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**Minutes of the 55th. NSC Executive Committee Meeting,
7th – 8th April 2011,
Westcliff hotel, Southend on Sea, England**

NSC Executive Committee Participants:

President	Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen (Telemark fylkeskommune)
Vice - President	Cllr. Rinske Kruisinga (Noord Holland)
Vice-President	Cllr. Sandy Cluness (Shetland)
Danish Representative	Cllr. Henning Gjellerød (Region Midtjylland)
Dutch Representative	not represented
English Representative	Cllr. John Lamb, EERA
French Representative	not represented
German Representative	not represented
Norwegian Representative	Cllr. Tom-Christer Nilsen (Hordaland fylkeskommune)
Scottish Representative	Cllr. Anne Robertson (Aberdeenshire Council)
Swedish Representative	Cllr. Annika Carlsson (Region Halland)

Executive Secretary	Lars Haukvik
Assistant Executive Secretary	Vibeke Jakobsen

NSC Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Thematic Groups present:

Culture and Tourism	not represented
Innovation and Education	Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen (Region Nordjylland) Cllr. Ellen Solheim, Rogaland Council
Sustainable Development	Cllr. John Lamb (EERA)
Marine Resources	Cllr. Anders Fasth (Region Västra Götaland)
Transport	Cllr. Anne Robertson (Aberdeenshire) Cllr. Preben Friis-Hauge (South Denmark)

NSC Thematic Group Advisers present:

Culture and Tourism	Geir Sør-Reime (Rogaland Council)
Innovation and Education	Erik Lindboe (Rogaland Council)
Sustainable Development	not represented
Marine Resources	Anne Bell (NSC)
Transport	Jon Hallvard Eide (Vest-Agder fylkeskommune)

Supporting officers and Observers:

Cllr. Frederikke Stensrød (Østfold County)
Martin Brebner (Aberdeenshire Council)
Sally Spence (Shetland Islands Council)
Toine Janssen (SNN)
Michael Braam-Scholten (Provincie Noord-Holland)
Runa Coxeter (Region Nordjylland)
Lisa Belfrage (Region Västra Götaland)
Christian Bruns (Bremen)



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Henrik Jensen (Region Midtjylland)
Charlotte Lillefjære-Tertnæs (Hordaland County)
Trine Moe Stokstad (Østfold County)
Bettina Rafaelsen (COWI)

Apologies:

Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City)
Cllr. Wilfried Wengler (Schleswig-Holstein)
Cllr. Heinz Maurus (Schleswig-Holstein)
Cllr. Annelie Stark (Region Västra Götaland)
Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Region Nordjylland)
Adviser Yasa Ratnayeke (Aberdeen City)
Christian Byrith (Interreg North Sea Programme)
No Dutch elected members due to their election in March

The President started the meeting by thanking the host John Lamb and Southend for the invitation and welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Minutes last meeting, 29th September 2010 at Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre, Aberdeen.

Decision;

1. Annika Carlsson represents Region Halland and not Region Västra Götaland as it was written in the minutes. This will be corrected.

2. The minutes were approved with this correction.

2. Reports;

All groups had submitted written reports for the meeting and the following was highlighted at the meeting;

Culture and Tourism Group: Geir Sør-Reime and Frederikke Stensrød

The group has made a statement presented in their report and is now ready to give more input to the NS2020 document.

The group will have a working meeting in Østfold in June.

Innovation and Education, Ole B. Sørensen.

Had a good meeting in Drammen in November with a visit to Kongsberg. Concentrate on the NS 2020. Next meeting will be in Scotland in November.

Marine Resources, Anders Fasth

Thank Sandy for a good meeting and event in Shetland.

Ann Bell informed about the project for creating a Stakeholder Forum. When the application is finished it will be sent around to everyone. Would like more partners and asks members to let her know if they have some good ideas for new partners. A partner meeting is planned during the GA in June.



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For information: Ann has retired from Aberdeenshire and is now working for the NSC secretariat, this has no extra financial implications.

Sustainable Development, John Lamb,
Has worked with the Innovation and Education group preparing the Middelburg conference.

