

## Baltic Area Legal Studies BALEX Advisory Board meeting no. 1

Date, time: Thursday 19.2.2015 at 13.30-16.30  
Place: University of Turku, Faculty of Law meeting room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)  
Caloniankuja 3, Turku, Finland

### Present:

Allan Rosas (Chair)	Judge at the European Court of Justice; Senior Fellow of the University of Turku and Visiting Professor, College of Europe and University of Helsinki
Kari Häkämies	Region Mayor, Regional Council of Southwest Finland
Marie Jacobsson	Principal Legal Adviser on International Law, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden
Anita Mäkinen	Chief Adviser, Finnish Transport Safety Agency
Erja Tikka	Ambassador for Baltic Sea Issues, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
Jukka Mähönen	Chair of BALEX Steering Group, Dean, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Turku
Henrik Ringbom	Adjunct Professor (Docent) in Maritime Law and the Law of the Sea, Åbo Akademi University
Salla-Maria Lauttamäki	Planner, Faculty of Law, University of Turku

### Absent:

Jussi Mälkiä	President, Meriaura Group
Anne Kumpula	Member of the BALEX Steering Group, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Turku
Elina Pirjatanniemi	Member of the BALEX Steering Group, Professor, Department of Law, Åbo Akademi University
Ari Saarnilehto	Member of the BALEX Steering Group, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Turku
Markku Suksi	Chair of the BALEX Steering Group, Professor, Department of Law, Åbo Akademi University

## MEMO

### 1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

*Jukka Mähönen* opened the meeting at 13.35 and welcomed everybody warmly to Turku and to the first meeting of the BALEX Advisory Board. As it was the first time the Board convened, an introductory round of presentations was made.

It was decided that items 4 and 5 will be combined and discussed simultaneously.



## 2. Election of chair and secretary

The Advisory Board elected *Allan Rosas* as its Chair, and *Salla-Maria Lauttamäki* as its secretary. It was also decided that the Board's term is 3 years, the first term being 2015-2017. Members can be re-elected.

## 3. Introducing BALEX

*Henrik Ringbom* and *Salla-Maria Lauttamäki* presented BALEX in a nutshell to the Advisory Board (Presentation enclosed in Attachment 1).

## 4. Views on BSR cooperation and BALEX

## 5. Discussion on BALEX objectives and possibilities / BALEX strategy

*Allan Rosas* opened the discussion on BALEX's main substantive focus, project ideas, working methods, partners and members.

With regard to the substantive focus it was agreed that the draft strategy paper which had been prepared for the meeting represented a good starting point for the substantive work of BALEX. No objections or reservations were expressed with respect to what had been written in that document (also enclosed). However, it was considered that, in addition, marine spatial planning should be added as an "umbrella theme" for BALEX. It is one of the hot topics of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and is well aligned with other focus areas of BALEX: environment, energy and transport. The recent marine spatial planning directive will raise many relevant research questions for BALEX and inherently involves interesting issues relating to multilevel governance. BALEX staff was also encouraged to get acquainted with the work carried out within the HELCOM-VASAB framework (currently chaired by Advisory Board member Anita Mäkinen).

Another topic that BALEX should consider is the role of Russia in the Baltic Sea Region cooperation framework, as it is not a member of the European Union.

The view was also expressed that BALEX should not concentrate only on environmental challenges. For example in the field of security, there are many important and topical issues which deserve to be on the agenda.

As far as legal research is concerned, BALEX should consider the Baltic Sea Region as a laboratory, where various challenges, theories and cases can be tested. BALEX should strive for becoming a "hub" to connect the departments and researchers in this field of research.

In its efforts to create research, education and projects, BALEX should offer high-quality and current training that serves our needs in the region (and diminishes the need to



travel further). Emphasis should be placed on inviting experts from the outside to visit Turku and BALEX.

The project ideas that were briefly presented to the Board were considered to be interesting and relevant. BALEX Staff were given links and further contacts to continue their development of these project applications.

Concerning the plans to arrange a summer course during summer 2016, the Board advised to move quickly and have a general outline of the idea soon. It was agreed that the course should be closely focused on legal matters to stand out, but that it should also include multidisciplinary aspects.

To realize its plans BALEX will need external funding. Current resources from the two initiating universities will run out at the end of 2015. This year is thus crucial for the future of BALEX. In addition to project funding, permanent funding should be found at least in the longer run to ensure the continuation of operations.

BALEX staff was encouraged to look into private sources in addition to public programmes. BALEX is also able to do legal consultancy-like work for, in particular, public organisations, when there is also an academic interest. This option should be explored.

The BONUS programme is currently being evaluated and next period's emphasis discussed. It is now timely to contact the working committee to see if legal research could be included among the priority areas. Other good contacts are the Baltic Sea Region Programme and the InterAct Point, for instance.

When discussing possible partners and networks, the following were mentioned:

- Gothenburg University (new chair in management of oceans)
- Södertörn University (Baltic and Eastern European Studies)
- Stockholm International Water Institute SIWI
- The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research MISTRA
- World Maritime University
- Gdansk University
- Universität Hamburg (Institute for the Law of the Sea and for Maritime Law)
- Rostock University

It would also be good to introduce BALEX to Council of the Baltic Sea States CBSS expert groups, European Maritime Safety Agency EMSA and Nordic Council of Ministers, to name a few.



Finally, the Board considered whether it should expand the number of members. It was agreed that it should have members from the Baltic States and/or the southern parts of the Region and/or from Russia.

6. Communication between meetings

It was agreed that BALEX staff may contact the Advisory Board members also in between meetings whenever feedback or advice is needed.

7. Next meeting

It was agreed, that the Advisory Board should meet back-to-back the European Maritime Day in Turku in May 2016. It is, however, necessary to meet also before that, and it was agreed that the next meeting should be held at the end of September / October 2015. The date and place will be agreed upon via e-mail during spring. Video meetings in between can be arranged when needed.

8. Closing of the meeting

*Allan Rosas* thanked everyone for an active and fruitful discussion and closed the meeting at 16.30.

