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Betreff: [EXTERN] FW: [EXTERN] Re: Fachgespräch des Europaausschusses am 17.
Dezember 2025, Drucksache 20/3008

Schleswig-Holsteinischer Landtag
Umdruck 20/5730

Dear Ms. Otte,

On behalf of the North Sea Commission, I would like to thank you for the kind invitation to participate in the *Fachgespräch des Europaausschusses*. Unfortunately, our President, Elisabet Babic, will not be able to attend, but we greatly appreciate the opportunity and your efforts to involve us in this important discussion.

It has been very interesting to read the report on Schleswig-Holstein's activities and strategy in the North Sea Region. We see many overlaps with the work we are currently doing within the North Sea Commission, and we believe there is potential for future collaboration.

Shared priorities such as the energy transition, maritime spatial planning, sustainable transport, and climate adaptation are central to both our agendas. These areas are critical for the resilience and competitiveness of the North Sea Region, and we are convinced that a connection between Schleswig-Holstein and the North Sea Commission can amplify our impact.

As input to the meeting, we would like to share an overview of our recent work:

- This summer, we adopted the **midterm review of our strategy**, preparing it for the next five years (enclosed).
- The **action plans for implementing this midterm review** will be adopted in January 2026.
- An overview of the work of each of our thematic groups is included in the **one-pagers attached to this email**.
- We have strengthened our collaboration with the **INTERREG North Sea Region Programme** to improve project development opportunities.
- This year, we were officially appointed as a **stakeholder in the Greater North Sea Basin Initiative**, representing regional interests in this important framework.

We would be happy to reestablish our connection with Schleswig-Holstein and explore opportunities to work together in the future. Should you have any questions, please feel

free to reach out to me directly. If possible, we would also appreciate receiving a short debrief after the meeting.

Thank you once again for your kind invitation and we hope you will have a good meeting next week.

Kind regards, also on behalf of NSC President Elisabet Babic,



Nina Knol

Executive Secretary

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North Sea Region Strategy 2030: midterm review



This midterm review of the North Sea Region 2030 Strategy reaffirms our collective commitment to a connected, competitive, sustainable, and climate-resilient region. In light of evolving geopolitical dynamics and in alignment with the European Commission's 2024–2029 agenda, the strategy has been recalibrated to strengthen regional leadership in key areas such as maritime spatial planning, clean energy, smart mobility, the circular economy, skills development, and climate adaptation. Rather than marking a conclusion, this review sets a clear course for the next phase—one that is inclusive, forward-looking, and rooted in the shared strengths of our member regions. Together, we will continue to shape a North Sea Region that is not only prepared for the future but actively defining it.

a PRODUCTIVE and SUSTAINABLE North Sea region

- **Healthy marine environment:** Lower emissions and reduced disposal of waste into the North Sea
- **Maritime Spatial Planning:** Better coordinated MSP across national borders and administrative levels, and land and sea
- **Sustainable Blue Economy and aquaculture and fisheries:**
 - Sustainable supply-chain in fisheries and aquaculture
 - The North Sea Region is a global front-runner in sustainable blue economy innovation

a CLIMATE NEUTRAL North Sea

- **Renewable energy/alternative fuels:** More renewable energy is produced and used in the North Sea Region
- **Energy efficiency:** Energy efficiency improvements are researched, tested and adopted by industry, business, government and citizens
- **Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage and natural carbon sinks:** A wide range of carbon capture, storage and utilisation solutions are tested, piloted, and implemented in the region.
- **Climate Adaptation:** The North Sea region is climate ready, adaptable and resilient to climate change

a CONNECTED North Sea region

- **Transnational Accessibility:** The revised TEN-T regulation is implemented in a timely manner according to defined standards
- **Secure and resilient infrastructure and ports:**
 - Transport infrastructure and services are able to withstand and recover from shocks and disturbances
 - The transport network in the NSR is fit for dual use military and civil mobility
- **Clean, inclusive and intelligent transport solutions:**
 - Significant reduction of the carbon footprint of transport
 - Well-functioning transport services are available in all kinds of territories and affordable for all groups in society

a SMART North Sea region

- **Smart specialisation strategies:** New and innovative industries based on marine resources, sustainable energy, sustainable tourism, circular economy and digitalisation
- **Education, qualification, skills/competences, and mobility of researchers, students and workforce:** High employment rates due to high innovation capacity, a skilled workforce, successful inclusion of migrants and other disadvantaged people
- **Circular Economy:**
 - Circular economy methods and techniques are widely adopted in society
 - Economic growth based on sustainability, circularity, and climate change mitigation should be among the highest in Europe

