

**Common Commission meeting**  
**Schleswig-Holstein/Eastern Norway County Network (ENCN)**  
**Ministry for Justice, Cultural and European Affairs**  
**Kiel, 15 January 2014**

Draft minutes (27.01.2014, SP/AIS)

**Welcome and opening of the meeting**

Ms Anke Spoorendonk, Minister for Justice, Cultural and European Affairs of Schleswig-Holstein opened the meeting and welcomed the delegation from ENCN as well as the invited guests from the Norwegian Embassy in Berlin and other ministries in SH.

With reference to the celebration of the bicentennial of the Kiel Treaty the day before, she underlined the importance of regional cooperation. She then gave a short overview of activities in 2013.

Mr Ole Haabeth, chairman of ENCN thanked for the invitation and the arrangements for the constitutional jubilee.

Then the agenda for the meeting was adopted without any remarks as well as the minutes from the last meeting at Moss, Norway on 7 November, 2012.

**Topic 1 Energy**

Ms Spoorendonk introduced the first topic on the agenda by underlining that one of the major priorities of the Land Government elected in June 2012 is to speed up the process of energy transition including the improvement of grid infrastructures.

After a brief summary of the last year's discussions she gave the floor to Ms Bettina Meyer, Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Areas.

Ms Meyer gave a comprehensive presentation of the work of the Ministry and the goals of climate and energy policy in Schleswig-Holstein with a special view to the consequences for consumers.

In the following discussion it became obvious that grid extension is one of the key issue for the future energy supply. It stands for security, flexibility and low costs. Therefor the exchange between different kinds of energy and between all neighbouring countries is necessary.

Ms Karlsen, Norwegian Embassy in Berlin, underlined the importance of this issue not only for the partner regions but for the cooperation between Germany and Norway as a whole.

Ms Solli, County Mayor of Akershus and Mr Høiberg, County Council Vestfold, congratulated Schleswig-Holstein and Germany for having started the process of “Energiewende” as a leader in Europe. Ms Solli invited the partners from Schleswig-Holstein to Akershus energipark which is a lighthouse project in environmentally friendly energy.

Ms Spoorendonk stressed the current debate on EU level regarding storage that is not in line with Schleswig-Holstein’s policy. Ms Meyer confirmed that all storage procedures are expensive and lead to losses up to 80% of power. She again underlined the necessity of grid extension. Anyhow, research and pilot projects on electricity storage are necessary, because the long-termed goal of an economy based on 100% renewable energies needs a certain amount of storage.

The participants then discussed the consequences for consumers like acceptance for infrastructural measures and price development. One way on Schleswig-Holstein side is to give concerned people a share in all debates and even in windmills itself to participate and benefit from renewable energy (“Bürgerwindpark”).

Ms Meyer stated that the energy ministry sees the current debate on EU level regarding subsidy control with sorrow, because the European Commission is very critical towards feed-in tariffs, whilst the ministry is convinced, that this instrument is the most effective and efficient.

Ms Spoorendonk gave a summary of the topic and thanked for all contributions.

## **Topic 2 Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link**

Ms Spoorendonk introduced this topic by giving a summary of facts and figures for this huge project.

Ms Druba, Head of the planning group in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Employment, Transport, and Technology gave an overview of the development of the Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link, its importance for Northern Europe, its prospects, benefits and costs as well as the process of participation and the concerns of the population with regard to the upgrading of the railway connection in the region “Lübecker Bucht”.

Ms Spoorendonk mentioned the issue of green growth and its development – in particular in the frame of the STRING cooperation in which the Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link is a main topic. Both Ms Spoorendonk and Ms Druba pointed to the Fehmarnbelt

Days in Copenhagen in September 2014 and invited the partners to take part in the discussions.

Mr. Haabeth and Mr. Odnes underlined the importance of the TEN-T corridor from Oslo via Sweden and Denmark to Germany and stressed the need to upgrade the railway lines to make transport more sustainable and secure in the future. The roads are already overloaded – and especially cargo should be moved from road to rail and sea.

