

DRAFT Meeting Minutes of the

27th Meeting of the International Steering Committee for the Policy Area on Maritime Safety and Security of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region -

Formal part

Time and place: November 23 2022, 13.30 - 16.30 at Swedish Maritime Administration, af Pontins väg 6, Stockholm + Skype

1. Welcome Words and Tour de Table

PAC Ulf Siwe and the Chair Tove Jangland (Swedish Transport Agency) wished the participants welcome. At 13.35 Ms Jangland announced the 27th meeting started.

Tour de table/ present: Morten Viggo Weiss (SG member / Denmark), Emelie Tingström (PAC), Juhani Ailio (EUSBSR Baltic Sea Action Point / Centrum Balticum Foundation), Viktoriia Hladii (EUSBSR Baltic Sea Action Point / Centrum Balticum Foundation), Aleksandrs Pavlovics (SG member/ Latvia), Seppo Mäkinen (Traficom), Milla Harju (PAC Ship / Finland), Juha-Matti Korsi (SG member / Finland), Valtteri Laine (PAC), Tove Jangland (Chair, SG member / Sweden), Ulf Siwe (PAC), Simona Jonuskiene (SG member / Lithuania), Petri Koistinen (European Commission, DG REGIO)

Online: Iwona Chrzastowska (SG member/ Poland), Tarmo Ots (SG member/ Estonia)

2. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes from the Last Meeting

Ms Jangland informed the participants that there was to be a slight change to the agenda as one of the presenters were to present slightly earlier. The change in the agenda was accepted. After Ms Jangland had enquired whether anyone had any thoughts on minutes from the last PA Safe meeting, the minutes were approved without amendments.

3. Activities of the Policy Area Coordinators & SG Approval

Mr Laine introduced a list of bullet points outlining the activities the PACs had carried out after the last meeting. It was stated that the new concept to the SG meetings (i.e. formal divided from operational) was found successful, as the combination paved the way to good discussions and actions on action items, gathered contributions from different stakeholders and ideas how to work together in the future. However, some more work is needed to be done in order to link the two groups together.

The workshop at the HELCOM office in Helsinki prior to the EUSBSR AF was part of the plan on having several project idea generation workshops around BSR. Dates and details are to be discussed with appropriate SG members directly.

PA Safe plans to support the Ukrainian maritime students in difficult times, and there is a meeting coming on the 8th of December, organised by the EUSBSR Presidency where measures will be mapped.

PA Safe did not succeed very well in the last Interreg BSR call, therefore the PA is widening perspectives by looking at other potential funding sources. In addition, the PACs will try to streamline project applications, and encourage the consortiums to apply again.

Mr Ots (SG Estonia) online approved on the plans to encourage projects to re-send their project applications in the new Interreg BSR call. He also expressed his support to the Offshore windmill farms workshop development, and stated that it should indeed be one of the priorities for PA Safe.

In addition, Mr Korsi (SG Finland), and Mr Weiss (SG Denmark) agreed on the importance of the windmill plans. Mr Pavlovics (SG Latvia) stated that sea-based windmill farms have many aspects, one being divers.

Finally, Ms Tingström informed the participants of a new requirement from the Interreg BSR: from now on, the SG needs to approve the activities the PACs have carried out throughout the year. This will be done in yearly phases. A template will be circulated among the Steering Group after the meeting by the Chair (Attachment 1).

Mr Laine suggested that it would make more sense to have a list of planned activities provided to the SG in the beginning of the year, in order to compare it to the completed activities in the end.

4. Priorities of Sweden in the context of PA Safe

Ms Jangland introduced the key words to sum up the priorities the Swedish EUSBSR Presidency have outlined for their year (pls. see the presentation).

She also called for discussion on the reasons why PA Safe only has one Flagship at the moment; what is the reason for it, and how could the PA attract more. In response, Ms Tingström shared that she would be giving a presentation on the requirements from the Interreg BSR Programme later, and Mr Laine commented that the attempt is also to explore other funding instruments. Mr Ailio (BSP) also commented that not many other PAs were successful in this particular call either, and that we are only at the very early stage of this framework. Mr Siwe also called for SG members' help in encouraging national consortiums to apply for funding. Mr Koistinen (DG Regio) reminded the participants that Flagships aren't the only way to implement the priorities and perhaps to look further than them. Mr Pavlovics called for a website where all needed information on application processes and deadlines could be acquired from.

5. Introduction of the new EUSBSR Strategy Point

Mr Juhani Ailio, Project Manager/ BSP from Centrum Balticum Foundation introduced the Baltic Sea Strategy Point (BSP) and its tasks in the Action Plan (pls. see the main points in the presentation). The BSP is currently in the middle of a process to acquire information from all the PACs in order to "customise" the support accordingly. He stressed that while their team work for the PACs, we all need to work together - especially with e.g. funding sources - they can find them for the PAs, but they will need assistance from each PAC to find the right priorities with them.

One of their objectives is to collect best practises and templates for the whole Strategy to use, and also to cooperate with PACs' counter-parts from other Macro-Strategies.

