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## Draft

# Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> NSC Executive Committee Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in the Noord-Holland Provinciehuis, Haarlem, The Netherlands

### NSC Executive Committee Participants:

President	Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen (Telemark Fylkeskommune)
Vice - President	Cllr. Sandy Cluness (Shetland Islands Council)
Vice – President	Cllr. Rinske Kruisinga (Provincie Noord-Holland)
Danish Representative	Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Region Nordjylland)
Dutch Representative	Cllr. Marten Wiersma (Province of Zeeland)
English Representative	Cllr. John Lamb (East of England Regional Assembly)
French Representative	
German Representative	
Norwegian Representative	Cllr. Thore Westermoen (Vest-Agder Fylkeskommune)
Scottish Representative	Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City Council)
Swedish Representative	Cllr. Annelie Stark (Region Västra Götaland)
Executive Secretary	Lars Haukvik
Assistant Executive Secretary	Vibeke Jakobsen

### NSC Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Thematic Groups present:

Culture and Tourism	Cllr. Harry van Waveren (Province of Zeeland)
Innovation and Education	Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen (Region Nordjylland) Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City Council)
Sustainable Development	Cllr. John Lamb (East of England Regional Assembly) Cllr. Marten Wiersma (Province of Zeeland) Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Region Nordjylland)
Marine Resources	
Transport	

### NSC Thematic Group Advisers present:

Culture and Tourism	Geir Sør-Reime (Rogaland Fylkeskommune)
Innovation and Education	Erik Lindboe (Rogaland Fylkeskommune)
Sustainable Development	Yasa Ratnayeke (Aberdeen City Council)
Marine Resources	Ann Bell (Aberdeenshire Council)
Transport	Jon Halvard Eide (Vest-Agder Fylkeskommune)

### Supporting officers and Observers:

Cllr. Peter Grant (Fife Council)  
Cllr. Annika Carlson (Region Halland)  
Audrey Findlay (former Vice-President)  
Carsten Westerholt (North Sea Programme Interreg Secretariat)  
Henrik M Jensen (Region Midtjylland)  
Hilde van Velzen - Donker (Provincie Noord - Holland)



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Martijn Lucas (Provincie Noord-Holland)  
Anja Schmidt ((Land Schleswig-Holstein)  
Lisa Belfrage (Region Västra Götaland)  
Martin Brebner (Aberdeenshire Council)  
Michelle Armstrong (EERA)  
Sally Spence (Shetland Islands Council)  
Stefan Musiolik (Land Schleswig-Holstein)  
Sue Bruce (Aberdeen City Council)  
Toine Jansen (Province of Gronigen)  
Viv Collie (Vivid Ideas and Solutions Ltd)

**Apologies :**

Cllr. Martin Kayenburg (Land Schleswig-Holstein)  
Cllr. Anne Robertson (Aberdeenshire Council)  
Cllr. Josie Simpson (Shetland Islands Council)  
Cllr. Mimi von Troill (Region Västra Götaland)  
Cllr. Sjoerd Galema (Provincie Fryeslând)  
Cllr. Uwe Döring (Land Schleswig-Holstein)  
Cllr. Tom-Christer Nilsen (Hordaland)  
Cllr. Harry Jensen (Region Midtjylland)  
Cllr. Wulfran Despicht, Region Nord-Pas de Calais



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## **Welcome by Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen (Telemark), President of the North Sea Commission (NSC)**

The meeting agenda was agreed.

### **1. Minutes of the last meeting (held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in Kristiansand)**

***Decision:***

***Minutes of the last meeting were approved.***

### **2. Election of NSC Office Bearers**

#### **2.1 Thematic Group Vice-Chairs – vacant posts**

The NSC Culture and Tourism, and Innovation and Education Thematic Groups have vacant posts for Vice-Chair.

#### **2.2 Sustainable Development Group Adviser**

No candidates were received for the position of Adviser for the Sustainable Development Group. The potential of retaining the existing Adviser requires further discussion with the host council.

#### **2.3 CPMR Energy Group**

The Executive Committee were advised that the NSC requires a replacement for Cllr. Kevan Lim (formerly EERA) on the CPMR Energy Group. The NSC has two representatives on this group (Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Region Nordjylland) is an existing representative on this Group).

Cllr. John Lamb and Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen expressed an interest in this position. The committee voted with five votes for Cllr John Lamb and one vote for Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen.

***Decision:***

***It was agreed to take the decision on the Sustainable Development Group Adviser and the election of Vice Chair posts at the next meeting of the NSC Executive Committee.***

***It was agreed that Cllr. John Lamb would be the new NSC representative (replacing Kevan Lim) and Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen would be the substitute NSC representative on the CPMR Energy group.***

### **3. NSC organisational issues**

#### **3.1 Payment of Advisers**

The committee members discussed the problems experienced in recruiting and retaining Thematic Group Advisers, and the need to improve their support and review their budget allowance.

#### **3.2 North Sea Strategy**

Cllr Gunn Marit Helgesen (NSC President) reminded members that the conclusion of the recent Annual Seminar for Politicians was that although NorVision still has a value there is a need to now update and upgrade the document. The time is right to start the process of creating a new vision and strategy for the North Sea. (Note: A summary paper on the seminar outcomes is available).



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The Executive Committee discussed the outcome of the Annual Seminar for Politicians. They also considered a subsequent paper produced by Region Västra Götaland and a paper by the Marine Resources Adviser on a suggested process for developing a Strategy.

The Committee discussed issues around roles, ownership, potential processes, key stakeholders, geographical coverage, existing interest from the Committee of the Regions, and the impact on the future work of the NSC Thematic Groups. The members also discussed the need for clear leadership, effective lobbying and sufficient resources in the development of a new North Sea Strategy. There was further discussion on how best to progress this.

***Decision:***

***It was agreed that the NSC Secretariat would produce a paper on the payment of Advisers for the next NSC Executive Committee meeting. This paper would describe the current situation, the impact of increasing membership fees and what is possible in the current economic climate.***

***It was agreed that the Committee would accept the outcomes of the Annual Seminar for Politicians – that there was a need for a new Strategy for the North Sea. The NSC Secretariat will produce a paper advising on the NSC's future involvement in the development of a new North Sea Strategy, and how to start this open process. This paper will be discussed at the next NSC Executive Committee meeting.***

#### **4. Next meeting**

The next meeting of the NSC Executive Committee will be in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. A date will be identified in either late November or early December.

***Decision:***

***The NSC Secretariat will discuss possible dates with the host council and will inform members.***

#### **5. AOB**

##### **5.1 North Sea Schools projects**

The NSC Innovation and Education Thematic Group Adviser gave an update on the North Sea Schools projects. The Group Adviser will be contacting Ann Brown (former Education and Research Group Adviser) to discuss the development of new projects.

##### **5.2 European Open Days**

The Committee discussed how the NSC could be involved in European Open Days. These could be a good opportunity to promote the idea of a North Sea Strategy. A number of events were discussed, including a future meeting with the Committee of the Regions, and a Danish seminar on wind turbines and sustainable energy which takes place at the start of Open Days.

***Decision:***

***The information was noted.***

The President thanked everyone for their contributions and active participation.