

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 16**  
**9-10 March 2016**  
**Leeuwarden**



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**Agenda Item:** 6.4 Status of discussion on WSWH Competence Center

**Subject:** Outcome of 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the HLG Berlin 03 February 2016

**Document No.** WSB 16/6.4

**Date:** 02 March 2016

**Submitted by:** Secretariat

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## Proposal

The WSB is invited to consider the outcome document

### **List of actions and conclusions based on the meeting of the high level group on February 3rd 2016 in Berlin, forum 09.00h – 12.00h**

Attending were Christiane Paulus, Peter Ilsoe, Jaap Verhulst, Ruediger Strempel (between 10.00 and 12.00 by telephone), Co Verdaas

Due to the absence of the Secretary we decided online to share a summary of the agreed conclusions and actions.

The main ambition of the meeting is to prepare a roadmap which can be discussed and decide upon in the March WSB

### **Conclusions/reflections to keep in mind**

- We are not working on a new grand design or creating new institutions or bureaucracy, it is an process in which we build on and complement what we already have;
- From now on we use the name **Partnership Centre (PC)** and **Steering Group/Committee (StC)**
- The secretariat is and remains a legal entity and is part of the Partnership Center. Germany noted that in their view the Secretariat could not be made leaner than it currently is.
- The new perspective can and probably will however have consequences for the WSF and the WSB. The latter will be enlarged and probably composed of a governmental segment (for budget and tasks of CWSS) and segment that will also comprise stakeholders/partners.
- We will use a graphic to illustrate this process
- We decide on issues as soon as possible, but we have to organize the process carefully with respect to other stakeholders including the political level

### **Actions/products to be prepared**

- We need to prepare a paragraph on “why” and “what” (C.V.)
- We produce an overview of tasks of the secretariat and take the administrative agreement as a starting point (R.S.) This should help identify which tasks or items can be discussed/offered to potential partners.
- We concurrently produce an overview of the tasks that will fall into the remit of the staff employed in the non-Secretariat element of the PC. We strive for a coherent set of tasks to be fulfilled by the PC. We work step-by-step in assigning new tasks to the PC in coordination/cooperation with the Wadden Sea Forum with subsidiarity as a leading principle.
- The World Heritage Strategy 2014 -2020 will be considered in this context.
- Do we meet the formal obligations of being a border crossing World Heritage site (J.V. in cooperation with R.S. prepares the assignment we can send to the Dutch helpdesk). We strive to keep it as simple as possible.

- We appoint a drafting group between WSB March – WSB June to coordinate the texts and proposals which are going to be produced. We are aiming for a small group composed of three persons from the Wadden Sea States, facilitated by the Secretariat. The task for the drafting group should be formulated for next WSB, so that the group can start to work immediately after the board meeting.
- We separate in the workplan/roadmap the activities/products and the decision making process (we are all aware that there is a lot of interconnectivity between the separate products and activities, so we take it step by step)
- We have to prepare how we appoint people (in the centre and the steering committee) and how we deal with what stakeholders will offer to the Partnership Center
- We adjust the planning on the foundation (less detailed) (R.S.)
- In the workplan/roadmap we put in the lines of WSB 15/6/1 on how to proceed with the Foundation as a preliminary phrase
- Exploring the possibilities for a Foundation and identifying potential members is a delicate process; Denmark and Germany provide information on their context, the chair and the Dutch delegation inform the partners before they act in these countries. It may be necessary to inform regional or national/federal bodies at the political level before the Chair actually approaches candidates.