

In accordance with the recommendations of Franz Thönnies, MP and Parliamentary State Secretary, Chairman of the BSCP Working Group on Labour Market and Social Welfare

April 2008

Draft MANDATE

Parliamentary Working Group on Labour Market and Social Welfare

(To be adopted by the first meeting of the WG and the Standing Committee)

Constitution

The Working Group is constituted as an ad-hoc working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in accordance with the BSCP Rules of Procedure.

The Working Group, at its first meeting, nominates the chairmanship, consisting of a Chairman and 1-2 Vice Chairmen. Further, one or more rapporteurs for specific issues or information gathering could be nominated among the participants as agreed upon.

The Working Group, at its first meeting, adopts the draft mandate given by the Standing Committee, an activity plan, a mode of operation and a time schedule for the work.

Unanimous decisions should be aimed for by the Working Group.

Working language will be English for documents as well as negotiations. Necessary interpretation and translation will only be done on initiative and costs borne by the requesting member parliament.

Summarising minutes should be produced after each meeting and it is the responsibility of the Chair to ensure this facility.

Mandate

The Working Group should review the existing situation and the status for implementation of previously approved recommendations on the issue. The Working Group should exchange experience on successful efforts of the countries.

The Working Group, according to the resolution of the 16th BSCP, mainly deals with the issue of cross-border labour markets in the Baltic Sea Region, the establishment of information centres in heavily used border crossings in the region to provide comprehensive information to cross-border workers with the view to promote their mobility. Furthermore it deals with the issue of youth unemployment in the Baltic Sea Region, the promotion of their training and employment with the view to integrate them into work and society and to make use of their potential.

The Working Group and its members should raise political attention on labour market and social welfare on the national agendas of each of the countries.

The Working Group should aim to draft a resolution to be adopted by the 18th BSPC. An interim report of the Working Group shall be presented at the 17th BSPC, to be held on 1-2 September 2008 in Visby (Sweden).

Participants

All participating parliaments of the BSPC shall be invited to take part in the work.

Also the Nordic Council, the Baltic Assembly, and the EU-Parliament shall be invited.

Representatives of other national parliaments and relevant international organisations might be involved by unanimous decision of the Working Group members.

Each institution is invited to participate with one member accompanied by one advisor and/or one interpreter if requested.

Each participating parliament/parliamentary body should cover its own expenses. Two or three meetings are anticipated – one of which might be conducted together with a conference or seminar.

Secretariat

Secretarial assistance to the Working Group arrangements and meetings will be provided by the Chairman of the Working Group with supplementary support from the BSPC Secretariat. The Baltic Assembly and the Nordic Council have kindly offered their contribution to the Secretariat by means of their advisory expertise.

Secretarial assistance to members of the Working Group shall be provided by the home parliaments. Additional secretarial assistance to the Chair, Vice-Chair and possible rapporteurs shall be provided by the home parliament of the nominees.

MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. Baltic Assembly
2. European Parliament
3. Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
4. Nordic Council
5. Parliament of Åland
6. Parliament of Denmark
7. Parliament of Estonia
8. Parliament of Faeroe Islands
9. Parliament of Finland
10. Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany
11. Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Bremen
12. Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Hamburg
13. Parliament of Greenland
14. Parliament of Iceland
15. Parliament of Kaliningrad Region
16. Parliament of the Karelian Republic
17. Parliament of Latvia
18. Parliament of the Leningrad Region
19. Parliament of Lithuania
20. Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
21. Parliament of Norway

22. Parliament of Poland
23. Parliament of the City of St Petersburg
24. Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein
25. Parliament of Sweden