

**Baltic Area Legal Studies BALEX****Advisory Board meeting****Date, time:** Monday 30.10.2017 at 13.16 – 15.09**Place:** Åbo Akademi University, Humanisticum, meeting room Ernst (Piispankatu 13, Turku)

Members:	<b>Allan Rosas</b> , 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
	<b>Kari Häkämies</b>	Region Mayor, Regional Council of Southwest Finland
	<del>Marie Jacobsson</del>	<del>Principal Legal Adviser on International Law, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden</del>
	<del>Anita Mäkinen</del>	<del>Chief Adviser, Finnish Transport Safety Agency</del>
	<b>Jussi Mälkiä</b>	President, Meriaura Group
	<b>Erja Tikka</b>	Ambassador for Baltic Sea Issues, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
	<del>Adam Wisniewski</del>	<del>Professor, University of Gdansk</del>

**Steering group members:**

<b>Jussi Tapani</b>	Chair of BALEX Steering Group, Dean, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Turku
<b>Markku Suksi</b>	Chair of BALEX Steering Group, Professor, Åbo Akademi University
<b>Felix Collin</b>	Member of BALEX Steering Group, Doctoral Candidate, University of Turku
<b>Marko Joas</b>	Member of BALEX Steering Group, Professor, Åbo Akademi University
<del>Anne Kumpula</del>	<del>Member of BALEX Steering Group, Professor, University of Turku</del>
<b>Henrik Ringbom</b>	Adjunct Professor (Docent) in Maritime Law and the Law of the Sea, Åbo Akademi University
<b>Saara Ilvessalo</b> , Secretary	Coordinator of BALEX

**Agenda****1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair *Allan Rosas* opened the meeting at 13:16. The agenda of the meeting was accepted.

**2. Memo from previous meeting 9.5.2017 (ANNEX 1)**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved without further additions.

**3. Update on BALEX activities and communications****a. Research projects****i. Report from BaltReg Conference in Korpoström**

BaltReg is the most theoretical one of BALEX projects, analyzing the governance structures in the Baltic Sea region. It was noted that the attendance to the conference was active and the deadline for the final papers is in a few days.

## ii. Other ongoing research projects

The two universities are seeking a profiling in the form of a strategic research area, “the sea”. The legal aspects are going to be a part of the second round of the process, and it is desirable that also the Baltic Sea and its governance is highlighted. The next funding decisions on this matter are expected in May.

The CompMon project on sulphur requirements has been brought to its end.

The Design for Value ‘D4V’ project on unmanned ships and their legal challenges is still ongoing. Also the economic and insurance issues are looked into.

An application has been sent to NordForsk for a Nordic law of the sea and maritime law hub ‘Nordic Hub’ by Åbo Akademi University, the University of Helsinki and other Nordic universities. The idea is to create a hub through which the partner universities will get quality teaching in maritime law and the students are offered courses in all of the universities. A similar hub is under preparation for natural sciences and social sciences.

*Allan Rosas* is working on a paper about the Council of the Baltic Sea States CBSS for the BaltReg project. BALEX shall keep the eyes open for a possible cooperation project with CBSS. *Erja Tikka* informed the Advisory Board members that CBSS has set an independent group of wise persons that is reflecting the future of the organization and also the legal aspects are a part of the work. From Finland, *Astrid Thors* is a member of the group.

The City of Turku has donated one million euros for Åbo Akademi University for marine research. The money has not been earmarked yet but it is a good sign also for BALEX and the cooperation between the two universities.

## b. EUTROPH6 project (ANNEX 2a & 2b)

BALEX has won the procurement of the Finnish Environment Ministry on an assessment of the contribution of the Baltic Sea’s internal nutrient stores on eutrophication and the legal, political and institutional aspects of potential mitigation measures. The project will last for 6 months until March 2018 and its budget is approximately 50 000 €. *Brita Bohman*, *Saara Ilvessalo* and *Henrik Ringbom* are conducting the legal, institutional and policy research. *Vahnen Oy* is researching the ecological, technical and socio-economical side of the chosen measures, which are oxygenation, chemical treatment and dredging.

