



Ministerin

An den Vorsitzenden des
Europaausschusses des
Schleswig-Holsteinischen Landtages
Herrn Peter Lehnert, MdL
Landeshaus

Kiel

Kiel, 15. April 2014

**Bericht über die Sitzung des Vorstandes der Nordseekommission (NSC)
am 12.03.2014 in Aalborg (Dänemark)**

Sehr geehrter Herr Vorsitzender,

anliegend übersende ich Ihnen zur Unterrichtung einen schriftlichen Bericht über die jüngste Sitzung des Vorstandes der Nordseekommission (NSC Executive Committee).

Gern bin ich bereit, hierüber auch mündlich in einer der nächsten Sitzungen des Ausschusses zu berichten. Ich gebe dabei allerdings zu bedenken, dass zu den in diesem Bericht ausführlicher dargestellten Themen wesentliche Fortschritte erst nach der NSC-Jahresversammlung und der nächsten Sitzung des Vorstandes der Nordseekommission – beide am 27.06.2014 in Aberdeen (Schottland) – berichtet werden können.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Anke Spoorendonk

Anlagen: 1

**Bericht über die 64. Sitzung des Executive Committee (Vorstand)
der Nordseekommission (NSC) sowie über die
„NSC 25th Anniversary Stakeholder Conference“
12.-14.03.2014, Aalborg/Dänemark**

Seit Juni 2012 wird der deutsche Sitz im NSC Executive Committee von Ministerin Spoorendonk wahrgenommen (Stellvertreter: Hermann Kuhn, Mitglied der Bremischen Bürgerschaft). An der jüngsten Sitzung des NSC Executive Committee am 12.03.2013 (Aalborg/Dänemark) hat Ministerin Spoorendonk teilgenommen. Die Hansestadt Bremen war auf Arbeitsebene vertreten.

Zusammenfassung:

Im Mittelpunkt der Sitzung stand die Fortsetzung des vor einem Jahr begonnenen Reformprozesses zur **Struktur und Arbeitsweise der NSC**. Dieser kontinuierliche Reformprozess war wesentlich von der Initiative des bisherigen NSC-Präsidenten Ole B. Sørensen geprägt. Nachdem dieser bei den bei den dänischen Regionswahlen (am 19.11.2013) nicht erneut in den Regionsrat Nordjylland gewählt worden war und infolgedessen sein Amt als NSC-Präsident zur Verfügung gestellt hatte, ist die vormalige Dynamik in diesem Reformprozess merklich gesunken. Dies ist wesentlich darauf zurückzuführen, dass zwar der NSC-Vizepräsident John Lamb (Southend-on-Sea, England) als derzeit amtierender Präsident die Kontinuität der Arbeit der NSC wahren will, jedoch bislang noch keine Bewerbungen für die Übernahme des NSC-Vorsitzes bekannt sind.¹ Die Neuwahl des Präsidenten soll bei der NSC-Jahresversammlung (27.06.2014, Aberdeen/Schottland) erfolgen.

Gleichwohl wurde in der Sitzung der bei der Vorstandssitzung in Bergen (24.10.2013) begonnene Prozess zur stärkeren **Einbindung der Mitglieder des Executive Committee** in die politische Verantwortung der NSC-Arbeit vorerst abgeschlossen: Mit der Annahme eines „*Code of conduct for the Executive Committee*“ wurde eine Reihe von Aufgaben festgelegt, die die Vorstandsmitglieder in und zwischen den Sitzungen des Vorstandes wahrzunehmen haben. Zur stärker **politischen Ausrichtung der NSC-Arbeit** wurde erstmals der NSC-Aktionsplan zur Umsetzung der NSC-Strategie „*North Sea Region 2020*“ (*NSR 2020*) für 2014/2015 fortgeschrieben. Damit geht die Überprüfung der im

¹ Eine Aufruf zur Bewerbung um die vakante Position des NSC-Präsidenten ist mittlerweile durch das NSC-Sekretariat per e-mail an alle NSC-Mitgliedsregionen erfolgt.

Aktionsplan 2013/2014 festgelegten Arbeitsschritte einher, die wesentlich von den NSC-Arbeitsgruppen zu leisten sind. In Ausführung dieses aktuellen Aktionsplans wurde vom Vorstand ein politisches Positionspapier zur Maritimen Raumordnung angenommen, das von der AG „Marine Resources Group“ vorgelegt worden war. Alle drei genannten Papiere werden der NSC-Jahreskonferenz zur abschließenden Beschlussfassung vorgelegt werden.

In der Vorstandssitzung spielten darüber hinaus die vom bisherigen NSC-Präsidenten erfolgreich lancierten kleinen EU-Haushaltszeile „Preparatory Action for the North Sea Region“, Finanzierungsprobleme für das vom jeweiligen NSC-Vorsitz vorzuhaltende NSC-Sekretariat sowie die Verzögerung beim EU-Programm INTERREG 5 B Nordsee eine Rolle. Letzteres hemmt die Arbeit der NSC-Arbeitsgruppen derzeit deutlich, sofern diese Projekte zur Umsetzung der NSR 2020-Strategie anstreben.

Im Anschluss an die Sitzung fand am 13./14.03.2014 anlässlich des 25-jährigen Bestehens der NSC die „**NSC 25th Anniversary Stakeholder Conference**“ statt. Neben einem historischen Rückblick zu Konferenzbeginn und einer politischen Paneldiskussion über „added value of connecting North Sea communities through regional co-operation“ zu Konferenzabschluss standen zwei zentrale Themen in Plenarsitzungen und parallelen Workshops im Mittelpunkt:

- „*Energy and climate change - challenges and opportunities for our communities*“
und
- „*Co-existence between different users of the North Sea – blue growth, fisheries, marine preservation and coastal communities*“.

Politischer Hauptredner war der britische Staatssekretär für Schottland, Alistair Carmichael, Member of Parliament, zum Thema „*Connected and sustainable North Sea Communities*“.²

NSC-Aktionsplan 2014/2015 zur Umsetzung der NSC-Strategie „NSR 2020“ und Arbeitspläne der NSC-Arbeitsgruppen:

Zuletzt hatte die NSC-Jahresversammlung am 13.06.2013 (Halmstad/Schweden) den vom Executive Committee vorgelegten Vorschlag für einen Aktionsplan zur Umsetzung der NSC-Strategie „North Sea Region 2020“ formal gebilligt. Dies beinhaltet auch eine Fokussierung der Arbeit der NSC-Arbeitsgruppen („Thematic Groups“) auf **vier Handlungsfelder der NSC Strategie**

- *Managing Maritime Space*
- *Increasing Accessibility and Clean Transport*

² Mehr zur „NSC 25th Anniversary Stakeholder Conference“ im Internet unter:
www.northsea.org/index.php/stakeholder-conference-2014

- *Tackling Climate Change*
 - *Attractive and Sustainable Communities*
- sowie das arbeitsgruppen-übergreifende Querschnittsfeld *Promoting Innovation, Excellence and Sustainability*.

