



Key messages of workshops on Maritime Spatial Planning 2009



Hermien Busschbach

European Commission – Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries – Unit for Maritime Policy in the Baltic, North Sea and Landlocked Member States

Vasab, 15th October 2009, Vilnius

<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs>



Content of presentation:

- General information on the integrated maritime policy
- Maritime Spatial planning
- Future steps on Maritime Spatial planning



The EU Integrated Maritime Policy

The “Blue Paper” priorities:

- Maximising the sustainable use of the oceans and seas
- Building a knowledge and innovation base
- Delivering the highest quality of life in coastal regions
- Promoting Europe’s leadership in international affairs
- Raising visibility for Maritime Europe



The Action Plan

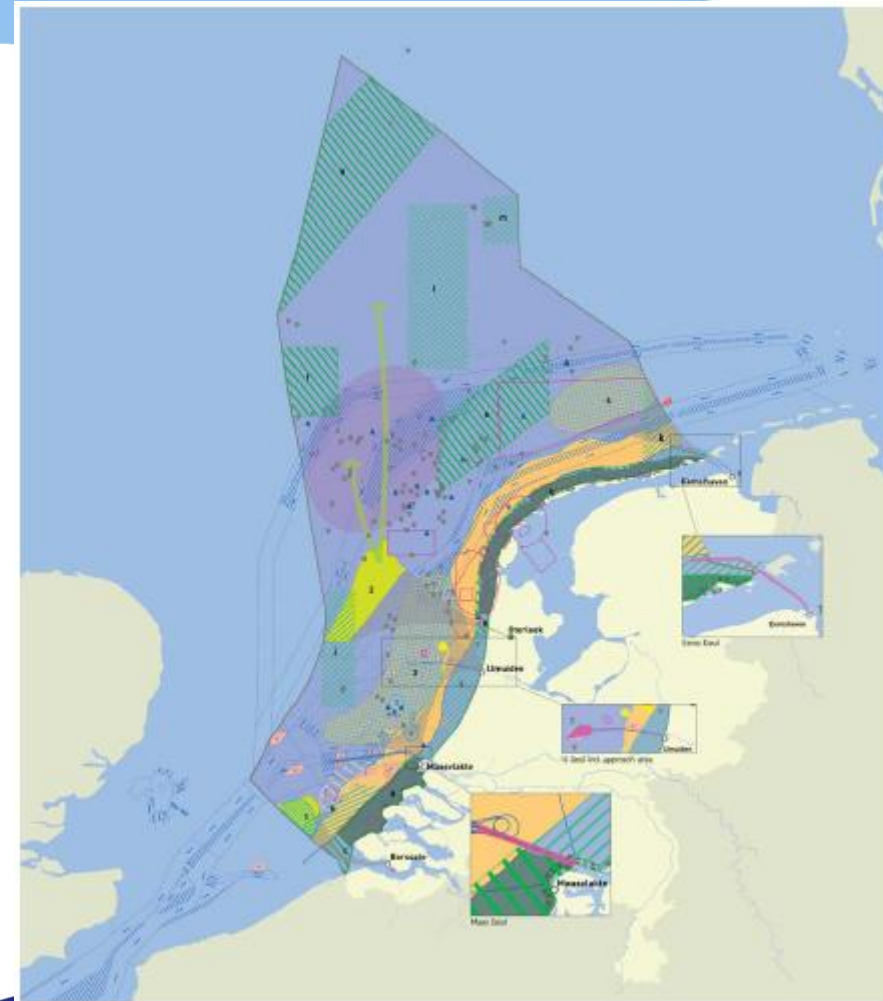
Covers different issues and activities – tools for integrated policy:

- Maritime Spatial Planning
- European network for maritime surveillance
- Maritime Data collection



Advantages of Maritime Spatial Planning

- Essential for sustainable development of maritime regions
- A tool for promoting rational use of the sea and improved decision-making
- Important for mitigation and adaptation to climate change
- Provides a stable planning framework for maritime investments
- Arbitration between competing human activities





Arguments for a European approach to MSP

- Increasing number of EU Member States use MSP
- Strengthen the competitiveness of EU's maritime economy
- Provide reliable planning framework for the Internal Market
- Build on the ecosystem-based approach – useful tool for implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Encourage cross-border cooperation
- Coordinate sectoral approaches and reducing the costs of non-coordination
- Facilitate common understanding of MSP



Link to the Baltic Sea action plan

- ***"Encourage the use of Maritime Spatial Planning in all Member States around the Baltic Sea and develop a common approach for cross-border cooperation"***



Policy process: The Roadmap on MSP

- Roadmap Communication adopted on 25th November 2008
- Identifies 10 key principles for MSP in the EU
- Stimulate a wide debate on development of a common approach to MSP in Europe
- Important delivery of the Integrated EU Maritime Policy





The 10 key-principles on MSP

Overarching principle: ecosystem approach

- Using MSP according to area and type of activity
- Defining objectives to guide MSP
- Developing MSP in a transparent manner
- Stakeholder participation
- Coordination within Member States – simplifying decision processes
- Ensuring the legal effect of national MSP
- Cross-border cooperation and consultation
- Incorporating monitoring and evaluation in the planning process
- Achieving coherence between terrestrial and maritime spatial planning
- Strong data and knowledge base





Policy process: Workshops

Series of 4 workshops to discuss the key principles of the Roadmap:

1. Kick-off conference in Brussels
26 February - more than 130 participants from Member States and maritime sectors
2. Workshop in Ispra (Italy), 23-24 april
3. Workshop in the Azores, 2-3 July
4. Final workshop and concluding conference in Stockholm, 2 October





Messages from the workshops on 5 of the 10 key-principles

- Defining objectives to guide MSP
- Ensuring the legal effect of national MSP
- Coherence between MSP and terrestrial planning
- Cross-border cooperation and consultation
- Ecosystem based approach MSP; link with Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
- Stakeholder participation



Defining Objectives to Guide MSP

- Setting objectives for MSP, like MSP itself, should be seen as a process beginning with an agreement on overall strategic objectives which are defined further by operational, i.e. clearly measurable and quantitative, objectives/targets.
- To start with broad visions and general objectives have the benefit that they allow more space for negotiations, but eventually they must be specified in order to be useful for drafting and implementing a plan.
- Objectives should be based on a long term perspective and be future oriented.



