

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 34)

18 November 2021
Cuxhaven, Germany



Agenda Item:	7. Trilateral Governmental Conference
Subject:	Progress report on Ministerial Council Declaration Wilhelmshaven
Document No.:	WSB 34/7/1
Date:	28 October 2021
Submitted by:	DG-MCD

The WSB 33 (27 August 2021) installed the Drafting Group on the Ministerial Declaration Wilhelmshaven (DG-MCD) and noted the information submitted by the Netherlands containing the Dutch priorities for the Wilhelmshaven Declaration. It was suggested by the chair Karin Lochte, to take up the content discussion at WSB 34 in November 2021, with an input from Denmark and Germany as well.

The DG-MCD convened a few times since WSB 33. This concise progress report gives an overview of the meeting schedule, the DG-MCD envisages, based on the Road Map adopted by the WSB 32 (doc. WSB 32/8) for its planning until the 14th Trilateral Governmental Conference.

Realising that in-depth discussions on content issues are still needed, in this progress report a very brief and general overview of the topics the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) is currently dealing with is just annexed. In the progress report itself, a few general observations and overarching questions are submitted as a guidance to the WSB 34 to give their reflections on the envisaged priorities for our next Ministerial Declaration.

In addition, in this meeting schedule a proposal is taken up to have an additional WSB meeting after the next WSB 35, to allow sufficient time for in-depth discussion, consultations and the decision-making process.

Proposal: The WSB is asked to agree to schedule an additional WSB meeting end of April 2022. The WSB is invited to reflect and give guidance on the main priorities to be taken up in the next Declaration (see guiding questions in progress report)

Progress report of the DG-MCD Wilhelmshaven to WSB 34

1. Meeting Schedule

The work of the DG-MCD relies on different sources of information. The CWSS has started drafting a 1st version of a Policy Assessment Report, which will now be reviewed and commented in all the different trilateral groups, followed up by a discussion between the staff of the CWSS involved and the DG-MCD. The results of the International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium will become available in December, QSR thematic chapters' results are about to be finalised and the green NGO's have announced to come forward with a Call for Action early next year.

Given the discussions and input received so far, and taking into account the expected input, DG-MCD realised that this implies that only at WSB 35 for the 1st time a full draft MCD would be available, but the same meeting has to decide also directly upon this draft as the version to be sent around for the national consultations.

DG-MCD therefore proposes to arrange for another WSB end of April, after the WSB 35 of 4 March, to allow for a step-wise and proper timing for thorough and fruitful discussions. It could be envisaged to arrange for an online meeting for one of these two WSBs, depending on the amount of discussion points raised or foreseen at that time.

(See Annex for tentative meeting schedule of the DG-MCD)

Proposal: WSB is asked to agree to schedule an additional WSB meeting end of April 2022 (week 25-29 April).

2. Outline of the MCD Wilhelmshaven.

At this stage in the process the DG-MCD concluded it is too early to submit already an outline of the MCD Wilhelmshaven. However, a few general observations were collected.

Looking at the major recent developments in global and European environmental policy like e.g. on Climate Change, CBD, EU Green Deal incl. the EU-biodiversity strategy for 2030, and realising the importance of addressing those issues on the upcoming Conference, the DG-MCD recommends to aim for common core message(s) for our next Ministerial Declaration.

With reference to the frequently raised issue of the added value of the TWSC, DG-MCD would like to reiterate that the TWSC has evolved over the last 40 years and is now world-wide recognised as a successful transnational collaboration for the protection of a marine wetland, while still respecting their specific approaches the three states implement the various EU Directives and other Conventions. The DG-MCD would like to work towards the core message(s) respecting both the work done and opportunities to operationalise past agreements.

After the inscription on the World Heritage list, the trilateral governmental cooperation is opening up and exploring new partnerships to increase the level of ownership for the World Heritage Wadden Sea. Besides underlining this international recognised profile and striving for continuation on this advanced level, DG-MCD also proposes to underline this working with partners, for which the Partnership Hub and the envisaged Foundation are and will be very instrumental.

The coordinated trilateral management of the Wadden Sea relies a.o. on the Wadden Sea Plan 2010. Within the developing SIMP process, it is obvious that there are still challenges in improving a coordinated management, while in general the involvement of site-managers is broadly welcomed and recognised. DG-MCD points out that the question on how to further the implementation of the SIMP on the ground is still a question to be addressed.

Finally, a *general outline* is annexed to this progress report which just lists the running topics at stake in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. The topics are grouped by the headings used in previous Declarations. This outline is annexed here for the purpose of a background document only, to assist in the reflection of ordering and/or adding new points.

Proposal: WSB is invited to reflect and elaborate on their views for the next Declaration, taking into account the following guiding questions:

Q0: What could be (the) main political message(s) to be conveyed by the Ministers through the conference event? What is the overarching topic?