Hierzu waren in dem im Juni 2013 beschlossenen Aktionsplan von den einzelnen Arbeitsgruppen Kernmaßnahmen („key activities“) erarbeitet worden, die in 2013/2014 schwerpunktmäßig bearbeitet werden sollen.³

Grundidee dieses Aktionsplans, der regelmäßig fortgeschrieben soll, ist die Mess- und Überprüfbarkeit der erzielten Arbeitsfortschritte, um bei der jährlichen Überprüfung neue Kernmaßnahmen festlegen bzw. gescheiterte Kernmaßnahmen durch andere ersetzen zu können. Zu diesem Zweck waren zur letzten Vorstandssitzung erstmals Arbeitspläne der Arbeitsgruppen vorgelegt worden, die eine um Indikatoren erweiterte Liste der Kernmaßnahmen des Aktionsplans 2013/2014 abbilden. Diese sind jetzt von den Arbeitsgruppen für den Zeitraum Oktober 2013 bis Oktober 2014 fortgeschrieben und um Darstellungen zu anstehenden Umsetzungsarbeiten ergänzt worden. Zu Umsetzungsmaßnahmen zählen u. a. einzelne fachliche Projektvorhaben, aber auch die Erarbeitung thematischer politischer Positionspapiere für den NSC-Vorstand. Beide Papiere bilden zusammengekommen das Paket „Umsetzung des Aktionsplans 2013/2014 und neuer Aktionsplan für 2014/2015“. Dieses Paket soll der NSC-Jahresversammlung im Juni vorgelegt werden.⁴

Angesichts der Kürze der Zeit zwischen Annahme des Aktionsplans 2013/2014 (Juni 2013) und dessen Überprüfung im März 2014 erscheint es nicht verwunderlich, dass sich der bisherige und der neue Aktionsplan noch weitgehend ähneln. Um allerdings eine tatsächlich messbare Überprüfbarkeit der vorgesehenen Maßnahmen sicherstellen zu können, mahnte **Ministerin Spoorendonk** in der Aussprache an, zumindest für die Vorhaben, die nicht von mittelfristiger Natur sind, konkrete Zieldaten für die Umsetzung bis 2015 vorzusehen. Dieser Vorschlag stieß zwar grundsätzlich auf Zustimmung. Allerdings wurden – offenbar, um einem neuen NSC-Vorsitz nicht vorzugreifen – zum gegenwärtigen Zeitpunkt keine entsprechenden Änderungen an der Vorlage vorgenommen.

Der aktuelle Stand dieses ersten Reformprozesses zur stärkeren politischen Ausrichtung der NSC-Arbeit wirkt angesichts der bestehenden Berichtsvielfalt noch etwas holprig.

³ Zu Hintergründen und Perspektiven des auf der NSC-Strategie „North Sea Region 2020“ aufbauenden NSC-Reformprozesses wird auf die zu den beiden vorangegangenen Sitzungen des NSC Executive Committee übermittelten schriftlichen Berichte verwiesen (**Umdruck 18/1193**: Bericht über die Sitzung am 08.03.2013, **Umdruck 18/1688**: Bericht über die Sitzung am 13.06.,2013; **Umdruck 18/2202**: Bericht über die Sitzung am 24.10.2013).

Fundstellen im Internet zum Strategiepapier „North Sea Region 2020“ unter: www.northsea.org/index.php/strategy-and-development/north-sea-region-2020, zum Aktionsplan 2013/2014 unter: www.northsea.org/index.php/strategy-and-development/action-plan

⁴ Vgl. hierzu die im Anhang zu diesem Bericht beigefügten **Anlagen 2 und 3**

Dennoch erscheint dieses wichtige Vorhaben des bisherigen NSC-Präsidenten nunmehr etabliert.

Weiteres Verfahren:

Weitere Abarbeitung der Arbeitsaufträge durch die NSC-Arbeitsgruppen („Thematic Groups“). Beschlussfassung über den fortgeschriebenen Aktionsplan 2014/2015 durch die NSC-Jahresversammlung. Ausarbeitung fortgeschriebener Arbeitspläne der NSC-Arbeitsgruppen (für den Zeitraum Oktober 2014 – Oktober 2015) zur Oktober-Sitzung des Vorstandes.

„Code of conduct for the Executive Committee“ – stärkere Einbindung der Vorstandsmitglieder in die politische Verantwortung für die NSC:

Das vorgelegte Papier geht auf die in der Vorstandssitzung am 24.10.2013 geführte Kleingruppendiskussion zum Selbstverständnis der Mitglieder des Executive Committee und zur Arbeitsstruktur der NSC zurück.⁵ Gestützt auf eine Auflistung der dort vorgetragenen Vorschläge hatte das NSC-Sekretariat im Januar eine Abfrage an alle Vorstandsmitglieder zu ihren politischen Prioritäten durchgeführt. Auf dieser Grundlage war das vorgelegte kondensierte Papier erstellt worden, das nunmehr formal von der NSC-Jahresversammlung gebilligt werden muss.⁶

Zu den wesentlichen Punkten dieses Papiers zählen u. a. folgende Aufgaben, die von den Mitgliedern des Executive Committee und den NSC-Arbeitsgruppen künftig verstärkt eingefordert werden:

- stärkere Wahrnehmung der **Funktion eines „nationalen Repräsentanten“** (Meinungsbildung und Interessensvertretung für alle NSC-Mitglieder des Heimatlandes, Aufbau eines Kommunikationsnetzes zwischen den Vorstandssitzungen, Aufbau eines Unterbaus auf politischer und administrativer Ebene zwischen allen NSC-Mitgliedsregionen des Heimatlandes);
- verstärkte Ausarbeitung fokussierter politischer Positionspapiere durch die **NSC-Arbeitsgruppen** zur Beschlussfassung durch den Vorstand und Aufbereitung wichtigerer NSC-relevanter Themen zur Diskussion im Vorstand;
- stärkere Ausrichtung auf **NSC-relevante Themen der EU-Politik** (jährlich eine Vorstandssitzung zu EU-Politikthemen in Brüssel, Aufbau eines NSC-Netzwerkes von Regionalbüros in Brüssel zum Screening aktueller EU-Politikentwicklungen und zu deren Aufbereitung für den NSC-Vorstand).

⁵ Vgl. hierzu **Umdruck 18/2202: Bericht über die Sitzung am 24.10.2013**

⁶ Vgl. hierzu die im Anhang zu diesem Bericht beigefügten **Anlage 4**

In der Aussprache mahnte **Ministerin Spoorendonk**, dass dieses Papier nicht einfach nur beschlossen, sondern vor allem auch gelebt werden müsse. Hierzu unterstrich sie erneut, unter welche Leitgedanken sie ihre persönlichen Prioritäten in der o. g. Abfrage des NSC-Sekretariats im Januar gestellt hätte: Repräsentativität der Anwesenheit und Arbeit der Vorstandsmitglieder, konstruktive Maßnahmen zur besseren Anbindung der NSC-Arbeitsgruppen an die Politiken des Vorstandes, verstärkte Beobachtung der EU-Politikentwicklungen als notwendige Voraussetzung für eine bessere Einbringung politischer NSC-Positionen in Brüssel sowie eine gute und gezielte thematische Vorbereitung der vorgesehenen jährlichen Vorstandssitzungen in Brüssel.

