

WSF-5 meeting

Stade, Germany 16 – 17 September 2004

Final Minutes

1. Opening and Adoption Agenda

Document WSF-5-1 draft annotated agenda

The chairman, Mr. Nijpels, opened the meeting on Thursday 13:00 hours.

The agenda was **adopted** without amendments. The agenda is in Annex 1. A list with participants is in Annex 2. A list of documents is in Annex 3.

2. Adoption final draft minutes WSF- 4

Document WSF-4 Final Draft Minutes

The final draft minutes of the WSF-4 meeting, Esbjerg, 15-16 April 2004, were **adopted** without amendments.

3. Announcements

Document WSF-5-3-1

Mr. Bijman informed the meeting about the work of the so-called Commission Meijer that has prepared an advice to the government about future Wadden Sea policies. On the basis of the advice the government has decided the following:

1. To allow gas exploitation in the Wadden Sea under certain premises;
2. To forbid cockle fishing;
3. To invest Euro 500 million in the Wadden Sea region (social, economic, nature);
4. To establish a Wadden Sea Academy to coordinate research activities.

The decisions will be discussed by parliament on 9 November 2004.

Mr. Andresen announced that the Danish government has decided on a two-year pilot project to designate the Danish Wadden Sea as a national park.

Mr. Revier provided details about a recent ruling of the European Court according to which economic activities Habitat and Bird Directive areas –in this particular case cockle fishing in the Dutch Wadden Sea- are only allowed if they have no negative impacts. On the basis of this ruling the Dutch administrative court has issued a preliminary ruling against a licence for cockle fishing for the coming season.

A resolution by the Insel- und Halligkonferenz is in document WSF-5-3-1.

Mr. Enemark informed the meeting about a study by Oxford Brookes on environmental impact assessment. The study will be published soon and sent to all Forum members.

4. Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Document WSF-5-4-1.

The Steering Committee had proposed to structure the WSF sustainability strategy according to the concept of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) (See agenda item 5, document WSF-5-5-2). National and EU representatives gave presentations about relevant EU and national ICZM developments and addressed the WSF recommendations made in document WSF-5-5-2.

A copy of the Power Point presentations will be sent on request.

After the presentations the chairman invited the meeting to discuss the possible future role of the Wadden Sea Forum in relation to integrated management of the Wadden Sea Region.

During the discussion two principally different position were brought forward.

1. The Forum has finalized its work after the delivery of the Final Report.
2. There should some kind of a continuation of the Forum.
- 3.

Position 1 was supported by Bijman, Nielsen (Kjeld), Klimant, Bastian, Andresen and Ahrens.

Arguments brought forward were:

- Existing cooperations (North Sea Commission, IRWC) can handle matters the WSF has been dealing with.
- These organisations can install thematic stakeholder groups if there is a need.
- The WSF is (partly) doing double work.
- Too much time investment.
- Sufficient to work at national and regional level.
- If only an advisory body then members will soon loose interest.
- It is more important to change things than to produce paper (example: tourism project).

Position 2 was supported by Loos, Rösner, Verheij, Keurentjes, Hinrichs, Schuhbauer, Wichman and Vespermann

Arguments brought forward were:

- The WSF is useful as a sounding board or an organisation in which matters can be dealt with in an informal way.
- Follow-up is important although it is too early to decide exactly how.
- There is no international organisation of user groups, only of authorities
- A Forum or special working groups can deal with trilateral Wadden Sea matters, for example shipping, harbours, fisheries, offshore wind energy.
- The Forum is useful as a focal point of sector-specific expertise and can as such accompany the process of ICZM.
- A Forum-like organisation can be used to prepare advice to trilateral conferences.
- Useful to critically watch the process of implementation of the Forum proposals (consistency in follow-up).

5. First draft WSF Final Report

Documents:

WSF-5-5-1 Contents Final Report

WSF-5-5-2 Chapters 1 – 3

WSF 5-5-3 Chapter 4: Infrastructure

WSF 5-5-3 add.1 Chapter 4: Coastal Protection

WSF-5-5-4 Chapter 5: Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy, Industry/Harbour

WSF-5-5-4 add.1 Chapter 5: Tourism.

WSF-5-5-5 Amendments Ahrens to WSF-5-5-3

WSF-5-5-6 Amendments nature and environment organisations

Upon a proposal by the chairman the meeting first discussed the amendments by the nature and environment organisations to chapter 5, the sector strategies. These discussions were continued in bilateral meetings in the evening. The outcome of the discussion is in Annex 4 in which the amendments to document WSF-5-5-4 have been labelled.

The discussion was continued with amendments to Chapter 4, infrastructure, contained in documents WSF-5-5-5 and WSF-5-5-6. The outcome of this discussion is in Annex 5.

Amendments to document WSF-5-5-2 (chapters 1-3) could only partially be dealt with due to time pressure. Because chapters 1-3 basically contain factual statements, it was **agreed** that the secretariat would contact relevant Forum members about the still outstanding proposals after the meeting and then draft a revised text

With regard to the text on coastal protection, prepared by the trilateral working group on coastal protection and sea level rise (WSF-5-5-3add1), it was **agreed** that the secretariat would formulate relevant policies and recommendations on the basis of the paper. It was furthermore **agreed** that the general aim of coastal protection should be "in general to secure the existing coastline".

