

Energy, Ecology and Social Welfare:

**Cooperation for a Sustainable
Development of the Baltic Sea Region**

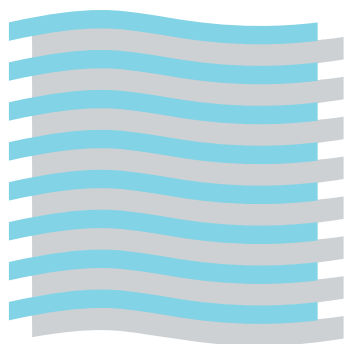
The 21st

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

Energy, Ecology and Social Welfare: Cooperation for a Sustainable Development of the Baltic Sea Region

The 21st Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

St. Petersburg 26–28 August 2012



Energy, Ecology and Social Welfare: Cooperation for
a Sustainable Development of the Baltic Sea Region
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Text: Linda Kelle Mg.oec., Ph.D. student of
regional economics, Faculty of Economics, Latvia
University of Agriculture

Editing: Jan Widberg

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Photos: Jan Widberg

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Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference
www.bspc.net

Jan Widberg
Head of BSPC Secretariat
jw@norden.org

BSPC Secretariat
c/o Nordic Council
Ved Stranden 18
DK-1061 Copenhagen K.
Phone (+45) 33 96 04 00
www.norden.org.

The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) was established in 1991 as a forum for political dialogue between parliamentarians from the Baltic Sea Region. BSPC aims at raising awareness and opinion on issues of current political interest and relevance for the Baltic Sea Region. It promotes and drives various initiatives and efforts to support a sustainable environmental, social and economic development of the Baltic Sea Region. It strives at enhancing the visibility of the Baltic Sea Region and its issues in a wider European context.

BSPC gathers parliamentarians from 11 national parliaments, 11 regional parliaments and 5 parliamentary organizations around the Baltic Sea. The BSPC thus constitutes a unique parliamentary bridge between all the EU- and non-EU countries of the Baltic Sea Region.

BSPC external interfaces include parliamentary, governmental, sub-regional and other organizations in the Baltic Sea Region and the Northern Dimension area, among them CBSS, HELCOM, the Northern Dimension Partnership in Health and Social Well-Being (NDPHS), the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF), the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation (BSSSC) and the Baltic Development Forum.

BSPC shall initiate and guide political activities in the region; support and strengthen democratic institutions in the participating states; improve dialogue between governments, parliaments and civil society; strengthen the common identity of the Baltic Sea Region by means of close co-operation between national and regional parliaments on the basis of equality; and initiate and guide political activities in the Baltic Sea Region, endowing them with additional democratic legitimacy and parliamentary authority.

The political recommendations of the annual Parliamentary Conferences are expressed in a Conference Resolution adopted by consensus by the Conference. The adopted Resolution shall be submitted to the governments of the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and the EU, and disseminated to other relevant national, regional and local stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region and its neighbourhood.

Foreword

The 21st Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference was convened in the magnificent Mariinsky Palace, seat of the Saint Petersburg Legislative Assembly. Saint Petersburg, the Russian gateway to the Baltic Sea and a splendid city with rich traditions of cultural and professional interaction in the Baltic Sea Region, is indeed a fitting location for the BSPC. Over 200 parliamentarians, government representatives and esteemed experts from the Baltic Sea Region and beyond gathered for three days of political deliberations, pertinent presentations, educating excursions, and, not least, stimulating social interaction. Many thanks to all of you who attended the Conference and contributed to its success. The exchange at all levels is important; it nurtures our mutual understanding of the challenges and resources in all the corners of our realm, and it brings us together and reinforces our joint capacity to deal successfully with the task of promoting environmental health and social welfare throughout the entire Baltic Sea Region. I would like to extend my profound thanks to our host, the Saint Petersburg Legislative Assembly and its Speaker, Mr Vyacheslav Makarov, for the dedicated and skillful work in laying a solid groundwork for our successful Conference. I would also like to thank the BSPC Secretariat for continuous support and operation of the BSPC machinery.

The history of parliamentary cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region has entered its third decade. Thanks to the joint efforts of our nations, the region has developed into an area of peace, democracy, good neighbourly relations and cooperation. Our dialogue is trans-



Valentina Pivnenko

parent, comprehensive and sincere. Social, economic and political progress in the Baltic cooperation has brought about positive changes for all the countries of the Region, thus increasing their current and potential level of mutually fruitful interdependence. I am certain that further progress will be achieved only if all the countries work even more closely together and ensure that no-one is left aside. Our prime responsibility as politicians is to identify and remedy the problems that cause difficulties in people's everyday life, to create favourable conditions for a safe and prosperous existence for our and the coming generations, and to halt the degradation of the very source of our prosperity – the living environment.

In order to further enhance the integration and cohesion of the Region, we need more mobility and less administrative and physical obstacles – such as visa restrictions – for the free movement of people and capital. This is of particular importance in the border areas with their close ties based on common economies, geography and family contacts.

I have had the pleasure and privilege of chairing the BSPC in 2011–2012. It has been a year of enriching professional and personal encounters. My warmest thanks to all my colleagues in the Standing Committee for their support and political commitment to our work. I have been encouraged and strengthened in my conviction that the political efforts we are engaged in, both as individual parliamentarians in our national assemblies and constituencies, and as a collective in the BSPC, can and will promote a development of the Baltic Sea Region that will benefit all its citizens. I would in particular like to thank my Vice Chairperson during this year, Mrs Laine Randjärv, for her support. It is with great delight that I now hand over the Chairperson's gavel to her, and wish her all luck and success along the road to the 22nd BSPC in Pärnu 2013.

*Valentina Pivnenko, MP, Russian Federation
Chairperson of the BSPC 2011–2012*



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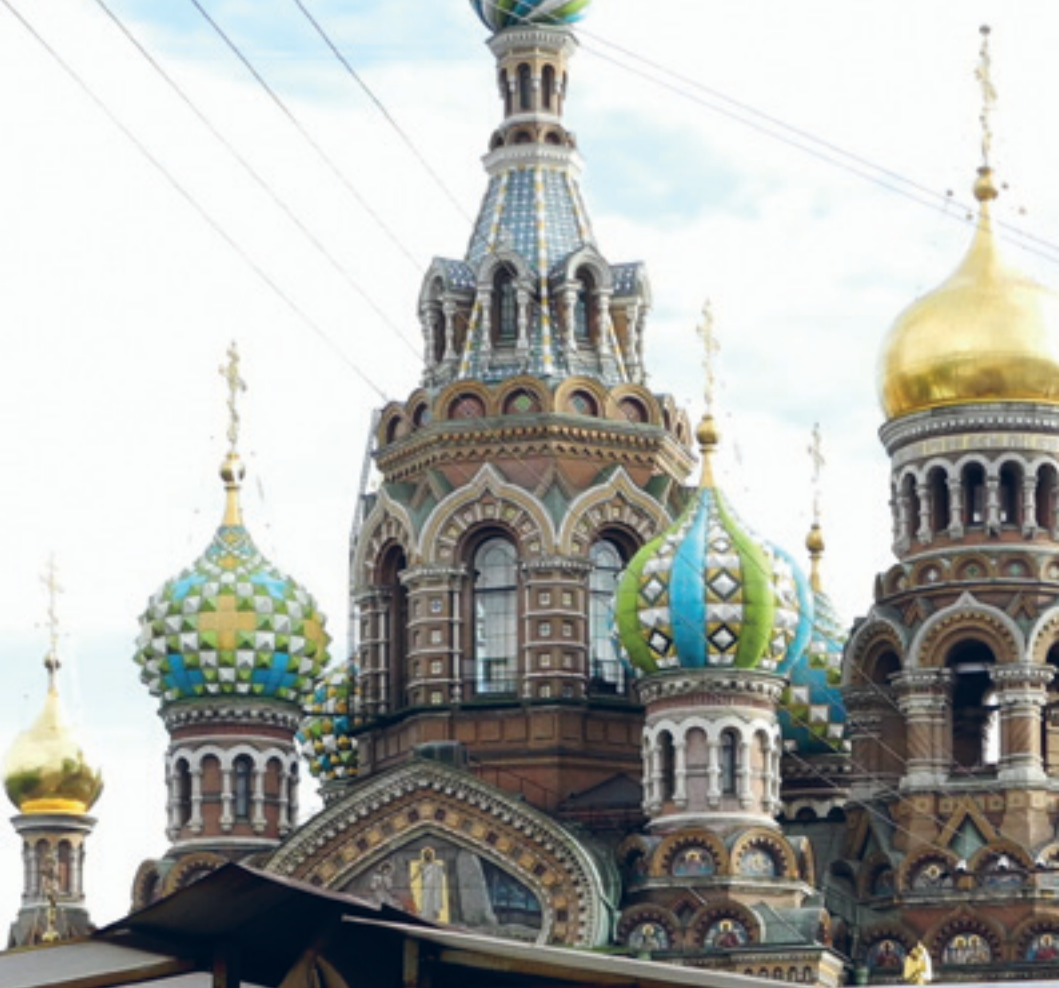
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BSPC Chairman Valentina Pivnenko



Monday 27 August

Opening of the Conference

Mrs Valentina Pivnenko, Chair of the BSPC, welcomed the participants of the conference to the northern capital of the Russian Federation. Saint Petersburg is a marvellous city with deep-rooted traditions of cultural and professional interaction in the Baltic Sea Region. It is also called the gate of Russia to the Baltic Sea.

H.E. Mr Sergey Naryshkin, Speaker of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, had sent his welcome address to the participants of the 21st BSPC. It was delivered by the First Vice Speaker of the State Duma, **Mr Ivan Melnikov**. In his address, Mr Naryshkin highlighted the importance of the work of the BSPC. Participants from national and regional parliaments, as well as regional organisations, should strive to create an atmosphere of peace and stability in the region, which can counter radicalism and extremist trends. The BSPC should focus on expedient projects in the fields of modernisation and innovation, investments and trade relations, energy and environmental protection, development of infrastructure, small and medium size enterprises, education and science. All these can contribute to a sustainable economic development and increase the quality of lives of our citizens.

Mr Ivan Melnikov, First Vice Speaker of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, underlined that open and comprehensive political dialogue fosters regional progress. In order to ensure prosperity for the citizens of the Baltic Sea Region it is necessary to continue convergence within the framework of regional partnerships in environmental protection, sustainable development, private – public partnerships, green growth, infrastructure, energy efficiency, nuclear safety and other. But in order to achieve even deeper convergence there is a need to eliminate various administrative obstacles, such as visa restrictions.

Mr Vyacheslav Makarov, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saint Petersburg, stressed that Saint Petersburg is honoured to host the Conference for the second time. The Legislative Assembly regards the implementation of decisions made by the BSPC as mandatory. As a clear example of this Mr Makarov mentioned the modern wastewater treatment system which has been constructed in Saint Petersburg and visited by the participants of the Conference. As a result of the introduction of this system, 95% of the waste water in the city is treated. Saint Petersburg, with the largest port in Russia and an international airport used by millions of foreigners, can rightly be called the outpost of the Russian Federation in the Baltic Sea Region. Visa facilitation would be economically profitable and foster new large-scale cross-border projects.

Mr Vadim Tiulpanov, Head of the delegation of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, applauded the parliamentary cooperation which is focused on economic and social prosperity, environmental sustainability and safety of the region. He urged the participants of the conference to address the issue of visa-free policy allowing Russian tourists arriving on ferries to the Baltic Sea countries to stay there for 72 hours without visas.