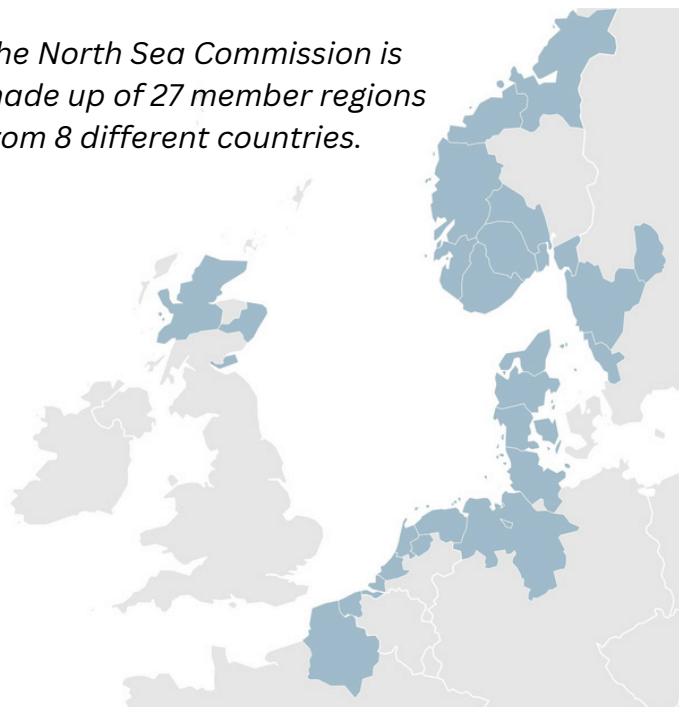


an introduction to the NORTH SEA COMMISSION



The North Sea Commission is one of six geographical commissions that make up the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR). The CPMR is one of the most influential regional organisations in Brussels that provides a voice to peripheral and maritime regions across Europe. The organisation is a strong source of expertise and information for the European institutions, which allows for a two-way exchange channel with the European Institutions. Thus, through the CPMR regions gain influence in European negotiations.

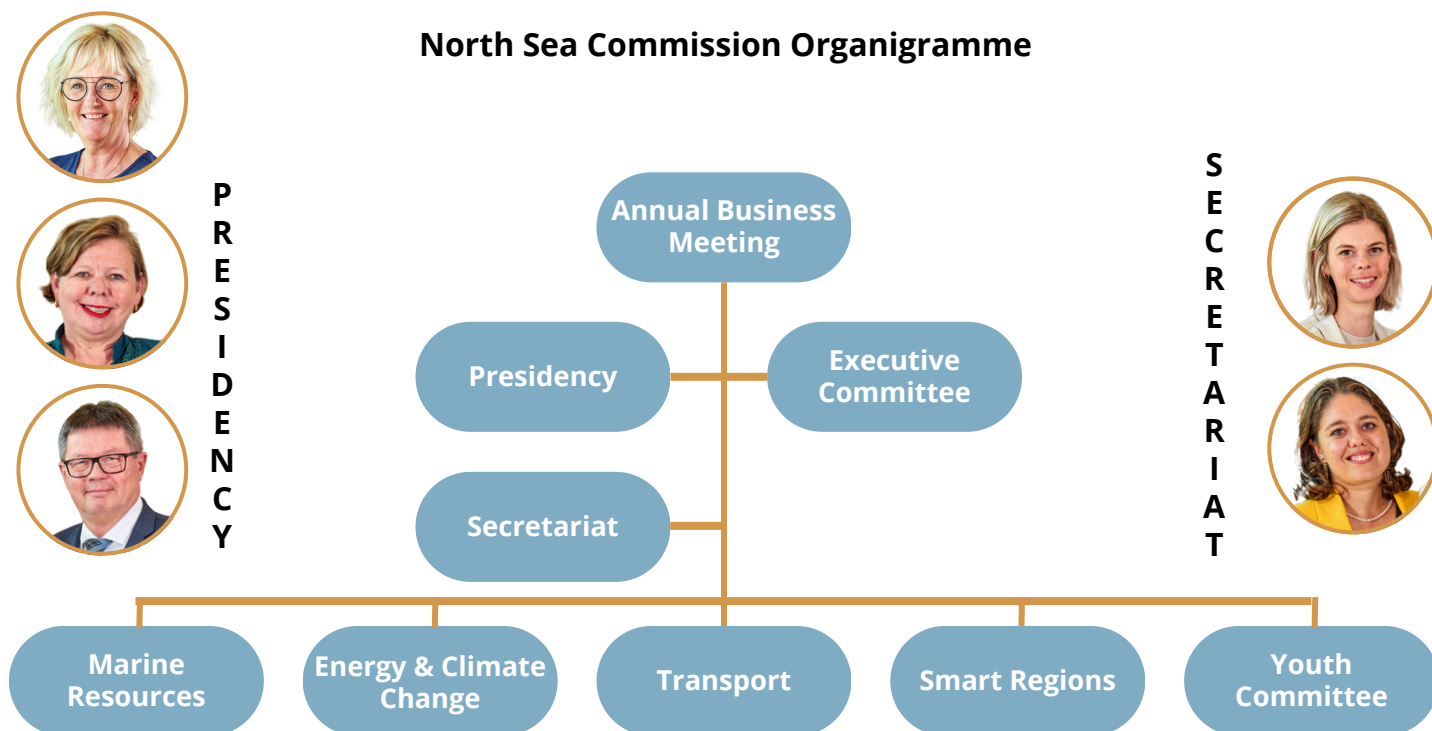
The North Sea Commission is made up of 27 member regions from 8 different countries.



