

Common Commission meeting

Schleswig-Holstein/Eastern Norway County Network (ENCN)

Wenningstedt/Sylt, 5 May 2011

Final minutes (August 2011)

Welcome and opening of the meeting

Mr. Heinz Maurus, State Secretary for Europe and Federal Affairs of Schleswig-Holstein opened the meeting and welcomed the delegation from Eastern Norway County Network.

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without any remarks as well as the minutes from the last meeting in Lilleström, Norway on 8 March 2010.

Mr. Maurus stated that the question of future energy supply is a Europe wide challenge and one major topic of common interest. He proposed to discuss how the partners can contribute to meet issues of joint interest - within concrete projects and measures as well as by exchanging best practice solutions and developing common political frames. For Schleswig-Holstein both approaches are of high interest. Mr Maurus underlined that the longstanding friendship and trustful communication is the “critical mass” of the partnership that has become a solid platform in the networks of Baltic Sea and the North Sea region throughout the years.

Mr Roger Ryberg, chairman of ENCN thanked for the invitation and for the interesting program the day before. He pointed out the variety of issues of general common concern like culture - as well as special topics like Clean Shipping. He looked forward to upcoming joint initiatives.

Topic 1 “Renewable Energy – North Sea Transmission Grid development”

Mr. Maurus stated that the ambitious aim of turning power supply to renewable energy sources is gaining serious momentum across the whole of Europe in the light of the incidents in Japan in March 2011. This goes in particular for North Sea Offshore Wind which the major mid-term energy strategies are built upon. Keeping this in mind, extension and improvement of long-distance transmission grids is currently high on the agenda of strategic energy planning. That means on-shore as well as off-shore, within as well as across national borders, at European level as well as around the North Sea itself.

Mr Thomas Pfannkuch (State Chancellery) presented a rough survey on “Wind Energy and Energy grid” related political development at the levels of EU as well as

of the North Sea Countries themselves (“North Seas Countries Offshore Grid Initiative”). Resulting from these, the year 2012 probably could become essential with a view to basic decisions on a future “North Sea Offshore Grid”. The presentation continued on rapid deployment of renewable energies in Schleswig-Holstein: As of today a 44% RES (Renewable Energy Sources) share of overall energy consumption is reached. Further deployment of Wind energy both on- and off-shore requires a basic re-enforcement of grid infrastructure including transmission grids and access to storage capacities. The submarine high-voltage cable project “NORDLINK” between Büsum (in Schleswig-Holstein) and Southwest Norway – recently presented by Norwegian TSO Statnett in Kiel – would be of utmost interest to Schleswig-Holstein. Vice versa power supply in Norway could benefit from storing surpluses of wind power generated at Schleswig-Holstein’s coasts. This new grid could also serve as a pillar which the vision of a “North Sea Offshore Grid” could be built upon.

Mr Haabeth replied on behalf of the Norwegian partners. He stated that in Norway the high supply of hydro power counteract the development of other renewable energy sources. He underlined that everybody will benefit from new grids and that hydro power offers possibilities for storage. Norwegian Statnett has developed several grid projects involving Germany and Mr Haabeth proposed to invite Statnett for a dialogue in the frame of the next CC Meeting in Norway 2012.

Mr Haabeth then introduced the field of Wind energy in Norway and the differences between Norway and Germany in terms of wind power development. Possible points for further dialogue between the partners could be

- What are the success factors for construction of wind power and expanding the capacity?
- In which way have the regional authorities in wind power-dense areas aligned public opinion and harvested sufficient support for large scale wind power construction?
- In what way have protestors and opponents to wind power been addressed?
- Regional versus national planning and processing of applications for wind power construction.

Mr Haabeth then introduced the topic Bioenergy - as Norway faces a net growth of forests and an increase in the last five years in the use of bioenergy from wood for heating requirements. Further there is an emerging biogas industry in Norway. Biogas is seen as a source for replacing mobile energy use in heavy transportation and public transport, but there is a challenge in reaching profitability and achieving significant scale in the Norwegian projects. Only pilots have been basis for experience so far.

Points for future dialogue between the partners could be

- How to organise suitable programs for investment support and tax reliefs in order to sustain new, renewable energy projects through to self-sufficiency and profit?
- Which roles should the regional authority take in the development of bioenergy projects?

Mr Haabeth hoped for future exchange of experiences and proposed to keep up the dialog on the energy in the partnership.