H.E. Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, conveyed a special welcome address in which he commended the role of the BSPC. The Minister wished the participants of the Conference fruitful and active discussions on issues that are important for all citizens of the Baltic Sea Region.

Mrs Valentina Pivnenko, Chair of the BSPC, expressed her gratitude to the Legislative Assembly of Saint Petersburg for organising the conference, declared the conference opened, as well as expressed hope that discussions among parliamentarians of the BSPC will strengthen regional partnerships, foster sustainable economic development and increase the prosperity of the people living in the region.

First Session:

Regional Partnership and Cross-Border Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

Mrs Valentina Pivnenko, Chair of the BSPC, emphasised that Russia's presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) 2012-013 is symbolically coupled to its presidency of the BSPC, which gives Russia a possibility to add new items to the Baltic Sea agenda and to ensure continuity of the on-going regional integration. During the last year, the activities of the BSPC were aimed at ensuring a sustainable balance between the changing economic conditions and the wellbeing of the people living in the region. The main task of the politicians is to identify and address the problems which worsen the daily lives of people, to create favourable conditions for security and prosperity for this and future generations, as well as to strive to curb the degradation of the primary source of our prosperity – our common environment.

Mrs Pivnenko underlined that it is of utmost importance to promote further cooperation in the field of modernisation and innovation. There is a need to build a network for public-private interaction. Measures aimed at curbing eutrophication and environmental degradation will enable us to preserve the entire ecosystem of the region. Intensified cooperation in green economy, energy efficiency, nuclear safety and infrastructure will allow the Baltic Sea Region to maintain competitiveness on the European and even global level. Increased efforts to develop maritime strategy and increase maritime safety will, among others, ensure better protection of the environment and more efficient use of the recreational and logistics potentials. Cooperation in the field of health care and social well-being will lay the foundation for social prosperity. A successful fight against crime and corruption will make the region a safer home for everyone. Development of tourism will enable us to learn more about our common cultural heritage and enhance mutual cohesion. Support to and promotion of socially significant youth initiatives is very important. The BSPC has been actively involved in implementing the Northern Dimension and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

It is important for all the strategies and programmes adopted in and adopted for the Baltic Sea Region, such as the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, to be followed by concrete actions taken by all governments in the region.



Mrs Pivnenko welcomed the cooperation with the CBSS, HEL-COM, the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC) and other regional organisations. The BSPC appreciates these useful contacts with subregional and non-governmental organisations which operate both within and outside the region. All stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region must cooperate to meet regional challenges. Efficient solutions to acute problems can be found only when all stakeholders are involved in the decision-making processes, provision of resources and implementation of plans. All countries of the region, both EU members and non-EU members, should cooperate on an equal footing. The future development of the Baltic Sea Region is our common cause.

Mr Sergey Petrovich, Deputy Director of the 2nd European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Chairman of the CBSS Committee of the Senior Officials (CSO), outlined Russia's priorities during its presidency of the CBSS. The CBSS has lived up to expectations, namely, it has helped to remove dividing lines in Europe in a period of profound geopolitical changes. Thus the Council has become one of the foremost means for overcoming the legacy of the Cold War.

The main goal of the Russian presidency is to give a new momentum to multilateral cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region and to strengthen the role of the CBSS as a coordinator of regional cooperation. Mr Petrovich underlined that Russia's presidency in the framework of Council's reforms, aimed at defining activities and

ensuring innovative development of the region, will strive to facilitate the modernisation of the Council. One of the key characteristics of Russia's presidency will be the principle of continuity. It intends to continue working on priorities defined for the previous years, namely, sustainable economic development, energy, environmental protection, education and culture, and civil security and the human dimension. Russia's presidency intends to strengthen the role of the CBSS in ensuring stability, partnership and good neighbourly relations in the Baltic Sea Region, fighting against extremism and radicalism, upholding the traditions of tolerance, as well as promoting direct contacts among people by facilitating the existing visa regime.

Enhanced cooperation between the BSPC and the CBSS is considered by the Russian presidency as very important because close coordination of activities between legislative and executive branches will facilitate implementation of the programme of the presidency.

Ambassador **Mr Gerhard Almer**, Head of the Task Force for the German Presidency of the CBSS 2011–2012, reported on the implementation of the work programme of the German presidency in 2011–2012. The Resolution of the 20th BSPC was the starting point for a wide range of initiatives. He focused on progress achieved in implementation of three main priorities of the presidency: first, modernisation of partnership within the South-Eastern Baltic Area (SEBA); second, creation of a coherent framework for cooperation in the region; third, strengthening of regional identity and involvement of civil society, especially the young generation.

Mr Almer referred to the extraordinary meeting held in Schloss Plön 5 February 2012 when the CBSS foreign ministers agreed on an ambitious programme focused on cooperation in the tourism sector, expansion of public-private partnerships, youth exchanges, academic and research cooperation, and sustainable development.

The German presidency fostered cooperation in the tourism sector; as a result of that, government and enterprises are now working hand in hand to develop the Baltic Sea as a tourism brand. Environmental protection, energy policy, fight against human trafficking, maritime policy, and civil protection were also high on the agenda of the German presidency. One of the presidency's aims was to make the CBSS more effective and better prepared for the challenges of the future. Mr Almer underlined that the CBSS has to remain a 'pioneer in regional cooperation' and a 'symbol of regional identity'.

Mr Anatoly Zabrodin, Head of the Border Guard Department of FSB of the Russia Federation in the City of Saint Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast, informed about cooperation on border control within the region. Due to increasing activity on the borders, there is a need for more comprehensive cooperation in information exchange, as all countries of the region face the same challenges, including illegal migration, human trafficking, organised crime, trafficking of drugs, weapons and goods, as well as international terrorism. The Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation (BSRBCC) is a flexible regional tool used in inter-agency collaboration on a daily basis in the fields of environmental protection and fight against cross-border crime. The main involved partners are police, border guards, coast guards and customs authorities. Cooperation within the framework of the BSRBCC is efficient as it offers a modern platform for rapid exchange of information, knowledge and best practices, practical training, regular meetings, and joint maritime actions. In his conclusion, Mr Zabrodin highlighted that a well-functioning system of bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation helps in facing the threats.

Mr Pavel Burtsev, Deputy Head of the Oktyabrskaya Railway, highlighted the impact of transport infrastructure in North-West Russia on the development of trade and economic relations. He underlined that Oktyabrskaya Railway plays an important role in ensuring the transport connection to the ports of the region. Oktyabrskaya Railway is looking forward to integration of Russia's railway system into the EU's transport system. In order to achieve this goal the Oktyabrskaya Railway is focussing on the following: first, improving of infrastructure (access to ports and border-crossing points); second, ensuring of fast passenger traffic and construction of new high-speed rail lines to Finland and Estonia; third, development of logistics and new products. The greatest challenge is to ensure that local funding is channelled to the improvement of the situation at border-crossing points, as well as improvement of the capacity of logistics. A growing transportation market has led to a situation when logistics companies are demanding more efficient customs control procedures, greater capacity of employees as well as well-developed logistics infrastructure (ports, railways, IT etc.). Mr Burtsev also emphasised the need to develop the digital market in the Baltic Sea Region.

Ms Ugnė Kripavičiūtė, Representative of the 4th Baltic Sea Youth Session, addressed the conference by stressing that young people are willing to get involved in the policy-making process because they feel responsible for the future of the region. During the German presidency of the CBSS, the Baltic Sea Youth Session was organised in Berlin on 22–25 April 2012. Young delegates

from the entire Baltic Sea Region came together to address challenges and future prospects of the region, as well as to contribute to intercultural understanding. Ms Kripavičiūtė affirmed the readiness of young people to cooperate with the BSPC in promoting people-to-people contacts, strengthening civil society and active involvement of youth in solving regional problems.

The Northern Dimension and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Mr Jacek Protasiewicz, Vice-President of the European Parliament, outlined the objectives of the new EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region published by the European Commission in March 2012. It started a discussion on the new focus of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. Basically, the progress in implementation of the Strategy is regarded as positive. There are several reasons for that. Firstly, approximately 80 projects in the field of transport and environment are being implemented. Secondly, a substantial involvement of Russia in the implementation of the Strategy can be observed. Participation of Russia is beneficial for the entire region. Thirdly, besides central governments, NGOs, private sector, local and regional authorities are also actively participating in implementation of the Strategy. Mr Protasiewicz also indicated those aspects of the Strategy which have to be improved. Firstly, there is a need to clarify priorities (infrastructure, energy etc.). Secondly, there is a need to divide responsibilities among the involved partners. Thirdly, there is a need for enhanced communication. In the end of his speech, Mr Protasiewicz expressed his appreciation for the agreement signed between Poland and Russian Federation on the facilitation of a visa-free regime in the bordering regions of both countries.

Mr Stanislav Lazovsky, Association North-West Russia, introduced the participants of the conference to the North-West Russia Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2020. This Strategy covers the macroregion consisting of the following administrative units: St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Leningrad, Pskov, Vologda, Novgorod and the Republic of Karelia. The main goal of the Strategy is to determine ways to develop the transport, energy, industrial and social infrastructure in the region. The strategy contains concrete recommendations for increasing the attractiveness of the macroregion. Elimination of restrictions and barriers in different sectors, tackling of environmental problems, and fostering of economic growth are among the priorities of the Strategy. Organisational and financial tools offered by the Northern Dimension, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and other initiatives can be used in implementation of this Strategy.

Mr Jaakko Henttonen, Manager of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP), informed the conference about the latest developments in the NDEP. He outlined those issues which are common for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the NDEP. The NDEP works with non-EU countries primarily to reduce the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. In this respect there is an intensive cooperation with Russia in implementing the National Implementation Plans of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. Another newly opened area is working out relations with Belarus municipalities to cut down waste water discharge. The EU plays a crucial role in providing adequate funding for priority actions within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the NDEP. The NDEP assistance fund is EUR 175.9 million, from which EUR 120 million are allocated to environmental projects. Wastewater treatment in Saint Petersburg is a preeminent exponent NDEP's success. In 2011, the NDEP approved new projects aimed at increasing energy efficiency and decreasing CO2 emissions. Mr Henttonen appreciated the strong support of all national parliaments of the region expressed as allocation of financial means to the activities of the NDEP.

Mr Mika Boedeker, Director of the Nordic Council of Ministers' (NCM) Office in Saint Petersburg, presented the work of the Office. During the past 15 years, the NCM has had the following priority areas in cooperation: public administration; research and education; economic development; support to civil society; as well as transfer of skills and best practice through traineeship programmes offered by the Nordic institutions. The NCM has approved projects for 2012-2013 in the following four areas: green growth; cultural diversity and creativity; economy, business and working life; and welfare, equality and civil society. Institutions such as NEFCO, HELCOM, the NDEP, and the Council of Europe have been involved in the implementation of the projects.

Ms Darya Akhutina, Acting Chair of the Baltic Sea NGO Forum, underlined that the Russian Federation is currently presiding in the BSPP, the CBSS and the Baltic Sea NGO Forum. Interpersonal relations are an important part of international relations in the Baltic Sea Region and a prerequisite for the region's prosperity; therefore, strategic and practical support must be provided to strengthening and developing public diplomacy. The Baltic Sea NGO Forum is not only a place for NGOs to meet but also a platform for broader discussions between NGOs and governmental institutions on the most topical issues in the region. The next Baltic Sea NGO Forum will take place in the spring of 2013 in Saint Petersburg and will focus on tolerance and cultural diversity. Ms Akhutina analysed the obstacles encountered by the Baltic Sea



NGOs in their daily work. Among the most significant challenges she mentioned the lack of cooperation with governmental institutions and insufficient involvement of civil society in the decision-making processes. Another serious challenge is related to funding, namely, there is neither common funding nor sufficient permanent financial support for NGOs in the region.

