

## Wadden Sea Forum

Folkert de Jong  
Common Wadden Sea  
Secretariat

# Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum Well Underway

Half a year after the 9<sup>th</sup> Wadden Sea Conference (Esbjerg, October 2001) the preparations for the trilateral Wadden Sea Forum are well underway and a first meeting of the Forum will be held on 30 August 2002.

### Government

- National, federal and state government authorities (as observer)
- Regional government authorities
- Local government authorities

### User/interest Groups

- Agriculture
- Industry (incl. harbor and shipping)
- Fisheries
- Tourism/recreation
- Energy (oil, gas, wind)
- Nature/environment

### Advisory groups

- Advisory Boards (as observer)
- Experts (as observers, on an ad-hoc basis).

The installation of a trilateral Forum, in which all interested parties - or „stakeholders“ in the insiders' jargon - participate on an equal basis, was decided at the 9<sup>th</sup> Wadden Sea Conference. The main rationale for establishing the Forum was the wish of the stakeholders for more active participation in the management of the Wadden Sea.

Moreover, it was felt that, supplementary to the Wadden Sea Targets, which are about conservation of the ecosystem and landscape and cultural values, the economic perspectives in the region would have to be addressed.

The precise tasks of the Forum, as spelled out in Annex 6 of the Esbjerg Declaration, are:

"to elaborate proposals for sustainable development scenarios and strategies for their implementation, to be presented to the 10<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference, as a contribution to the further development and possible amendments of the trilateral policy and management and the trilateral projects of the Wadden Sea Plan.

For the development of the scenarios it is necessary to address, amongst others, the following main issues:

1. The evaluation of present uses (including small-scale domestic uses) for sustainability in relation to present and future conservation and nature development goals.
2. The identification of the main conflicts between uses and the present and anticipated future status of the Wadden Sea ecosystem.
3. An inventory of long-term perspectives of economic, social and ecological development.
4. An inventory of management proposals which are best adapted to long-term perspectives.

On the basis of the above assessment, common views, and, if this is not possible, alternative (sub)scenarios should be developed.

The scenarios should include, for different time scales, specific steps for different activities, management tools, approach, implementation and priorities."

These tasks will have to be carried out in the period 2002-2004 because the Forum was established as a project which should be finalized in due time before the 10<sup>th</sup> Wadden Sea Conference in 2005.

An important aspect of the Forum is that it is chaired by an independent chairperson. As chairperson of the Forum, Mr. Nijpels, Queen's Commissioner of the Dutch Province of Fryslân has been installed by the Esbjerg Conference.

Mr. Nijpels has, amongst others, been Environment Minister and chairperson of the Dutch World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). He is currently also chairing the NHS (New Hanse Interregio) cooperation.

In line with the decisions of the Esbjerg Conference, a so-called Preparatory Committee, chaired by Mr. Nijpels and consisting of representatives of the Wadden Sea states, the Interregional Wadden Sea Cooperation, the Fisheries sector, the Oil and Gas Producers, the Sailors Association and the Nature Conservation Organizations, has prepared proposals for the working method and rules of procedure for the Forum. These proposals will be discussed at the first meeting of the Forum on 30 August.

The Preparatory Committee has also developed a procedure for the nomination of members of the Forum. It was agreed that representatives of the following organizations listed in Table 1 would be invited:

The Preparatory Committee considered it important that the organizations would have a firm regional backing. It was therefore decided that representation would, in principle, be on a regional basis, i.e. that for all the above groups, members from The Netherlands, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark would be nominated.

The nomination procedure is well underway and will be finalized in May.

It is anticipated that an application for co-financing by the EU Interreg IIB Program will be submitted in the coming months.

Folkert de Jong

Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Virchowstr. 1,  
D-26382 Wilhelmshaven  
dejong@waddensea-secretariat.org

Table 1:  
Organisations which will be invited to participate in the Wadden Sea Forum.