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Item 7

**53rd NSC Executive Committee Meeting,
27 April 2010.**

The 19th General Assembly in Stavanger.

Enclosed are;

- Draft programme of the conference
- Background paper for the conference
- Invitation to Flanders for General Assembly 2011
- Political statement from Sustainable Development group for the Annual business Meeting 18June

The background papers for the GA2010 are written by the Secretariat for the Interreg North Sea Programme in discussion with the NSC Secretariat for their Monitoring Committee meeting 14-15 April 2010..

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. *For discussion and decision.*
2. *The Executive Committee approves the programme setup for the General Assembly 2010.*
3. *The Executive Committee accepts the invitation from Flanders to the General Assembly 2011.*
4. *The Executive Committee adopts and recommends for the Annual Business Meeting 2010, the political statement from Sustainable Development group;*
“THE CHALLENGE OF MAINSTREAMING ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS IN THE NORTH SEA REGION AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EXISTING BUILDING STOCK.”



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Invitation to GA 2011 in Flanders.

The Secretariat received the following invitation on 01.04.2010

Dear Mr. Haukvik,

The preparatory activities of the Annual Conference of this year are definitely taking up all your energy and time by now.

I would however like to look a bit ahead, at the Annual Conference of 2011.

This conference has already been a co-organisation between both the North Sea Commission and the North Sea Programme for some time now.

During the last Monitoring Committee meeting of the North Sea Programme, the Flemish Region has expressed its wish to be able to organise the Conference, be it not in 2010, then preferably in 2011. Flanders, being a full member of the North Sea programme, has never had the opportunity to organise one of the conferences.

A continuation of the excellent cooperation between both 'institutions' is something the North Sea Programme and also Flanders, would like to pursue.

A combined organisation has always been evaluated extremely positive by all stakeholders. Joining forces has always been considered very interesting and practical.

Therefore, we would of course be delighted to welcome the Annual Conference and the North Sea Commission altogether, in Flanders for the edition of 2011.

We realise that it will be considered somewhat unusual by some members of the North Sea Commission, since Flanders is not a member of it. I am convinced though that openness towards each other has been present at all times.

So please regard this e-mail as a warm invitation to the North Sea Commission to join the North Sea Programme having its Annual Conference in the Flemish Region.

Feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of any assistance on this issue.

If you would consider it helpful to have this invitation sent out through an official letter, please let me know.

We are very much looking forward to continue the good cooperation.

Kind regards,

Elke Tiebout

Member of the Monitoring Committee of the North Sea Programme for Flanders