Ms Akhutina also came up with some recommendations to the national parliaments and governments of the region. The Baltic Sea NGO Forum feels that funding for youth-oriented projects and events in the Baltic Sea Region should be made more accessible. NGOs should be more involved in all projects and programmes regardless of the level on which the projects and programmes are being implemented. In the process of granting funds for youth-oriented projects, public authorities should focus on capabilities and needs of small youth NGOs. There is a need to expand joint activities in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Northern Dimension, and to define the place and role of NGOs, many of which are small and grassroots organisations.

Comments

Mr Kurt Bodewig, Chairman of the Board of the Baltic Sea Forum, underlined that information about different kinds of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region is very interesting and an optimistic sign for future cooperation to solve ecological and human problems. There are three projects in which the Baltic Sea Forum is engaged. The CLEANSHIP project makes efforts to counterbalance the effects and consequences of the continued burning of fossil fuels in all sorts of transport on land, in the air and water. The UN Climate Panel, IPCC, published in their report 2007 what would be a frightening result if no measurements were made to effectively decrease the speed of the global warming. This gave a background for activities to reduce emissions, find new innovation and new technical standards. Another project is BSR InnoShip, which addresses common challenges of the Baltic Sea countries and the key maritime stakeholders to cooperate in minimizing ship-based air pollution, while aiming at optimizing competitiveness of the maritime industry. In this project there are 19 partners and 24 associated partners representing the pan-Baltic, national and local organisations in all countries of the Baltic Sea Region, including Russia. The third project is Amber Coast Logistics, which has a focus on the transport streams in the Amber Coast region with its natural hinterland, the Baltic States, North-West Russia, Belarus and the Northern Ukraine. The goal of this

project is to support the development of multimodal logistics centres in the southern and eastern Baltic Sea Region and thereby improve the accessibility of remote areas.

One of the aims of InnoShip project has been to develop an award designed for Clean Baltic Shipping and Sustainable Port Operations. It would provide an incentive to new, innovative ideas and projects for the shipbuilding industry, mechanical engineering and shipbuilding and maritime business, as well as supporting ideas of a Shipbuilding University. The Baltic Sea forum will organize the awarding. For this task, the Forum draws on its network with the maritime businesses and policy, and also its contacts in Brussels.

Mr Kimmo Sasi, President of the Nordic Council, noted that when the Nordic Council was founded, the idea was to create a sense of connectivity among the Nordic citizens. Looking towards the future, the most important thing is to move into the direction of securing peace, stability and respect for democratic rule. Democracy is dependent on stability which guarantees as benign development of our societies. Democracy means that citizens can participate fully in the political processes; that there is an open dialogue and freedom of expression. For politicians it is sometimes embarrassing to be criticized by citizens, but it is an important aspect of democracy – society develops thanks to constructive criticism. In terms of legal issues in democratic society, it is sometimes necessary to set limits for freedom of expression in order to impede e.g. racism and defamation. When it comes to growth in Europe today, we see a division into a Northern Europe that is doing quite well, and a South Europe which is doing not so well. One important aspect in Southern European countries, as well as in some countries in our region, is the issue of corruption. We must all work together to combat the corruption. It is important that people are committed to a societal model in which everyone is allowed to participate and to which everyone contributes solidarically. It is also important to provide fair and competitive conditions for businesses and enterprises.

Mr Benny Engelbrecht, Member of the Nordic Council Social Democratic Group, strongly supported the call on governments to remove administrative and physical obstacles for the free movement within the Baltic Sea Region. Freedom of movement is very important for the cohesion, cooperation and economic development in the region. The revised visa facilitation agreement between Russia and the EU will make it easier for citizens of the EU and Russia to obtain visa, including multiple-entry visas with up to five years of validity. The EU is ready to sign the revised visa



facilitation agreement that was agreed at official levels at the end of 2011, but it is regrettable that Russia decided otherwise. The negotiations about total visa freedom must await implementation of the common steps between Russia and EU as a part of EU visa dialogue. Although Denmark will not be a part of possible EU-Russia visa facilitation agreement, Denmark takes a keen interest in these issues.

As regards freedom of expression, the cooperation between parliamentarians of the Baltic Sea countries is of high value. The Danish delegation is worried about the case against the performance group Pussy Riot. The recent court decisions against some of the group members sent a sad signal to the artists and citizens of Russia concerning the respect for freedom of expression. The sentence of two years of imprisonment is out of proportion. It is expected that the sentence will be reviewed in line with Russia's international commitments. Freedom of expression is a basic human right and a core value in a democratic society, not least in arts, press and political debate. Parliamentarians have an obligation to work for this also in the Baltic Sea Region.

Mrs Álfheiður Ingadóttir, Member of the Nordic Council Left-Wing Socialist Green Group, noted that for some the greatest threat to democracy in our region is societal crisis, for others, climate change, but since 11 September 2001 the main threat in our part of the world has been that of terrorism. With right preparedness and responses, terrorists cannot break the infrastructure of the open democratic society. We have all witnessed and felt how responses to terrorism have circumscribed our civil and human rights in airports. It can be argued that it is not terrorism itself but the risk of exaggerated responses and preventive measures from authorities that undermine and threat democracy by adversely affecting peaceful demonstrations and silencing criticism. One thing is to talk about threats to democracy, another thing is to talk about what is needed for democracy to thrive. In this context, civil and political rights, freedom of expression, fair and predictable court proceedings are irreplaceable in the democratic state and in a reliable and modern government. The conduct of the Russian authorities against the Pussy Riot, which has been sentenced to two years of imprisonment for a peaceful demonstration, is disappointing and concerning. This is an attack on the right of free speech and a violation of fundamental human rights. Another threat throughout this region is modern slavery and organized crime.

Mrs Silvia Modig, Member of the Nordic Council Left-Wing Socialist Green Group, noted that the Group was very sad about

the harshness of the decision made in case of the Russian performance group Pussy Riot. Members of the Party Group find it important that we develop our mutual interaction also for the benefit of the open civil society where all views are tolerated. In Finland there is a rise of intolerance in recent times, which poses a challenge to build an open and equal society. The democratic and well-functioning society is not a finite project, but a process that needs our constant attention.

Mr Vatanyar Yagya, Official from the St Petersburg Legislative Assembly, questioned whether or not the Swedish case against *WikiLeaks* Julian Assange was a democratic problem and pointed out that the sentence imposed on Anders Breivik in Norway – a mere 21 years in what can be described as great comfort – was a problem for democracy. They follow the law, just as the case with Pussy Riot. Both countries are adhering to the law and we should respect each country's sovereignty. As regards the cooperation on the Arctic issue, St Petersburg has a powerful industry and technological basis for supporting this kind of cooperation. A conference has been held recently in St Petersburg called "the Arctic – Territory of Cooperation", where all participants supported the idea of putting together a cluster on Arctic research in St Petersburg as well as an idea of holding particular meetings from the Northern countries in St Petersburg on the subject of cooperation in the Arctic. There are some objections by the US when it comes to using the Northern Sea Route, as they believe that a considerable section of this route goes through the territorial waters of the Russian Federation. This issue should be discussed within the framework of the BSPC.

Mr Franz Thönnies, Member of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, expressed gratitude to CBSS for setting cooperation priorities within the area of environment, energy and energy efficiency, as well as for its public-private partnership approach. This shows that in transferring from the German CBSS presidency to the Russian presidency, countries are working closely together. It would also be a great tradition if the Russian presidency could continue organizing the youth conference. Gratitude was expressed to Mrs Valentina Pivnenko for the good and informative speech at the 9th Baltic Sea States Summit in Stralsund. People must have opportunities to meet across borders, and to speak and exchange ideas and experiences; therefore it is very important to work on a visa-free system between the Russian Federation and the EU. In March 2013 in St Petersburg, an NGO conference looking at issues of tolerance and cultural diversity will take place. With regard to the Pussy Riot case, it can be argued that group offended the religious sensitivities of many peo-

ple; thus it was an offensive provocation, but it was not a crime. The criminal trial and the sentence have caused apprehension. Vladimir Lukin, the Human Rights Commissioner of Russia and Mihail Fedotov, Chair of Russia's Human Rights Council and the President's Office also share the view that the ruling was out of proportion. We look with great interest to an appeal being launched.

Mr Hans Wallmark, Member of the Swedish Parliament, pointed out that it is very important to realize that we are in the Northern European growth corridor. We have the Nordic countries, Baltic States, Poland, Northern Germany, the UK, the North-West Russia, and they together constitute this corridor. Norway has oil; Denmark has just entered into a broad tax agreement as part of their parliamentary reform. Poland and Holland have good growth figures. It appears that here, it is possible to implement reforms and structural changes even during the bank and financial crisis. In fact, crisis is the right time to implement major structural reforms that eventually lead to growth. This is a positive message that can be sent to Southern Europe. It is also important that in our Nordic efforts we are including Russia more and more as an active participant. Northern Europe should be tied together through enterprises, customs and transport agreements.

Mrs Valentina Pivnenko, Chair of the BSPC, concluded the first session by noting that the issues of cross-border cooperation, regional partnership, policies of the Northern Dimension, and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will very much be at a focus of attention by the Russian presidency. The issue of cultural differences is also regarded as very important. Commenting the statements about the group Pussy Riot, Mrs Pivnenko stressed that the activities of this group were not an isolated incident. Tolerance means respect towards each other. It is hooliganism to make provocations in the Russian Orthodox Church. A parliamentary view of this gesture should not support such kind of actions. There are courts and justice systems which make decisions. Every citizen of the Russian Federation enjoys constitutional rights. The girls that have been sentenced have been given and using their rights, but as hooligans they deserve the sentence.





Mariinsky Palace Plenary Hall

Second Session: Environmental Health and Energy Cooperation

Status of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)

Mrs Helle Pilsgaard, Chair of HELCOM, reported on the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, informing that Denmark has started its two-year chairmanship of HELCOM. The priorities of the Danish HELCOM chairmanship are firstly, effective fulfilment of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) with emphasis on four segments: eutrophication, hazardous substances, biodiversity and maritime activities; secondly, a little extra for a healthy Baltic Sea with initiatives in areas where additional measures are needed, e.g. marine litter, underwater noise, alien species, certification of the sea, development of regionally coordinated assessment, combinations of pollution inputs, work on indicators; thirdly, building a more dynamic and effective HELCOM by streamlining processes, ensuring synergy and coordination with other policies. The Danish chairmanship will work for a continued development of HELCOM's role in the Baltic Sea Region as an environmental focal point and ensure that HELCOM continues to deliver added value. It will also highlight synergies with the implementation of the EU's Marine Strategy and Integrated Maritime Policy as coordination platforms. As regards the progress of HELCOM BSAP, in the meeting in Krakow in 2007 it was agreed to achieve and maintain good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021. In the ministerial meeting in Moscow 2010, the Baltic Sea States presented the implementation status of the BSAP, which showed that the municipal wastewater treatment sector, and the industrial sector have been successful in reducing their discharges of nutrients and hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea. As regards actions on eutrophication and hazardous substances, a lot of work is still in progress. It is also noteworthy that the Baltic Sea States have been successful in finalizing a number of activities regarding shipping and biodiversity.

