SUBJECT: Preparation Wadden Sea Forum

Attached is a draft version of a proposal by the NGO observers in the TWG for the preparation of the Wadden Sea Forum.
A joint meeting of the observers will be held one day before the TWG 01/3 at which a final version of the proposal will be prepared.
The final proposal will be presented at the TWG meeting.

PROPOSAL: The meeting is invited to take note of the proposal and to use it in the discussion about the Wadden Sea Forum as appropriate
Contribution to the TWG 01-03; 29./30.8.01 Roskilde Denmark
by the Wadden Sea Team/Seas at Risk/EUROPECHE-COGEGA/Trilateral
Cooperation of North-Sea Shrimp POs/International Association of Oil
& Gas Producers

Terms of Reference
Task Force (draft version)
to prepare the establishment of a Wadden Sea Forum

1 Introduction

The Wadden Sea Plan entails visions, policies, measures, projects and actions, which have been agreed
upon by the three countries. The Plan is a framework for the overall Wadden Sea management and will be
revised at regular intervals. It is a statement on how the three countries envisage the future coordinated and
integrated management of the Wadden Sea Area and the projects and actions that must be carried out to
achieve the Targets and the Shared Vision.

It has to be acknowledged that the Wadden Sea is both an area of major importance for the conservation of
biodiversity and an area where people live, work and recreate. Inhabitants, users and stakeholders of the
Wadden Sea Region expressed their wish during the 8th Governmental Conference in Stade (1997) as well as
the 9th Governmental Conference in Esbjerg (2001) to have greater input in the preparation, planning and
implementation of the trilateral policies. Therefore, it seems evident that all the appropriate measures with a
view to conserving and restoring as far as possible natural habitats and biological diversity and to protecting
the ecological processes should be taken in order to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources within
the Wadden Sea Region. And this also applies to external activities which may affect the area. In order to
evaluate the various scenarios presented to the 9th Ministerial Conference in this respect, a Task Force will be
established. This should pave the way for a quick, efficient and economical modus operandi regarding a
possible Wadden Sea Forum to be established.

2 Tasks

The Task Force is established to elaborate proposals and procedures based on the Wadden Sea Plan and
within the framework of a coherent European Ecological Network Natura 2000 in accordance with the Habitats
Directive, in order to further and to foster the trilateral cooperation. When developing such proposals and
procedures the following issues should be considered:

• How to strengthen the trilateral cooperation and decision making process therein, including the
  participation and involvement of the stakeholders, users and inhabitants in environmental management
  issues;

• To consider in this the possible establishment of a (trilateral) Wadden Sea Forum, taking into account the
  whole procedure should result in recommendations to the 10th Trilateral Governmental Conference to be
  held in 2005;

• To define the status, and main objectives of the Wadden Sea Forum, taking into account the necessity of
  supervising and assessing the implementation of the Wadden Sea Plan so far, as well as the necessity of
  developing a shared vision as mentioned in #14 of the Wadden Sea Plan in order to implement the
  Wadden Sea Plan;

• To define responsibilities, tasks and duties of the Wadden Sea Forum, including (a.o.) developing a public
  relations strategy in order to inform the public about trilateral efforts and achievements, and developing
  indicators for sustainable development in the Wadden Sea area.
• To draft the Rules of Procedure of the Wadden Sea Forum;

• To draw up the financial regulations of the Wadden Sea Forum thereby also addressing potential funding and sponsors of such an initiative.

• To identify the respective levels of participation (trilateral, regional, local etc.) and the different interest groups.

3 Participation, organisation and timing

• To this end the Task Force will be established as soon as possible, at least before the 1st of January 2002.
• The Task Force should report to the TWG and SO meeting by the end of 2002 at the latest.
• According to the findings of the Task Force decisions will be taken and a Wadden Sea Forum will be established in the beginning of 2003.
• The Task Force shall be made up of 15 representatives, including the TWG (3); experts in various fields e.g. ecological, judicial, public management, governance building (3); independent experts (3), NGOs with observer status (3), secretarial support (2) and an independent chair.
• Suggested as independent chair is: Ed Nijs; Queens Commissioner of the Province of Fryslân; former minister of Physical Planning; former burgomaster of Breda.

Tuesday August 16, 2001

Martin Loos on behalf of the Trilateral Cooperation of North-Sea Shrimp POs (intention to sign)
Joop M. Marquenie on behalf of the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (intention to sign)
Anja Possekel and Beate Ratter on behalf of the Wadden Sea Team
Nathalie Steins on behalf of EUROPECHE/COGEGA (intention to sign)
Karel van der Zwiep on behalf of Seas at Risk...