



B7 Baltic Islands Network

B7 Bornholm Chairmanship 2007

Regional Municipality of Bornholm

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B7 Board Minutes:

Berlin 17-19 January

VENUE: Hotel President, An der Urania 16-18, 10787 Berlin-Schöneberg,

PARTICIPANTS:

Island	Name	Participated
Bornholm	Jörgen Kvist (JKV)	Yes
Gotland	Ulla Pettersson UP)	Yes
Hiiumaa	Reet Kokovkin (RK)	Yes
Rügen	Christian Theel (CT)	Yes
Saaremaa	Anu Vares (AV)	Yes
Öland	Jörgen Samuelsson (JS)	No. cancelled flight for personal reasons. Agenda discussed with facilitator. On standby for phone contact
Åland	Susanne Andersson (SA)	Yes
B7 Secretariat:	Karen Lynn Jacobsen (KLJ)	Yes
B7 Facilitator	David Hunt (DH)	Yes

§1 Minutes of Meeting: (Bornholm Chairmanship)

- Approval of minutes from Board meeting 21 November 2006.
 - **Decision:** Minutes of previous Board meeting approved.
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§2 Approval of Agenda: (Bornholm Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: to add additions to the agenda.

- A draft programme and draft agenda are sent out at least 30 days before the meeting.
 - Points for the agenda are collated from the islands and a final agenda is posted on the website at least 5 days before the meeting.
 - **Decision:** orientation accepted and agenda approved.
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§3 Bornholm Chairmanship: (Bornholm Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To ensure clarity on Chairmanship programme and budget and prepare programmes and agendas for coming meetings.

3.1 B7 Bornholm Chairmanship 2007

- Programme and calendar
- Budget

JKV gave a presentation of the programme for 2007. DH gave a presentation of the budget. The costs for the Bornholm Chairmanship are higher due to additional meetings.

- **Decision:** Orientation accepted.
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3.2 Brussels programme: 07-09 March

Board and SC Meetings

- **Decision:** Meeting with Commissioner Borg agreed. Dates to be finalised. There is a seminar on Maritime Policy 5-6 March for those interested.
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3.3 Meeting with BSO: 16-17 April

Facilitator to travel to Stockholm to meet with CBSS on 7 February to confirm programme.

The Board decide that they would not meet. Representatives from islands are encouraged to participate and meet with the BSO representatives.

- **Decision:** Orientation accepted.
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3.4 Tourism Conference: 03-05 June

- Theme, propose speakers, draft programme
- Proposed representatives from the B7 islands and Baltic organisations

Conference topic: Trends, Strategies and Branding in the Baltic Sea Region.

June conference: Board members to send contact details of +/-3 key persons within the tourism sector to the Secretariat, thereafter invitations/programmes will be sent out.

- **Decision:** Orientation accepted.
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3.5 Special visit to Baltic Europe Intergroup (BEI) in Strasbourg.

- As part of the work with the Maritime Green Paper and to follow up on BEI's strategy, members of the B7 will visit Strasbourg and meet with the Baltic Europe Intergroup

- **Decision:** Orientation accepted
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3.6 Energy Conference Islenet and B7: October

B7 is committed to participate in the Conference if Islenet receive funding. B7 sent a letter of support when Islenet applied for funding. The conference will be in Brussels.

- **Decision:** Orientation accepted
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3.7 Meet the Danish Government: 08-10 October

JKV has met with the ministers and discussed the visit with their advisors. Meeting agreed subject to something unexpected happening, in which case their senior advisors will step in.

- **Decision:** Orientation accepted.
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3.8 Annual Conference

- Draft programme and key speakers
 - **Decision:** No progress to report.
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§4 Follow-up from Evaluation process: (Bornholm Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To decide how to follow-up the recommendations and conclusions and what actions are to be taken.

- Demand for "value for money" from islands
- Susanne Andersson's presentation attached to minutes Nov 21 2006

The issues raised by the evaluation process were covered by a presentation at the Annual Conference by Susanne Andersson (SA) and summarised in the minute of the Board meeting of 20 November 2006. Most of the key issues raised by both the evaluation process and the report which formed the basis of the new strategy, "Inspiration and Background to the B7 Strategy 2007-13" are taken up under the following:

- a. The "11 issues that the B7 needs to address" discussed at both the Board and SC meeting on Åland in November.
- b. The new B7 "Strategy for a Changing World"
- c. The Bornholm B7 Chairmanship programme.

