

SUMMARY RECORD
25th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 25)
17 May 2018
Leeuwarden, Netherlands

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the chairperson, Mr. Co Verdaas, at 14:10 on 17 May 2018. He welcomed the members and advisors to the last WSB meeting under the Dutch presidency.

The designated chairperson, Professor Karin Lochte (Germany), introduced herself and expressed her thanks for being invited to this meeting.

A list of participants is at Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The chairperson suggested postponing agenda items 3 and 4 to the end of the meeting and to start with agenda item 5. The meeting **adopted** the agenda as amended (*Annex 2*).

This was **agreed**.

Denmark, however, requested the floor for an announcement that was relevant for the discussion of the draft Ministerial Council Declaration. Referring to the expected extension of Esbjerg harbour and the related letter by the mayor of Fanø to the environment ministers of Germany and the Netherlands, Denmark explained the schedule for the environmental impact assessment to be carried out in connection with the projected extension. The corresponding report was expected no later than January 2019 and a public hearing would be conducted in August 2018. Against this background Denmark expressed the view that it would be premature for the ministers to discuss this topic at the 13th Ministerial Council Meeting. Germany explained that it planned to raise the issue informally in bilateral talks between the Danish and German delegations, but all Parties agreed that it would not be on the agenda of the formal Council meeting. Ms Paulus reminded the meeting that agreed procedures existed as how to deal with letters from UNESCO concerning the joint Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. Those procedures should be followed. Mr. Rösner pointed to the connection between the projected harbour extension and the letter of intent of the eco-ports initiative, noting that to be more green harbours needed to be respectful of nature protection areas.

3. Summary Record WSB 24

The summary record of WSB 24 was adopted without amendments.

4. Announcements

Mr. Verhulst suggested scheduling WSB 27 and the WSB meetings for 2019 during WSB 26. As this was not possible, the chairperson proposed that CWSS would come forward with possible dates for the meetings in the week after WSB 26. This was **accepted** by the WSB.

5. Preparation 13th Trilateral Governmental Conference

The meeting discussed the draft Ministerial Council Declaration page by page.

The reservations on all passages referring to the projected foundation could not be lifted and it was agreed to discuss this issue at the political level at a ministerial meeting later the same day.

After discussing the preambular paragraph on the letter of intent from the eco-ports initiative, it was agreed to amend this passage and the reservations were lifted.

Following the adoption of the draft Seal Management Plan 2018-22 (WSB 25/6/1.2) without further discussion the WSB endorsed paragraph 16.

New wording for paragraph 35 regarding paraffins was suggested by Germany and accepted by Denmark and the Netherlands. Thereupon, the German reservation on this paragraph was lifted.

Concerning the reference to the trilateral research agenda in the preamble and paragraph 37, as well as the related Annex, it was agreed to delete the Annex and to include hyperlinks to the document itself in the passages concerned.

It was decided to adjust the title of Annex 4 as given in the list of annexes so as to correspond to the wording used in the annex itself.

It was agreed to abolish Annexes 5 and 6.

6. Any other business

Ms Bostelmann presented document WSB 25/5/1 concerning the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Wadden Sea World Heritage and requested endorsement for the process and timeline proposed. She stressed that details regarding funding still needed to be discussed in the context of the 2019 supplementary budget. The German delegation expressed appreciation for the document and noted that it had some comments that it would discuss bilaterally with the Secretariat. Germany was generally willing to contribute to funding of the celebrations. The Netherlands echoed Germany.

7. Closing

The meeting was closed at 15:30hrs on 17 May 2018.

ANNEX 1: Participants Wadden Sea Board

List of Participants
25th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 26)
17 May 2018
Leeuwarden, Netherlands

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Secretariat		
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ANNEX 2: Agenda

Agenda

25th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 25)

17 May 2018

Leeuwarden, Netherlands

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting will be opened by the Chairman at 14:00 hours on 17 May 2018.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting will be invited to adopt the draft agenda of the meeting.

3. Record WSB 24

The meeting will be invited to adopt the final draft Summary Record WSB 24 and to check progress in the implementation of the Action List.

4. Announcements

Delegates and observers will be invited to make announcements relevant to the cooperation, in particular with regard to the 13th Trilateral Governmental Conference.

5. Preparation 13th Trilateral Governmental Conference

The meeting will be invited to discuss progress in working towards the 13th Wadden Sea Conference, in particular the preparation of the draft Council Declaration.

6. Any Other Business

The meeting will be invited to discuss any other business.

7. Closing

The meeting will be closed no later than 16:00 hours on 17 May 2018.