Eutrophication is one of the biggest environmental problems. There is a lot of work in progress and many positive examples that reduce nutrient inputs. In March 2012, a new EU regulation regarding the use of phosphates and phosphorous compounds in consumer laundry detergents by 2013 and consumer automatic dishwasher detergents by 2017 was adopted. The last share of nutrient inputs of nitrogen and phosphorous originates from agriculture which requires special attention and intensified efforts. Since 2010, the HELCOM Agriculture and Environment Forum has

been active in strengthening the dialogue between agricultural and environmental authorities to develop and apply sustainable agricultural practices with the least environmental impact in the Baltic Sea. As regards the ongoing work in biodiversity, the goal is to achieve a favourable conservation status of the Baltic Sea biodiversity, natural marine and coastal landscapes with thriving balanced communities of plants and animals as well as viable populations of species. Over 10% of the Baltic Sea marine area is under protection, meaning that the targets set by the UN have been met. A full evaluation of the progress in the BSAP implementation, including national progress towards reaching ecological objectives, will be made at the HELCOM Ministerial meeting in Copenhagen in October 2013.

Mrs Christina Gestrin, BSPC HELCOM Observer, noted that the environmental of the Baltic Sea Region have always been high on the BSPC agenda. The BSPC Working Group on Eutrophication submitted their final report to the Conference in 2007. One of the measures proposed was to urge governments to approve the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. The decision-making principle in HELCOM is based on consensus, which may be very time-consuming. There has been a proposal to ask IMO to prohibit nitrogen oxide discharges in the Baltic Sea, but the decision has been postponed. A challenge is the financing of projects compliant with the BSAP objectives. For this reason, a technical assistance fund has been set up. As Sweden and Finland are currently the only countries making contributions to the fund, other countries in the region should also contribute to its financing. The forthcoming Ministerial meeting in October 2013 will assess the progress and initiatives taken so far, and decide on the possible revision of the Action Plan. Governments are urged to comply with their decisions to achieve good environmental status by 2021. It is necessary to demand a high level of vision, stricter requirements in terms of nitrogen and phosphorous emissions, good preparedness for oil spills, and a good environmental disaster planning that takes natural diversity into account.

The environmental problems in the Baltic Sea Region can best be solved if all countries share the same objectives. Therefore it is crucial to work together on issues of environmental protection, preparedness for disasters, and plans for climate adaptation. Countries have to get better at exchanging information about best and worst practices, and about accidents and risks of accidents. The future health of the Baltic Sea is dependent on how well the HELCOM Action Plan succeeds; therefore we must concentrate on the implementation of existing plans rather than making new recommendations, and coordinate our efforts as well as demanding more financial resources. This requires political backing.



Tatiana Zakharenkova, St Petersburg Legislative Assembly

Mr Vladimir Lovtsov, Head of Economic Policy of the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the North-West Federal District, emphasized that environmental problems and environmental protection are topical on the agenda of the Baltic Sea regional cooperation. As regards activities by Russia in relation to participation in the HELCOM, Russia and all other contributing countries are actively cooperating in organizing the next Ministerial meeting in 2013, which will provide reports from each country on the implementation of national commitments to the BSAP. Russia's commitment is to work with all existing environmental problems in the Baltic Sea identified by the HELCOM, e.g. improving wastewater management systems, reducing emissions of various substances, particularly combating eutrophication, working in ensuring biodiversity, and improving planning and transport systems. Within the North-West Russia there is extensive cooperation between Kaliningrad, Novgorod and Karelia. Various regions are developing their regional programmes for participation in the national programme. As there are certain problems with federal support, the programmes on the regional level will be implemented on the basis of funding that is allocated regionally. In St. Petersburg and Karelia, work has been carried out on development and modernisation of municipal plants in connection with water purification and water supply. Moreover, a number of international projects will contribute to the implementation of technologies for reduction of different substances in water. In Pskov, e.g., a project is carried out on sewage systems and wastewater water systems in order to purify water in the city.

Sustainable Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region

Professor **Dr Mathias Feige**, Managing Director of Deutsche Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Institut für Fremdenverkehr, noted that the Baltic Sea Region is the only coastal region in Europe that over the last few years has been growing steadily and has excellent perspectives for expansion. A project on the Baltic Sea Region, pooling together experts on tourism development, has been carried out. Forecasts for tourism development in all tourism segments – active tourism, maritime tourism, health and rehabilitation, wellness, culture events, city trips, country tourism, camping etc. have been good.

It is important to ensure sustainable tourism in the region. The EU does not yet prioritize tourism for the Baltic Sea Region; therefore it is important to support tourism development through the Baltic 21 Tourism Sector Network. The new EU 2014+ funding

period does not envisage resources for tourism. It is necessary to look for other partners, particularly when it comes to the strongly developed regions. 80% of the future funding will go into research and innovation, energy efficiency and renewable energies, and competitiveness of the small and medium-sized enterprises. Sustainable growth, smart growth and inclusive growth will be able to kick off core projects that pursue sustainable tourism objectives. In the future it will be necessary to have cooperation projects across borders and sectors. Tourism can and should become one of the leading sectors if the economies in the Baltic Sea Region, because it involves a wide range of companies in the area of retail, transport, services etc. Sustainability must be the guiding principle for tourism in the Baltic Sea Region. There are clear indications that tourism is reaching its sustainability limits. Political support needs to be retained and strategic approach and support to tourists and those working in the tourism industry must be given.

Environmental Cooperation

Ms Olga Rublevskaya, Director of the Wastewater Disposal Systems of the Vodokanal of Saint Petersburg Company, told about ways in which the company is contributing to the protection of the Baltic Sea environment. In 1992, the government of the Russian Federation and HELCOM signed a decision on measures to be taken in order to protect the environment of the Baltic Sea. One of main priorities of the Vodokanal is to reduce discharge of untreated wastewater and to remove nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) from wastewater, thus mitigating the negative impact on the environment of the Baltic Sea. For a long time Saint Petersburg did not have a proper waste water treatment system, so wastewater was directly discharged into the Baltic Sea. Vodokanal is actively improving the biological wastewater treatment in order to meet stringent requirements regarding the removal of phosphorus compounds. There are 14 new wastewater treatment plants in Saint Petersburg. The Vodokanal has broadened cooperation with universities in order to introduce new methods to reduce the discharge of untreated wastewater. Ms Rublevskaya pointed out that the situation in Saint Petersburg has improved considerably because of increased regional cooperation.

Mr Maxim Shingarkin, Member of the delegation of the State Duma the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the BSPC, drew the participants attention to the issue of the disposal of chemical weapons in the Baltic Sea, which he regarded as a problem without a solution. For almost 70 years chemical weap-



South-West Waste Water Treatment Plant

ons from World War I and World War II have been lying at the bottom of the Baltic Sea. Authorities of the region are doing a lot to deal with this serious environmental disaster. Mr Shingarkin underlined that there is an urgent need to remove the toxic chemicals and dispose of them properly. If anything happens to these chemical weapons, the toxic substances released might poison the sea's wildlife, ecosystem, fishermen and their catch. Mr Shingarkin proposed some concrete actions which could be taken by parliamentarians of the BSPC. First of all, there is a need to call on the governments of the region to remove toxic chemical weapons from the sea and dispose of them properly. All countries know exactly where the chemical weapons are dumped. Second, countries of the Baltic Sea Region have to draft an action plan on measures, including technical measures, to be taken to solve the problem.

Mr Sten Björk, Project Manager of the Port of Trelleborg, informed the conference about the progress in the Clean Baltic Sea Shipping project, which is a flagship project of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea which will end in September 2013. The project has the following five objectives: first, to reduce shipborne air pollution; second, to reduce nutrient discharge from ships into the sea to a zero-level; third, to create a joint strategy for differentiated port dues; fourth, to run pilot projects; and finally, to create an interrelation of goals among all stakeholders. Mr Björk underlined that a joint clean shipping strategy requires intense discussions among different actors from local and regional governments, NGOs, ports, shipping companies, research field, etc. This project is a voluntary project which unites 19 official partners, 20 associated partner associations and 14 supporting associations. In the end of the project a strategic document will be drafted outlining the follow-up activities aimed at achieving the overarching goal – A Baltic Sea free from pollutes water and air. He also presented some existing practical solutions for treatment of waste from ships in the ports, for shoreside electrical supply to ships that would enable them to use port facilities without running their own engines, for improved filtering of fuels, etc.

Ms Evdokia Bychkova, Member of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and Head of the Regional Centre on Environmental Policy and Culture, underlined that biodiversity, clean air, clean water, and wild animals have to be preserved for future generations. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop a common environmental culture and environmental space in the region. She proposed to establish a Russian – Scandinavian ecology and innovation consortium which would implement the strategic recommendations of the BSPC aimed at environmental protection.



Energy Efficiency and Green Growth

Mr Yuri Lipatov, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Energy of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, outlined Russia's federal policy on energy conservation and energy efficiency. People's demand for energy is increasing – everyone needs water, heating and electricity, but not everyone is behaving responsibly in terms of energy saving and proper use of energy resources. The re-oriented policy is aimed at promotion of proper use of energy sources, use of more efficient heating systems, and introduction of efficient light-bulbs, as well as at reduction of energy consumption in cities (billboards, economic light bulbs for public lighting in cities, etc.). Since 2010, public authorities have been tasked with the reduction of energy consumption by 3% every five years. The new policy is aiming to significantly reduce energy consumption in almost all spheres of everyday life.

Mr Hans Brask, Director of the Baltic Development Forum (BDF), focused on opportunities of green growth and green business in the Baltic Sea Region. He began his presentation by congratulating Russia on its accession to the World Trade Organisation and emphasised that it will open up new opportunities for trade and economic growth as well as ensure better investment climate. Mr Brask also encouraged Russia to continue taking responsibility for regional institutions because the region needs Russia's involvement and inspiration on all levels in order to suc-



cessfully achieve common goals of the region. Mr Brask emphasised that the region has a huge potential, including a potential for energy efficiency. There is no doubt that countries of the region are not taking the full advantage of possibilities to share information and knowledge on best available technologies. The potential of the region to “go green” is high, and it is a way to increase region’s competitiveness in the future.

Ms Elena Belova, Secretary General and programme coordinator at the Leontief Centre, International Centre for Social and Economic Research, presented the Arena project, which is funded by the Nordic Council and was launched on 17 April 2012. The goal of the project, which unites 50 stakeholders from Russia and the Nordic countries, is to implement principles of green growth in the north-western regions and municipalities of Russia by following the example of the Nordic countries. The project aims to help municipalities, regions and involved organisations to create a sustainable platform for enforcement of joint decisions. The project is planned to be realised through conferences, seminars, and study visits of Russian experts to the Nordic countries, as well as other events. It will last for two years and will be completed in late 2013. The Nordic-Russian Green Growth Arena project has defined three priority areas (sub-projects). The first priority is related with green planning instrument and strategies (development of appropriate strategies, green brands, roadmaps and policies aimed at facilitation of environmentally sustainable economic growth; green tax and procurement schemes; investments in sus-

tainable infrastructure; promotion of sustainable consumption, green lifestyle of inhabitants and tourists). The second priority is focused on the Nordic-Russian greenways (sustainable transport and safety; promotion of healthy lifestyle; development of eco-tourism, as well as nature and cultural heritage conservation). The third priority is related with sustainable hubs and clean-tech clusters (promotion of green technologies and clusters, which facilitate economic growth; creation of incentives for investments in resource-efficient technologies and environmental protection).

