DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH SWITZERLAND, NORWAY, TO THE EU-ICELAND JPC AND TO THE EEA JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE (DEEA)

MISSION REPORT
12-13 November 2018, Trondheim, Norway

which included
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BALTIC SEA PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE (BSPC SC)

Participating Member(s): Mr Jorn DOHRMANN (ECR, Denmark), Chair of the DEEA.

Background
The BSPC Standing Committee is the body responsible for defining the political priorities and strategies of the BSPC and for preparing the annual meetings. The BSPC Standing Committee is made of nine parliamentarians, three representing Poland, the Baltic Assembly and the European Parliament and six from Germany, Russia and the Nordic Council (two from each of them). The BSPC SC meets on average four times a year. The European Parliament hosts regularly SC meetings. The Chairman of the DEEA delegation is the EP representative at the BSPC SC. Among other things, the SC plays the important role of Drafting Committee at the BSPC annual meetings and is in charge of submitting the final draft resolutions.

The following meetings/visits took place:

- Presentations on the clean ocean research, renewable ocean energy, autonomous ships

Presentations delivered by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) (strategic research area on oceanic science and technology with the overall vision of contributing to sustainable exploration and utilisation of the ocean space), SINTEF (independent research institute founded in 1950 and working to increase knowledge about the spreading and environmental consequences of pollutants in the World's oceans), Smart Maritime (aims to find out how we can improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions from the maritime sector) and Siemens AS Marine.

Shipping carries no less than 80 – 90 percent of the world's freight, and even small improvements in the energy efficiency of the merchant fleet will make an important contribution to the international "Shift to Green". Norway aims for its maritime cluster to be
world leading in 2025 in environmentally friendly shipping. This position shall be gained through innovative use, improvement and combination of technologies which are not only cost, energy and emission efficient, but which also could increase the revenues for the maritime industry.

The theoretical potential for offshore wind energy is very large. In principle, it would be possible to meet seven times Europe’s energy requirements, and four times those of the USA.

- **Working dinner hosted by the hosted by the Mayor of Trondheim, Ms Rita Ottervik**

- **Standing Committee Meeting of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference**

- **Debriefing on the 27th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Mariehamn on 26 - 28 August 2018**, on the overarching theme “The Baltic Sea – Our Lifeline; Cooperation, Sustainability and Smart Energy; Three pillars for future development”. The Conference gathered some 180 politicians, government officials and experts as well as representatives of stakeholder organizations, youths and NGOs from the entire Baltic Sea Region as well as from the Black Sea Region and had been opened by the President of the Republic of Finland, H.E. Mr. Sauli Niinistö and concluded with the unanimous adoption of the 27th BSPC Resolution, expressing the political positions and recommendations of parliamentarians from the entire Baltic Sea Region.

27th BSPC was estimated as one of the best annual conferences ever (The European Parliament was represented by DEEA Chair Dohrmann). Proposals were made, however, to clarify the Rules of Procedure as regards the deadlines for tabling amendments. The outgoing and incoming Presidents will forward the Resolution of the 27th BSPC at the international level to international institutions as in previous years. All delegations are invited to bring the resolution to the attention of their governments.

- **BSPC Working Groups and Rapporteurs**

Mid-Way Report by the Working Group on Migration and Integration on its activities throughout the past year in preparation of the 27th BSPC has been published on the BSPC website (http://www.bspc.net/.mid-way-report-bspc-working-group-migration-integration-published/). Recommendations for action on the basis of the WG work have been incorporated in the resolution of the 27th BSPC. The Standing Committee has decided to prolong their mandate by one more year and it was agreed not to have 2 working groups active at the same time. The establishment of a new working group was therefore postponed. Nonetheless, the Standing Committee has already heard first proposals for its focus: how technology influences the life of citizens in the Baltic Sea region (Norway), plastic waste (Finland, Russia).

Currently the EP has no possibility to participate in the activities of the working groups due to already very heavy portfolio of the DEEA Chair, who represents the EP at the BSPC SC.

**Conclusions**
Very timely and informative mission feeding into the EP’s on-going and future work on the North and the Baltic.

**Possible follow-up**
Hosting of the BSPC SC meeting in Brussels on 21 February 2019.

Further consideration of the SC request for the EP to take the Presidency in the future or at least host an annual conference


Attachment:
- List of participants