Als erste Maßnahme zur Umsetzung dieser Vorgaben hatte die NSC-Arbeitsgruppe „Marine Resources“ den Entwurf eines **politischen Positionspapiers zur Maritimen Raumordnung im Nordseeraum** vorgelegt. Unabhängig vom Stand der aktuellen Diskussion um eine entsprechende EU-Richtlinie werden darin v. a. eine hinreichende Verzahnung mit landgebundener Raumordnung (einschl. Integriertem Küstenzonenmanagement) von den nationalen Regierungen eingefordert sowie die Notwendigkeit und die Chancen einer stärkeren Einbeziehung der regionalen Ebene in entsprechende nationale Regularien und Maßnahmen herausgestellt. Das vom Vorstand gebilligte Positionspapier wird zur abschließenden Beschlussfassung der NSC-Jahresversammlung vorgelegt werden.⁷

Weiteres Verfahren:

Formale Beschlussfassung zu beiden Papieren durch die NSC-Jahresversammlung im Juni 2014.

EU-Haushaltszeile „Preparatory Action for the North Sea Region“:

Im **EU-Budget 2014** ist unter der Budgetlinie „Preparatory Actions“ (Vorbereitung für Makroregionen) eine kleinere Haushaltszeile zur vertiefenden Analyse der potenziellen Makroregion „North Sea Region“ eingestellt worden. Diese Haushaltszeile war vom bisherigen NSC-Präsident Sørensen persönlich über das EP erfolgreich lanciert worden.

Ausgestattet ist diese Haushaltszeile mit 250.000 € – im Vergleich zur Mittelausstattung für „Preparatory Actions“ in der bereits akzeptierten EU-Makroregion Donaauraum oder zur Einführung der EU-Atlantik-Strategie (zwischen 1,5 und 2,0 Mio. €) ein durchaus geringfügiger Betrag. Auf Grundlage einer vertraglichen Vereinbarung mit der Europäischen Kommission können aus dieser Budgetlinie, die eigentlich für die Vorbereitung von makroregionalen EU-Strategien (jeweils auf Beschluss des Europäischen Rates) ausgelegt ist, in einer ersten Phase vertiefende Analysen, Stakeholder-Konferenzen und follow up-Dialog mit Stakeholdern finanziert werden.

⁷ Vgl. hierzu die im Anhang zu diesem Bericht beigefügten **Anlage 5**

Zwar bezieht sich diese Haushaltszeile explizit auf die Vorarbeiten der von der NSC selbst erstellten **Strategie „North Sea Region 2020“ (NSR 2020)**, und sie bezeichnet die NSC mehrfach als Partner zu diesem Vorhaben. Allerdings ist die NSC mangels eigenem Legalstatus selbst nicht antragsberechtigt. Auf eine Ausschreibung der zuständigen DG REGIO hin könnte jedoch die **NSC-Mutterorganisation KPKR**, die über einen eigenen Legalstatus verfügt, inen Antrag einreichen. Entsprechend fand bereits Ende Januar zu Inhalten eines möglichen Antrags ein Treffen der beiden aktuellen Vizepräsidenten und des Leiters des NSC-Sekretariat mit Vertretern des KPKR-Generalsekretariats statt.

Allerdings ist derzeit völlig unklar, ob, wann und in welcher Form die DG REGIO eine mögliche Ausschreibung zur Umsetzung dieser Haushaltszeile starten wird. Derzeit verhält sich die Kommission hierzu noch äußerst zurückhaltend. Dies kann möglicherweise dadurch begründet sein, dass die Kommission beauftragt ist, zwei weitere makroregionale EU-Strategien zusätzlich zu den beiden bereits bestehenden auszuarbeiten.⁸

In der Aussprache wurde zwar die Einstellung der Haushaltszeile in den aktuellen EU-Haushalt einhellig als **Chance für die weitere Konkretisierung und Umsetzung der NSC-Strategie NSR 2020** außerhalb der von der NSC und ihren Mitgliedsregionen selbst zu bearbeitenden Themenfeldern begrüßt. Angesichts der gegenwärtigen Unklarheiten jedoch konnte kein weiteres Verfahren hierzu beschlossen werden. Der aktuelle NSC-Vorsitz und das NSC-Sekretariat wurden mandatiert, in Zusammenarbeit mit der KPKR weiter den Kontakt zur DG REGIO zu halten und das Vorhaben weiter voranzutreiben.

Weiteres Verfahren:

Unterrichtung des Vorstandes über aktuelle Entwicklungen durch Vorsitz bzw. Sekretariat per mail. Erneute Erörterung zum aktuellen Sachstand in der Vorstandssitzung am 27.06.2014.

Aktuelle Struktur der Finanzierung des NSC-Sekretariates:

Problematisiert wurde die Regel, dass das Sekretariat **vom jeweiligen NSC-Vorsitz vorgehalten** werden muss. Dies mache kleineren und finanzschwächeren Mitgliedsregionen eine Kandidatur für den NSC-Vorsitz unmöglich.⁹

⁸ Neben **Donauraum-Strategie** und **Ostsee-Strategie** sind dies neu: **Adriatisch-ionischer Raum** und **Alpenregion** (Aufträge des Europäischen Rates vom 13./14.12.2012 bzw. vom 19./20.12.2013)

⁹ Aus politischer Verbundenheit hat sich die Region Nordjylland dazu bereit erklärt, das aktuelle NSC-Sekretariat in Aalborg auch über das Ausscheiden des bisherigen NSC-Präsidenten hinaus vorzuhalten. Eine Übergabe des Sekretariats an die Mitgliedsregion des im Juni neu zu wählenden NSC-Präsidenten wird routinemäßig Anfang Oktober d. J. stattfinden.

Eine Ansiedlung des Sekretariats bei der Mutterorganisation KPKR würde allerdings auch keine Lösung bieten, da hierfür ein guter Teil der bislang ausschließlich für Maßnahmen und Strukturen (Sitzungen und Konferenzen, Entschädigung der AG-Koordinatoren, Reisekosten für Sekretariat, Präsident und Vizepräsidenten) verwendeten Beitrags-einnahmen eingesetzt werden müssten.¹⁰

Eine Möglichkeit wäre ggf. die Einrichtung eines permanenten Sekretariats in einer der NSC-Mitgliedsregionen. Hierfür wäre allerdings eine Umlage der Grundkosten auf alle NSC-Mitgliedsregionen erforderlich. Angesichts der gegenwärtigen Mitgliederzahl der NSC (34 Mitgliedsregionen) würde dies allerdings eine spürbare Erhöhung des Mitgliedsbeitrages bedeuten.

Weiteres Verfahren:

Fortsetzung der Diskussion auf Grundlage einer Gegenüberstellung von Vor- und Nachteilen (Papier des Sekretariats) in der Vorstandssitzung am 27.06.2014. In der Erwartung einer Präsidentschaftsbewerbung unter den derzeit geltenden Regularien wurde festgehalten, dass eine ggf. für erforderlich erachtete Änderung der Finanzierungsregelung für das NSC-Sekretariat erst in 2015 – mit Wirkung auf die dann nachfolgende Präsidentschaftsperiode ab Mitte 2016 – beschlossen werden könne.

Weitere Punkte der Tagesordnung:

- Aus den Tätigkeitsberichten der NSC-Arbeitsgruppen wurde deutlich, dass die aktuelle Arbeit einiger Arbeitsgruppen derzeit noch von der Fortdauer des Programmierungsprozess zum INTERREG 5 B-Programm beeinträchtigt wird.
- Der Jahresmitgliedsbeitrag für 2015 wird erneut auf der bisherigen Höhe festgeschrieben.