SA stated that it was important to bare in mind the conclusions from the evaluation. Maybe with practical examples on the next SC meeting agenda, so that SC members must make a decision of how these conclusions may be incorporated in future. **SA will ensure follow up at Board meetings**

The Board went through the decisions of the SC on the 11 questions. As a **result DH and JKV plan to meet in Brussels with CPMR** to hear of the possibility of them acting as the **B7 Representation in Brussels**, before going on to SC with proposal. 30.000 SEK is in the budget for a B7 Brussels representation.

Work on a **communications strategy** was begun during the Board meeting and will be followed up by the Chairmanship.

The issue of **how to evaluate of B7 work** is now included as part of every B7 activity. For example:

- a. Indicators of achievement will be written into every project award.
- b. The presentation of accounts will include an analysis of how money is spent.
- c. Action plans for B7 work, will facilitate evaluation of B7's results.

- **Decision:** To follow up at Brussels meeting of Board and SC.
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§5 Status of New EU Baltic Sea programmes: (Bornholm Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: Update status of EU programmes and highlight possible project opportunities using the Central and Southern Baltic programmes.

- Central Baltic Programme (copy circulated)
 - Southern Baltic Programme
- a. RK gave an update on the situation for the Central Baltic programme. The process of approval is on course. The content is well suited to the B7 islands. The first call for applications expected in the second half of 2007.

- b. The Southern Baltic programme is behind schedule. It is not so certain that the content will suit the islands needs as much is influenced by mainland actors. When a draft version for approval is available, it will be sent out to Board members.
- c. Board members were encouraged to begin to think of potential projects. The Chairmanship would like to have a short-list of project ideas to discuss at the next meeting.
- d. Chairmanship will try to lobby to ensure that the two programmes work together. It will organise a meeting with Ms Helander's office.

- **Decision: orientation accepted**

§6 B7 Strategy 2007-13: (Bornholm Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To agree a process to finalise the strategy, get it approved and outline the implementation of the strategy.

Status of Strategy

- a. All comments and suggestions received by the facilitator have been incorporated in the strategy.
- b. As there was no political agreement on prioritising the themes, they have been reorganised and put in the strategy in alphabetical order. It is currently expected that prioritising will occur in connection with the annual chairmanship programme.
- c. Minor editing needed as result of discussions in Berlin.
- d. The edited version will be submitted to next SC meeting for final approval.

JKV: asked if the Strategy is only for internal use? Board agreed it was an open document, to be used as an introduction to partners plus the document to be put on the website.

UP: Translation needed for the official positions persons signing the document.

Indicators of achievement will not be included in the strategy but will be added to the action plans that should be drawn up as part of the annual chairmanship programme.

- **Decision:** The Strategy will be tidied up and then sent to SC for final approval at the Brussels meeting.

Preparation of action plan

- e. The action plan needs minor editing before submitting to SC.
- f. It was agreed to add what had happened in prior Chairmanship programmes to the extent that it aided understanding.
- g. The action plan should be updated on an annual basis as part of the new chairmanship programme.
- h. Indicators would be added to the action plan. It was agreed that while this was relatively easy at the level of "outputs", it became much more difficult at the level of "results" and "impacts".

- **Decision:**

- The facilitator will finalise the action plan and send to the Board for final comment.
 - Action plan to be submitted to the SC for approval at the Brussels meeting
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§7 Maritime Green Paper action plan: (Bornholm Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To agree the level of ambition and a plan for B7's work on the Maritime Green Paper. i.e.

- Agreeing tasks and responsibilities, budget for work.
- Lobby and communication activities.

- Position Paper(s) to produce
- Answering EU Commissions questionnaire

Organisation of Work:

Åland is organised most comprehensively to work with Maritime policy, so we have followed their workplan. **Contributions to be sent to the Secretariat by 16 February 2007**

TOPIC	Co-ordinator for B7	Co-ordinator for Åland
Maritime Green Paper Position	Bornholm Chairmanship	Lasse Wiklöf, Member of Government Co-ordinating with B7 Mikael Wennström
Employment & Competitiveness	Åland	
Energy	Åland	Henrik Juslin; henrik.juslin@regeringen.ax
Environment Marine	Mikael Wennström	Mikael Wennström mikael.wennstrom@regeringen.ax
Fishery	Gotland	Olof Karlsson; olof.karlsson@regeringen.ax
Inter Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)	Hiumaa/Saaremaa	
R&D	Bornholm & Gotland	
Transport, Safety & Security	Bornholm (Henrik Eybye Nielsen)	
Shipping	Åland	Yngve Mörn; yngve.morn@regeringen.ax
Tourism	Rügen & Bornholm	Gunilla Sanders gunilla.sanders@regeringen.ax
Head of EU-office / Co-ordination	David Hunt	Alexandra Oksman; alexandra.oksman@regeringen.ax

