

28th General Assembly
of the CPMR
Baltic Sea Commission
19 - 20 september 2023
Umeå - Vaasa



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CPMR
BALTIC SEA
COMMISSION



Regional Council
of Ostrobothnia

28th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CPMR BALTIC SEA COMMISSION 19-20 SEPTEMBER 2023 | UMEÅ AND VAASA

Hosted by Region Västerbotten (Sweden) and Region Ostrobothnia (Finland)

Navigating to a sustainable, resilient and well-connected Baltic Sea Region

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> [Two countries - one world natural heritage summer nature - YouTube](#) <

Day 1: Meeting in Umeå (Sweden) at **Umeå Folkets Hus** (Vasaplan, 901 09 Umeå)

Day 2: Meeting in Korsholm (Finland) at **Adult Education Centre of Korsholm** (Skolvägen 1, 65610 Korsholm)

Draft AGENDA

TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 (Umeå)	
08:30-09:15	<p>Study visit to Umeå Energi (Storgatan 34 Umeå)</p> <p>08h15: Meet-up outside Clarion Hotel, Storgatan 36 and walk to Umeå Energi</p> <p><i>Members are welcome to participate in a study visit of the headquarters of Umeå Energi and learn more about how the company contributes to deliver sustainable energy and solutions in Region Västerbotten. CEO Jan Ridfeldt will speak about the role of Umeå Energi, as a facilitator for growth and green transition in the region, from climate emissions to circularity and sustainable urban development at Tomtebostrand.</i></p>
General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Umeå Folkets Hus (Vasaplan, 901 09 Umeå)	
09:30	Welcome coffee
10:00-10:20	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr Tomas Mörtzell, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Region Västerbotten- Mr Cees Loggen, CPMR President (<i>tbc</i>) <p>Statutory issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approval of the Agenda of the 2023 Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly- Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly
10:20-11:05	<p>Adapting priorities of multi-level cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region to a changing geopolitical landscape</p> <p>Video message from MEP Erik Bergkvist – EU challenges bridging EU regions</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ambassador Helena Tuuri – what are the priorities of the CBSS under the Finnish presidency- BSC representatives

<p>11:05-12:00</p>	<p>Defending cohesion through reforms... but what kind of reforms mid-term and long-term?</p> <p><i>Due to geopolitical changes, financial pressures on the budget and rigidities in the policy, there is a consensus that preserving Cohesion Policy for the future to support EU objectives across all regions requires a thorough reform of the policy governance. But what reforms and what constructive and influential contribution to this debate can the CPMR provide that will assist decision-makers to design bold but realistic reforms? Reforms should be a win/win for regional authorities, beneficiaries, and the budgetary authorities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductory remarks and moderation by Mr Jorge Nunez Ferrer, CPMR Director for Regional Policy - Presentation of the status of the work of the High-Level Group of Specialists on Cohesion Policy by Ms Sari Rautio, Member of the Committee of the Region (Häme) - Reactions by BSC Member Regions
<p>12:00-13:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch</p>
<p>13:00-13:15</p>	<p>Membership – welcome to Lapland! Presentation of Lapland by Ms Tanja Joona, Member of the Board of the Regional Council of Lapland (<i>tbc</i>)</p>
<p>13:15-14:45</p>	<p>Overall Title: <i>tbc</i></p> <p><u>Session 1: What can the Partnership for Regional Innovation mean for territorial transformation and strengthening innovation in the Baltic Sea Region?</u></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Markku Markkula, Chair of the BSC Energy and Climate Working Group (Helsinki-Uusimaa) <i>tbc</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the PRI as a new strategic approach to innovation-driven territorial transformation, linking EU priorities with national plans and place-based opportunities and challenges by a <u>representative from JRC (<i>tbc</i>)</u> - <u>Representative from DG REGIO (<i>tbc</i>)</u> - <u>Sharing regional experiences on the PRI – opportunities and challenges</u> <p style="text-align: center;">10 minutes break</p> <p><u>Session 2: Regional innovation valley and increased possibilities in Horizon Europe and I3 – what funding opportunities for the regions?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of JRC (<i>tbc</i>) - Reaction from a region (<i>tbc</i>) - Reflections from Policy Area Innovation of the EUSBSR – Mr Esa Kokkonen (<i>tbc</i>)

