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minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee Meeting on 20 October 2006,  
Hotel Sofitel Amsterdam Airport, The Netherlands

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### NSC Executive Committee Participants:

President	Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen (Telemark)
Vice-President	Cllr. Audrey Findlay (Aberdeenshire)
Danish Representative	Cllr. Harry Jensen (Ringkjøbing)
Dutch Representative	Cllr. Rinske Kruisinga (Noord Holland)
English Representative	Cllr. Kevan Lim (East of England Regional Assembly)
French Representative	not represented
German Representative	not represented
Norwegian Representative	Cllr. Gisle Handeland (Hordaland)
Scottish Representative	Cllr. Kathleen Matheson (Highland)
Swedish Representative	Cllr. Maria Plass (Västra Götaland)
Executive Secretary	Lars Haukvik
Assistant Executive Secretary	Vibeke Jakobsen

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

Economic Development	Cllr. Rinske Kruisinga (Noord-Holland), Cllr. Kevan Lim (East of England Regional Assembly)
Education and Research	Cllr. Christian Bach Iversen (Nordjylland)
Environment	Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Nordjylland) Cllr. Andreas Lervik (Østfold)
Fisheries	Cllr. Harry Jensen (Ringkjøbing) Cllr. Anders Fasth (Västra Götaland)
Transport	not represented
Culture & Tourism	not represented

### NSC Thematic Group Co-ordinators present:

Culture and Tourism	represented by Thomas Olsson (Västra Götaland)
Economic Development	Erik Lindboe (Rogaland)
Education and Research	Ann Brown (NSC)
Fisheries	Ann Bell (Aberdeenshire)
Transport	Jon Halvard Eide (Vest-Agder)

### CPMR:

Jean-Didier Hache, CPMR Secretariat

### Observers:

Thomas Spriet (Nor-Pas de Calais)  
Toine Janssen (SNN)  
Cecilia Karlberg (Västra Götaland)  
Dominique Robertson (Fife)  
Martin Brebner (Aberdeenshire)  
Michelle Armstrong (East of England Regional Assembly)



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## **Apologies:**

Vice President Cllr. Peter Byman (SNN)  
Swedish Representative Cllr. Roland Andersson (Västra Götaland)  
French Representative Cllr. Martine Filleul (Nor-Pas de Calais)  
Chair Culture and Tourism Cllr. Annelie Stark (Västra Götaland)  
Chair Fisheries Cllr. Sandy Cluness (Shetland)  
Chair Education and Research Cllr. Alec Thomson (Fife)  
Chair Environment Group Cllr. Allison McInnes (Aberdeenshire)  
Chair Transport Group Cllr. Leif Blomquist (Västra Götaland)  
Vice-Chair Culture and Tourism Cllr. Alan Livingstone (Perth & Kinross)  
Cllr. Jeannine Marquaille (Nor-Pas de Calais)  
Co-ordinator Geir Sør-Reime (Rogaland)  
Former Co-ordinator Per Hörberg

The President started by welcoming everyone.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

## **1. Minutes of the 42th Executive Committee Meeting June 14<sup>th</sup> 2006, Aviemore, Highlands, Scotland**

There were no comments to the minutes.

### **Decision:**

**The minutes were adopted.**

## **2. Reports from the thematic Groups**

The different Thematic Groups presented their reports.

### **2.1.1 Culture and Tourism, Thomas Olsson**

-they are working towards a conference in Göteborg 22-24 of November with the European Coastal Tourism Network.  
-Work to put Culture and Tourism on the European Agenda is ongoing.

### **2.1.2 Economic Development, Rinske Kruisinga**

-would like to launch the new Innovation and Education Group with a small "kick-off" seminar, due to the merging of the Economic Development and Education Groups  
- work is ongoing to identify overlaps with other groups

### **2.1.3 Education and Research, Christian Bach Iversen**

-last year has been busy, with work focused on young people and lifelong learning  
-presented a suggestion for the merging of the two groups  
- terms of reference for the new Innovation and Education group are being developed

### **2.1.4 Environment, Henrik Ringbæk Madsen**

-participated in the food conference  
-set up some working groups  
-gave examples of overlapping across thematic groups, eg. Coastal zone management, tourism, economic development, etc.



### 2.1.5 Fisheries, Anders Fasth

- reported from meeting in Brussels in July with John Richardson
- presented resolutions

Ann Bell pointed out that political meetings are important

Jean Didier Hache would like the NSC Fisheries group to coordinate with the Islands Commission

### 2.1.6 Transport, Jon Halvard Eide

- Thematic meetings attract more people
- An update on Motorways of the sea and NSC observership was given
- Jon Halvard has been asked to speak on a BSC meeting in Helsinki

Gunn Marit thanked all of the groups for their work and gave a special thank to the former co-ordinators Ann Brown and Per Hörberg for their dedicated work for NSC. Audrey Findlay emphasised the importance of political representation in the thematic groups and attendance at meetings.

## 2.2 From food event Dundee.

80 people participated at the conference which was a very good event.

A lot of effort had been put into the planning and organization of it.

A number of tangible outcomes (the Dundee Challenges) arose from the event, which need to be followed through. . For instance, food quality is v is very important and will be even more so in the future. Hence, additional work focussing on this sector would be welcomed. We thank the organizers of this event.