The meeting agreed to the following recommendations:

As regards the “Offshore Grid” the meeting agreed on the following conclusions:

- We underline the important role which NorthSea Offshore Wind will play regarding future energy supply from renewable energies for Europe.
- We point to the serious investment needs for grid integration of these “new energy generation areas” at North Sea (including the improvement of transmission grids towards major energy consumption & storage areas).
- We keep in mind the longer term perspective of a joint “North Sea Offshore Grid” allowing to integrate high-sea Offshore Windfarms and to interconnect all North Sea countries to each other.
- We welcome the new high voltage subsea cable project “NORD.LINK” between Southern Norway and Schleswig-Holstein (recently presented by Statnett at Kiel) with a particular view to mutual benefits such as
 - additional energy supply from renewable energies
 - and large-scale energy storage.
- Within our individual capacities at home, we will further promote the promising prospects and benefits of this project with a view to speedy authorization and realization.

With a view to further detailed RES it was agreed to look for best practises and exchange of experience and information on the development of wind power and bio-energy.

Topic 2 a “Culture - Viking heritage”

Mr Maurus welcomed Mr von Carnap-Bornheim from the State Archaeological department of Schleswig-Holstein. He stated that culture has been an important part of the cooperation from the very beginning. There have been numerous projects and activities in the recent years - mobilizing people to take part in the cooperation. The

project on Viking heritage shows that even the common heritage has a potential to become a transnational highlight in Northern Europe.

Mr von Carnap-Bornheim presented the development of the “Viking Monuments and Sites” application and its nomination as World heritage as well as the transnational organisation. He recalled the difficult negotiations with Norway as partner of the application and highlighted the breakthrough in 2010. In 2014 the application will hopefully succeed after nearly 10 years of work. The UNESCO is extremely interested in the innovative idea of Viking Culture as World heritage. By now the project is on the tentative list and as such on a promising way.

Mr Per-Eivind Johansen thanked Mr von Carnap-Bornheim for his support and informed the partners that the Norwegian participation in this project derives from the Common Commission meeting in Lübeck i October 2008. He then informed about the activities in Vestfold around this project and pointed out that also the Norwegian national authorities now support the nomination.

Mr Maurus underlined that the recognition as UNESCO world heritage would be a great symbol of common history and future at the same time. He stated that the partners strongly support this common application and personally wished the project all the best.

As Mr Maurus had to leave the session due to other obligations he took the opportunity to thank all the participants for their attendance and contributions. He stated that the agenda today as well as presentations and discussions during the study trip yesterday have shown the broad variety of topics of joint interest.

Mr Ryberg thanked Mr Maurus for the hospitality and the interesting program and discussions. He invited the Schleswig-Holstein partners to the next Common Commission meeting in Norway in autumn 2012. He proposed to come back to the dates later, but indicated that one possibility could be at the occasion of the opening of the joint exhibition of Östlandutstillingen and Landesschau in Norway planed for September 2012.

Mr Maurus thanked for the kind invitation and wished the Norwegian delegation a pleasant time in Hamburg at the 822. HAFENGEBURSTAG.

Topic 2 b “Culture – Current Activities and projects”

Ms Katharina Kriston took over as chair of the meeting and gave the floor to Ms Irena Scheicher, Ministry for Culture, for an update of current activities and projects in the field of culture.

Ms Scheicher started with some input in the field of arts and presented the exhibition "Connecting". She reported that the commissioner for Culture and Minorities Ms Caroline Schwarz will attend the opening in Oslo on 18 June 2011. The exhibition is accompanied by a seminar on "Pedagogical arrangements for children during arts and crafts projects" for schools.

Another project for children included pupils from Flensburg, where "Connecting" started, into the exhibition by letting them decorate a used sail with typical "souvenirs" from Flensburg. The sail will travel around with the exhibition to the other countries (Norway, Finland, Denmark and Sweden) and be further developed with elements of the other regions.

She then reported on the exhibition "3 x 3" and underlined the financial engagement of Color line in the field of arts. She mentioned further that the combined exhibition of Östlandutstillingen and Landesschau (2012/2013) most likely will have a common motto – for example "landscapes".

