

TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA FORUM (WSF)

FIRST MEETING

LEEUWARDEN, THE NETHERLANDS

30 AUGUST 2002

Agenda Item: 5
Subject: Tasks Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum
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Submitted by: Secretariat

Attached are the tasks for the Wadden Sea Forum, as laid down in paragraphs 99 and 100 and Annex 6 of the Declaration of the 9th trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference, Esbjerg, 31 October 2001

PROPOSAL: The meeting is invited to take note of the information

DECLARATION OF THE 9TH TRILATERAL GOVERNMENTAL WADDEN SEA CONFERENCE, ESBJERG, 31 OCTOBER 2001

99. To **convene**, therefore, in accordance with the Terms of Reference in **Annex 6**, a Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum, as a consultation project, with the participation of the governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, with the task of developing proposals for sustainable development scenarios and strategies for their implementation, respecting the existing protection levels and ensuring economic development and quality of life. This will be done on the basis of the Shared Vision, the Wadden Sea Plan Targets and the Shared Principles, and as a contribution to the further development of the Wadden Sea Plan. The results of the work of the Forum will be presented to the 10th Trilateral Governmental Conference.

100. To **invite** the IRWC to participate actively in the organization and implementation of this trilateral process in order to gain from the experiences of their NetForum process.

ANNEX 6 OF THE DECLARATION OF THE 9TH TRILATERAL GOVERNMENTAL WADDEN SEA CONFERENCE, ESBJERG, 31 OCTOBER 2001**TERMS OF REFERENCE TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA FORUM****1. Background**

The Wadden Sea Plan entails visions, policies, measures, projects and actions, which have been agreed upon by the three countries. The Plan is a framework for the overall Wadden Sea management and will be revised at regular intervals. It is a statement on how the three countries envisage the future coordinated and integrated management of the Wadden Sea Area and the projects and actions that must be carried out to achieve the Targets and the Shared Vision.

Inhabitants and stakeholders of the Wadden Sea Region expressed their wish to have greater influence on the planning of the trilateral policy and management and the trilateral projects and actions in order to secure economic development and quality of life in a sustainable way.

2. Objective

An independent Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum will be convened until the 10th Trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference. The Forum will act as a platform for exchanging views, with the objective of enhancing the idea of nature protection and sustainable development of the Wadden Sea Area. The Forum will work on the basis of shared responsibilities, for the long-term benefit of everyone living and working in the Wadden Sea Area, as stated in the Shared Vision, so as to ensure a better integration of the Targets and the aspirations for economic and social development. This is related to, amongst others fishery, agriculture, coastal protection, tourism, industrialization, housing development, management of shipping routes and harbour development.

3. Tasks

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum will, in accordance with §99 of the Ministerial Declaration, elaborate proposals for sustainable development scenarios and strategies for their implementation, to be presented to

the 10th Trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference, as a contribution to the further development and possible amendments of the trilateral policy and management and the trilateral projects of the Wadden Sea Plan.

For the development of the scenarios it is necessary to address, amongst others, the following main issues:

1. Evaluation of present uses (including small-scale domestic uses) for sustainability in relation to present and future conservation and nature development goals.
2. Identification of the main conflicts between uses and the present and anticipated future status of the Wadden Sea ecosystem.
3. Inventory of long-term perspectives of economic, social and ecological development.
4. Inventory of management proposals which are best adapted to long term perspectives.

On the basis of the above assessment, common views, and, if this is not possible, alternative (sub)scenarios should be developed.

The scenarios should include, for different time scales, specific steps for different activities, management tools, approach, implementation and priorities.

4. Membership

The Forum will consist of representatives of regional and local authorities and non-governmental organizations and experts. Representatives of federal/national and state Governments will participate as advisors/observers.

5. Organizational Support

The Forum will be facilitated by the CWSS in cooperation with the IRWC, provided external funding, if necessary, can be found.

6. Preparatory Committee

The Trilateral Working Group will – in close Cooperation with those Trilateral NGOs being Observers of the TWG - establish, directly after the Conference, a Preparatory Committee with the task of preparing the Forum.

The Preparatory Committee will consist of the IRWC and an equal number of representatives of governments and NGOs and will be supported by the CWSS.

The Preparatory Committee shall:

- Seek the necessary human and other resources for the Forum, striving for external financing possibilities;
- Develop a procedure for the nomination of the members of the Forum;
- Develop draft rules of procedure for the Forum and other organizational matters, if necessary.

The Preparatory Committee will report to the TWG/SO by April 2002.

7. Chair

The chairperson of the Preparatory Committee and the Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum is Mr. E. Nijpels, the Queen's Commissioner of the Province of Fryslân, the Netherlands.

8. Time Schedule

The Forum shall start its work in 2002, as soon as possible after the finalization of the preparatory work and will finalize its work by submitting its concluding recommendations one year before the 10th Trilateral Governmental Conference, i.e. by the end of 2004.