

Conclusions

3 February 2010

Our reference:

Case 200915103

File 30.80.03

Centre for Maritime

Regulation

/hkn

Kick-off meeting in connection with the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region, priority area 4 – “To become a model region for clean shipping”, held at the premises of the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 27 January 2010

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Participants: Please see the enclosed “*List of participants*”.

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Steering committee

The participants were informed that it had been decided at the pre-meeting not to establish a steering committee for priority area 4 since there is only one co-ordinating country (Denmark). Furthermore, rather many of the flagship projects are interlinked so there will, in any case, be a need for close contact between the parties throughout the entire process.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AND

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Information about the strategy by the Commission

DG Regio briefly informed about the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region. It was emphasized that the strategy is considered a European rather than a regional strategy and that the aim of the strategy is not to create new structures, but rather to continue working within already established structures, partnerships, etc. While the European Council is responsible for the overall policy development, the European Commission’s role is to evaluate, monitor, co-ordinate and, not least, facilitate the work getting started.

The Commission has set up a lab group to 1) assist stakeholders in identifying funding for their projects and 2) assist the various projects in other ways. Also, the possibilities of establishing a trust fund with the European Investment Bank are being examined.

A high-level group with participants from the EU Member States will be established. The first meeting will be in March 2010, when it will revise/update the Action Plan. It was stressed that it may be possible to add new projects to the Action Plan at a later stage, but for now the revised Action Plan should be the one within which to carry out the work. New proposals for projects should be included by first approaching the coordinator.

Finally, DG Regio highlighted that it is expected that increased focus will be on the EU strategy during the EU presidencies of Baltic Sea states, i.e. primarily in 2011 and 2012.

DG Mare added that their role is to ensure cohesion between the EU maritime policies and the implementation of the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region.

Information about HELCOM's role

Monika Stankiewicz from HELCOM informed about the ongoing work performed by HELCOM and the organisation's role in connection with the strategic action – “Implement actions to reduce ship pollution” – and the cooperative action – “Encourage ports, local and regional authorities and shipping companies to adopt voluntary measures reducing wastewater discharges from shipping and boating and providing facilities in ports for preventing or limiting air emissions of vessels” – cf. the enclosed presentation (*“Presentation of HELCOM's role in priority area 4”*).

Identification of lead partners for the flagship projects

Clea Henrichsen initiated this agenda item by saying that there may be an overlap between flagship projects 2 and 3 and that this may give rise to considering a co-ordinated lead on them or to rephrase the description of them. However, the lead partners are:

Flagship project 1: “Promote measures to collect ship generated waste”.

Lead partner: HELCOM agreed to explore the possibility of taking the lead on this flagship project, de facto Germany, which already leads a correspondence group on port reception facilities for sewage according to HELCOM Recommendation 28/10.

Contact person: Monika Stankiewicz, HELCOM,
monika.stankiewicz@helcom.fi.

Flagship project 2: “Promote measures to reduce emissions from ships and enhance the development for shoreside electricity facilities or for emission treatment in all major ports around the Baltic Sea in order to aim at a full coverage by 2015”.

Lead partner: Previously Finland and Sweden have expressed interest in this flagship project. It was agreed that the representatives from these two countries present at the meeting will find out who the relevant persons or organisations in Finland and Sweden are and inform the co-ordinator of the priority area accordingly.

Flagship project 3: “Introduce differentiated port dues depending on the environmental impact of ships”.

Lead partner: Since HELCOM is already deeply involved in this issue and feels committed to it, HELCOM agreed to explore the possibility of leading this flagship project. If a co-leader is needed, HELCOM will examine the possibilities of this and inform the co-ordinator accordingly.

Contact person: Monika Stankiewicz, HELCOM,
monika.stankiewicz@helcom.fi.

Flagship project 4: “Eliminate the discharge of sewage from ships”, especially from passenger ships, by establishing, through the IMO, the Baltic Sea as a Special Area according to Annex IV of MARPOL.

Lead partner: Finland, possibly with assistance from HELCOM.

Contact person: Jorma Kämäräinen, Finland, jorma.kamarainen@fma.fi.

Deadline for progress review: HELCOM has already submitted a paper on this issue to the IMO for approval at MEPC 60 to be held in March 2010.

Flagship project 5: “Improve the waste handling on board and in ports” within the framework of the Baltic Master II project through better involvement of different actors, i.e. coastal municipalities and ports together with national authorities, research institutes, universities and pan-Baltic organisations and finding practical solutions to improve waste handling.

Lead partner: Baltic Master II project, headed by Therese Nilsson, Sweden.

Contact person: Therese Nilsson, Sweden,
therese.nilsson@regionblekinge.se.

Deadline for finalisation: 24 January 2012.

In connection with flagship project 5, Therese Nilsson and Henrik Nilsson from Region Blekinge, Sweden, gave a short presentation of the Baltic Master II project, “Maritime Safety across Borders”, cf. the enclosed presentation (“*Presentation of Baltic Master II project*”).

In addition, Jörg Sträussler, Baltic Energy Forum e.V (js@baltef.de) presented a project on Clean Baltic Sea Shipping, which is in the preparation stage for applying for funds from the “Baltic Sea Programme”, cf. the enclosed presentation (“*Presentation of Clean Baltic Sea Shipping*”). He added that this project should be seen as a contribution to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region that he would like to be considered for flagship status.

In general, the presentation of the flagship projects gave rise to some general remarks about the discharge of *ballast water* into the sensible Baltic Sea and the use of *LNG fuels*.

Reporting

Finally, co-ordinator Clea Henrichsen informed the participants about the reporting obligations in connection with the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region:

As regards the actions, the reporting items required are the following:

- Partners involved in the implementation.
- State of play.
- Problems encountered and solutions found.
- Next steps.
- Expected finalisation.

As regards the flagship projects, the reporting items required are the following:

- Description of the project.
- Leader of the project.
- Financing, if relevant.
- State of play.
- Problems encountered and solutions found.
- Next steps.
- Expected finalisation.

The reporting to the Commission should be finalised by 30 June 2010. This reporting should include an in-depth description of the projects and the milestones. In order to have sufficient time for making this reporting, it is proposed that the next meeting in the group present today should be held in late May/early June 2010.

A meeting will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, on 11-12 October 2010, for which the Commission will, on the basis of the reports received in late June, have drafted a report to the Council to be discussed.

The first annual report to the Council is to be made by the Commission in 2011.

Outstanding issues

At the end of the meeting, Vitaly Klyuev from Russia expressed concern about Russia's possibilities of taking an active part in the work at the level of experts, not being a member of the EU. He requested a more or less formal address from the European Commission to Russia outlining a way forward.

The representatives from the European Commission expressed their understanding that it is important to include Russia in any decisions made

and that, to their knowledge, a meeting is already in the process of being set up between Russia and the Commission during the second week of February at the level of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.