

2nd WSF Newsletter, 01 July 2009

A. WSF Plenum & Working Groups

1. WSF-14 meeting

The 14th meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum took place on 16 – 17 June 2009 in Sexbierum, Province Fryslân, NL. Highlights were the presentations about the energy market in the Wadden Sea Region, container shipping and the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site.

The WSF expressed their welcome of the upcoming inscription of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List and will contribute to the communication and marketing in this respect. The WSF secretariat was requested to represent the Forum in the established communication group and to report back to WSF.

The WSF was concerned about the spatial planning developments in the EEZs, particularly about the planning processes in the German EEZ. The WSF requested the need for a better integration of the neighbouring countries. The Chair and the secretariat is asked to send the available information to the responsible ministries of Denmark and the Netherlands and a letter to German ministry of transport to express the concerns.

The WSF tasked the shipping group to elaborate on recommendations for a save container shipping in the Wadden Sea Region, for sound coordinated control mechanisms in the estuaries and to protect the Wadden Sea from increasing litter. When agreed by the plenary, the recommendations will be forwarded also to the TC in 2010.

The WSF welcomed the study on energy development in the Wadden Sea Region and tasked the working group EII to further work on important energy topics like energy saving and CO₂ storage.

Furthermore, the results of the study should be made public. The energy group was requested to elaborate a proposal of implementing an event regarding energy issues.

The presentations are available on the web site:

<http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/forum-WSF14 Documents.html>

2. ICZM

The working group has implemented an international workshop on ICZM on 11 June 2009 in Hamburg. Some 30 experts discussed the different levels of ICZM, the added value also for the Trilateral Cooperation and the need for structural improvements. Finally, it was recommended that

- the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation should be committed to integrate the ICZM approach and the EU principles in their work;
- a staff position (ambassador/ombudsman) should be implemented at the highest political level with strong backing.

The workshop report is available on the web site:

<http://www.waddensea-forum.org/WGs/ICZM/WG ICZM events.html>

3. Energy – Industry – Infrastructure

The study "Inventory and Analysis of Impacts of Power Plants in the Wadden Sea Region" has been finalized and is available on the web site:

http://www.waddensea-forum.org/Specialissues/inventory_ws_region.html

The inventory of energy and harbour related activities, which is maintained by the secretariat, has been improved and updated. All Forum members are invited to deliver further information to the secretariat to be included in the inventory, which is available on the web site (see above).

B. Topical Issues

1. Wadden Sea World Heritage

The Dutch-German Wadden Sea is now on the same footing as other world famous natural wonders on the World Heritage List like the Grand Canyon in the USA and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. On 26 June 2009, the Wadden Sea has been inscribed on the List by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at its meeting in Seville.

On behalf of the State Parties of the Netherlands and Germany, Jens Enemark of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat expressed his gratitude to the Committee for this decision. "We are proud to be part of the global community of World Heritage sites, but at the same time we are aware of the responsibility that is placed upon us to protect and manage its outstanding universal values in a sustainable way, now and for generations to come" he said.

The Wadden Sea World Heritage Site encompasses the Dutch and German parts of the Wadden Sea. It covers an area of almost 10,000 square kilometres along a coastal strip about 400 kilometres long. The Wadden Sea has had a protected status for more than 20 years, in Germany, as national parks and in the Netherlands, as nature reserves. The fact that the area has now become a World Heritage Site is largely due to the support over many years of local inhabitants, many organisations and government authorities.

"Walking across the Wadden Sea tidal flats, where just a few hours before it was covered by meters of water, surrounded by an endless sky that meets the sea in a distant horizon, is an unforgettable experience" Jens Enemark concluded his speech at the Committee meeting "It is a truly magical place - come and enjoy with us a life-changing experience of nature."

"Welcome to the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site"

More information about the Wadden Sea World Heritage and download of publications at the central webportal (in German, Dutch and English): www.waddensea-worldheritage.org



Presentation ceremony of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Banner at the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat on 1st July 2009.

2. Goose Management

A second meeting of the Goose Management Group (GMG) took place on 3 June in Hamburg. The group elaborated on the structure for the recommendation and guidance document to be forwarded to the Trilateral Governmental Conference in March 2010.

Furthermore, the GMG meeting discussed the different available compensation schemes, which will be compiled with the relevant details and harmonized in terms of language and technical terms.

3. Energy Symposium

The WSF agreed in its meeting of 16-17 June to hold a symposium about energy in the Wadden Sea Region, taking all relevant issues on board to get better informed and to discuss an integrated far-reaching vision for the Wadden Sea Region. The WSR tasked the working group EII to elaborate a concept for the implementation of this event.

The Objectives of the symposium are:

- to provide more information and insights about topical energy issues
- to support knowledge building across the sectors and stakeholders
- to encourage the stakeholders to participate in an open dialogue
- to identify future work areas for the Wadden Sea Forum

The symposium will be held on 26 November (probably) as one day event in the new Climate House, Bremerhaven. The themes will be about the status and development of energy production and distribution in the Wadden Sea Region, the EU energy market and EU policies, CO₂ emissions and Carbon Capture & Storage, the electric grid as well as about impacts of energy production on economy, sectors and planning processes.

Further information will be sent in due time.

4. Interreg IVB North Sea Programme – Annual Conference

The Joint Annual Conference and General Assembly 2009 of the North Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 and the North Sea Commission was held 24-26 of June in Egmond aan Zee/Haarlem, the Netherlands.

300 delegates over 3 days

More than 300 delegates from the seven participating countries of the Programme as well as European Commission and private sector representatives visited the event which took place over three days.

"Sustainable Innovation" was the theme of the conference and the event focused on the social and environmental dimensions of innovation in the context of transnational cooperation and the European policy framework.

Networking and sharing experiences

The conference provided a base for project developers and managers, as well as other stakeholders to network and share experiences. The event also gave stakeholders in regional development with ample opportunities to explore possibilities and challenges for the future.

The conference marks the main annual event of the North Sea Region Programme 2007-2013, which aims to expand the scope of transnational cooperation and facilitate relevant and innovative projects for the North Sea Region.

C. WSF Meetings

12 August 2009, phone conference
WG EII meeting

31 August 2009, Bremen
WG Shipping 7th meeting at WSA

28 – 29 September 2009, Hamburg
Goose Management Group 3rd meeting

30 September 2009, Emden
WG EII-8 meeting, Statkraft

27 October 2009, Hamburg
SC-7 meeting at RWE-DEA AG

28 October 2009, Hamburg
WG ICZM-8 meeting at RWE-DEA AG

D. Symposia & Events

27 August 2009, Wilhelmshaven, Germany
The Wadden Sea as World Heritage – challenges and opportunities
Annual Wadden Sea event at the “Wattenmeerhaus” in Wilhelmshaven

8 – 9 September 2009, Rømø, Denmark
Euregio Conference

17 September 2009, Stockholm, Sweden
EU Conference Marine Spatial Planning

Editorial Note

The WSF-Newsletter will come every two month to inform the Forum and Working Group members about WSF relevant issues. Also the second newsletter is compiled by the secretariats available information. The newsletter lives from the contribution of all Forum and Work Group members by providing information of the different sectors and authorities in the entire Wadden Sea Region.

Therefore, I would like to appeal for delivering further information, interesting for the WSF, to the secretariat. Deadline each time is 10 days before distribution. Text length should be limited to 10 -15 lines per topic, photos are welcomed.

The next newsletter will be distributed by end of September 2009.

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