

Baltic Area Legal Studies BALEX**Advisory Board meeting****Date, time:** Tuesday 9.5.2017 at 10.07 – 11.41**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
	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
	Erja Tikka	Ambassador for Baltic Sea Issues, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
	Adam Wisniewski	Professor, University of Gdansk

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
Marko Joas	Member of BALEX Steering Group, Professor, Åbo Akademi University
Anne Kumpula	Member of BALEX Steering Group, Professor, 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
Kati Heikkonen	BALEX Trainee

Agenda**1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair *Allan Rosas* opened the meeting at 10:07. The agenda of the meeting was accepted.

2. Memo from previous meeting 5.12.2016 (APPENDIX 1)

The minutes from the previous Advisory Board meeting, held on 5 December 2016, were approved without further additions.

3. Update on BALEX activities and communications**a. Research projects**

The CompMon project is finalized and the final report on the enforcement of the new sulphur in fuel requirement for ships is available on the website www.compmon.eu/reports.

The AAWA project on unmanned ships is coming to an end this year, but another TEKES-funded project 'Design for Value' (D4V) dealing with similar issues from a broader perspective has already started. Both the University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University participate in D4V.

2017 is the main year of the BaltReg project with one of the highlights being the main conference in Korppoo, Finland, in August.

In addition, some research projects are under development.

A proposal lead by Oslo with other Nordic counterparts is submitted for a 'Nordic Hub', which would coordinate maritime law education and research in the Nordic countries and help maritime law students and researchers to visit fellow institutions in other countries.

Additionally, it was noted that the UTU and ÅAU profiling decision by Finnish Academy is postponed to June. UTU and ÅAU have sent a coordinated application with the topic "sea and shipping", hence the decision is of importance to BALEX.

BALEX has a minor role in two on-going Horizon 2020 applications. The fate of these ones will be decided later.

b. Other activities (e.g. ship wreck project, APPENDIX 2)

-A joint seminar with the Finnish Environment Institute Syke on shipwrecks will be organized for state authorities and other interest groups who are working with shipwrecks in the Baltic Sea. The seminar will take place in Helsinki on 29-30 November 2017.

-Sulphur regulations and sanctions and a possible project concerning them have been discussed with Helcom and OSPAR / North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors (NSN). At the moment, Helcom is promoting the subject.

-A Twitter account www.twitter.com/BALEXStudies has been set up.

-A new website www.balex.fi has been launched.

-The course in Maritime Law by Finnish Maritime Law Association was held in Turku in the autumn 2016.

-BALEX was present and held a presentation at Schuman associations Christmas event 12.12.2016.

-An article about BALEX was published in Baltic Rim Economies.

https://www.utu.fi/en/units/tse/units/PEI/BRE/Documents/BRE_6_2016.pdf p. 10.

-BALEX was present at Baltic Sea Future congress in Stockholm 6.-7.3.2017.

-Kati Heikkonen has started as the BALEX Trainee as of 18 April and will stay until 18 August, with a one-month break in July.

-The network of 'BALEX Fellows' has been set up, the members can be found on the website.

-BALEX AB documents are stored in Google Drive: www.tinyurl.com/BALEXAdvisoryBoard.

-The new BALEX Newsletter is under construction and will be published soon.

The activities and projects were introduced and discussed. It was decided that an email should be sent by the Coordinator to the AB members whenever a paper is published and BALEX has been active in the process.

4. Funding plan (APPENDIX 3)

At the previous meeting, it was decided that the Coordinator should make a funding plan for this meeting. New funding sources have been identified and a plan has been drawn up for the Advisory Board to discuss and decide upon.

It was noted that Merenkulun säätiö has granted BALEX 15,000 euros. It was decided that Meyer and other private sector actors should be added to the plan. The plan was discussed and accepted.

5. Research seminar (APPENDIX 4)

A research seminar will be organized on 31 October 2017 in co-operation with the University of Turku. The program and the speakers were presented, discussed and noted.

6. BaltReg conference in August (APPENDIX 5)

The final conference of the BaltReg project will be organized in Korpoström, Finland, 23.-25.8.2017. The conference was presented, discussed and noted.

7. BALEX publication list (APPENDIX 6)

A list of BALEX publications and publications linked to BALEX has been drawn up. The list was presented and the members were encouraged to propose titles and publications from 2014 or later to the list.

8. Tour de table on timely issues from the members and other issues

Erja Tikka reminded the AB of the EUSBSR forum on 13-14 June in Berlin. The main theme is connectivity, including e.g. autonomous shipping, and the event could be of interest to BALEX. It was noted that the Coordinator *Saara Ilvessalo* will attend the event. Furthermore, *Erja Tikka* noted that the Finnish Government is updating the Baltic Sea strategy, which should be accepted by the end of August, and suggested that BALEX could comment on the draft. *Anita Mäkinen* noted that Finland will have a side event "Collaboration in Public Private Partnership for a sustainable maritime future" on the Ocean Conference hosted by Sweden & Fiji in New York 5-9.6.

Markku Suksi noted that the EU is discussing civil law issues on robotics, which is connected to autonomous vessels. *Felix Collin* noted that an application to the Academy of Finland had been made by the University of Turku for a criminal law/civil law research project in this field

Henrik Ringbom noted that he has been asked to be an Administrative Board member of the European Maritime Safety Agency. 4-year term.

Marie Jacobsson noted that Sweden will, together with Fiji, organize the big Oceans Conference in New York in June. Furthermore, she noted that the Gothenburg University has set up a Maritime Advisory Board which aims at promoting Gothenburg as a heart of maritime issues.

Felix Collin noted that the University of Turku has made an application on robotics to the Academy of Finland and is waiting for the decision.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting of the AB shall be held tentatively in October or November. The Coordinator *Saara Ilvessalo* will send out a poll to the members.

10. Closing of the meeting

The Chair *Allan Rosas* thanked everyone for the meeting and closed the meeting at 11:41.