Ausblick, nächste Termine:

- **25.-26.06.2014:** gemeinsame Jahreskonferenz der NSC und des INTERREG Nordseeprogramms, Aberdeen (Schottland/UK)
- **27.06.2013:** NSC Annual Business Meeting und Executive Committee, ebda.
- **23.10.2014:** Executive Committee in Brüssel (??)

Anm.: Termin/Ort eher unwahrscheinlich, weil vom neuen NSC-Vorsitz erst ab Juni d. J. vorzubereiten.

MJKE, Thomas Pfannkuch, II 503 (i.V. für II 513) – 07.04.2014

¹⁰ Unter allen sechs geografischen Kommissionen der KPKR verfügen nur die **North Sea Commission (NSC)** und die **Baltic Sea Commission (BSC)** über eigenständige Sekretariatsstrukturen. Hingegen sind die Sekretariate von **Black Sea Commission, Intermediterranean Commission, Islands Commission** und **Atlantic Arc Commission** sämtlich bei der KPKR angesiedelt.

Anlagen:

- 1) Tagesordnung der 64. Sitzung des NSC Executive Committee, 12.03.2014
- 2) "North Sea Region 2020 – Action Plan 2013-2014" (in der am 12.03.2014 vorläufig beschlossenen Fassung)
- 3) „North Sea Region 2020 Work Plans October 2013 – October 2014" (zum 12.03.2014 vorgelegte Statusberichte der NSC-Arbeitsgruppen)
- 4) „The code of conduct for the Executive Committee" (in der am 12.03.2014 vorläufig gebilligten Fassung)
- 5) „MSP Draft Resolution" (Politisches Positionspapier zur Maritimen Raumordnung, in der am 12.03.2014 gebilligten Fassung)

Anlage 1:

Tagesordnung der 64. Sitzung des NSC Executive Committee, 12.03.2014



**64th NSC Executive Committee meeting
13.00 – 17.00 on 12th March 2014
Old City Hall, Aalborg, Denmark**

Agenda

FORMALITIES
Welcome by Acting President John Lamb
1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes
STRATEGIC ISSUES
3. Status on the Preparatory Action for the NSR
4. NSR 2020 Action plan
5. NSR2020 work plans
6. Code of conduct for the Executive Committee
7. Position paper/resolution from MRG on maritime spatial planning
NSC ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES
8. Election of vice-chair of the Energy and Climate Change Group
9. North Sea Stakeholder conference
10. European Maritime Days 2014
11. North Sea Conference 2014
FINANCES
12. Annual accounts 2013
13. Statement of accounts as per 10 th February 2014
14. Proposal for budget 2015
15. Funding of CPMR geographical commissions
REPORTS
16. Report from the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme
17. Thematic Groups' activity reports
18. Reports from national representatives
19. Activity report from the NSC Secretariat
20. Report from the CPMR
AOB
21. Meeting plan 2014
22. European Strategy for more Growth and Jobs in Coastal and Maritime Tourism

Anlage 2:

„North Sea Region 2020 – Action Plan 2014-2015” (am 12.03.2014 vorläufig beschlossene Fassung)

<p style="text-align: center;">North Sea Region 2020 Draft action plan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proposed key measures June 2014 – June 2015</p>				
NSR 2020 Priority:				
1. Managing maritime space				
NSR 2020 measures	Key activities	Expected results/outcomes	Instrument	Lead
Exchange best practice on Maritime Spatial Planning(MSP)/ Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)	<p>Follow up the analysis of existing MSP policies and strategies around the North Sea, focusing on fisheries and aquaculture.</p> <p>Influence the development and implementation of the EU MSP/ICZM- directive</p>	<p>Analysis of the role of fisheries and aquaculture in different MSP policies and strategies around the North Sea.</p> <p>Common MSP position on MSP/ICZM</p> <p>Dialogue with member states on NSC position on MSP/ICZM</p>	<p>Lobbying</p> <p>Policy generation</p> <p>Collection and compilation of data</p> <p>Stakeholder involvement</p>	<p>Primary: MRG</p> <p>Secondary?</p>
Promote sustainable and innovative exploitation of marine resources	<p>Carry out/commission a study on the potential impact on coastal communities of the landing obligations</p> <p><i>Best practice exchange of implementation of CFP reform on mixed fisheries.</i></p> <p><i>Support innovation and development of selective fishing gear through etc. European Fisheries Technology Centre</i></p> <p>Support establishment of a scientific working group on</p>	<p>Analysis of the impact of the landing obligations around the North Sea.</p> <p>Exchange of best practice, etc from the Skagerrak pilot project.</p> <p>Exchange of information with relevant R&D insitutions</p>	<p>Lobbying</p> <p>Policy generation</p> <p>Collection and compilation of data</p> <p>Stakeholder involvement</p>	<p>Primary: MRG</p> <p>Secondary?</p>

	aquaculture			
Promote dialogue between all users of the NS to facilitate policy integration	<p>Promote the establishment of a North Sea Stakeholder Forum</p> <p>Active participation in the stakeholder conference as part of the NSC 25th anniversary</p> <p>Encourage member regions to facilitate for local stakeholder involvement</p>	Better dialogue between users of the North sea	Stakeholder involvement	Primary: MRG Secondary?
2. Increasing accessibility and clean transport				
NSR 2020 measures	Key activities	Expected results/outcomes	Instrument	Lead
Ensure good access to TEN-T Core for peripheral and maritime regions	<p><i>Provide arguments and data in support of a coordinated transnational development of transport connections and ports of peripheral and maritime regions through statements to consultations on relevant EU policy papers & instruments, and through the CPMR Intercom Working group on transport.</i></p> <p><i>Work to ensure that the NSC is represented in corridor forums to be established for the implementation of relevant Core Network Corridors (NS-Baltic, Scandinavian-Mediterranean and NS-Mediterranean).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide input to the work plans of the corridor forums</i> • <i>Promote the regional and maritime dimensions of</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>. NSC participation in Core Network Corridor forums</i> • <i>Funding decisions at EU and national levels (more long-term) in support of projects</i> • <i>Input (arguments and data) submitted to the CPMR Transport group</i> 	<p>Collection and compilation of data</p> <p>Policy generation</p> <p>Lobbying</p>	Primary: TR

	<i>relevant corridors</i> <i>Explore funding opportunities supporting the development of relevant corridors</i>			
Support measures and incentives to promote clean transport incl. clean shipping	<p>Compile and disseminate existing good practice.</p> <p>Explore the option of developing or capitalizing on results from relevant EU-funded projects.</p> <p>Explore the conditions for and consequences of implementing the IMO & EU Sulphur Directive in the NSR</p>	Improved conditions for reducing emissions and other negative impacts from surface transport and shipping	<p>Collection and compilation of data</p> <p>Projects</p> <p>Policy generation</p> <p>Lobbying</p>	<p>Primary: TR</p> <p>Secondary: MRG, ECCG, EDG</p>
Counteract uneven playing field between modes disfavoured maritime transport	Provide arguments to the EC based on input from the maritime transport industry on the need to improve the framework conditions of maritime transport, incl. arguments for providing investments and start-up and operational support to sea-based services in relevant EU instruments	<p>The administrative framework for maritime transport is equivalent to/not inferior to land-based transport modes.</p> <p>Improved conditions for starting up and operating sea-based services</p>	<p>Collection and compilation of data</p> <p>Policy generation</p> <p>Lobbying</p>	<p>Primary: TR</p> <p>Secondary: MRG</p>
3. Tackling climate change				
NSR 2020 measures	Key activities	Expected results/outcomes	Instrument	Lead
Develop catalogue and action plan for climate adaptation	Work with members in developing the action plan	A Catalogue of actions for members to take forward	Collection of Data from Members	Primary: ECCG Secondary: MRG, TG, EDG, CTG
Promote innovations and growth in low-carbon tech. in various sectors	Work with members to promote new innovations in their respective authorities, in the field of Gas in transition (biogas, LNG, Power to Gas), Tidal and Blue Energy, Smart Cities and Communities.	New take ups	<p>Collection of Data</p> <p>Projects</p>	Primary: ECCG Secondary: MRG, TG, EDG, CTG
Develop a Hydrogen Strategy for the North Sea Region	Work closely with the HyTrEc Project and develop a strategy for Hydrogen within the North Sea	A Strategy Document	A strategy Document with projects ideas for future funding rounds	Primary: ECCG Secondary: MRG, EDG