Mr Valery Golubev, Vice-Chairman of the Management Board of Gazprom, focused on the use of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) as bunker fuel for ships. The tough mandatory restrictions on emissions from vessels, sailing in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, to be imposed after 2015 is the main reason for switching to alternative fuels. The use of LNG is the only way to meet the requirements for reduction of emissions from ship engines without installing expensive filters; furthermore, this fuel is more affordable in comparison to low-sulphur petrochemicals. Mr Golubev also analysed factors which hinder the development of the LNG market, namely, the absence of relevant legislation and infrastructure. Decision makers in the Baltic Sea Region have to agree on a uniform set of rules regarding technological prerequisites and technical standards for the ports (storage facilities, terminals etc.).

Mr Igor Zaikin, Head of industrial safety, environmental and engineering work of the Oil Company "LUKOIL", informed the conference about the measures taken by the company in ensuring environmental safety. Lukoil has adopted a Health, Safety and Environment Policy and has undertaken to achieve the following objectives: firstly, to apply the zero-discharge principle in developing offshore fields; secondly, by introducing power-efficient technologies and using alternative energy sources to ensure efficient management of natural resources in production and other areas of Lukoil Group operation; thirdly, by introducing cutting-edge technologies, equipment and materials and increased process control automation to control and gradually reduce both the amount and toxicity of emissions, discharges of pollutants and waste; fourthly, to ensure continuous improvement from perspective of health, safety and environment through increased reliability of equipment, safe and accident-free operation of equipment, introduction of new technologies and automated emergency systems; and finally, to ensure that the management, personnel, rescue services and other units of Lukoil Group are prepared to get involved in the elimination of consequences of accidents, fire

fighting and emergency response, as well as to enhance preparedness and to provide more advanced equipment to fire-fighting and rescue units.

Mr Daniil Algulyan, Elected Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Pilot Finance Initiative and the Director of the KfW Representative Office in Moscow, presented the Pilot Finance Initiative (PFI). The KfW bank is financing only those projects that are environmentally and socially sustainable, as well as climate friendly. On 31 May 2012, at a time when the 9th Baltic Sea States Summit was held in Stralsund, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Permanent International Secretariat of the CBSS, the KfW bank and Russia's Vnesheconombank. All parties agreed to cooperate in financing projects initiated by small and medium-sized businesses, as well as public-private partnerships in spheres such as environmental protection, innovation, modernisation and energy efficiency. With the mandate granted by the German Federal Foreign Office, the KfW bank intends to issue long-term loans to the Vnesheconombank, which, in turn, will issue loans for projects. It is planned to provide the PFI also to those financial institutions from the CBSS region which join the PFI.

Ms Cecilie Tenfjord-Toftby, Chair of the BSPP Working Group on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency presented the mid-term report of the group. The overarching objective of the working group is to elaborate political positions and recommendations in the field of green growth and energy efficiency. The working group agreed that the definition of green economy concept set forth in the OECD report on green growth corresponds to the group's perception of the concept and thus serves as a general guideline for its work. According to the definition, green growth "means fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies." Together with innovation, going green can be a long-term driver for economic growth, through, for example, investments in renewable energy and more efficient use of energy and materials. The working group has held 3 meetings and come up with 6 main recommendations. It calls on the governments of the countries of the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and the EU: firstly, to support the Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation (BASREC) initiative; secondly, to raise awareness about green growth and energy efficiency; thirdly, to promote and allocate financial resources to initiatives aimed at green growth and energy efficiency; fourthly, to make concentrated and prioritised efforts in ensuring energy efficiency

in the construction sector; fifthly, to promote the elaboration of nationally adapted binding targets; and finally, to promote green public procurement. Ms Tenfjord-Toftby underlined that it is important for Russia to get involved in the work of the working group and therefore encouraged the Russian parliamentarians to take part in the activities of the working group.

Comments

Mr Wille Valve, Member of the delegation of the Åland Islands, expressed the opinion that the environmental condition of the Baltic Sea is deeply unsatisfactory. It is unacceptable that people cannot eat fish or allow their dogs to drink the sea water; this is particularly worrying for the Åland Islands which are located right in the middle of the Baltic Sea. The Åland Islands delegation is calling on the responsible parties to take stronger, smarter and more efficient measures in the field of environmental protection of the Baltic Sea.

Mr Lars Tysklind, Member of the Swedish delegation, emphasised the role of HELCOM. The countries of the Baltic Sea Region have to continue working jointly on environmental issues, and fulfil their obligations and commitments to the HELCOM BSAP.

Mr Stanisław Wziątek, Member of the Polish delegation, thanked Mr Maxim Shingarkin for raising the issue of chemical weapons dumped at the Baltic Sea; it is not only an environmental disaster but also a security challenge since chemical weapons can also be regarded as a kind of latent terrorism threat. The Polish delegation proposed to establish a working group which would deal with the issue of chemical weapons dumped in the Baltic Sea.



Third Session:

A Safe and Healthy Baltic Sea

Mr Vitaly Klyuev, Deputy Director of State Policy for Maritime and River Transport of the Ministry of Transport of Russia, reported on the marine safety and environmental protection at the port of Ust Luga. Approximately 170 million tons of freight have been transported through the ports of Vyborg, Vysotsk, Primorsk and Ust Luga. There is a regional system for maritime transport where various communication systems are used to ensure safety of ships in the water. It has modern technology with radar stations to ensure maritime transport safety in sea and at harbours. All harbours in this region work with a standardized system. The Port of Ust Luga is the most modern and deepest sea port in the Baltic Sea. There is a high turnover of cargos, which is expected to rise up to 180 million tons by 2015. The harbour infrastructure has good connections with railway and road transport.

Before new port facilities are built all necessary procedures for technical and environmental issues are executed. Certain procedures also apply before dredging operations can be carried out. These activities are coordinated with local authorities and adhere to strict national and international environmental stipulations. There are also reception facilities for all types of waste and garbage in the sea port, which is done in accordance with MARPOL requirements. The crude oil terminal facility is subject to constant monitoring in terms of environmental auditing to make sure that there are no oil spills or leaks. In case they should occur, a rescue and salvage company is readily available. A waste disposal facility ensures that operations are carried out environmentally soundly.

Mr Jochen Schulte, BSPC Co-Rapporteur on Integrated Maritime Policy, informed that regarding sulphur emission control and nitrogen oxide emission control there have been new developments in the area of integrated maritime policy. Different organisations working with the integrated maritime policy have been able to work together and managed to take an integrated approach. The issue of emission reduction remains a key question, seen in connection with the competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region. There is also the question of maritime transport where port infrastructure is given particular attention. Another question is about maritime safety and a common maritime spatial planning. All these issues require that we join forces and take a united approach. Therefore it is welcome that European Maritime



Day in Gdansk last year brought together the BSPC, CBSS and BSSSC maritime functions. The goal is to identify synergies between organisations, joint activities in these fields, and possibilities to cooperate on joint projects especially for the purpose of reviewing the Baltic Sea Strategy. In the future it is important to involve the business community in the maritime industry. Companies that produce engines, build ships, and design harbours and ports should be involved in the process earlier so that they together can come up with integrated clean shipping initiatives.

Next year, a joint conference is planned with participation of different organisations, experts and port authorities that can deliver fruitful discussions on important issues in a comprehensive and thorough manner. The questions for debate are: what is going to happen in 2015 when SECA (Sulphur Emission Control Area) places new restrictions on the maritime industry? What impact will they cause heavy oil usage, on ports and on the industry as a whole? What will be the opinion by the civil society about this? In Germany there is a new debate emerging concerning the environmental impact of the use of LNG. It is also necessary to look at ways on how to be more involved in the processes taking place within the IMO. It is important that national parliaments make their voices heard on all these topics.

Mr Roger Jansson, BSPC Co-Rapporteur on Integrated Maritime Policy, noted that in the Northern part of the Baltic Sea Region there is a special need for shipping and maritime transport, not least from Finland. 80% of the goods exported from Finland are exported by the sea. In winter there is the problem of ice. In general maritime transport is preferable to road transports both economically and environmentally. It is in our common interest to maintain the competitive edge of transports by sea. The pollution from transports by road is much greater than for transports by sea per freight-km. It is necessary to join forces and take strong measures from technical, environmental, and financial points of view to promote the competitive power of maritime transports.

The objective of the Clean Baltic Sea Shipping project is to reduce emissions from vessels at port and at sea, to give best practice examples, and to have the best possible cooperation with all stakeholders. The Conference on 19–20 September 2012 in Riga will be an important milestone for maritime developments. The BSPC Integrated Maritime Policy Rapporteurs have tried to maintain an active dialogue with i.a. BSSSC. This is a policy area where developments go very fast.



Drafting Committee

Fourth Session:

Health, Social Welfare and Economic Development

Health and Social Well-Being

Ms Eeva-Liisa Haapaniemi, Consul of Social Affairs and Health of the Consulate General of Finland, representing the Chair country of NDPHS reported about the importance of health and social well-being for the prosperity and sustainable economic development of the region. After the Russian Federation, Finland is now chairing the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being in 2012–2013. During the economic crisis, many countries have been forced to respond with severe cuts in public expenditures, including on health and social care. At the regional level, health and social issues are often put aside or sub-prioritized when strategic priorities are discussed. This approach can cause serious damage to the societies in the long term and hamper the potential for growth. Issues such as ageing society, growing burden of non-communicable diseases and antimicrobial resistance are among the biggest social and economic challenges of the 21st century. It is estimated that the growing proportion of older people in Europe will increase public spending by 5% of the GDP during next 50 years due to a higher share of retired people and a higher number of people with chronic non-communicable diseases. Therefore it is very important to promote healthy ageing as well as efficiency and quality of health and social care services. The demand for health care is rising faster than the number of doctors. There is a need to invest in finding innovative approaches to health care, such as telemedicine.

The raising burden of non-communicable diseases is another pressing issue. The World Economic Forum has identified these diseases as the second most severe threat to the global economy in terms of potential economic loss. The main risk factors of non-communicable diseases are preventable – tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, low physical activity and unhealthy diets – but only a small proportion of health expenditure is spent on prevention. At the same time, at least 66 billion EUR are lost every year in the Baltic Sea Region countries due to premature loss of life of preventable causes.

New challenges require adaptation. New solutions have to be found, which requires creativity, cooperation, political will and financial investment. It is important to pool the resources and

expertise and exchange ideas and knowledge on effective solutions. Parliaments can play a very important role in fostering such cooperation.

Ms Natalia Dorshakova, Professor of Petrozavodsk State University of Karelia, informed about cooperation with the countries of the Baltic Sea Region in the fight against socially significant diseases. Diseases that are important in the social realm are tuberculosis, B and C hepatitis, sexually transmissible diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure, etc. A number of projects at different levels have been carried out and a lot has been learned in terms of diagnosis and prophylaxis. A control of a number of diseases on an international level is being carried out and different institutes have been established for surveillance of the control of these diseases. As regards type II diabetes, it has achieved epidemic proportions in the last few years. In 2010 there were 220 million cases registered in Russia. There is also a great concern about pediatric diabetes where there is one case per 500 children and one case per 200 adults. Even though there are good types of treatment available, some people develop disabilities early, go blind, or develop liver and kidney problems. Finland is the country with the highest proportion of diabetes: 63 people per 100 inhabitants. Sweden is not far after, nor is Russia, where Karelia is an area with very high proportion of diabetes.