Transport group, Preben Friis Hauge

The group is preparing an input to the paper from CPMR about the Transport Corridors in a meeting in Brussels 3rd. May.

The group is also working with the white paper on transport, the paper will have a strong focus on the climate and the carbon reduction.

The Transport group would like that NS2020 includes transport flows and accessibility maps as well as highlighting good practice examples

Decision;

1. The NSC Executive Committee approves these reports and supports the work of the NSC.

3. Work Plans

The work plans was among the papers for the meeting and there were no comments to the plans.

Decision;

1. The Executive Committee supports the work plans presented in the papers from the thematic groups.

4. Elections

Following positions are vacant for the meeting of the Executive Committee 7 April 2011:

- One Vice-Chair Sustainable Development group
- Two Vice-Chairs Culture & Tourism group

At the meeting the Culture & Tourism only had a Vice-Chair, the Vice-Chair wanted to take over the position as Chair. This is a formality according to the NSC Charter and had to be confirmed at the meeting.

At the meeting Vice-President Kruisinga proposed to postpone the election since there no possibility for Dutch candidates at this meeting due to their recent election.

Decision;

1. The Executive Committee confirms the election of Lars Nordstrøm (Region Västra Götaland) as Chair of the Culture & Tourism group.

2. The Executive Committee elects Frederikke Stensrud (Østfold) as Vice-Chairs of the Culture & Tourism group

3. The Executive Committee decides to postpone the election of the two remaining positions until next meeting 21 June 2011. (one position as vice-chair in culture and tourism and one in the sustainable development group)



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5. NSC Finances

The submissions of 21.03.11 and the financial situation were presented as in the paper.

The Executive Secretary foresees a deficit for 2011 due to extra costs. From previous years the NSC has a disposal that will cover the extra costs.

The over expenditure is related to;

- The preparations of the NSR2020 document and process.
- The secretariat has ordered new ties and shawls which will use overuse the promotion budget line.
- Some additional costs have also been used on the website after the website was hacked. Extra money has been used to upgrade software and the security programs.

Decision;

1. The Executive Committee approves the submissions of 21.03.11.

6. NSC GA 2011

The Executive Secretary informed about the program and the conference in Brugge in 21-23 June. The annual Business Meeting and the Executive Committee meeting will be on the 21st. of June. The papers on the NS2020 will be presented on the meeting.

Members were encouraged to book hotels early.

Decision;

1. The Executive Committee adopted the Political statement on “Climate Adaptation Pre-Assessment” and forwards the statement to the Annual Business Meeting 21st June 2011.

7. Next meeting

Next meeting in the Executive Committee is in Brugge 21st of June.

8. North Sea Region 2020

The papers prepared for the meeting was discussed and following points were raised;

- This is a strategy document, more concrete actions in the next phase.
- Innovation is to be seen as an overarching theme and we stick to the themes presented.
- The paper must reflect the Europa 2020 and how the North Sea Region can help to implement the policy. What added value will NSR 2020 give to Europa 2020? How can our region contribute to the growth of Europe as said in Europa 2020?
- NSC drafts an individual paper using a bottom up approach with consultations and conferences. This paper is a North Sea paper that also can be used to argue for an EU Strategy for the North Sea.



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- Geography is the North Sea but must be flexible according to the theme.
- The paper must focus on the regions strong sides / opportunities / possibilities.

The input from the discussion will be followed up in the paper prepared for the Annual Business Meeting.

9. AOB

- I.** NSC has received a letter from the Senator für Umwelt, Bau, Verkehr und Europa Dr. Reinhard Loske where he offers to host the General Assembly 2012 in Bremen, dates tbc.
The Executive Committee accepts the invitation and look forward to meet in Bremen.
- II.** Consultation MSP - ICZM ,
This issue will be followed up by the Marine Resources group.
- III.** Note Integrated Maritime Policy North Sea consultation.
NSC is waiting for more information on this issue and will act accordingly.
- IV.** The North Sea Women Network have asked for 1.000,- euro for a one year support for their website.
The Executive Committee agreed to grant them this one year support.