	Region and Develop a Hydrogen Corridor			
Policy recommendations on Energy for the new 2014 to 2020 North Sea Programme	Develop Energy related Project idea for the new funding call. Working together with the European North Sea Energy Alliance, ENSEA consortium	A document pulling together results from various Energy related projects with an outcome for new project ideas	Document of new Project ideas, a Joint Action Plan. Within the ENSEA consortium	Primary: ECCG Secondary: MRG, EDG
North Sea Grid	Work in partnership with the CPMR Energy Group	To Lobby the EU to ensure that the industry could not put extra charges on peripheral areas concerning transmission fees once the North Sea Grid is developed.	Policy recommendation Document with the CPMR	Primary: ECCG Secondary: MRG, EDG
4. Attractive and sustainable communities				
NSR 2020 measures	Key activities	Expected results/outcomes	Instrument	Lead
Cluster development in various sectors (maritime, tourism, energy, food, biotech)	Promote innovation, excellence and sustainability through seminars, project development, meetings, ICT and competition. Develop a joint NSC cooperative scheme, involving all TG.	Innovative clusters Economic growth More competitive NSR Be able to employ more people and to sell more products and services This can be achieved through knowledge sharing, sharing best practice, "doing things" (exploring) and innovations.	Policy recommendations Projects Financing from Interreg, national, regional and local budgets, private sector and/or other EU programmes.	Primary: EDG Secondary: MRG, ECCG, CTG
Address urban-rural divides and immigration	Seminars, meetings and project development. Cooperation with SDG. Development of a political framework for future cooperation.	NSR being recognized as a major economic entity based on attractive and knowledge based sustainable communities Active healthy ageing. Innovation as a driver for better results achieved with less money Plans for youth on the move. European Platform against poverty	Policy recommendations Projects Financing from Interreg, national, regional and local budgets, private sector and/or other EU programmes.	Primary: EDG Secondary: ECCG
Foster stakeholder cooperation in labour market, education and	Strengthen cooperation with research institutions and	Resource efficient Europe	Policy recommendations	Primary: EDG

research policy	universities. Capitalization of the region's excellence. Promote innovation in existing and upcoming sectors.	Maintain supply of teachers in changing demography's Inspiring school leadership	Projects Financing from Interreg, national, regional and local budgets, private sector and/or other EU programmes.	
Explore LLL to improve skills and employability	Joint conference on innovative processes in cooperation with the other NSC TG.	An agenda for new skills and jobs A digital agenda/platform for Europe	Policy recommendations Projects Financing from Interreg, national, regional and local budgets, private sector and/or other EU programmes.	Primary: EDG Secondary: MRG, ECCG, CTG, TG
Development of sustainable North Sea tourism	Route development: North Sea Seafood Route, North Sea Coastal Experience Visit Your Neighbours And others Presentation at tourism day and similar events	General acceptance and adherence to these products; Recognition by CoR, funding by EU. <i>Establishment of independent organisations for each route project.</i> A North Sea Tourism branding Increased tourism in the North Sea coastal areas.	Lobbying Project Application development Stakeholder conference/seminar	Primary: CTG Secondary:
Identify opportunities for culture and tourism and provide coop framework	<i>Mapping/identification of issues where inter-regional co-operation is of benefit for the member regions in the fields of culture and tourism.</i>	<i>NSC action plans for specific issues where intensified co-operation adds value and perspectives to the regional development.</i>	Policy generation Policy recommendation(s) Project development.	Primary: CTG Secondary:
Horizontal				
NSR 2020 measures	Key activities	Expected results/outcomes	Instrument	Lead
<i>Preparatory Action for the North Sea Region</i>	<i>Stakeholder conferences In-depth analysis of the five priorities identified in the NSR2020 strategy paper Follow-up dialogue with all stakeholders</i>	<i>Analysis of the NSR's growth potential Investigation of the added value of having a future macro-regional strategy for the NSR</i>	<i>Research Stakeholder activities Dialogue/lobbying</i>	<i>New NSC Secretariat</i>

Anlage 3:

„North Sea Region 2020 Work Plans October 2013 – October 2014” (Statusberichte der NSC-Arbeitsgruppen)

Culture and Tourism Group Work Plan October 2013 – October 2014		
NSR 2020 Measure: Attractive and sustainable communities - Development of sustainable North Sea tourism		
Key activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Route development: North Sea Seafood Route, North Sea Coastal Experience, Visit Your Neighbours and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing partnerships for project applications, discussions, seminars. • Mapping regional offers. • Drafting and handing in of applications for European funding (DG Enterprise, Culture program, Interreg). • Positive response to applications. 	North Sea Seafood Route: Independent association founded, interim board elected that prepares constituting general assembly and future funding applications. Members sought. Visit Your Neighbours: project description developed, partnership under formation, funding opportunities investigated. North Sea Coastal Experience: initial project idea developed.
Presentation at tourism day and similar events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation at European Tourism Day. 	Not successful so far, 2013 day was heavily linked to accessibility.
NSR 2020 Measure: Attractive and sustainable communities - Identify opportunities for culture and tourism and provide coop framework		
Key Activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Identify areas in culture where NSC member regions want to co-operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified areas of co-operation. • Projects started. 	Joint conference in November with EDG on culture and local business development based on new technologies organized November 2013. Other themes currently under consideration.

**Economic Development Group Work Plan
October 2013 – October 2014**

NSR 2020 Measure: Attractive and sustainable communities - Cluster development in various sectors (maritime, tourism, energy, food, biotech)

Key activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Promote innovation, excellence and sustainability through seminars, project development, meetings, ICT and competition. Develop a joint NSC cooperative scheme, involving all Thematic Groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Monitoring the process of development of the Regional Innovation Strategies → compilation of good practices, analysis of the innovation strategies of the different regions (improvement, synergy). This investigation will be done in cooperation with Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland (SNN) and S3-platform (extent to CPMR) B. At this moment there is an on-going evaluation of the Interreg North Sea Programme 2007-2014. One of the topics is about transnational cooperation. Several recommendations have been done which are in line with our own evaluation. We want to start dialogue with Interreg secretariat in order to make appointments about future cooperation in order to achieve synergy-effects on different topics e.g. door-openers", dissemination of project results, cultural differences. Successful project application 	<p>Preliminary discussion with SNN. President NSC has to finalize deal with SNN Different group sessions during the year (including joint sessions) Attending and participate in seminars (e.g. Maritime days)</p> <p>Ongoing dialogue with Interreg-secretariat. The program is postponed and probably first call will be held in 2015</p> <p>Submitted project proposals (e.g. Erasmus and interreg) 2 succesful applications in2014, with involvement NSC</p>