There have been a number of international conferences in 2010 devoted to this topic. The project “Diabimmune” studies two hypothesis which concern genes and hygiene. The hygiene hypothesis would indicate that the quality of living and hygiene have improved so much over the last years and people have changed their eating habits, which means that life has changed and it influences the development of diabetes. Helsinki University in cooperation with other Estonian, Finnish and German universities are carrying out a study, where tests of biological substrates in the blood from more than 10000 children from Karelia and Estonia are taken. The major problem concerning this study is to transport the blood samples from Russia to the European research centres, which cannot be done because of legislative restrictions. A draft appeal has been put forward, which has not yet been adopted. Parliaments are asked to help in solving this problem.

Mr Raimonds Vējonis, Vice President of the Baltic Assembly, spoke about health care cooperation of the Baltic States. Parliamentarians of the Baltic Sea Region are well aware of the problems in the area of health care and social welfare. It is important not just to diagnose the problems, but also to heal and treat them. It is crucial that the ideas of joining forces is not just something

written down on paper, but resulting in concrete ideas on how we can work together to improve the situation. Regarding the success story of the Baltic Sea Region cooperation, in 2009 the Baltic Assembly came up with an initiative to cooperate in the area of health care among the Baltic States. Five projects were carried out to look at possibilities, firstly, to establish a common system for state-funded procurement of medicines and medical equipment, secondly, to establish joint specialized medical centres for more efficient use of professional skills in the Baltic States, thirdly, to coordinate emergency help in the border towns of the Baltic States, fourthly, to establish efficiently functioning human organ transplant system of the Baltic States and fifthly, to tackle the problems of infertility and establish a common sperm bank in the Baltic States. The first fruits of practical activities are already showing. On 24 September 2010, Latvia and Estonia signed a bilateral agreement on mutual aid for providing ambulance services in border areas. Currently work is being done to sign a similar agreement between Latvia and Lithuania. The Partnership Agreement between the Baltic States on common procurements of medicinal products and medical devices was signed on 2 May 2012. This agreement allows for other member states of the European Union and European Economic Area to join. The first common procurement of vaccines will take place already next year.

Labour Market Issues

Ms Mariya Grinnik, Representative of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia in the North-West Federal District, underlined that a sustainable economic growth without creating new opportunities for the labour market is not possible. The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia has, within the framework of social dialogue, come up with a programme of anti-crisis measures for the Russian Federation, including a number of measures to stimulate domestic growth and support the labour market. Most of the regions in North-West Russia have a lack of skilled labour, particularly craftsmen and a skilled labour force for the production industry. Moreover, St Petersburg and Leningrad district, and Kaliningrad and Karelia have a high level of unemployment among young people, even including graduates of higher educational institutions. This shows the disproportion between the demand and supply of the labour market. It is necessary to ensure that the government helps graduates to find their first job in the field they have graduated. Some success has been achieved, but there is still a huge disproportion. Companies tend to hire cheap workers and the share of unqualified foreigners has ranged between 80–85% in the last years. Recently the govern-

ments of the St Petersburg and the Leningrad districts have been trying to compromise with the demands of trade unions. Wages have not increased for a long time and migrant workers are underpaid. Trade unions are pushing governments to guarantee the migrants a proper accommodation at least. The aim is to ensure that migrant workers are adapted to the social and cultural life and that they are treated the same way as the local workers. The problem lies in the fact that employers are increasingly using temporary workers from outside the official labour system, many of which are from agencies. Trade unions together with parliamentarians are pushing actively to try to ensure that workers are treated properly wherever they come from. There is a project called “Working with Dignity” where international organizations are also included. The challenge of this project is to improve standards so that everyone can have a decent job.

Ms Karen Roij, Senior Adviser of the Confederation of Danish Employers, reported about youth unemployment. The availability of a skilled workforce after the crisis is crucial for Europe’s growth potential in the future. Access to qualified labour is at the core of companies’ competitive strategies. Labour force with appropriate and increasingly high qualifications is therefore very important for attracting investments and securing growth and jobs. One of the challenges is the global race for best educated population. Expenditures for education and research and development have been increasing sharply around the world and especially in emerging economies. Countries such as Korea, China and India have managed to adapt very fast to the educational needs of the 21st century by becoming competitive on wages and knowledge. One thing is investing in education, another is to ensure a high return of education. Here dual education and training is important.

The challenges that are facing Europe is demographic ageing. More important than ever is to tap the full potential of a smaller working age population. Young people of today are more educated than ever, but at the same time youth unemployment is high. Therefore it is necessary to ease young peoples’ transitions between school and work. We should ensure greater synergies between the world of education and the world of business. There is evidence that well-functioning apprenticeship and internships systems seem to be correlated with low youth unemployment. It is positive for both sectors, because apprentices or interns bring their academic knowledge to the company and their practical learning in a company to the school. It is vital that young people gain experience in the labour market during their studies, because companies look for graduates with work experience.

Linking education and employment generates positive synergies between the areas and secures a smooth transition into employment.

Mr Uwe Polkaehn, Chairman of the Regional Section Schleswig-Holstein of the Confederation of German Trade Unions and Chairman of Baltic Sea Region Trade Union Network, informed that since 1998 the Baltic Sea Trade Union Network has had intense cooperation with 22 different trade unions to tackle youth unemployment, which is one of the biggest political problems facing us today. At the same time it is a challenge for companies and economies. 22% of all young people in the European Union have no job. In Spain, more than half of the young people are without job. In Lithuania – over 30% in 2012, in Latvia – 28,1%, Poland – 26,2%, Sweden – 22,9%, Estonia – 22,3%, Finland – 20%, Denmark – 13%, Norway – 7%, St Petersburg – 12–16%, Germany – 7%. Germany is least affected by unemployment, their problem is rather a scarcity of skilled workers. Politicians are working on skilled worker alliances and worker initiatives. The Baltic Sea Labour Forum, trade unions, employers and politicians have put together a project which involves a system of dual education courses in vocational training as a best practice for the entire Baltic Sea Region.

Mr Oddgeir Danielsen, Director of the Secretariat of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL), informed about transport and logistics in relation to the labour market. Well-functioning transport and logistics system is the backbone of a well-functioning labour market. Speaking about energy, more than 80% of the extractable energy resources in the world are in the Arctic area. With so much to be extracted and developed there is a great need for competence and knowledge as well as transport and logistics. In this sense the Northern Sea Route is a very important element also for the Baltic Sea Region. The Northern part of the Baltic Sea Region is rich in raw materials which provides a perfect opportunity to create new industries with new work places. The Trans Siberian Railroad is also important for the transport infrastructure and connection of Europe with Asia by land.

The objectives of the NDPTL are to improve the major transport connections between the Northern Dimension partners; to accelerate the implementation of transport and logistics infrastructure; to accelerate the removal of non-infrastructure related bottlenecks; and to set up effective structures to monitor the implementation of projects and measures. In order to ensure these aims, the Partnerships major task is to facilitate financing of projects by making them “bankable” or “financeable”. A financial support

fund will be used for bridging projects with national and international financial institutions.

Mr Franz Thönnies, BSPC Rapporteur on Labour Market Issues, gave a report on youth unemployment and measures to combat it in the Baltic Sea Region. The BSPC can be proud that the issue of employment in cross-border labour markets in the Baltic Sea Region has moved higher up the political agenda following the creation in 2007 of its Working Group on Labour Market and Social Welfare and the adoption of its recommendations in the resolution passed at the 18th BSPC held in Nyborg. As regards youth unemployment, the report written by the Rapporteur on labour market issues provides an overview of the situation in each individual country. It contains lists of measures politicians can undertake in order to integrate young people into the labour market. It is important to have the vocational training, or “sandwich courses”, in companies, and have closer ties between schools and industry.

In 2008, at the initiative of *DGB Nord* and *Nordmetall*, 22 participants representing the world of politics and the social partners (trade union federations, employers' associations, the CBSS and the BSPC), jointly formed the “Baltic Sea Labour Network” (BSLN), a flagship project within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. This three-year project received EU funding of €2.7 million. Its aim was to support sustainable labour markets, fair employment conditions, strong social partners and proper social protection for cross-border commuters. Denmark cooperated with Danish, Swedish and Norwegian trade unions on a research project entitled “Guest workers' employment and living conditions”. Estonia offered “Training in social dialogue for young trade unionists” and there were plans for a handbook for young persons in the labour market. In Finland an interview-based study on “Social inclusion of Estonian and Russian-speaking guest workers and their participation in employment and trade union membership” was conducted as part of training for trade unionists. Germany and Poland looked to form an information and skills centre for cross-border commuters and employers in the German-Polish border area. Latvia organized forums for social dialogue in the regions, bringing together trade unions and employers, and initiatives to promote self-employment. In Lithuania trade unions and employers together got to grips with the government's employment and economic policy during the crisis. In Sweden there was a trade union project on employee mobility in relation to infrastructure. The work done by the BSLN project, inspired by the spirit of social partnership, together with increasing economic cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region and the challenges posed by

an emerging Baltic labour market culminated in the founding of the new Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF), which has the backing of the BSPC and CBSS. It was set up by 21 organizations at the BSLN's Final Conference in Hamburg in November 2011, and works under the auspices of the CBSS. The Forum is a flagship project of the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Trafficking in Human Beings

Mr Johan Linander, BSPC Co-Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, noted that trafficking is the slavery of this century, in which people are ruthlessly exploited by other people for profit, usually in terms of forced prostitution or compulsory labour. In 2009 the Working Group on Civil Security was established and focused its efforts on trafficking in human beings. After the Group had submitted its final report in Helsinki 2011, the BSPC appointed two Rapporteurs in order to follow up the work of the Group and the recommendations concerning trafficking in human beings. This work started by writing letters to ministers responsible for the fight against trafficking in human beings in the Baltic Sea States. In the letter, attention was drawn to the recommendations made by the 19th and 20th BSPC and four questions were asked. Firstly, do you have a system for registration of cases of trafficking in human beings, and what are the latest figures? Secondly, is the current legislation against Trafficking in human beings effective? To what extent are traffickers convicted? Thirdly, trafficking in human beings is a highly profitable criminal activity; what measures are employed in order to track and confiscate the proceeds from trafficking? Fourthly, how is your government providing stable funding for public authorities, specialized agencies, NGOs, and inter-governmental organizations and projects in order to maintain the pursuit of persistent and sustained efforts against trafficking in human beings?

Ten of eleven countries responded and revealed that they have a system for registration of cases of trafficking, but not always under the auspices of one single unit, thus making it difficult to get an overview. It turned out to be difficult to compare the statistics from different countries as they had provided statistics of different years, but in any case it can be concluded that the trafficking is very much a present problem in most BSPC countries. On the question of legislation, many countries said that they are in the process of assessing and revising existing legislation. When organized crime changes its activities, legislation has to keep pace and be revised as well. Trafficking is and remains a profitable form of criminality and money is what drives criminals. It is deci-

sive to be able to get at the profits from trafficking. Some nations are better than others at tracing and confiscating the profits while others have a lot to do in this field. When it comes to financing, many countries have three or four year action plans in relation to trafficking. Often the money turns out to be tied to projects that are limited in time and fight against trafficking is not a time-bound project. It is necessary to have long-term financing so that fight against trafficking can continue.