Ms Spoorendonk then had to leave the meeting due to the Committee for European Affairs of the Schleswig-Holstein Parliament. Mr Thorsten Augustin, Head of Department for European Affairs, took over the chairmanship and closed this topic with a short summary and remarked that the new EU funding period may help finding the necessary financial support.

### **Topic 3 Future INTERREG Programs**

Mr Augustin gave a short introduction to this topic and then asked Ms Williams, Ministry for Justice, Cultural and European Affairs to give an update of the current state.

Ms Williams outlined the main figures, goals and new approaches of the North Sea and Baltic Sea INTERREG Programs 2014-2020.

The participants agreed upon informing each other at an early stage of new projects and using seed money for the development of concrete ideas. Therefore it is necessary to identify topics of common interest to focus on.

Ms Sæternes, ENCN secretariat, proposed to start an exchange of ideas and experience regarding the involvement of the private sector as this is one of the major changes in the new Baltic Sea Region program.

Mr Haukvik, Telemark, added that for the North Sea Program the topics still need to be further specified and that overhead costs are a controversial issue.

Mr Augustin closed this topic by underlining the necessity of keeping the contacts and using the networks in the Baltic and North Sea to generate EU projects and to find partners. He encouraged the participants to take the chances of the new programs together and find funding possibilities for issues of common interest.

### **Topic 4 Culture and Creativity**

Mr Augustin introduced to this topic by acknowledging culture as the main issue of the partnership in recent years and thanked all actors involved into this successful cooperation also in the name of Ms Spoorendonk.

He then briefly introduced the new Priority Area Culture in the Baltic Sea Strategy as an outcome of an initiative of the Governments of Land Schleswig-Holstein and Poland supported by ARS BALTICA and the Nordic Council of Ministers. He therefore welcomed Mr Musiolik, Ministry for Justice, Cultural and European Affairs, Mr Hagemann, Head of ARS BALTICA secretariat and Ms Scheicher, Ministry for Justice, Cultural and European Affairs for an update of information.

Mr Musiolik reported of the development of this new Priority, its aims and goals as well as its organization and instruments. He described some project examples and proposals and invited the participants to bring in own / new ideas to the pool of flagship projects that exists so far.

Schleswig-Holstein as one of the coordinators of this Priority Area has also the rapporteur ship in the BSSSC Cultural area.

Mr Hagemann then gave an overview of the work and structure of ARS BALTICA and stated the need of a framework for successful cultural cooperation. He explained the role of ARS BALTICA in the frame of the Priority Area Culture and finished by giving an outlook of new projects, tasks and concepts.

Ms Scheicher informed the participants briefly about the big lines in the cultural cooperation between the partner regions and distributed some press articles and flyers.

Mr Odnes thanked for the information given and suggested to link the issues of Culture and Tourism.

Mr Augustin welcomed the new Priority Area Culture and was confident that it will open new perspectives to the stakeholders all over the Baltic Sea as well as for the bilateral cooperation.

### **Adoption of the Action Program**

Mr Augustin went through the draft action programme 2014/2015 point by point.

Mr Haabeth proposed to add the issue of smart energy to the chapter of Energy and to put it on the agenda for 2015.

Mr Höiberg distributed a proposal for a new additional action point under transport regarding the development of intermodal hubs through supplementary transport

corridors and explained the background. The proposal to include this additional cooperation point was adopted.

It was decided to delete point 8 on follow up of the 200-years celebration of the Treaty of Kiel and move the action point on re-visit of the Ernst-Barlach Gymnasium to Skien to the youth cooperation (point 6).

The Action Program was adopted without any further remarks.

### **Closure of the meeting**

Mr Augustin thanked all the participants for the input to the sessions and invited all participants for lunch.

Mr Haabeth thanked for the hospitality and he looks forward to welcome all to the next Common Commission meeting in Eastern Norway in spring 2015.

### **Enclosures**

- Participant list
- Presentations
- Updated Action program 2014/2015

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