## c. Research Seminar 31.10. (ANNEX 3a & 3b)

BALEX Research Seminar “Multiple Legal Layers: Focus on the Baltic Sea” will be taking place in Turku on Tuesday. The seminar is open and the speakers are high level, so we are hoping for many participants from the target group.

## d. Ship Wreck Seminar 29.-30.11. (ANNEX 4a & 4b)

The speakers of the wreck seminar in Helsinki are confirmed and some 40 participants have already registered. The aim is of the seminar to be a start for a wider cooperation, bringing together the different actors and the Finnish authorities.



**e. Other activities**

*Saara Ilvessalo* has attended the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Berlin 13-14 June and the Baltic Leadership Program organized by the Swedish Institute in Stockholm 12-13 October.

A new Newsletter was published this month. BALEX also has new brochures in English, Finnish and Swedish.

The research projects and activities were introduced and discussed. It was also decided that *Alexander Skaridov*, one of the speakers at the shipwreck seminar, shall be invited to become a BALEX Fellow, should he be interested.

**4. Financial issues**

**a. Update on the financial situation (ANNEX 5)**

The financial situation was made note of and future possibilities were discussed.

**5. New BALEX Strategy**

A new strategy for the upcoming years is under preparation. The Advisory Board was invited to discuss the focus of BALEX work for the next years, the development of BALEX activities and the targets for BALEX financing.

BALEX Steering Group has started the strategy work by establishing a strategy working group, consisting of *Jussi Tapani*, *Markku Suksi*, *Henrik Ringbom* and *Saara Ilvessalo*.

The discussion of the Advisory Board was divided into three parts: organization, emphasis of the activities and substantive focus.

**A. Organization**

It was noted that the collaboration with Centrum Balticum has been successful and should be continued in one form or another even in the future. In the long run, BALEX should be developed in cooperation between and in control of the two universities with basic funding from the universities and cost pool of its own. The profiling around “the sea” of the universities gives a good starting point for this. An agreement between the universities about BALEX was agreed to be desirable.

**B. Emphasis of the activities**

The three emphasis areas, namely, research, education and public events & awareness raising, already exist but the biggest emphasis has been on research. It was noted that all three are important in the future, too. *Saara Ilvessalo* presented the idea from Centrum Balticum strategy work about communicating and giving training in (EU or other) legislation and amendments thereof to e.g. the business sector.

**C. Substantive focus**

BALEX research projects have mainly dealt with the two present focus areas, maritime transport and environmental protection. It was noted that marine spatial planning has been the third substantive focus area but the previous project application about MSP did not receive funding, and because of this, the activities concerning MSP have not played a large

role yet. The new Baltic Sea strategy of Finland and its possibilities to BALEX were emphasized. Also the role of the Baltic Sea area in IMO and EU legislation was discussed. (Civil) safety was introduced as one focus possibility.

It was decided that a draft strategy drawn up by the Steering Committee and the strategy working group will be brought up in the next Advisory Board meeting.

#### **6. Tour de table on timely issues from the members and other issues**

*Erja Tikka* noted that the new Baltic Sea strategy of Finland will be published next Monday, and the implementation shall start after that. The City of Turku and the Prime Minister's Office will organize a seminar on national maritime policy in Turku 13.12.

*Erja Tikka* also noted that she represented Finland at the Our Ocean conference in Malta. The next two conferences will be organized in Bali and Oslo where legal aspects, too, should be included.

*Saara Ilvessalo* noted that Centrum Balticum has asked BALEX to organize program in the Baltic Sea Region Forum in May 2018.

*Marko Joas* noted that he has given an interview to the journal 'Finlands Natur' where BALEX will be mentioned.

#### **7. Next meeting**

It was decided that the next meeting shall preferably be organized in May back-to-back with the Baltic Sea Region Forum. *Saara Ilvessalo* will send a Doodle about the date.

#### **8. Closing of the meeting**

The Chair *Allan Rosas* thanked everyone for participating and closed the meeting at 15:09.

*The meeting was followed by a reception & drinks at Humanisticum (Piispankatu 13) at 15:30-17:30. The reception was co-hosted by the Regional Council of Southwest Finland.*