Laine Randjärv, BSPC Chair 2012-2013, Valentina Pivnenko, BSPC Chair 2011-2012, Tatiana Zakharenkova, St Petersburg Legislative Assembly

Closing of the 21st BSPC

Mrs Valentina Pivnenko, outgoing Chair of the BSPC, expressed her appreciation of the deliberations held during the 21st BSPC. During these two days, 49 speakers have presented their views on regional partnerships, cross-border cooperation, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the NDEP, energy and environmental protection, green growth and maritime policy, as well as health care and social well-being. 207 Conference participants have had great opportunities to assess cooperation between the BSPC and the CBSS, as well as to hear the opinion of the business community – e.g. Lukoil and Gazprom. Parliamentarians have thus received a list of “home assignments” in fields such as youth unemployment, energy efficiency, sustainable tourism, and economic development. The Conference has welcomed representatives from youth organisations, who, for the first time in the history of the BSPC, were actively taking part in the Conference.

Mrs Pivnenko then presented the Resolution of the 21st BSPC, the work programme of the BSPC for 2012–2013, and the proposal to grant Observer status in the BSPC to the Skåne Regional County Council. The Conference unanimously adopted the Resolution and the work programme, and granted Observer status to the Skåne Regional County Council.

Mrs Valentina Pivnenko announced that the parliament of Estonia is taking over the presidency of the BSPC in 2012–2013 and gave the floor to **Mrs Laine Randjärv**.

The newly appointed Chair of the BSPC, **Mrs Laine Randjärv**, reaffirmed the belief in the strength of cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region. She expressed her gratitude to the former Chair of the BSPC, Mrs Valentina Pivnenko, for a successful presidency in 2011–2012. Mrs Randjärv indicated that the Estonian presidency has observed the principle of continuity when defining the priorities for the BSPC’s work programme in 2012–2013. The BSPC has to continue the dialogue on employment and creation of new jobs in the region. The countries of the Baltic Sea Region have to establish practical partnerships in various fields which would increase the global competitiveness and innovative activity of the region. The Northern Dimension and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region are unique tools, and the BSPC should devote a significant attention to implementation of realistic and practical initiatives on the basis of these political tools. On behalf of the Estonian parliament, Mrs Randjärv concluded by inviting participants to attend the 22nd BSPC, which will convene in Estonia’s summer capital – Pärnu – on 25 – 27 August 2013.





Annexes

Annex 1

Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 21st Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants, elected legislators from the Baltic Sea States*, assembling in St Petersburg, Russian Federation, 26–28 August 2012,

discussing co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, environmental health and energy cooperation, a safe and healthy Baltic Sea, and health, social welfare and economic development,

- A. stressing that parliamentary cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) contributes to democratic, transparent and inclusive political processes, as well as to practical and positive results in people's everyday life;
- B. commending the close, pragmatic and productive interaction between the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and BSPC, including a far-reaching synchronization of political priorities and a continuous exchange at all levels;
- C. appreciate the organization of a first Youth Parliament called "Baltic Sea Youth Session" in Berlin in April 2012 within the framework of the German CBSS Presidency; encourage the following CBSS Presidencies to continue with the organization of those Baltic Sea Youth Sessions and to support a participation of five delegates of this Youth Parliament in the annual BSPC Conferences to include young people into the parliamentary discussion about the future of the Baltic Sea Region,

call on the governments in the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and the EU, as well as other organizations, civil society, private sector, communities and NGOs,

Regarding Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region,

1. to promote interaction and cooperation in the implementation of the North-West Russia Socio-Economic Development Strategy by the Russian Federation and other overall policies of the Baltic Sea Region, such as the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Northern Dimension

2. to provide continued support to the Northern Dimension policy and its further diversification into new operational branches in order to involve all stakeholders in the Region on an equal footing and to ensure access to EU projects for all relevant stakeholders where appropriate;
3. to provide stable and long-term resources to CBSS, and to continue to support an ongoing dialogue with BSPC on political priorities as well as operational activities;
4. to provide in due course resources for the full implementation of the SEBA project (Modernization Partnership for the South Eastern Baltic Area), aiming at enhancing cooperation in fields such sustainable development, tourism, public-private partnerships and youth;
5. to encourage a deliberate division of labour between stakeholders in the Region, aiming at strengthening their comparative advantages, synchronizing their priorities, and complementing each other's competencies; cooperative initiatives such as the *"Maritime Joint Event"* in 2011 and 2012 should be promoted as a role model for other subject areas;
6. to promote and protect tolerance, mutual respect and freedom of expression, and to strengthen the human rights throughout the entire Baltic Sea Region and its neighbourhood;
7. to continue efforts towards a gradual elimination of obstacles for the movement of persons in the Region in accordance with outcomes of the EU-Russia cooperation in the framework of a visa dialogue, and to pursue the efforts for a gradual phasing out of the visa regime between the EU and Russia, while facilitating as much and as quick as possible visa facilitation for instance for academics, students, researchers, sportsmen, trainees and youth;

Regarding Environmental Health, Energy Cooperation and Energy-Efficient Economy,

8. to ratify, for those states that have not already done so, the Espoo Convention (the EU Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context);

9. to ratify, for those states that have not already done so, the Convention on Ballast waters (International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments of 2004);
10. to fulfill all commitments under the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, adopted by the Governments of the Baltic Sea Region in Krakow in 2007, aimed at restoring a good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021; to further raising the level of ambition at the HELCOM ministerial meeting in fall 2013 for reducing the outlet of phosphorous and nitrates into the Baltic Sea; and to carry out active efforts to coordinate activities with OSPAR in regard of promoting initiatives to decrease waste from vessels in the Baltic Sea and in the North-West Atlantic Ocean and the English Channel;
11. within the framework of improving health and rehabilitating the ecosystem of the Baltic Sea, to carry out work aimed at removing the sewage waste pollution sources in the drainage basin of the Baltic Sea, including the modernization of sewage systems and municipal sewage treatment facilities;
12. to contribute to the introduction of best agricultural practices and technologies in animal waste conversion and poultry farming;
13. to promote the decrease of influx of biogenic substances into the Baltic Sea by means of introducing best agricultural practices and technologies to manage waste from animal farming, including poultry farming, and by gradually decreasing use of polyphosphates in synthetic detergents.
14. to promote better health and rehabilitation of the Baltic Sea ecosystem by improving recycling, creating new landfills for municipal and industrial waste with consequent reclamation of land, and by removing obsolete pesticide storages;
15. to welcome work within the trilateral Project of the Year of the Gulf of Finland, aimed at implementation of a set of measures to improve environmental health of the Baltic Sea, namely through research and environmental protection efforts that promote better environmental status of the Baltic Sea ecosystem;

16. to make sustained efforts to promote and develop green growth, energy efficiency and renewable energy, and to adopt nationally adapted binding targets for energy efficiency;
17. to work actively within the IMO to improve the technical requirements, adopted earlier, in respect of the energy efficiency of new sea vessels and development of globally binding technical and/or operational regulations in order to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases from the existing vessels;
18. to support BASREC (Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation) and implement the commitments for 2012-2015 made by the BASREC Ministerial Meeting 14-15 May 2012, in order to develop sustainable energy systems in the region and to integrate energy markets and energy infrastructure;
19. to lessen the dependence on fossilized fuel by exploring renewable energy sources;
20. to promote education, research and development on green growth and energy efficiency, and to take action to disseminate information, exchange best practices and raise awareness of both environmental and economic gains and ways of saving energy;
21. to support activities of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21, focused on four strategic areas: climate change, sustainable consumption and production, innovation and education for sustainable development, sustainable urban and rural development;
22. to provide political incentives and innovative financial schemes to initiate pilot projects and investments in energy efficiency measures;
23. to promote green public procurement (GPP) at all levels of public administration, ensuring that GPP standards provide a level playing field for businesses and do not lead to competitive disadvantages for small and medium-sized enterprises;

Regarding Integrated Maritime Policy,

24. to expand information exchange, joint planning and dissemination of best practices between maritime authorities in order to manage the growing vessel traffic in the Baltic Sea;

25. to develop real-time maritime surveillance information and e-navigation technologies in order to improve vessel traffic management and augment the joint preparedness against accidents;
26. to strengthen the competitiveness of clean shipping in the Baltic Sea Region by using appropriate targeted incentives;
27. to promote research and innovation in order to develop competencies in the areas of shipping safety, energy efficiency, emission reductions, alternative propulsion technologies and renewable energies in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region in the global competition;
28. to carry on further actions aiming at developing a joint macro-regional prevention and preparedness approach towards major hazards and emergencies at sea and on land, and to promote research and to develop technologies aimed at oil spills response in ice conditions, as well as in bad weather and visibility conditions
29. to strengthen the cooperation with the shipping companies to further prevent and minimize the risk of accidents and groundings;
30. to support the implementation of the tripartite project “The Gulf of Finland Year 2014”, with the purpose of consolidating joint research and conservation efforts of Finland, Estonia and Russia in order to strengthen the maritime ecosystems of the Baltic Sea;
31. to support the build-up of a more integrated marine and maritime knowledge network (environment, fisheries, regional planning, shipping etc.);
32. to promote artisanal fishery and to enhance the opportunities for investing in environmentally friendly kinds of marine tourism;
33. to draft joint objectives in maritime spatial planning policy (taking the VASAB guidelines into account);
34. to promote the development and strengthening cross-border cooperation of the Baltic Sea Region in order to counter cross-border crime and security threats at sea;

Regarding Health, Labour Market and Economic Development,

35. to raise the profile of health and social well-being on the regional cooperation agenda; to support the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being, in order to pursue persistent efforts for improving health and social well-being taking into account ageing society, high burden of non-communicable diseases and antimicrobial resistance;
36. to take the resources of the elderly population into consideration, to allow them to stay on the labour market, and make use of their abilities in general;
37. to develop a medium- to long-term strategy equipped with powerful measures to tackle youth unemployment, and to ensure that existing programmes with this aim are better coordinated; the aim should be to offer each young person a job, an apprenticeship, additional continuing education or a combination of employment and vocational training after a maximum of four months of unemployment. Working life must not begin with a longer period of unemployment;
38. to encourage an intensified cooperation between schools and businesses at local level, in order to develop initiatives for facilitating the transition from school to working life for young people;
39. to further develop measures to foster education, vocational training, skills development and life-long learning, with the aim of meeting the demand for skilled workers and creating new employment opportunities, and in this respect intensify the use of the concept of dual education, and launch initiatives to improve the prospects of long-term employment to unqualified and unemployed young people;
40. to work towards mutual recognition of vocational training in the Baltic Sea Region countries, and to develop the quality of vocational training in the region according to best practices, research results and society's future needs;
41. to reduce as far as possible obstacles to the mobility of labour and enterprises by actively supporting cooperation between the border regions and between the existing cross border information centers;

42. to support and encourage the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) as a platform for exchange of experience and communication between the key labour market actors in the BSR, including helping the BSLF in promoting social dialogue, tripartite structures and cooperation as crucial elements of sustainable economic growth and social development;
43. to promote cooperation on modernization and innovation with a focus on cluster growth and, in the long term, on the establishment of regional partnerships particularly on environment and sustainable development;
44. to create a public-private partnership (PPP) network aimed at developing a “Baltic PPP” as a sustainable growth platform with a regional direct investment funds and active educational involvement;
45. to support the development of sustainable tourism on land and at sea, including the improvement of mobility and accessibility by other means than motorized private transports, and a strict regulation of the use of conservation areas;
46. to develop concepts that offer age-friendly conditions at the workplace and better access to life-long learning programs also for the elderly population;
47. to develop concepts aiming to improve the access of particularly disadvantaged groups to the job market;
48. to support programs for municipalities in their strategies for coping with socio-demographic change;
49. to develop quality criteria as indicators of a sustainable employment policy;
50. promote efforts to gain more extensive knowledge of the nature and scope of new forms of trafficking in human beings such as trafficking for begging, trafficking for criminal activities like theft and fraud, and trafficking for identity theft, and to strengthen legislative and operational means of identifying and combating these forms for trafficking in human beings;

Furthermore the Conference Decides to

51. adopt the BSPC Work Programme for 2012-2013;
 52. grant Observer status to **Skåne Regional County Council**;
 53. welcome with gratitude the kind offer of the Parliament of Estonia to host the 22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Pärnu on 25-27 August 2013.
- * Parliaments of Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Denmark, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Iceland, Republic of Karelia, Latvia, Leningrad, Lithuania, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Norway, Poland, Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, City of St. Petersburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Sweden, Åland Islands, Baltic Assembly, European Parliament, Nordic Council.





