

Baltic Area Legal Studies BALEX**Advisory Board meeting****Date, time:** Monday 5.12.2016 at 13.00 – 15.00**Place:** Åbo Akademi University, Domvillan, Auditorium Magnus Dahlström (2nd floor)
Gezeliusgatan 2, Turku, Finland

Members: **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

Erja Tikka Ambassador for Baltic Sea Issues, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Steering group members:

Jussi Tapani Chair of BALEX Steering Group, Dean, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Turku

Markku Suksi Chair of BALEX Steering Group, Professor, Åbo Akademi University

Felix Collin Member of BALEX Steering Group, Project Researcher, University of Turku

Henrik Ringbom Adjunct Professor (Docent) in Maritime Law and the Law of the Sea, Åbo Akademi University

Saara Ilvessalo, Secretary Coordinator of BALEX

Absent:

Adam Wisniewski Professor, University of Gdansk

Marie Jacobsson Principal Legal Adviser on International Law, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Anita Mäkinen Chief Adviser, Finnish Transport Safety Agency

Jussi Mälkiä President, Meriaura Group

Anne Kumpula Member of BALEX Steering Group, Professor, University of Turku

Marko Joas Member of BALEX Steering Group, Professor, Åbo Akademi University

Memo**1. Opening of the meeting**

Chair *Allan Rosas* opened the meeting at 13:05.

2. Memo from previous meeting 23.8.2016 (APPENDIX 1)

The minutes from the previous Advisory Board meeting, held on 28 August 2016, were approved without further additions.

3. Tour de table on timely issues from the members

It was agreed to discuss timely issues under point 10 below.

4. Update on BALEX activities and communicationsPast and upcoming activities and communications

The past and upcoming activities and communications were briefly introduced and discussed:

-30.9.: Turku Book Fair



- 24.10. Steering Group Meeting
- 16.-17.11.: presentation in Interact's 'Blue Skills – Knowledge of the Seas Network Meeting' in Rostock
- November: Course on Maritime Law in Turku by Finnish Maritime Law Association
- 12.12.: presentation at Schuman Society's event in Turku
- 15.12.: BALEX/Centrum Balticum at EUSBSR interest group meeting in Helsinki
- December: publication of an article about BALEX in Baltic Rim Economies
- January 2017: new website in cooperation with Centrum Balticum
- 6.-7.3.2017: Baltic Sea Future Seminar in Stockholm
- May 2017: European Maritime Day
- June 2017: possibility to attend the EUSBSR meeting with the topic "connectivity"
- Autumn 2017: Finland 100 years event "Who rules the Baltic Sea?"

Research update

The on-going research projects and the plans for new projects were introduced and discussed:

- CompMon has been successful and will end in December.
- BaltReg will have an international conference 23.-25. August in Korppoo, Finland. BaltReg will also participate in a Nordic Environmental Conference seminar.
- AAWA is meeting with the Finnish Transport Safety Agency Trafi in December in order to discuss the legal issues concerning autonomous shipping. A trial of autonomous shipping is planned for 2017. A continuation of the project is sought with emphasis on autonomous ecosystem. There are some 80 actors in the project.
- Plans for a project regarding ship wrecks are being materialized. This would include research of the legal aspects of ship wrecks (protection, environmental aspects, ownership, liability etc). Cooperation is made with the company Alfons Håkans who wants to use new techniques in pumping oil from old ship wrecks. Even the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE has been interested in the project and the Ministry of Environment is aware of it.
- Cooperation with HELCOM on sanctions of sulphur regulation violations has been planned. BALEX shall participate in a meeting in Sweden in the spring with HELCOM and probably other stakeholders, such as the Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime.
- A book on Maritime Law and Baltic Sea (in Finnish) has been prepared during the autumn by Henrik Ringbom and others and will be published soon.

5. Update of BALEX strategy (APPENDIX 2)

At the previous meeting, it was decided that an update of the strategy should take place. A draft was drawn for the Advisory Board to decide upon. The update of the strategy was approved without alterations.

6. Funding possibilities (APPENDIX 3)

At the previous meeting, it was decided that the Coordinator should find new sources of funding. A list of funding possibilities was drawn for the Advisory Board to discuss. The list was discussed and some possibilities were added as shown in appendix 3. A more concrete funding plan, including continuous funding from e.g. Åland and project funding depending on the succeeded projects, will be prepared for the next meeting.

7. Education activity (APPENDIX 4)

The Steering Group has decided to explore the possibility of an international research seminar in autumn 2017 at University of Turku, in cooperation with Åbo Akademi University, with a



BALEX-related theme. Plans were presented for the Advisory Board. Particular points for discussion were the theme and the keynote speaker. The plans were discussed and the idea of a theme linked to multilevel regulation was endorsed. Some possible speakers were suggested. The Coordinator will continue the preparations with *Anne Kumpula* and others.

8. Traineeship (APPENDIX 5)

A traineeship at BALEX secretariat is under preparation. Plans were presented for the Advisory Board. The plans of hiring a trainee from ÅAU in 2017 and a trainee from UTU 2018, each for three months, were approved.

9. BALEX fellows (APPENDIX 6)

At the previous meeting, it was decided that a draft list of 'BALEX fellows' shall be drawn up for this meeting. The Advisory Board discussed and edited the list. The Chair will contact the persons and an invitation letter will be prepared by the Coordinator.

10. Other issues

Jussi Tapani told the AB about the profiling of the universities where the third round is now over. UTU and ÅAU have sent a coordinated application with the topic "sea and shipping", which could also profit the faculties of law and BALEX. The AB shall be informed when the decision has been made, tentatively in the first months of 2017.

Henrik Ringbom noted that after ten months of a more low profile period, BALEX has now actively started its work again, thanks to the recruited Coordinator.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will most likely be in May 2017. The Coordinator will prepare a questionnaire of the possible dates. The date will be confirmed later.

12. Closing of the meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for participating and closed the meeting at 14:30.

The meeting was preceded by lunch at Restaurant Hus Lindman at 11:30.