With regard to tourism it was **agreed** to install, in agreement with the proposal in document WSF-5-5-4add1, an ad-hoc working group to prepare a text for the final report on the basis of the outcome of

the Netforum project. The working group should also be attended by representatives of the nature- and environment organisations.

6. Shipping safety

Document WSF-5-6-1

Mr. Kjeld Nielsen informed the meeting about the outcome of the ad-hoc meeting on shipping safety, Hamburg, 31 August-1 September 2004. The results, contained in document WSF-5-6-1, together with some amendments made by the meeting, were **adopted** as part of the WSF Final Report. The amendments to document WSF-5-6-1 are in Annex 6.

Furthermore it was **agreed** to use these recommendations in public hearings, such as the WSF regional conferences, as well as within the communication with parliamentary committees, the relevant ministries and the public.

7. Regional Conferences

Document WSF-5-7-1

Mr. De Jong introduced document WSF-5-7-1, providing information about the dates and programme of the regional conferences.

Mr. Andresen announced that the Danish Regional Conference would be held on 3 December 2004 in Skaerbek.

The meeting briefly discussed the proposed programme and **decided** that the programme should preferably be only half a day long. There should be the opportunity to submit written comments to the WSF proposals.

Mr. Verheij proposed to also include nature protection and ICZM as themes for the conference.

The meeting **adopted** the proposal for the preparation of a popular text for the regional conferences as contained in the document.

The meeting finally discussed the proposal for elaborating the results of the regional conferences as in chapter 5 of document WSF-5-7-1. Several members were in favour of involving the sectors in this process. It was **agreed** that reports of the Regional Conferences would be annexed to the WSF Final Report, including an account of how these comments had been taken into consideration.

8. Prognos Perspectives Study.

Mr. Koch of Prognos presented the final draft of the Prognos perspectives study. The secretariat announced that the study would be printed and distributed to all Forum members within the coming month.

9. WSF Final meeting

The meeting **agreed** to hold the WSF-6 meeting on 10 -11 February 2005 in The Netherlands. The location will be either Leeuwarden or Texel. The meeting was generally positive about the idea to offer the WSF Final Report to the responsible Dutch minister at the WSF-6 meeting.

10. Any other business

Mr. Ahrens proposed to invite also other responsible ministers (economic affairs) to the 10th Wadden Sea Conference. Mr. Baerends was sceptical about the feasibility.

11. Closing

The chairman closed the meeting on Friday 16 September, 12:00 hours.

ANNEX 1. AGENDA

- 1. Opening and Adoption Agenda**
- 2. Adoption final draft minutes WSF- 4**
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. Integrated Coastal Zone Management**
- 5. First draft WSF Final Report**
- 6. Shipping safety**
- 7. Regional Conferences**
- 8. Prognos Perspectives Study.**
- 9. WSF Final meeting**
- 10. Any other business**
- 11. Closing**

ANNEX 3. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document No.	Contents	Delivered		
		by	date	how
Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda				
WSF5-1	Draft agenda WSF-5	Secretariat	27/08/04	e-mail
	Draft program WSF-5	Secretariat	27/08/04	e-mail
	Draft program V2	Secretariat	10/09/04	e-mail
Agenda item 2: Adoption final draft minutes WSF-4				
WSF4	Final Draft minutes WSF-4	Secretariat	06/05/04	e-mail
Agenda item 3: Announcements				
WSF-5-3-1	Statement Insel- und Halligkonferenz	Insel-und Halligkonferenz	14/09/04	e-mail
Agenda item 4: Integrated Coastal Zone Management				
WSF-5-4-1	Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Secretariat	27/08/04	e-mail
Agenda item 5: WSF Final Report				
WSF5-5-1	WSF Final Report. Contents	Secretariat	27/08/04	e-mail
WSF5-5-2	WSF Final Report. Chapters 1 - 3	Steering Committee	27/08/04	e-mail
WSF5-5-3	WSF Final Report. Chapter 4. Infrastructure	Steering Committee	27/08/04	e-mail
WSF5-5-3 add.1	WSF Final Report. Chapter 4. Coastal protection	CPSL	14/09/04	e-mail
WSF5-5-3 add.2 (see doc WSF-5-6-1)	WSF Final Report. Chapter 4. Shipping safety	Shipping Group	See doc. WSF5-6-1	
WSF5-5-4	WSF Final Report. Chapter 5 Agriculture, Energy, Fisheries, Industry/Harbor	Steering Committee	31/08/04	e-mail
WSF5-5-4 add.1	WSF Final Report. Chapter 5 Tourism	Steering Committee	10/09/04	e-mail
WSF5-5-5	Amendments to WSF5-5-3	Ahrens	02/09/04	e-mail
WSF5-5-6	Amendments to WSF5-5-2, WSF5-5-3 and WSF5-5-4	Nature and environment organisations	13/09/04	e-mail
Agenda item 6: Shipping safety				
WSF5-6-1	Recommendations ad-hoc shipping group	Ad-hoc shipping group	07/09/04	e-mail
Agenda item 7: Regional Conferences				
WSF5-7-1	Regional Conferences	Secretariat	27/08/04	e-mail
WSF5-7-1rev	Regional Conferences revised	Secretariat	07/09/04	e-mail