Ensuring the Legal Effect of MSP

- Maritime spatial planning must be in accordance with international law, as embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant treaties.
- In order to ensure legal effects of national maritime spatial planning an inter-institutional cooperation should be ensured and administrative competences have to identified/clarified.
- In the elaboration of a maritime spatial plan both tools that are legally binding, and tools of a more indicative nature can be used and are in practice combined in MSP processes.



Coherence between MSP and terrestrial planning

- It is crucial that there is continuity of activities on land and sea. Knowledge is an important element for successful continuity. Continuity also requires complementary between marine and terrestrial strategies and plans as well as coherence in implementation.
- As there is no land-ownership at sea. Sea is more flexible, less boundary restrictions.
- Land is planned by urbanisation laws with the sea area as a visual asset only. Sea specialists see the land as the enemy. The sea area needs a vision with outputs devised in a sensible manner.



Cross-Border Cooperation and Consultation

- All activities will benefit from cross border MSP.
- Communication with neighboring countries should take place at an early stage of the process.
- Making cross border plans for specific sea regions is important; it can be helpful if Member States have a plan at national level first, preferably developed in a parallel and comparable way in that sea area.
- Monitoring and evaluation also benefit from cross border cooperation
- A strong political will for cooperation is needed, political problems between countries might make cross border cooperation difficult.



Ecosystem based approach MSP; link with Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

- The ecosystem based approach is legal obligation of the MSFD and forms also the underlying principle of MSP. Marine Strategy elements can contribute to MSP and vice versa.
- Ecosystem-based approach implies the management of human activities and sustainability objectives.
- In order to reach the Good Environmental Status as required by the MSFD, MS have to have a programme of measures in place by 2015. These can include spatial measures (art 13 (4)) and spatial and temporal distribution controls (annex IV).



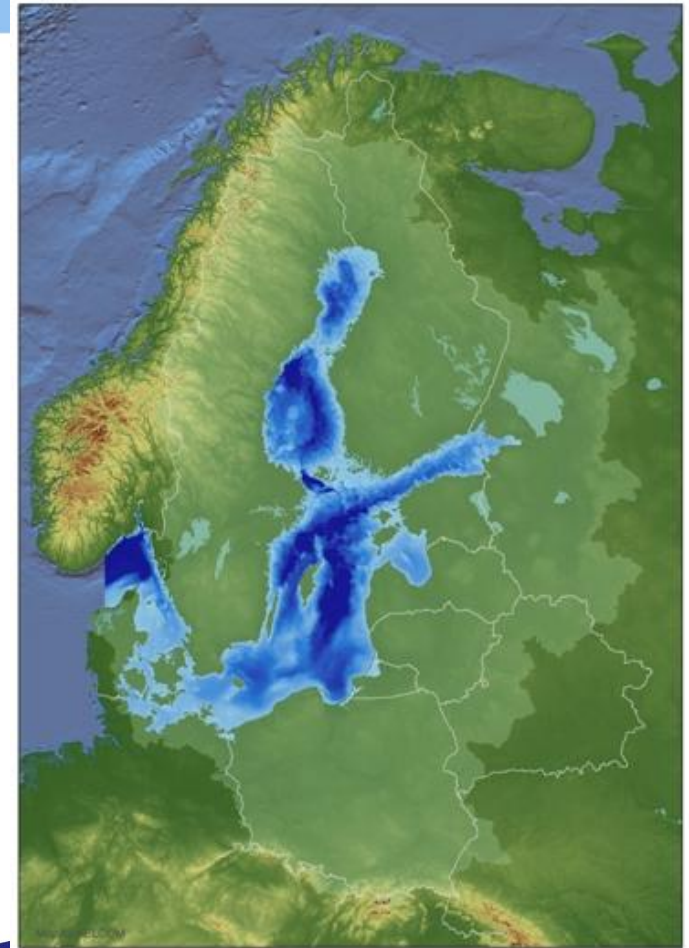
Stakeholder participation

- Involve all stakeholders at an early stage and look for synergies and innovation
- Goals and benefits of the process must be clear
- Understand the motives of the participants and have clarity of roles and responsibilities.
- For the process to be workable, stakeholders should bring their interests into the discussions but not firm positions in order to find common grounds
- Foresee enough time for stakeholder involvement (process will be longer)
- Encourage interaction between different stakeholders, and not just between policy-makers and stakeholders



Policy process: Preparatory actions

- Two preparatory actions were launched for the Baltic and the North Sea / North East Atlantic.
- Aim at fostering the development of cross-border cooperation aspects of MSP
- Encourage the identification of a shared sea area and develop MSP objectives





Policy process: Studies on MSP

- Legal aspects of MSP – concluded (is available on the Commission website)
- Economic benefits of MSP – ongoing
- Potential of MSP in the Mediterranean Sea – just about to be launched
- Further studies under consideration





Policy process: Next steps

- Progress report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament
- Timing: Foreseen for 1st quarter 2010
- Will build on the debate in the workshops, the experience gained through the preparatory actions and the results of the studies conducted so far