NSR 2020 Measure: Attractive and sustainable communities - Address urban-rural divides and immigration

Key Activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Seminars, meetings and project development. Co-operation with ECCG. Development of a political framework for future cooperation.	<p>(see above a and b))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring captains of the future/tall shiprace 2014 Analysis of the Regional innovation strategy of the different regions Posting good practices from NSC member regions on the NSC web site Successful project application 	<p>Joint meeting CTG and EDG about craftsmanship, new future perspectives (November 2013) Start pilot of captains in September 2013. Approval Interreg IVb project from Demonstration 2 Dissemination (D2D) Investigation of greening festivals (city versus islands: Samsø-Aarhus, Vlieland –Leeuwarden and Malta, Valetta, in cooperation European Capital of Culture)) Submitted project proposals</p>

NSR 2020 Measure: Attractive and sustainable communities - Foster stakeholder cooperation in labour market, education and research policy

Actions	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Strengthen co-operation with research institutions and universities. Capitalization of the region's excellence. Promote innovation in existing and upcoming sectors.	(see above a and b) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful project application 	See life long learning Preliminary idea about north sea university challenge. Submitted project proposals
NSR 2020 Measure: Attractive and sustainable communities - Explore Life Long Learning to improve skills and employability		
Actions	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Joint conference on innovative processes in cooperation with the other NSC Thematic Groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful project application • Ongoing lifelong learning projects • Analysis and recommendation for future cooperation • Monitoring the different EU funding possibilities 	Submitted project proposals Approval Comenius project 3D-printing. Start meeting on Vlietsnd in September. Execution of the approved proposals

Energy and Climate Change Group Work Plan October 2013 – October 2014		
NSR 2020 Measure: Tackling Climate Change - Develop catalogue and action plan for climate adaptation		
Key activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Work with members in developing the action plan.		In progress, first meeting 21 st of November 2013 in Groningen
NSR 2020 Measure: Tackling Climate Change - Promote innovations and growth in low-carbon tech. in various sectors		
Key Activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
<p>Work with members to promote new innovations in their respective authorities. Focus will be on developing Energy related Project ideas for the next program period, in the field of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Gas in transition: Gas, power to gas, gas to product, LNG, biogas, (masterplan Hades and LNG) 2) Bio based energy/economy (biochemical and thermochemical route) 3) Smart Cities & Regions (heat, gas and power networks). 4) Off shore wind (and decommissioning), North sea super grid 5) Tidal and blue energy <p>Vertical themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Human capital 2) SME's, start ups and incubators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop projects with Interreg and other funding like Horizon 2020. • Make connection to the European Innovation Platform Smart Cities, the EIP Water and the ERRIN Network. • Develop a TEN T project on LNG. 	<p>Preparation of project development, investigating options within the new EU programmes, looking for consortia partners, giving input to consultation rounds etc.</p> <p>Preparations have started for the development of an Interreg B project Biogas to Move with partners around the North Sea. Two projects in the field of LNG have been developed and submitted to the TEN T agency: "Towards Gradual expansion of LNG in the Waddensea, GrEx" and "Pilot Implementation of a LNG Propulsion System on a MoS Test Track in the Environmental Model Region 'Wadden Sea'</p> <p>A proposal for an action group Energy & Water Works has been developed and send in to the European Innovation Partnership on Water, "Energy and Water works: Energizing Sustainable Deltas" in January 2014.</p>

NSR 2020 Measure: Tackling Climate Change - Develop a Hydrogen Strategy for the North Sea Region		
Key Activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Work closely with the HyTrEc Project and develop a strategy for Hydrogen within the North Sea Region and Develop a Hydrogen Corridor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a joint strategy combining the Hydrogen and Hades plans • Put this on the agenda at an EU level, organise a workshop or lunch meeting with MEP's and Commission during EUSEW 2014. 	
NSR 2020 Measure: Tackling Climate Change - Policy recommendations on Energy for the new 2014 to 2020 North Sea Programme.		
Key Activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Give input from the energy related cluster projects EVNSR and LowCap to the new North Sea Programme and the CPMR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of (some of the) recommendations in the new Interreg VB programme 	Recommendations have been communicated to the CPMR
NSR 2020 Measure: Tackling Climate Change - North Sea Grid		
Key Activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Work in partnership with the CPMR Energy Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a joint activity (workshop or networking event) during EUSEW 2014. 	The preparation of a workshop on Smart Cities has started for the 25 th of June at the Scotland House Brussels

Marine Resources Work Plan October 2013 – October 2014		
NSR 2020 Measure: Managing Maritime Space - Exchange best practice on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) / Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)		
Key activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Carry out/commission an analysis of existing MSP policies and strategies and available marine data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of existing MSP policies and management plans around the North Sea • Take into account and use data produced by OSPARCom 	Draft report (comparative analysis of MSP policies around the North Sea) presented at MRG meeting 29-31 October in Schleswig-Holstein. It was decided to follow up by looking at fisheries and aquaculture's role in the management plans.
Influence the development and implementation of the EU MSP directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish common NSC position on ICZM/MSP • Active participation in CPMR working groups • Lobby NSC positions within the CPMR, the Commission, EU member states and Norway 	Position paper on MSP/ICZM put forward to the ExCom March 2014. Close cooperation with CPMR working group, MRG represented in meetings in St.Malo in September-13 and Brussels in January-14.
NSR 2020 Measure: Managing Maritime Space - Promote sustainable and innovative exploitation of marine resources		
Key Activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Carry out/commission a study on the potential impact on coastal communities, ports and fish processors of a discard ban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of impact on coastal communities, ports and fish processors of a discard ban, to facilitate for exchange of best practice • Establish policy position based on exchange of best practice 	Exchange of best practice on landing obligation to be addressed in upcoming group meeting.
Influence the conception and check implementation of the CFP reform and EMFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish common NSC position on follow up of CFP reform and possibilities of EMFF • Lobby EU Member States and the European Parliament and participating actively in the CPMR's Fisheries Intercom Group. • Cooperation and exchange of information with NS RAC, KIMO, Osparcom, the Waddensee cooperation and other relevant partners 	In close cooperation with CPMR Fisheries Intercommissonal Group, MRG represented in meetings in Brussels April 2013 and St. Malo September 2013.
Support establishment of European Fisheries Technology Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue with EFTC • Output and good practice to be spread to member regions 	
Establish a scientific working group on aquaculture between member regions by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate for aquaculture researchers workshops • Exchange of information with relevant R&D 	An aquaculture researchers workshop was held parallel to MRG meeting in Schleswig-Holstein

2014	institutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output and good practice to be spread to member regions 	
NSR 2020 Measure: Managing Maritime Space - Promote dialogue between all users of the NS to facilitate policy integration		
Actions	Indicators of Achievements	Status
Support funding of the North Sea Maritime Stakeholder Forum		
Active participation in a possible stakeholder conference as part of the NSC 25th anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue with relevant stakeholders • Input in the planning process and execution of stakeholder conference 	Active participation in planning of the Stakeholder Conference in March 2014, one session dedicated to marine resources

