

**Baltic Area Legal Studies BALEX**  
**Advisory Board meeting No. 3**

**Date, time:** Wednesday 23.8.2016 at 10.00 – 12.15

**Place:** Åbo Akademi University, Domvillan, Auditorium Magnus Dahlström  
Gezeliusgatan 2, 20500 Turku, Finland

<b>Present:</b>	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
	Felix Collin	<i>BALEX Steering Group member</i> , Project Researcher / AAWA project, Faculty of Law, University of Turku
	Marko Joas	<i>BALEX Steering Group member</i> , Professor, Åbo Akademi University
	Anita Mäkinen	Chief Adviser, Finnish Transport Safety Agency
	Jussi Tapani	<i>Chair of BALEX Steering Group</i> , Dean, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Turku
	Adam Wiśniewski	Professor, University of Gdansk
	Henrik Ringbom	Adjunct Professor (Docent) in Maritime Law and the Law of the Sea, Åbo Akademi University
<b>Absent:</b>	Kari Häkämies	Region Mayor, Regional Council of Southwest Finland
	Marie Jacobsson	Principal Legal Adviser on International Law, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden
	Jussi Mälkiä	President, Meriaura Group
	Erja Tikka	Ambassador for Baltic Sea Issues, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
	Anne Kumpula	<i>Member of the BALEX Steering Group</i> , Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Turku
	Markku Suksi	<i>Chair of the BALEX Steering Group</i> , Professor, Department of Law, Åbo Akademi University

## MEMO

### 1. Opening of the meeting

Chair *Allan Rosas* opened the meeting at 10.05 and welcomed everybody to Turku and the third meeting of the BALEX Advisory Board. A special welcome was extended to the new member, Prof. Adam Wiśniewski.



## 2. Memo from previous meeting (23.10.2015)

The minutes from Advisory Board's second meeting, held on 23 October 2015, were approved without further additions.

## 3. Secretariat function

### a. Funding situation

*Henrik Ringbom* explained that the campaign for funding had been successful. 5 out of the 6 approached institutions had responded positively, meaning that there was now a budget of 50.000 € per year for 2-3 years. The efforts to find further funds will continue, also with private players.

### b. Recruitment procedure

Once the funding had been settled, the process to recruit a coordinator (verksamhetsledare, toiminnanjohtaja) started. 6 persons applied of which two looked very interesting and were called in for interviews, on 18 August.

### c. Thank you letters

It was agreed that thank you letters should be sent to all five funders (City of Turku, Regional Council of Southwest Finland, Åbo Akademi and the Foundations of Åbo Akademi and Turun Yliopisto)

### d. Press release

A press release shall be prepared and issued as soon as the new coordinator takes up office (tentatively 15 September).

## 4. Recruitment of Coordinator

*Allan Rosas* explained the choice between the two candidates. The proposal to recruit Ms Saara Ilvessalo was endorsed, due to, *inter alia*, her educational background, language skills, background and availability.

## 5. On-going research projects

The status quo of the three currently on-going research projects were briefly introduced: BaltReg project (introduced by its leader, *Marko Joas*); CompMon (introduced by *Henrik Ringbom*; and AAWA (introduced by *Felix Collin*). As to AAWA, a recent report which includes our thoughts on the legal challenges with unmanned shipping is available at: [www.rolls-royce.com/products-and-services/marine/services/ship-intelligence/remote-and-autonomous-operations.aspx](http://www.rolls-royce.com/products-and-services/marine/services/ship-intelligence/remote-and-autonomous-operations.aspx)

## 6. Update on other BALEX activities

### a. Since last meeting

*Henrik Ringbom* gave a brief overview of the activities that had taken place since the previous meeting. Acknowledging that BALEX in the absence of a coordinator since late November 2015 had not been very active, the following activities were noted: an application for a BONUS project Blue Baltic on marine spatial planning was submitted in February, but was eventually not successful; Henrik Ringbom participated in a number of activities during the European Maritime Day on 18-19 May in Turku, including a workshop on marine spatial planning, a



presentation at NaviGate on unmanned ships. Moreover both AAWA and CompMon projects had separate stands at the event. A seminar on regulatory gaps and hotspots in the Baltic Sea, linked to the Baltreg project, was held on 28-29 April in Turku. Finally it was noted that a study for the Ministry of Transport and Communications on the implementation of international transport conventions in Finland had been completed in late 2015. The study is now published and available at [www.lvm.fi/documents/20181/877203/Julkaisuja+10-2016.pdf/a73129a0-a3c1-4932-9d17-8e69569777e5](http://www.lvm.fi/documents/20181/877203/Julkaisuja+10-2016.pdf/a73129a0-a3c1-4932-9d17-8e69569777e5)

b. Future activities

- The Finnish Maritime Law Association (chaired by Henrik Ringbom) is organizing a new 7 ECTS pro bono course on maritime law for the universities in Turku in November. This is to compensate for the lack of courses and education in maritime law following the retirement of several professors in the past years. Lecturers will be practicing maritime lawyers and persons linked to universities.
- The main event of the BaltReg project, the large seminar has been set at August 2017 but the exact date and location is not yet settled.
- A new Finnish textbook on the law of the sea and the Baltic Sea (co-authored by Timo Koivurova, Pirjo Kleemola-Juntunen and Henrik Ringbom) will be finalized during the course of this year.
- There are preliminary plans for Nordic Research Collaboration in the field of the law of the sea within the Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law and its partners.

**7. Tour de table on timely issues from the members**

*Jussi Tapani* noted that the idea of seeking a profile on the sea and maritime issues is progressing at the University of Turku, not least thanks to the leadership of Rector Väänänen. This would cover the whole university, including the law faculty, and would have to be based on close collaboration with Åbo Akademi. BALEX represents a very good example of such collaboration and would have plenty to gain from such a profile for funding buy the Finnish State and Academy of Finland.

*Anita Mäkinen* noted several developments related to shipping and IMO, including the status of the Ballast Water Management convention, which is likely to come into force soon, the proposals to establish a Nitrogen Emissions Control Area in the Baltic and North Seas. She also noted a new formalization of cooperation between Trafi and the IMO World Maritime University in Malmö.

**8. BALEX Strategy – need for an update?**

It was considered that at least the formal aspects of the strategy needed an update, relating to new names of institutions and a shift of persons. A draft should be ready for the next meeting of the AB.



## 9. Other issues

*Allan Rosas* introduced the idea of inviting a wider group of persons to be associated with BALEX, without any particular role or benefit. These invited persons, possibly to be called 'BALEX fellows' would hence feel associated involved, but this would not enlarge the scope of formal meetings etc. The idea was endorsed and a draft list of such persons shall be drawn up for the next meeting of the AB.

*Felix Collin* introduced the idea that the first summer course of BALEX could possibly be linked to the new type of PhD seminars at University of Turku.

Finally it was widely considered that a number of administrative tasks that had been neglected in the past year should be taken up as a priority once the new Coordinator takes up office. These include: a new Newsletter; practicalities relating to the traineeship offered by the BALEX Secretariat; finding new sources for funding; organization of the summer course; and further thoughts on the legal structure of BALEX. In addition certain new substantive themes, such as the shipbuilding cluster in Southwest Finland should be explored for potential collaboration and joint projects.

## 10. Next meeting

The date for the next Advisory Board meeting date will be confirmed later, but it was considered important to have one within the coming 5 or so months. The tentative date of Monday 5 December 2016 was proposed, subject to further verification of members' availability.

## 11. Closing of the meeting

The Chair *Allan Rosas* thanked everyone for an active and fruitful discussion and closed the meeting at 12.15.

