



Fylkeshuset,  
3706 Skien, Norway  
Tel.: +47 35 58 42 00  
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44  
nsc@northsea.org  
www.northsea.org

## Item 9

### 50<sup>th</sup> NSC Executive Committee Meeting, 27 March 2009.

## NSC AND CLEAN SHIPPING.

The Marine Resources group has on several occasions discussed the proposal of the Clean Baltic Shipping strategy. The main challenge of the strategy is to ensure that it delivers results such as a 5-point action plan on clean shipping delivering:

1. standardised onshore electricity supplies
2. environmentally-differentiated fares/port dues
3. a voluntary ban on waste-water discharges
4. best practice prizes such as the Clean Marine Award
5. labels for clean Baltic shipping/sustainable port services

Such a strategy could also be taken forward in the North Sea.

At the MRG meeting in Kiel 23-24 February the MRG was updated on the Clean Baltic Shipping strategy which Schleswig-Holstein have developed through the BSSSC. 6 Baltic Sea organisations have supported the idea as a flagship project for the Baltic Sea Strategy. Commissioner Hübner was presented with the plan in December 2008. While the action plan has not yet been formally included in DG Regio's proposals for the Baltic Sea Strategy, some elements have been picked up by DG Mare (e.g. onshore electricity supplies in ports). Schleswig-Holstein would like to see an expert group set up through the Council of Baltic Sea States tasked with the implementation of the strategy.

The MRG highlighted that competition between ports can be a challenge for clean shipping and that ship-to-ship transfers of oil and waste water were other issues of relevance to the North Sea. The Group was very supportive of the action plan but recognised that there is not the same political will and platform in the North Sea as in the Baltic at present. The group agreed to monitor the implementation of the action plan in the Baltic and see if it could be applied in the North Sea. The Group also agreed to highlight the issues through a report and presentation to the Executive Committee. This would allow other groups with an interest in clean shipping (notably the Sustainable Development and Transport groups) to discuss the follow-up of the issue.

The five points of the action plan is similar to challenges raised by the NSC at the North Sea Ministerial meeting in 2003, together with the concerns of ship to ship transfer of oil at sea.

Henrik Jensen (former NSC Executive secretary) has been invited to give a presentation of previous NSC work on the issue and Stefan Musiolik (Schleswig-Holstein) to present the Clean Baltic Shipping strategy.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. ***For discussion and decision***
2. ***NSC will promote the Clean Baltic Shipping strategy and want to take this strategy forward in to the North Sea.***