**Transport Group Work Plan
October 2013 – October 2014**

NSR 2020 Measure: Increasing accessibility and clean transport - Ensure good access to TEN-T Core for peripheral and maritime regions

Key activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
<p>Provide arguments and data in support of including transport connections and ports of peripheral and maritime regions in statements to consultations on relevant EU policy papers & instruments, and through the CPMR Intercom Working group on TEN-T</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of relevant NSR ports and connections in final TEN-T core network maps and guidelines • Funding decisions at EU and national levels (more long-term) • Involvement in the governance of core network corridors in the NSR through the CPMR • Input (arguments and data) submitted to the CPMR TEN-T group 	<p>The EU regulation on the TEN-T guidelines and on the establishment of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) was finally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 11 December 2013.</p> <p>The corridor through Jutland in Denmark and the ports of Hirtshals and Frederikshavn have now been accepted as a part of the TEN-T core network in accordance with input from the NSC TG through the CPMR.</p> <p>Nine Core Network Corridors have been defined as an implementing instrument for the TEN-T. The North Sea Region is covered by three of these corridors. Stakeholder forums with member states, infrastructure managers, interest organisations and regions will be established for each corridor.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council is Lead partner of a recently approved project under the North Sea Region Programme – TEN-TaNS - which is addressing the regional dimension of the TEN-T network. The group expects to capitalize on this project in its further work on this issue</p>

NSR 2020 Measure: Increasing accessibility and clean transport - Support measures and incentives to promote clean transport incl. clean shipping

Key Activities	Indicators of Achievements	Status
<p>Compile and disseminate existing good practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation of good practice from all NSC member regions • Good practice published at NSC home page and possibly presented at relevant events • Good practice transferred (solutions implemented) across NSC member regions 	<p>A number of good practices from NSC member regions have been compiled and posted on the web. The process of compilation is on going</p>
<p>Explore the option of developing or capitalizing on results from relevant EU-funded projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis / shadowing of relevant projects • Mobilisation of external resource persons • Recommendations from projects disseminated to members, and/or included in policy statements • Ideas/proposals/applications for projects • Successful project applications 	<p>The group is shadowing the GreCor and other relevant projects through members who are partners in the project. These members have started to identify external resource persons from whom the group could benefit from in its work. Solutions and recommendations from relevant projects will be incorporated in the good practice data base and in relevant policy statements.</p>

		<p>In June 2013 the group sent a letter to the Secretariat of the NSR Interreg Programme with arguments for including transport as a separate thematic objective in the new programme from 2014.</p>
<p>Explore the conditions for and consequences of implementing the IMO & EU Sulphur Directive in the NSR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved awareness and knowledge on conditions and consequences of the Sulphur Directive through cooperation with the Clean North Sea Shipping project and participation in CPMR Transport group • Participation in industry stakeholder cooperation networks, e.g. EU Sustainable Maritime Transport Forum • Input to policy statements in favour of establishing various supporting schemes at EU and national levels facilitating compliance with the Directive • Relevant support schemes established and implemented 	<p>The group is shadowing the Clean North Sea Shipping project and will act as a vehicle for dissemination of results (technical solutions, regulatory frameworks and support schemes) from the project to ports and shipping lines in NSC member regions. The group could also serve as a cooperation platform for the partners once the project has ended in 2014. The group is regularly following this issue through the CPMR Transport group</p>
<p>NSR 2020 Measure: Increasing accessibility and clean transport - Counteract uneven playing field between modes disfavoured maritime transport</p>		
<p>Key Activities</p>	<p>Indicators of Achievements</p>	<p>Status</p>
<p>Provide arguments to the EC based on input from the maritime transport industry on the need to improve the framework conditions of maritime transport, incl. arguments for providing investments and start-up and operational support to sea-based services in relevant EU instruments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue (collection of views and data) with maritime transport industry stakeholders • Participation in industry stakeholder cooperation networks, e.g. EU Sustainable Maritime Transport Forum • Input to relevant policy statements • Ideas and proposals for relevant projects • Start-up aid and operational support for sea-based services are included in relevant EU instruments like the Connecting Europe Facility 	<p>The group has mainly been involved in this issue through the CPMR Transport group and has provided arguments to CPMR policy positions – also based on input from relevant Interreg projects in the NSR, e.g. StratMoS and Dryport</p>

Anlage 4:

„The code of conduct for the Executive Committee” (am 12.03.2014 gebilligte Fassung)



Appendix 6a

Code of conduct for the Executive Committee of the North Sea Commission

During the Danish presidency in 2012-2013 work has been undertaken to make the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the North Sea Commission more political and to streamline procedures. This note is part of this process as it lists the code of conduct of a national representative on ExCom, as this has not always been apparent, and it also lists recommendation for improving the work of ExCom.

Code of conduct of a national representative

A national representative on ExCom is obliged to be in close contact with the national government and national stakeholders in his/her own country. A national representative on ExCom must also work with the other member regions in her/her country and it is important to stress that they represent the whole country and do not just speak as an individual person. In order to do that, it is recommended that he/she sets up a system of consulting the other NSC member regions in that country on NSC issues, such as f. ex. getting their views on the ExCom agenda.

The national representative is also encouraged to ask for input to ExCom meetings from the other NSC members so it becomes a two-way process. There may f. ex. be some issues which other member regions think the ExCom should deal with and it is the role of the national representative to make sure these issues are brought to the attention of ExCom. After ExCom meetings and when other important decisions are made and developments happen in the NSC, the national representative is obliged to make sure all member regions in that country receive the information.

In order to efficiently deal with this contact to the other NSC member regions in his/her country, and to disseminate NSC information, it is recommended to set up a network of competent staff in all regions and to encourage good interaction between politicians and officers.

A more political ExCom

The NSC ExCom must be more proactive and have an opinion on current topics of relevance to the North Sea Commission. It is in addition also necessary for ExCom to become more political and to foster stronger links between ExCom and the thematic groups. This can be done by either ExCom scanning the EU agendas and identifying topics which can be discussed at ExCom meetings or by the thematic groups bringing up topics which are relevant to the work of their groups. This can be done by them f. ex. taking it in turn to present position papers, bearing in mind that not all groups operate in a similar political sphere and therefore will not be able to present the same number of position papers.

When time and circumstances permit, a presentation should be given to ExCom on a current topic. This can be topics which the NSC thematic groups work on or topics from a broader European agenda.

NSC politicians are furthermore encouraged to attend the meetings of the thematic groups whenever possible. Political attendance at groups meetings is not restricted to chairs and vice-chairs.

Stronger links should also be fostered to the CPMR. They have staff dedicated to specialists working areas and therefore good knowledge of what is happening on the EU agenda and where and how topics can be influenced. One way of doing this would be to have topics from the agenda of the CPMR Political Bureau on the NSC ExCom agenda. The NSC president, who is a member of the CPMR Political Bureau, could invite comments and input to the agenda items and present recommendations. Other ExCom members who are also members of the CPMR Political Bureau should assist in this task. The current situation with the report from the CPMR at NSC ExCom meetings merely being nodded to does not help giving the ExCom a stronger political profile. The same can be said about the Committee of the Regions, where the NSC ought to exploit this link more and to get an overview of the overlap between NSC members and CoR members.

Participating in the CPMR working groups is also a way of becoming more involved and making the NSC voice heard and the NSC thematic groups should be encouraged to participate in the corresponding CPMR group, if it exists and systematically report back to ExCom.