## 2.3 NSC comments to Mid-term review of EU transport white paper

In general, the NSC welcomes the orientation, analysis and broad framework of the Transport White Paper. However, the Paper needs to recognise the role of secondary ports and present more concrete proposals on internal shipping issues. Also, the inclusion of the 'vision zero' concept of no deaths or serious injuries on European roads would be a welcome addition to the White Paper. The need for more appropriate security regimes in ports and airports was also discussed. Air transport is very important to remote and peripheral areas, but its environmental effects must be reduced through improving the quality of aviation fuel, for example. Access to public transport in rural areas also needs to be improved.

### Decision:

- The reports were adopted for information.



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### 3. Elections of NSC Office bearers

(There were 8 persons allowed to vote)

For the **Innovation and Education** thematic group these persons were elected:

**Chair:** Alan Livingstone, Perth & Kinross Council  
**Vice-Chair:** Bernard Cailliau, Nord-Pas de Calais  
**Vice-Chair:** Ole B. Sørensen, Nordjylland Amt/ The Region of North Denmark  
**Co-ordinator:** Erik Lindboe, Rogaland County Council

For the position as co-ordinator for **Sustainable Development Group** there were no candidates. The Executive Committee gave mandate to the Strategic Committee to find a candidate in cooperation with the chair and vice-chair of the group.

### 4. Terms of reference

Jon Hallvard gave a short résumé of the paper he had prepared on the theme.

Some of his suggestions were:

- making a list of areas where overlapping occur
- work harder to identify funding
- follow up on outcomes
- having meetings in the thematic groups the day before meeting of the Ex.Com.

Jon Hallvard was thanked for an excellent paper. This paper made a good start for the discussion that followed.

Some of the main points were:

- one group should be given responsibility for each policy area, in cooperation with other involved groups.
- follow up on outcomes must be achieved
- more political input is required
- cooperation with BSC should be continued,
- focus on one (few) topics.

#### Decision:

- **The Terms of Reference were adopted as information.**
- **A revised set of Terms of Reference is to be presented for the Executive Committee at their spring meeting.**

### 5. NSC Work Plans 2006-2007

Most of the work plans had already been discussed.

The Sustainable Development Group are without a co-ordinator and until one is elected the secretariat and Aberdeenshire Council will give the group extra support. The Sustainable group also has 3 openings as observers in OSPAR.



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**Decision:**

- The work plan were adopted for information
- Application from the Sustainable group for support for a conference in Aberdeenshire in March 2007 was supported with up to 6.000 Euro

## 6. Finances

The Executive Secretary presented the new setup of the budget. Some of the expenditures have been put together; otherwise the budget is as approved in the GA. He also informed that there will be a change of members. NSC will lose some Danish members due to the new reform there.

**Decision:**

- The budget and submission were adopted for information.
- The new setup of the budget was adopted
- The Strategic Committee is asked to review the budget for 2007 and to present alternative ways of financing the activities of the NSC to the spring meeting of the Executive Committee.

## 7. NSC Organisational Issues

### 7.1. Changes of meeting structure

The Strategic Committee recommends some changes of the meeting structure of the Executive Committee. To be able to discuss the issues for the Annual Business Meeting the issues must be raised at the meeting of the Executive Committee March/April.

The Strategic Committee meets in April/May to discuss the issues and to give their recommendation for the Annual Business Meeting. The Executive Committee meet the afternoon after the Annual Business Meeting to decide how to move forward with the decisions made at the Annual Business Meeting

### 7.2. NSC-BSC cooperation; Transport, Sustainable Development and Maritime Resources

In connection with the joint seminar in November has there been contact between the responsible persons from both commissions, but the cooperation needs to show some more concrete actions. There is a need for a joint plan for cooperation to be discussed further in the meetings of the thematic groups. The cooperation plan is to be discussed at the next joint NSC-BSC meeting

### 7.3. Tartan and the use of it.

There have been several questions on the use of the NSC Tartan. The Secretariat suggests the scarfs and ties can be used as gifts from NSC to members and friends of the North Sea.

If was suggested to produce a little booklet with information on the Tartan, Kathleen Matheson takes the responsibility for this



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**Decision:**

- The Executive Committee adopts the recommendation of the Strategic Committee regarding the meeting structure, as described in point 1.
- The Executive Committee endorses the suggestions for the NSC-BSC cooperation.
- The Executive Committee adopts the recommendation for the use of the NSC Tartan.

**8. Report from CPMR and the CPMR General Assembly**

At the CPMR General Assembly, two joint resolutions from NSC and the BSC will be presented.

**Decision:**

- The report was adopted as information

**9. The 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The General Assembly 2007 will be held in Norway by the three Counties, Buskerud, Telemark and Vestfold (BTV Region). The dates are 20 – 22 of June.

**10. Next meeting**

North Jutland, Denmark in March/April 2007. Dates not set.

**11. AOB**

The President thanked SNN for hosting of the meeting.

The prepared papers for the meeting are available on the NSC website;  
[http://www.northsea.org/nsc/executive\\_committee/0610\\_nl/agenda.html](http://www.northsea.org/nsc/executive_committee/0610_nl/agenda.html)