Actions:

- Commissioner Borg's office has requested a list of topics that the B7 wish to discuss at the meeting in Brussels on 7 March 2007. Also to include what policy actions B7 would want to see. (point added after meeting)
- Henrik Eybye Nielsen's draft of a B7 position paper will form the starting point for the final position paper.
- Mikael Wennström has agreed to be the technical advisor and assist with editing the final B7 position.
- A draft will be required for when the Board and SC visit Brussels in March together with a list of key questions and issues that B7 wishes to investigate during the visit.
- Islands must advise if they require time for their councils to approve the B7 position paper.

The Maritime position paper is regarded a one of the key actions of the Bornholm Chairmanship

- **Decision: Islands agreed to submit input by 16 February**

§8 Legal Status: (Bornholm Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: Start the process of the B7 becoming a legal entity.

Status:

Chairmanship working on this issue. Bornholm has contacted the Danish Foreign Office. It appears that no organisation has become a legal entity based on the EGCT proposal. It is difficult to find people that have practical knowledge to assist in the process.

- **Decision:** Bornholm will continue working with the process and advise of progress.
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§9 Workgroups and Projects: (Facilitator)

Purpose of agenda item: What is the status of B7 projects? Are there any policy issues that B7 needs to consider with a view to making recommendations to the B7 SC?

9.1 WG Environment: (DH)

The WGE has advise that it will work with 3 projects this year

- Baltic Master Project: Öland has appointed Tommy Eliasson with copies to be sent to Jörgen Samuelsson. Saaremaa and Hiiumaa agreed to supply names of people to with Baltic Master. (WGE have advised after meeting that they have received names)
- Energy Project (if approved)
- Maritime Green Paper & Marine Strategy: co-ordinated by Mikael Wennström of Åland

The Bornholm Gotland Rügen, Öland have committed to work one day a month on the project. Åland, Saaremaa and Hiiumaa have committed to work ½ day per month. The project holders have not required B7's financing for the project to be paid to them. Therefore there is +SEK 100,000 to finance travel and activities in the B7 budget. (Money not used by WGE in 2006 forwarded to 2007 as agreed in § 11)

Rügen stated that it had worked hours on the project and would send the relevant information to Jørgen Jespersen and Bengt-Olof Grahn.

Baltic Master Project has a final conference in Karlskrona 03-04 October. WGE request that B7 politicians and Board note this in their diary.

- **Decision:** implement actions agreed above
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9.2 WG PtP

- Programme for 2007 received by Board members.
- Project Proposal: Baltic Island Film Festival

Baltic Island Film Festival project proposal approved. Secretariat to send out a letter of award that also gives indicators of achievement, such as no. of island participating etc.

Decision: Amount approved. Requirement of four islands involved. Information on the website and related advertisement is necessary. At least 16 young persons involved.

NOTE: WG PtP have advised that in order to obtain co-financing, they might have to implement the youth camp and youth conference at the same time i.e. 02-06 July. They will advise as soon as possible.

9.3 BEN Project: (Reet Kokovkin & DH)

Key issues for BEN project

- BEN Strategy 2007-17
 - How does B7 network with Euroregions after the finish of this BEN Project? Does the B7 wish to continue being involved in a network of Euroregions, what does it want to achieve, how will it continue to do so?
 - CBSS, NCM or another organisation having a role as "co-ordinator" of Euro-Regions. do regions want a "government" orientated organisation to "co-ordinate" regions, one could say yes because they have the money or one could look to the Committee of the Regions or perhaps something else.
- a. Several invitations have been sent out to Board. There will be an Estonian roundtable in April on Hiiumaa. Discussions concerning the BEN and Euroregions will be on the agenda.
 - b. Presentation "Draft Structure of the Strategy for BEN Network" will be sent to Secretariat.
 - c. On the 19. April, there is a SC meeting in, Szczecin Poland.
 - d. Information concerning the cost and advantages are as yet unknown.
 - e. Secretariat to send a positive acknowledgement intention to the BEN
- **Decision:** implement actions agreed above
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9.4 Energy Project

- Status of application still unknown.
- **Decision:** orientation accepted
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§10 Communications Policy: (Bornholm Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To define the purpose of a communications policy, key activities, how succeeding chairmanships can manage the commitment plus costs and benefits to B7.