- Q1: What could be the leading political relevant theme(s)/headings for the next declaration? Shall World Heritage be seen as an issue that is relevant for all themes covered by the work of the TWSC?**
- Q2: What are the most relevant specific issues of concern to be taken up in the upcoming four years?**
- Q3: What are the main products that the TWSC will be working on the next years while keeping in mind that nature should benefit from this?**
- Q4: Reflections on positioning/addressing working with partners in general (existing cooperations, Partnership Hub, Foundation, TPC-WSR)?**
- Q5: Reflections and guidance on the general issue of common management, a.o. implementation of the SIMP 's key messages?**
- Q6: Additional reflections on topics/annexes as given in the draft general outline (annexed)?**

WSB 34/7/1 DG-MCD Progress report (28-10-2021)

Drafting Group Ministerial Council Declaration Wilhelmshaven version 26 Okt 2022

Meeting schedule				
Meeting no	Date	Agenda-items	Relevant dates: WSB Meetings and/or other milestones (Advisory Boards)	Remarks
				Fase 1: Preparation
1	22-Sep-21	PAR 1st version		Inventory based on national outlines, PAR
2	8-Okt-21			Overall framework draft MCD
3	26-Okt-21			
			28 Okt-21. Deadline subm. WSB	
4	11-Nov-21			
		1st draft (outline) MCD	18 Nov-21 WSB 34 Cuxhaven	WSB gives guidance on headlines
5	24,25 Nov-21			
		Input ISWSS to MCD	30 Nov - 3 Dec-21 ISWSS	Fase 2: Drafting Consultation version MCD
				Joint exploration based on input from NGO's, all trilateral groups, ISWSS, QSR, others etc.
6	6,7,8 Dec-21			Thematic sessions on PAR
		additional session PAR with CWSS		
	14,15 Dec			
7	20,21,22 Dec-21			
8	11-Jan-22			
9	25-Jan-22			Draft consultation version contains national proposals and/or reservations
10	08-Feb-22			
			17 Feb-22. Deadline subm WSB	
11	22-Feb-22			
12	08-Mar-22			
		Draft MCD (incl annexes) for national consultations	10 Mar-22 WSB 35 Leeuwarden	WSB 1st draft consultation version
				Fase 2: continued
				Joint Exploration process to finalise draft version based on input from WSB and more
13	22-Mar-22			
14	05-Apr-22			
15	19-Apr-22			
		Final Draft MCD	25-29 April Additional WSB?	WSB approves consultation version
16	03-May-22			Fase 3: Drafting MCD final draft
17	17-May-22			iterative dialogue process to discuss, assess, agree (or not) and include input from consultation process
18	31-May-22			
19	14-Jun-22			
20	28-Jun-22			
21	12-Jul-22			
22	26-Jul-22			
			5 Aug-22. Deadline subm WSB 36	
23	09-Aug-22			
24	23-Aug-22			
		Final Draft MD/ Final Programme TGC	26 Aug-22 WSB 36 Wilhelmshaven	WSB approves final draft MCD
25	06-Sep-23			Fase 4, focused Final dialogue on proposals/reservations
			15 Sept-22 Deadline subm WSB38	
26	20-Sep-22			
			Sept. WSB 37 (Optional)	
27	4 Okt 22			
			6 Okt 22 WSB 38 Denmark	WSB approves final draft for ministers
28	18 Okt-22			Fase 4, continued
				continuation to try to solve open points
29	02-Nov-22			
			10 Nov-22 Deadline subm WSB39	
30	15-Nov-22			
31	29-Nov-22			
		Final open discussion points to the level of ministers/Govt. Council	29 Nov WSB 39 Wilhelmshaven	WSB adopts MCD version Ministers
	30-Nov		Governmental Council	Signing of the MCD Wilhelmshaven
		Start Danish presidency TG's to be installed	30 Nov WSB 40 Wilhelmshaven	

OVERVIEW ON TOPICS IN THE TWSC,

based on previous Ministerial Council Declarations of the TWSC, taking into account ongoing developments, not being a proposal for the topics being grouped like this

PREAMBLE.

- Reaffirming JD2010, Guiding Principle, WSP,
- Welcoming developments on trilateral and/or national level ...to be listed
- Recognising specific International strategies and visions, treaties/Year of.../
- Taking into account in the trilateral policy assesment...
- Acknowledging outcomes of ISWSS, QSR and SIMP process.
- Taking into account results of consultation with...
- Concerned about (specifying certain topics or in general terms)....

GOVERNANCE TWSC

Prolongation WSB,

WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE

Foundation

Partnership Hub

SIMP, (Single Integrated Management Plan), 5 key topics are Tourism, Fisheries, Shipping and Harbours, Coastal defence and flood protection measures, (renewable) Energy – also relevant for sustainable use

Sustainable Tourism Strategy

Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI)

Youth: Education Strategy, International Wadden Sea School

Communication Strategy

UNESCO Cooperation with e.g. World Heritage Centre (Paris)-marine sites programme (organising Conference 2023)/other sites like Korea/China (Yellow Sea Development), Mauretania.

MOU's

NATURE CONSERVATION AND INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Breeding Bird Action Plan (BBAP)

SWIMWAY

SEALS-Marine Mammals (new Seal Management Plan 2023-2027 under the CMS/WSSA)

Management and Action Plan Alien Species (Implementation MAPAS)

TMAP (Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme)

QSR (Quality Status Report)

SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE WADDEN SEA

CO2 reduction

Light reduction

Marine litter reduction

CCAS Climate Change and Adaptation Strategy

Ports, Ferry Companies

COOPERATION (past and future period)

Green NGO's (WST)

TPC-WSR scientific research

Wadden Sea Forum (WSF)

International cooperation (see WH)

LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

ANNEXES

SIMP or SIMP-executive summary
TMAP Strategy
QSR Synthesis/outline
Dark Sky Vision?

