

## MEETING DOCUMENT

### Wadden Sea Board (WSB 34)

18 November 2021  
Cuxhaven, Germany



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>7. Trilateral Governmental Conference</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Letter of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Ports</b>
<b>Document No.:</b>	WSB 34/7/2
<b>Date:</b>	28 October 2021
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>CWSS</b>

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The CWSS was approached by the representatives of the ‘Trilateral Wadden Sea Ports’ who would like to give an update to the WSB on the progress they made on sustainable port operations, their interest and willingness to contribute to the next Trilateral Governmental Conference and their interest in the initiative of the common project launched by the green NGO’s and the WSF, under the Partnership Hub.

The cooperative initiative of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Ports was ‘welcomed at the Leeuwarden Conference and their Letter of Intent was noted as an important encouragement for further dialogue on sustainable port operations’.

In this letter of the ports reference is made to the Leeuwarden Declaration articles 30, 31 and 33:

Art. 30: Encourage ports and ferry companies working in the Wadden Sea area to develop codes of conduct to further demonstrate their willingness to work towards environmentally sound standards in accordance with best available technology,

Art. 31: request the Wadden Sea Board to consider the different approaches of the three countries in order to identify the most sustainable modes of transport for ensuring nature friendly site-specific connections to the islands in the future,

Art 33: Encourage the further development and application of environmentally friendly port concepts through the joint organizations of ports, for example by exchange of best practices.

The letter of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Ports is attached. (The letter was received by e-mail and therefore not signed).

**Proposal:** The WSB is invited to take note of the letter of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Ports and comment as appropriate.

To the Executive Secretary of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat  
Bernard Baerends  
Subject: Wadden Seaports in relation to the Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022

Dear Bernard

On behalf of the signatories of the letter of intent on a trilateral maritime co-operation to promote efforts between the Dutch, German and Danish Wadden Sea Ports (see annex), I would ask you to inform the Wadden Sea Board with the following:

Having signed the Letter of Intent welcomed by the Ministers on the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Governmental Conference, the Dutch Wadden Sea Ports, Bremen Ports, Niedersachsen Ports and the Port of Esbjerg working together within the so called cooperative initiative Trilateral Wadden Sea Ports would herewith like to inform the Wadden Sea Board that the consortium is progressing on the topics listed in the Leeuwarden Declaration ( §30, §31, §33), as also shown under: <https://waddenseaports.com/>.

Realising that the next Trilateral Governmental Conference will take place in one year time, the consortium expresses its interest in offering support to the organization of the conference e.g. by demonstrating the progress made since 2018 at one of the side events. This would offer a good opportunity and location to encourage and continue the dialogue among the trilateral interested parties.

The Ports cooperation has taken note of the envisaged Project under the lead of the Wadden Sea Team (WST) and the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) “Sharing and developing knowledge to strengthen the contribution of shipping to a well-protected Wadden Sea World Heritage”. The Dutch Wadden Sea Ports, Niedersachsen Ports and the Port of Esbjerg already expressed their interest in entering a dialogue with the project partners of the WST and the WSF to further taking up their responsibility for environmental protection.

Executive Secretary  
Advisory Board of Dutch Wadden Seaports

Best Regards  
Arjen Bosch

## Annex I

### Letter of Intent

#### on a trilateral maritime co-operation to promote environmental efforts between the Dutch, German and Danish Wadden Sea Ports

1. The signatories of this Letter of Intent represent different types of ports that provide a vital socio-economic role in their local and regional surroundings. A few of them are international gateways for the European economy. They are aware that they are situated next to a sensitive habitat – Wadden Sea World Heritage – and that their operation can have a direct or indirect influence on the stability of ecosystem services and vitality of sensitive habitats. The coexistence of ports with the surrounding Wadden Sea area needs common strategies for the future. The Wadden Sea Ports understand themselves as partners in safeguarding the outstanding international values of the Wadden Sea.
2. In addition, the signatories are aware of their responsibility for environmental protection and intent to be a part of a balanced spatial development. On this basis they intend to work closer on solutions to realize synergies and learn from different approaches.
3. For this reason the Wadden Sea Ports are entering into a discussion in which they are considering a long-term cooperation on nature related sustainability subjects. This includes the development of common statements, the establishment of working groups to solve open issues, inviting partners to share best-practices and the raising of awareness for the sustainable use of the Wadden Sea (e.g. by ports) in the public.
4. The Partners agree to cope with their responsibility towards the World Heritage Site depending on their location in the Wadden Sea. The ports strengthen this by collaboration and invite interested partners to work together on the following, but not exclusively, major aspects:
  - Sustainable port operations
  - Nature development in line with Port interests
5. The Letter of Intent is open for other Ports in the Dutch, German or Danish North Sea coast or its islands to join.
6. Signatures (List is open for all the Wadden Sea Ports), presented May 17<sup>th</sup>, Harlingen, Netherlands

 Bremen Ports

 Niedersachsen Ports

 Den Oever haven

 PORT OF DEN HELDER Port of Den Helder

 Groningen Seaports

 PORT OF ESBJERG Port of Esbjerg

 haven Lauwersoog Haven Lauwersoog

 PORT OF HARLINGEN Port of Harlingen