14:45	Coffee break
15:00	Bus transfer from Umeå city to the port of Umeå
<p>16:45 Swedish Time</p> <p style="text-align: center;">–</p> <p>21:15 Finnish Time</p> <p>(duration about 4 hours)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Crossing the Baltic Sea via the Aurora Botnia ferry</p> <p>16:45-17:15: Departure by boat and mingling</p> <p>Welcome remarks by Mr Rickard Carstedt, Chair of the Regional Development Committee of Region Västerbotten</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar: Fostering sustainable mobility across borders <p><u>Moderation:</u> Ms Lotta Rönström, Senior Advisor at North Sweden EU Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Mathias Lindström, Director of Kvarken Council - Mr Magnus Lagergren, Chair of the BSC Transport Working Group (Örebro Region) - Ms Sari Nurro, Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group (Oulu Region) - Mr Tarmo Ots, Coordinator of Policy Area Transport of the EUSBSR (<i>tbc</i>) <p>In parallel to the seminar, visit of the boat observation room in groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dinner - Archipelago buffet (19:30 Finnish time)
21:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Arrival at Vaasa harbour and bus transfer to Vaasa city</p> <p>Bus transfer to the following hotels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scandic Vaasa (Rosteninkatu 6) - Original Sokos Hotel Vaakuna (Shopping Mal Rewell 101)
WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER (Korsholm)	
08:15	<p>Departure by bus from the hotels to the meeting venue (Adult Education Centre of Korsholm, Skolvägen 1, 65610 Korsholm)</p> <p>Participants will split into two groups in buses according to their travel arrangements:</p> <p>Group 1: For participants that will take the ferry back to Umeå at 14:30 (must be 30 minutes in advance) and those who will fly with SAS airline at 15:30 (must be one hour in advance)</p> <p>Group 2: For participants that will fly with Finnair airline at 17:40 or have other connections</p>

08:30-8:40	<p>Opening remarks, Mr Richard Sjölund, Vice-President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and Vice-Chair of the Board of Ostrobothnia</p>
08:40-09:45	<p>How can we secure energy supply and promote clean energy transition in the Baltic Sea Region in face of climate change and geopolitical instability?</p> <p><i>The BSR and Europe's Energy Policy has been dramatically impacted by the Russian aggression against Ukraine and its consequences on European energy systems. The session discusses experiences from different BSC regions on their visions and actions on how to decarbonise sectors without significant future shares of natural gas and how to prepare for the upcoming years.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Pontus Lindberg, Vice-Chair of the BSC Energy and Climate Working Group (<i>tbc</i>)</p> <p>Video address by Ms Elsi Katainen, Member of the European Parliament</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Joakim Strand, Member of Finnish Parliament and Chairman of the Board of the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia (<i>tbc</i>) - Regional views and experiences on how to promote energy security and the green transition
09:45-10:00	<p>BSC Activity Report 2021-2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the BSC Activity Report 2021-2022, by Ms Lucille Ehrhart, Executive Secretary of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission - Discussion and vote
10:00-10:15	<p>Coffee break</p>
10:15-11:00	<p>BSC Internal Matters</p> <p>Financial reports and budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the Financial Reports for 2022, Mr Tomas Mörtzell, BSC President - Presentation of the Intermediary Financial report for 2023 by Ms Tiina Rajala, Development Director at Oulu Region - Presentation of the Forecast Budget for 2024 - Discussion and vote <p>Baltic Sea Commission Work Plan 2023-2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the proposal from the BSC Executive Committee for a BSC Work Plan 2023-2025 - Discussion and vote <p>2023 BSC Resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the proposal of CPMR Baltic Sea Commission 2023 Resolution - Discussion and vote

<p>11:00 - 11:15</p>	<p>Closing session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next BSC statutory meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Plenary meeting of the Baltic Sea Commission in the framework of the 2023 CPMR General Assembly (15-17 November, Saint-Malo) o 29th BSC General Assembly hosted by Kymenlaakso in 2024 in Kotka (dates <i>tbc</i>) - Closing speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mr Richard Sjölund, Vice-President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission o Mr Tomas Mörtzell, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission
<p>11:15</p>	<p>Bus transportation to Restaurant “Strampen” (Rantakatu 6, Vaasa)</p>
<p>11:30-12:15/30</p>	<p>Lunch at Strampen (Rantakatu 6, Vaasa)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Departure by bus from Strampen and to visit Wärtsilä Sustainable Technology Hub (Teollisuuskatu 1)</p> <p>Participants will split into two groups according to their travel journey</p> <p>Group 1: For participants that will take the ferry back to Umeå at 14:30 (must be 30 minutes in advance) and those who will fly with SAS at 15:30 (must be one hour in advance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12:15: Departure at by bus from Strampen and visit to Wärtsilä Sustainable Technology Hub (Teollisuuskatu 1) - 12:30 – 13:45: Visit - Bus transfer will take Group 1 participants to the airport and ferry terminal <p>Group 2: For participants that will fly with Finnair at 17:40 or have other connections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12:30: Departure at by bus from Strampen and visit to Wärtsilä Sustainable Technology Hub (Teollisuuskatu 1) - 12:45 – 14:15: Visit - Bus transfer will take Group 2 participants to the airport and Vaasa centre