6. Establishment of new PA Safe projects - General information

Due to the fact that only one small project (titled BalMarGrav) and no new core projects were funded by Interreg BSR Programme under PA Safe in the last call, PAC Emelie Tingström (Swedish Maritime Administration) presented the information she had gained from a meeting with the Programme representatives earlier this autumn - pls. see the presentation.

(Pls note that PIF stands for "Project Idea Form")

7. Establishment of new PA Safe projects - Policy lab

a) Information on Swedish Policy Lab

A presentation was given by Mr Henrik Tunfors, Swedish Transport Agency (online)

- The intention of the Policy Lab project was to investigate the current legislation on its possibilities - i.e. what is a smart way to consider and create policies, and how current legislations apply to smart systems/ ships. This was conducted through a group exercise via inviting a group of professionals and expertise in the same room, and ensuring a user centric-approach which is considered as a key element in creating meaningful policies.
- Mr Tunfors introduced three different approaches for policy labs, where MarLabs (UK) was the pioneer, DMA Regulatory lab explored how to use innovative policy to reach out to IMO to fight climate change, and German ministries which established a series of policy labs on different ministerial levels in order to assist the industry and regulators to come together to find smart

avenues to work together. Finally, the Smart Ships policy lab had three use cases: marine drones, road ferries and navigational support from shore.

- The main outputs gained from the Smart Ships policy lab were as follows:
 - the learning experience, which showed the need for continuous national efforts. It is clear that the stakeholders need to reach out to the government to communicate the needs of the industry.
 - They have now started to build up confidence on the project level, noting all the different actors on different levels in Sweden. Mr Tunfors also stated that not having a policy is also a policy, which implies that a lack of policy for a particular matter reveals a statement in the strategy.
 - Mr Tunfors reported that a dialogue has opened up with the Transport agency and the policy level, which is to build upon in the future.

b) Discussion on a possible Baltic Policy Lab

A discussion among the Steering Group followed the presentation, where Mr Siwe asked the SG to share their thoughts on a possible cooperation in the three areas introduced by Mr Tunfors.

- Mr Tunfors stated that perhaps the navigational support from shore-issue could be most conveniently explored by international cooperation in the BSR.
- **DK** agreed that it is an issue across the area.
- **LT** enquired on the possible practical outcomes.
- **FI** stated that in principle it is a good idea to have policy labs between countries and stakeholders, yet was not convinced that the particular topics were of relevance; instead, Mr Korsi asked if the previously mentioned offshore windfarm development could be a better topic.
- **PL** was interested in the ideas and stated that academia and perhaps Polish business could be take part in them.
- **EE** stated that based on the information received, it is difficult to say who could be participating, but asked for a one-pager where the ideas would be presented more concretely and then distributed among the SG - and the decision could be made then
- **ACTION:** PAC concluded that Swedish Transport Agency and Swedish Maritime Administration will put together an information summary and also include a question on what each SG member considers to be the most interesting subject on a national level

8. Funding sources

Mr Juhani Ailio from the BSP continued on the subject of funding sources by introducing several different ones, which could be considered depending on the specific action items on the PA's action plan. He reminded the participants that the work implemented in the different PAs can be designed in many ways, and is not restricted in any way by the Strategy; however, the results/ work implemented must be measurable and monitorable.

Please see the presentation for more information.

In the discussion following, Mr Koistinen informed the participants that there is a report coming out soon on Macro-Regional Strategies.

9. New PA Safe Meeting Structure

Mr Siwe continued on the subject of the success of the PA Safe's new meeting structure, which has revealed the following:

- Approximately 30 people joined in the Operational Group meeting taking place online in June, which was thus found a successful format for the meeting. However when the work carried out gets more in-detail, it should be held in-person.
- A project idea generation workshop was held in Helsinki prior to the EUSBSR AF, which again was found a successful concept and it was determined that other similar workshops will be held alongside other maritime-related events in the coming years.
 - Mr Siwe enquired from the SG whether they are already aware of such events that the

workshops could be organised together with:

- LT enquires from the Klaipeda cluster,
- LV informed about similar intentions;
- EE will be having a maritime conference in September

10. Policy Suggestions and other input from the Operational Group

Mr Siwe informed the SG that no policy suggestions at this time had been drawn from any projects and/or the Operational Group, however it does not indicate that none exist, but they are not necessarily communicated to the PAs as projects might have other ways of reaching out. As for other input from the Operational Group, the meeting minutes act as an excellent source for finding partnerships.

It was suggested that in the future the Operation Group meetings will be held one to two weeks before the Formal SG meetings in order to feed into the possible policy needs. Also, the Formal SG will be asked in advance for any input to the Operational Group meetings via email.

11. Any other business

Reflecting back to the previous discussion on funding sources, Mr Koistinen informed the participants that DG Mare will be interested in anything related to the sustainability of the seas, and encouraged the PACs to explore the subject further.

Mr Laine informed the SG that Mr Mäkinen will be taking over his position as PAC as of 2023.

12. Wrap-up and Conclusion

Mr Siwe wrapped up the meeting by thanking the participants on the active discussions and inputs in the meeting. He also invited all participants to the Vasa museum followed by a dinner in the Old Town of Stockholm.

Ms Jangland expressed her gratitude to all and officially closed the meeting at 16.20.