Netherlands	Cees Loggen, North Holland

Antje Grotheer informs that the German representatives will be elected after the elections.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting confirms the members and substitute members of the NSC Executive Committee for 2017-2018.

21. Meeting plan 2017-2018

Event	Date	Venue
NSC Brexit Task Force	6 September	Brussels
Marine Resources Group	26-27 September	Flekkefjord
Smart Regions Group	4-6 October	Aberdeen
Transport Group	5-6 October	Tönsberg
75 th ExCom	18 October (tbc)	Helsinki
CPMR General Assembly	18-20 October	Helsinki
76 th ExCom	March 2018 (date tbc)	Schleswig-Holstein
27 th Annual Business Meeting	June 2018 (date tbc)	Östfold

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting takes note of the meeting plan 2017-2018.

22. Resolutions and policy positions

- Resolution on **land/sea interaction** by the Marine Resources Group, was adopted without any amendments.
- Resolution on **shore power and the cruise industry** by Vest-Agder County Council, was adopted without any amendments.
- Policy position on the **Energy package “Clean energy for all Europeans”** by the Energy and Climate Change Group, was adopted with the following amendment from Land Niedersachsen:

Page 2, remove “...and the way that renewables interact with the overall supply and demand balance. There are numerous examples of where supply and demand is out of balance but from a social acceptance point of view, badly managed excess solar capacity has potential to undermine the reputation of all renewables. The example of Groningen where excessive solar production went unused and installations were switched on and off frequently damaged inverters and undermined the confidence of consumers investing as generators.”

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting adopts the resolution on land/sea interaction.
2. The Annual Business Meeting adopts the resolution on shore power and the cruise industry.

3. The Annual Business Meeting adopts the policy position on the Energy package “Clean energy for all Europeans” with the proposed amendment.

23. Final declaration

The final declaration, The Göttingen Declaration, was adopted with the following amendments:

1. Amendment by Land Niedersachsen, to add the following to paragraph 3, after the second sentence: *“The North Sea also gives heritage to unique nature and biological resources, e.g. the largest unbroken system of intertidal sand and mud flats in the world.”*
2. Amendment from the Transport Group, to add the following as a separate paragraph: *“9. Appreciates that several NSC member regions have benefited from funding from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to important transport infrastructure projects. We do however believe that the configuration and implementation of the CEF is territorially biased to the detriment of peripheral regions, and we therefore request to raise the ceiling for funding to projects on the comprehensive network. Furthermore, the NSC is calling for the inclusion of links in North Jutland (DK) and between Oslo and Stockholm in the ScanMed corridor in conjunction with the current adjustment of CEF corridors (further specified in the contribution from the CPMR).”*

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting adopts the Final declaration with the two amendments.

24. Annual Business Meeting 2018

Vice President Andreas Lervik welcomes the Annual Business Meeting to Østfold County, Norway.

Decisions and conclusions

1. The Annual Business Meeting welcomes the invitation from Østfold to host the Annual Business Meeting 2018.
2. The Annual Business Meeting asks the Executive Committee to set a date for the Annual Business Meeting 2018 in coordination with the host region and the CPMR.

Concluding remarks by Kerstin Brunnström, NSC President, and a thank you to the members of the Annual Business Meeting for a productive meeting. A special thank you to Minister Wenzel and the officials of Lower Saxony for hosting the meeting. Brunnström declared the 26th Annual Business Meeting closed.