As one of the CPMR's geographical commissions, the North Sea Commission serves as a platform for cooperation, information-sharing and lobbying between regional authorities across the North Sea Region. Together, Member Regions have cooperated since 1989 for a more robust North Sea Region.

Each of the North Sea Commission's four thematic working groups orients their work around the following three pillars: (a) **knowledge sharing** between regions, (b) **project development** and the capitalisation of current projects, and (c) **advocacy** towards EU institutions, national governments, or other relevant stakeholders.

North Sea Commission Organigramme



Marine Resources Working Group



The North Sea Commission is comprised of four thematic working groups: Energy & Climate Change, Transport, Smart Regions, and Marine Resources. These working groups then also work alongside the CPMR's working groups to ensure that the voices of North Sea regions reach Brussels.

Each of the North Sea Commission's working groups orients their work around the following three pillars: (a) **knowledge sharing** between regions, (b) **project development** and the capitalisation of current projects, and (c) **advocacy** towards EU institutions, national governments, or other relevant stakeholders.

Key Focus Areas

Overarching vision: Sustainable marine and maritime development

In accordance with the North Sea Region 2030 Strategy, this working group focuses on the following overarching goals:

- Lower emissions and reduced disposal of waste into the North Sea
- Better coordinated Marine Spatial Planning across national borders and administrative levels
- Sustainable supply-chain in fisheries and aquaculture; Development of new products
- Higher levels of skills and more career opportunities in sustainable blue economy sectors; The North Sea Region is a global front-runner in sustainable blue economy innovation

Looking Forward

- One of the engaged member regions is leading efforts in an Erasmus+ project focused on Blue Skills and fisheries. The working group will be looking into the significant potential for collaboration that goes beyond the scope of this project. As well as, looking into how opportunities are -and can be- harnessed for broader cross-sectoral impact.
- To supplement their work on Marine Spatial Planning, the group is beginning to draft a framework for a project focused on decision support systems, public participation, and stakeholder engagement in marine and coastal planning.

For more information contact the [NSC Secretariat](#).



Chair: Cllr Ann Bell
(Aberdeenshire, Scotland)



Vice Chair: Cllr Tage Leegaard
(Nordjylland, Denmark)



Vice Chair: Cllr Henrik Stensønes
(Møre og Romsdal, Norway)

Energy & Climate Change Working Group



The North Sea Commission is comprised of four thematic working groups: Energy & Climate Change, Transport, Smart Regions, and Marine Resources. These working groups then also work alongside the CPMR's working groups to ensure that the voices of North Sea regions reach Brussels.

Each of the North Sea Commission's working groups orients their work around the following three pillars: (a) **knowledge sharing** between regions, (b) **project development** and the capitalisation of current projects, and (c) **advocacy** towards EU institutions, national governments, or other relevant stakeholders.