Regarding the field of culture and young people Ms Scheicher reported on the Ars Baltica Conference in September 2011 in Rendsburg and welcomed the Norwegian idea to present the cultural rucksack in this frame. The Schleswig-Holstein partners are interested in an exchange of ideas since a similar project ("Ideenschmiede") is up and running. Ms Scheicher then stated that the study trip from the working-group on culture in ENCN to Schleswig-Holstein, as proposed in the draft action program, would not be possible to realize this autumn due to the organization of the Ars Baltica Conference. She proposed to agree upon a new date later.

Concerning film Ms Scheicher pointed out that the Landesverband Jugend und Film Schleswig-Holstein is highly interested in the cooperation and will like to refresh the contacts. First of all they want to invite young people from Eastern Norway to a film camp in 2012 - as a new starting point. The year after 10 young people from Schleswig-Holstein could take part in the Amandus Film festival in Lillehammer.

Cooperation in other fields like literature and music is going on. The Folk Baltica Festival was again a great success. Ms Scheicher ended her intervention by sending her special regards to Ms Unn Ribe in the ENCN Secretariat for her contribution in the field of culture within our cooperation perspectives.

Gunn Marit Helgesen expressed her thanks for the enthusiastic work in the field of culture that every year provides something new and even better. She proposed the integration of tourism into the development of this topic in the future.

Ms Annemarie Lübcke pointed out that contacts from the Northern Frisian Islands to Norway already are established since Norway is seen as an interesting market.

Ms Ann Irene Saeternes added that the Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein (FFHSH) is involved in the Norwegian film festival in Hamburg in the frame of the 822. HAFENGEBURTSTAG 2011.

The participants agreed upon the proposals in the action program regarding culture.

Topic 3 “North Sea and Baltic Sea Cooperation”

Mr Stefan Musiolik, State Chancellery, reported on the new dynamic in Baltic Sea Region cooperation since the adoption of the Baltic Sea Strategy in 2009. Schleswig-Holstein’s interests and goals are mainly Maritime Policy on the one hand and the development of a common identity in the Baltic Sea on the other. He asked the Norwegian participants to support and contribute to the Baltic Sea History Project which failed to become an INTERREG project. Now an application to the EU cultural program is in preparation.

Mr Musiolik thanked ENCN for the support in the BSSSC’s work in the field of maritime policy. He reported on the development of the Clean Baltic Shipping project, as an example, and the contribution of the BSSSC working group of Maritime Policy. He further proposed a closer contact between the North Sea and Baltic Sea Clean Shipping projects to create synergies.

Mr Musiolik then presented the workshop in the frame of the European Maritime Day in Gdansk this year and the ideas to establish a Clean Baltic Sea Award and an Annual Forum.

Ms Helgesen reported on the development of a North Sea Strategy and stated a lack of focus from EU and the Member States towards the North Sea region. If the Europe 2020 Strategy should be a success a strong input from the North Sea Region will be necessary. She mentioned that a draft document - including focused areas – under the title “North Sea 2020” will be presented to the Danish EU-Presidency 2012 and then an action plan will follow. The North Sea Strategy will be a contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy. Ms Helgesen underlined the close cooperation with the CoR and stressed that the support from Germany is needed in the process.

Mr Musiolik answered to the information from Ms Helgesen and first reported that Schleswig-Holstein will join the political committee of the INTERREG project “Clean North Sea Shipping”.

Regarding the North Sea Strategy he informed that DG Mare has developed a Scoping Paper “Integrated Maritime Policy in the North Sea”. Schleswig-Holstein is in favor of this development. Minister President Peter Harry Carstensen recently pointed out that it would be easier to start with a smaller sea basin strategy and then

develop it further into a North Sea Region Strategy. But even this smaller sized proposal from DG Mare was not supported by several EU member states in the region - mainly the Netherlands, Denmark and the UK.

It will be a challenging task to make progress and it will be necessary to lobby for such a strategic approach especially towards the national level, Ms Helgesen concluded. She confirmed the further development of the North Sea Strategy and expressed her hope for input from Schleswig-Holstein to create synergies.

Adoption of the Action Program

The Action Program was adopted without any further remarks.

Closure of the meeting

Ms Kriston thanked all the participants for the input to the session and welcomed the numerous concrete agreements.

Mr. Ryberg thanked for the hospitality and the honest and open atmosphere of the meeting and looks forward to the next Common Commission meeting in 2012.

Enclosures

- Participant list
- Action program 2011/2012

All presentations are available on the web-pages of Eastern Norway County Network

<http://www.ostsam.no/Default.asp?WCI=DisplayGroup&WCE=116&DGI=116>