10.1 Starting the work:

- a. The Board began the process of developing a needs analysis and a stakeholder analysis in preparation for drafting the policy.
 - b. Secretariat to send out the information it has relating to B7 contacts connected to the islands, for the individual islands to update.
 - c. Forwarding and updated and maintained database of contacts has been a weakness with secretariat handovers.
- **Decision:** Chairmanship to continue the work with the assistance of the Board
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10.2 Website:

Information and files from the old website has been sent to each island on a CD with a covering letter.

The following is still required for the website:

- need an updated manual for using the new website.
- picture gallery to be added.
- layout with wave to be updated.
- To find out where e-mail database is stored and how it can be used.
- Function that sends an e-mail to the secretariat when the site is updated no functioning. (refer to letter accompanying CD with old site information)
- Copy of contract with Consilia to be sent to Bornholm Chairmanship.

SA to follow up.

- a. Several Board members stated that the website needs to be updated. The only information on the site is from the Åland Chairmanship. The general quality is not as good as on the old website which had reached a very high standard of presentation.
- b. Chairmanship to come with a proposal for the task of setting a level of ambition, updating and improving the quality of the website.

- **Decision:** Agreed actions to be followed up.
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§11 Accounts:

Purpose of agenda item: To give Board members an update on the accounts status.

- Accounts 2006. (DH)
- Issues relating to payment of accounts (JS for HH)
- Budget 2007. (Bornholm Chairmanship)

- a. Accounts for 2006, not many changes since the last meeting. Outstanding invoices for 2006 need to be sent to the accountant by end of January.
- b. WG PtP request funding unused in 2006 to be carried forward to 2007 budget.
- c. WG Environment request funding unused in 2006 to be carried forward to 2007 budget.
- d. Accounts should be finalized approx middle of February. Final accounts will be on the agenda at the next Steering Committee meeting.
- e. Issues relating to the accounts: Henry Henziger, the B7 Accountant has requested that payments originating on an island should be paid on that island and the money reclaimed from B7, e.g. payment for the website to be paid by Åland, then reclaimed.
- f. As part of the evaluation follow-up, analytical information is requested from the accounts. This will require the presentation to be revise. The facilitator to co-ordinate with Ulla Pettersson and the accountant.

- **Decision:** Agreed.
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§12 International Co-operation:

Purpose of agenda item: To orientate and decide whatever action is necessary concerning activities etc of other international organisations and partners.

12.1 Baltic Forum Proposal (Ulla Pettersson)

UP: informed about the rectory bought by the citizens of Gotland, who the set up a "gallery" or a "Natural Resource Centre" under Objective 2 programme. Project now needs to be widened. The financers are interested in the participation of the B7, maybe with an ongoing exhibition on the seven islands. One financer, a fund, is interested in participating.

Cooperation with B7 is wanted and this project is knowledgeable that this is not a question of donating funds from B7 but a co-operation. UP suggests a meeting to gain more knowledge of what possibilities could be uncovered?? What can B7 give them and what can our network gain from them?

As it was unclear, as to the benefits for B7 and the level and method of participation the Bornholm Chairmanship to visit the project on Gotland as part of another visit on 5 February.

- **Decision:** Jørgen Kvist, Chairman B7 Board, will be at a meeting on Gotland in February and evaluate B7's involvement.
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§13 Any Other Business:

Purpose of agenda item: Add agenda items and information not included in the final agenda.

- SA: the annual report for 2006 from the Åland Chairmanship is still being finalized. AW will finalize by the end of January.
- BSSSC Annual Conference will be 14th September in Turku. Will focus on Sustainable Energy??
- CT- Foto Competition. Martina proposed that all digital pictures and licences be sent to the secretariat to be forwarded to all islands. WG PtP will organize an exhibition at the Tourism Conference in June where awards for the pictures will be presented.
- Pictures should also be on the website. Pictures copied to cd's and sent out to all islands.
- There will be a seminar on Bornholm Tuesday 23. January with Heinz Seimers and Jean Didier Hache concerning the Green Paper on Maritime Policy

ANNEXES

Annexes will be posted on the website under the member's area at least 5 days before a meeting. As far as possible the annexes will be aggregated in one document.

1	§ 10	Brainstorming of stakeholders and need for communication policy
2		