Key Focus Areas

Overarching vision: A resilient and adapted North Sea region which has achieved climate neutrality at the very latest by 2050

In accordance with the North Sea Region 2030 Strategy, this working group focuses on the following overarching goals:

- **Renewable energy/alternative fuels:** More renewable energy is produced and used in the North Sea Region
- **Energy efficiency:** Energy efficiency improvements are researched, tested and adopted by industry, business, government and citizens
- **Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage and natural carbon sinks:** A wide range of carbon capture, storage and utilisation solutions are tested, piloted, and implemented in the region.
- **Climate Adaptation:** The North Sea region is climate ready, adaptable and resilient to climate change

Looking Forward

The working group recently discussed and adopted their perspectives on the European Commission's new Clean Industrial Deal Package, and more broadly the measures being taken to address energy affordability.

In the coming months, the working group will be devoting time to climate mitigation and adaptation measures. They will also be addressing security and resilience within the larger topic of energy.

For more information contact the [NSC Secretariat](#).



Chair: Erlend Jordal
(Rogaland, Norway)



Vice Chair: Camilla Sørensen Eidsvold
(Østfold, Norway)



Vice Chair: Henrik Qvist
(Midtjylland, Denmark)

Transport Working Group



The North Sea Commission is comprised of four thematic working groups: Energy & Climate Change, Transport, Smart Regions, and Marine Resources. These working groups then also work alongside the CPMR's working groups to ensure that the voices of North Sea regions reach Brussels.

Each of the North Sea Commission's working groups orients their work around the following three pillars: (a) **knowledge sharing** between regions, (b) **project development** and the capitalisation of current projects, and (c) **advocacy** towards EU institutions, national governments, or other relevant stakeholders.

Key Focus Areas

Overarching vision: *Fossil-free, safe and user-friendly accessibility for all and in every territory of the North Sea Region*

In accordance with the North Sea Region 2030 Strategy, this working group focuses on the following overarching goals:

- **Transnational Accessibility:** The revised TEN-T regulation is implemented in a timely manner according to defined standards
- **Secure and resilient infrastructure and ports:**
 - Transport infrastructure and services are able to withstand and recover from shocks and disturbances
 - The transport network in the NSR is fit for dual use military and civil mobility
- **Clean, inclusive and intelligent transport solutions:**
 - Significant reduction of the carbon footprint of transport
 - Well-functioning transport services are available in all kinds of territories and affordable for all groups in society

Looking Forward

In the immediate future, this group will be looking to focus on the following actions:

- Following implementation of the revised TEN-T regulation at European and national levels.
- Providing input to the CPMR policy positions on the CEF III (Connecting Europe Facility) from 2028 and the EU Greening of Freight Package.
- Looking into policy and best practices for ports and harbours around the North Sea

For more information contact the [NSC Secretariat](#).



Chair: Per Persson
(Halland, Sweden)



Vice Chair: Knut Anvik
(Vestfold, Norway)



Vice Chair: Ken Gowans
(Highland, Scotland)

Smart Regions Working Group



The North Sea Commission is comprised of four thematic working groups: Energy & Climate Change, Transport, Smart Regions, and Marine Resources. These working groups then also work alongside the CPMR's working groups to ensure that the voices of North Sea regions reach Brussels.

Each of the North Sea Commission's working groups orients their work around the following three pillars: (a) **knowledge sharing** between regions, (b) **project development** and the capitalisation of current projects, and (c) **advocacy** towards EU institutions, national governments, or other relevant stakeholders.

Key Focus Areas

Overarching vision: A front-runner in sustainable economics and democracy - a macro- region maximising its competitive advantages through innovation and blue and green economies

This working group is split into three focus areas, which in accordance with the North Sea Region 2030 Strategy, work on the following overarching goals:

- **Smart specialisation strategies:** New and innovative industries based on marine resources, sustainable energy, sustainable tourism, circular economy and digitalisation
- **Education, qualification, skills/competences, and mobility of researchers, students and workforce:** High employment rates due to high innovation capacity, a skilled workforce, successful inclusion of migrants and other disadvantaged people
- **Circular Economy:**
 - Circular economy methods and techniques are widely adopted in society
 - Economic growth based on sustainability, circularity, and climate change mitigation should be among the highest in Europe

Looking Forward

This working group is particularly looking into the importance of bioeconomy and how to better the creation of a skilled workforce for green transition throughout North Sea Regions.

For more information contact the [NSC Secretariat](#).



Chair: Liselotte Aune Lee
(Vestfold, Norway)



Vice Chair: Esther Rommel
(Noord-Holland, Netherlands)



Vice Chair: Conny Brännberg
(Västra Götaland, Sweden)