Stronger links between the Thematic Groups and ExCom

By becoming more political as mentioned above, a result will also be that ExCom and the Thematic Groups become stronger linked. As the chairs of the thematic groups attend ExCom meetings they are an important link between the groups and ExCom but also the link between the more political aspects in ExCom and the more operational and practical angle to the topics in the thematic groups. Most groups do also have a political focus, but the link to ExCom is very important, as it is the political body of the NSC.

It is important that both ExCom and the Thematic Groups are aware of issues which could be brought up in the groups or in ExCom and where NSC can voice its opinion on relevant topics. As listed above, the thematic groups should be encouraged to present resolutions and give presentations on topics from their groups to ExCom. This is also a way of heightening the knowledge of all ExCom members.

Organisational issues

In order to strengthen the political profile of the NSC and to foster new and stronger links with representatives from the EU institutions, an ExCom meeting will each year be located in Brussels. This is like in other areas also a two-way process, as the NSC will be able to talk to EU politicians and officers and tell them about our concerns for the North Sea Region and to lobby for the views of the NSC and on the other hand it is an opportunity to obtain first-hand knowledge of developments in Brussels.

Together all the NSC member regions' Brussels offices make up a huge pool of expertise, which the NSC ought to use in a more efficient manner. It makes sense for the NSC president and the NSC Secretariat to act as "antenna" and co-ordinate the group of Brussels offices. It is important to involve as many NSC officers in this pool to mobilize and exploit combined resources.

The more ExCom members know of the issues which the NSC deals with and the more people who are involved the better. It is therefore recommended that also vice-chairs of the thematic groups should be allowed to attend ExCom meetings. Everybody is encouraged to speak at ExCom meetings, but only the presidency and the national representatives can vote.

Anlage 5:

„MSP Draft Resolution“ (Positionspapier in der am 12.03.2014 gebilligten Fassung)



Appendix 7a

MSP – Draft resolution – 10th February 2014

Marine Resource Group

The European Commission proposed a directive on a framework for maritime spatial planning & integrated coastal zone management in 2013. The main purpose of the proposed directive is to promote the sustainable growth of maritime and coastal activities and the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources by establishing a framework for the effective implementation of maritime spatial planning in EU waters and integrated coastal management in the coastal areas of Member States. The North Sea Commission agrees in principal that a directive on this matter is needed. The following position document gives recommendations from the North Sea Commission on implementation of the directive when adopted.

The North Sea Commission recommends:

- The North Sea is one of the most intensively used sea basins in the world. A cross-country approach is needed to address the competition between different users of the sea.
- The core element is to find a sustainable balance between blue growth and environmental protection.
- Regions can be new platforms for innovation. Regional authorities have knowledge about local conditions and challenges, in addition to close dialogue with stakeholders.
- Predictable, long term planning is important to boost regional attractiveness.
- The link between terrestrial planning and sea planning needs to be addressed.

North Sea Region – an engine for blue growth

The North Sea Region includes a number of strong economies and is one of the most successful regions in Europe. The North Sea Region has the potential to act as an engine for growth in Europe. Being a complex and open marine ecosystem, the North Sea is a nursery for fish and a migratory and wintering area for many species of birds. It is also one of the most heavily used seas, supporting fishing, shipping, trade, energy, sand mining, defense and recreation. Increasing and to a large extent uncoordinated use of the sea leads to competition between the different users of the sea. A key challenge in the North Sea is the management of conflicts between competing users of the sea basin.

The sea and the coasts are drivers of the economy. If we count all economic activities that depend on the sea, then the EU's blue economy represents 5.4 million jobs and a gross added value of just under €500 billion per year. Because of their outward-looking geography, ports and coastal communities have traditionally been centres for new ideas and innovation. Growth in the blue economy offers new and innovative ways to help steer the EU out of its current economic crisis. It represents the maritime dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy. Blue growth can contribute to the EU's international competitiveness, resource efficiency, job creation and new sources of growth whilst safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the marine environment.

Regions – new platforms for innovation

North Sea Commission was founded in 1989 to facilitate and enhance partnership between regions around the North Sea. It has grown to be an important organization for policy making and regional influence at the European level. Regions can become new platforms for innovation in Europe. The mentioned draft directive states that "the relevant authorities" shall be consulted on the draft plans and strategies. This point may facilitate taking specific consideration of the regions. This consideration is essential to the success of any new EU initiative.

Even around the North Sea, it differs quite a lot from country to country whether competence on coastal and maritime spatial planning are to be found at local, regional or national level. The Marine Resource Group of the NSC has conducted a comparative analysis of the management systems in the different North Sea countries. Despite the differences, all NSC members have an interest of regional development and good environmental standard.

The core challenge for marine planning is to find a balance between blue growth and environmental protection. The North Sea Commission believes that management of maritime

space must be built on the principles of sustainable development; a balance between good environmental standard, economic growth and social concerns. In the North Sea Commission we are all maritime regions. For maritime regions regional development is very much connected to the notion of blue growth. Coastal regions have the advantage of proximity and interaction with stakeholders and the actual opportunities and challenges they face relating to blue growth.

The draft directive provides for the need for member states to cooperate across borders as well as with third countries, to develop plans and strategies. This is a key added value of the directive. The North Sea Commission stresses that regions should also be involved in this dialogue. The organization has long traditions of successful cooperation between North Sea regions, including regions in Norway.

Predictable planning to boost regional attractiveness

A key challenge to maritime spatial planning is to prioritize between competing users of the sea, and between economic growth and environmental protection. The neutral character of the balance between the different uses of coastal and maritime areas is a central element of the approach put forward by the European Commission. It is necessary to define the relationship between an ecosystem-approach and blue growth. Although managing maritime space is a difficult exercise, clear and predictable plans will make coastal regions more attractive.

Furthermore, stakeholder involvement at an early stage is a success factor for marine planning. A number of concerns can be met by dialogue and involvement in the process. Relevant stakeholders will also possess important knowledge which can prove important for the planning process. Stakeholder involvement can also foster opportunities on co-existence between different sectorial uses.

The North Sea Commission believes that knowledge about the marine conditions is vital to achieve a sustainable management of the sea basins. It depends upon knowledge of the state of the sea now, how it was in the past and how it might change in the future. North Sea regions have already conducted projects, showing the importance of marine data and stakeholder involvement. More importantly is also the need for coherent and shared information and knowledge about the marine environment in a cross-country approach. Harmonized plans and policies would contribute to a more effective use of space and available resources.

Sea/land planning

Several models exist in Europe on the organisation of the links between MSP and ICZM and on how to organise consistency of the actions concerning coastal areas with those concerning maritime areas. It is therefore important that the MSP and ICZM are addressed together at European level, whilst allowing national authorities and regions maximum flexibility to organise the relationship between MSP and ICZM at their levels. The North Sea Commission believes that MSP and ICZM should be addressed together in the directive, but is missing the link between coastal and terrestrial planning.

Follow up for the North Sea Commission:

- ExCom members are requested to bring the adopted position paper forward to the respective national level representatives. The MSP/ICZM directive is currently being negotiated between the European Parliament and the Council. Timing requests dialogue with the member state level.
- Maritime Spatial Planning is an overarching theme, important for future prosperity of the North Sea region. The Marine Resource Group suggests that maritime spatial planning should be considered as an area for investigating added value of increased macro-regional cooperation.