Annex 2

*The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference
Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation,
26–28 August 2012*

“Energy, Ecology and Social Welfare: Cooperation for a Sustainable Development of the Baltic Sea Region”

Conference Venue: Mariinsky Palace, Grand Hall

25 August, Saturday

Arrival of Conference participants to Saint Petersburg
Accommodation in hotels

26 August, Sunday

10.00–17.00 Visit to the Oil Filling terminal “Lukoil” in Vysotsk,
organized by “Lukoil Oil Company”

Starting 11 a.m. accreditation at Ambassador Hotel
and Petro Palace Hotel

12.00 p.m. **BSPC Standing Committee Meeting**
(*Mariinsky Palace, 1st floor; White Hall*)

15.00 p.m. Departure from hotels

Choice of two excursions:

1. Visit to South-West Wastewater Treatment Plant;
2. Visit to the new passenger port terminal Marine
Façade

19.00 p.m. Reception hosted by Ms **Valentina Pivnenko**,
Chair of the BSPC, Head of the BSPC Delegation of
the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
Venue: Russian Kitch restaurant (25 Universitetskaya
emb.)

27 August, Monday

Start 7.45 a.m. Accreditation at Mariinsky Palace

8.00 a.m. 1st Meeting of BSPC Standing Committee as
Drafting Committee
(Mariinsky Palace, 1st floor, White Hall)

9.00 a.m. **OPENING OF CONFERENCE**
(Mariinsky Palace, 1st floor, Grand Hall)

Songs by St Petersburg Children's Choir

Chair: Ms **Valentina Pivnenko**, Chair of the
BSPC, Head of the BSPC Delegation of
the Federal Assembly of the Russian Fed-
eration

Co-Chair: Mr **Vadim Tiulpanov**, Head of the BSPC
Delegation of the Council of Federation
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian
Federation

- Welcome by Mr **Ivan Melnikov**, First Vice-Speaker of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
- Welcome by Mr **Vyacheslav Makarov**, Speaker of Saint Petersburg Legislative Assembly;
- Welcome by Mr **Vadim Tiulpanov**, Head of the BSPC Delegation of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
- Welcome on behalf of Mr **Sergey Lavrov**, Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Russia
- Welcome by Ms **Valentina Pivnenko**, MP, Chair of the BSPC.

9.50 a.m. **FIRST SESSION**

Chair: Ms **Valentina Pivnenko**, Chair of the
BSPC, Head of the BSPC Delegation of
the Federal Assembly of the Russian Fed-
eration

Co-Chair: Mr **Vadim Tiulpanov**, Head of the BSPC
Delegation of the Council of Federation
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian
Federation

Regional Partnership and Cross-Border Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

- Report from the BSPC: Ms **Valentina Pivnenko**, Chair of the BSPC, Head of the BSPC Delegation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
- Priorities of the Russian Presidency in CBSS, Mr **Sergey Petrovich**, Deputy Director of the 2nd European Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of Baltic Sea States, Russia
- Report from the CBSS German Presidency: Mr **Gerhard Almer**, Ambassador for the German Presidency of the CBSS 2011/2012, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany
- Mr **Anatoly Zabrodin**, Head of the Border Guard Department of FSB of Russia in the city of St. Petersburg and Leningrad region.
- The role of transport infrastructure in Northwest Russia in the development of trade and economic relations: Mr **Pavel Burtsev**, Deputy Head of Oktyabrskaya Railway
- Address by Ms **Ugnė Kripavičiūtė**, Representative of the 4th Baltic Sea Youth Session, Berlin April 2012.

The Northern Dimension and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

- The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region: Mr **Jacek Protasiewicz**, Vice-President of the European Parliament;
- North-West Russia 2020 Strategy: Mr **Stanislav Lazovsky**, Association North-West Russia, Saint-Petersburg
- Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership: Mr **Jaakko Henttonen**, NDEP Manager, EBRD;
- Nordic Council of Ministers & North-West Russia - Cooperation Activities: Mr **Mika Boedeker**, Director, Nordic Council of Ministers Office in St Petersburg;
- Ms **Darya Akhutina**, Acting Chairperson of the NGO Forum of the Baltic Sea.

12.00 a.m. Coffee break

12.15 a.m. Debate

13.00 a.m. **SECOND SESSION**

Chair: Mr **Franz Thönnies**, Parliament of the
Federal Republic of Germany

Co-Chair: Ms **Susanna Huovinen**, Parliament of
Finland

Environmental Health and Energy Cooperation

Status of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

- HELCOM BSAP: Ms **Helle Pilsgaard**, Denmark, Chair of HELCOM;
- Status report from the BSPC HELCOM Observer: Ms **Christina Gestrin**, MP, Finland;
- Mr **Vladimir Lovtsov**, Head of Economic Policy of the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the North-West Federal District.

Sustainable Tourism in the BSR

- Sustainable Tourism: Prof. Dr. **Mathias Feige**, Managing Director, Deutsche Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Institut für Fremdenverkehr.

14.00 a.m. Lunch at the Mariinsky Palace

15.00 a.m. **Environmental Cooperation**

- Ms **Olga Rublevskaya**, State Unitary Enterprise "Saint-Petersburg Vodokanal";
- Disposal of chemical weapons in the Baltic Sea - a problem without a solution: Mr **Maxim Shingarkin**, Deputy of the State Duma, member of the Delegation to BSPC;
- The Cleanship Project: Mr **Sten Björk**, Project Manager, Port of Trelleborg, Sweden;
- Ms **Evdokia Bychkova**, Deputy of the State Duma, Head of the Regional Center on Environmental Policy and Culture.

Energy Efficiency and Green Growth

- Russia's state policy in the field energy conservation and energy efficiency: Mr **Yury Lipatov**, First deputy Chairman, Committee on Energy, State Duma, Russia;

- Green Growth and Business Opportunities in the Baltic Sea Region: Mr **Hans Brask**, Director, Baltic Development Forum;
- Nordic-Russian Green Growth Arena ,A Project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers: Ms **Elena Belova**, Russian programme coordinator and Secretary General of “Leontief Centre”, International Centre for Social and Economic Research, St Petersburg;
- The New Marine Fuels: Mr **Valery Golubev**, Vice-Chairman, GAZPROM Management Board;
- Mr **Igor Zaikin**, Head of industrial safety, environmental and engineering work Oil Company “LUKOIL”;
- Pilot Finance Initiative: Projects in Public-Private Partnership - Energy efficiency, innovation and modernization in the field of small and medium-sized businesses: Mr **Daniil Algulyan**, Elected Chairman of the Steering Committee of PFI CBSS, Director, Head of the KfW Banking Group and KfW-IPEKS Bank GmbH in the Russian Federation;
- Mid-way report from the BSPC Working Group on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency: Ms **Cecilie Tenfjord-Toftby**, Chairman of the Working Group.

Debate

- 17.00 p.m. 2nd Meeting of BSPC Standing Committee as Drafting Committee
(Mariinsky Palace, 1st floor; White Hall)
- 19.30 p.m. Reception hosted by Mr **Vyacheslav Makarov**, Speaker of Saint Petersburg Legislative Assembly.
Venue: Hotel Ambassador, 9th floor.

Tuesday 28th August

- 8.00 a.m. 3rd Meeting of BSPC Standing Committee as Drafting Committee
(Mariinsky Palace, 1st floor; White Hall)

9.00 a.m.

THIRD SESSION

Chair: Mr **Ryszard Gorecki**, Senate of the Parliament of Poland

Co-Chair: Mr **Mikael Holmberg**, Åland Islands

A Safe and Healthy Baltic Sea

- Marine safety and environmental protection at the port of Ust-Luga Mr **Vitaly Klyuev**, Deputy Director of State Policy for Maritime and River Transport, Ministry of Transport, Russia
- Status Report from the BSPC Rapporteurs on Integrated Maritime Policy: **Jochen Schulte** and **Roger Jansson**

Debate

FOURTH SESSION, first part**Health, Social Welfare and Economic Development****Health and Social Well-Being**

- The importance of Health and Social Well-Being for the Prosperity and Sustainable Economic Development of the Region: Ms **Eeva-Liisa Haapaniemi**, Consul, Social Affairs and Health, Consulate General of Finland, St Petersburg, representing the Chair country of NDPHS;
- Cooperation with the countries of the Baltic region in the fight against socially significant diseases: Ms **Natalia Dorshakova**, Professor, Petrozavodsk State University, Karelia;
- Ms **Irina Sokolova**, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Family, Women and Children, State Duma, Russia
- Health Care Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region: Mr **Raimonds Vejonis**, Vice President of the Baltic Assembly.

10.30 a.m.

FOURTH SESSION, second part

Chair: Ms **Tatiana Zakharenkova**, Parliament of the City of Saint-Petersburg;

Co-Chair: Mr **Torfinn Opheim**, Parliament of Norway, Nordic Council

Labour Market Issues

- Ms **Mariya Grinnik**, representative of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia in the North-West Federal District
- Youth Unemployment: Ms **Karen Roij**, Senior Adviser, Confederation of Danish Employers, Brussels Office
- Mr **Uwe Polkaehn**, Chairman of the regional section Schleswig-Holstein of the Confederation of German trade unions, Chairman of BASTUN (Baltic Sea Region Trade Union Network);
- Infrastructure and Logistics: Mr **Oddgeir Danielsen**, Director, Secretariat of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics
- Status report from the BSPC Rapporteur on Labor Market Issues: **Franz Thönnnes**, Germany

Trafficking in Human Beings

- Status report from the BSPC Rapporteurs on Trafficking in Human Beings: **Johan Linander**, Sweden

Debate

12.00 a.m. **CLOSING OF THE 21ST BSPC**

Chair: Ms **Valentina Pivnenko**, Chair of the BSPC, Head of the BSPC Delegation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Vice Chair: Ms **Laine Randjärv**, Vice Chair of the BSPC

- Administrative matters
- Adoption of The Conference Resolution
- Address by the incoming Chairman of the BSPC 2012-2013, Ms **Laine Randjärv**, Vice Speaker of the Riigikogu, the Estonian Parliament
- Presentation of Next Year's Host Country - **Estonia**

13.00 p.m. **Lunch at Mariinsky Palace**

15.00 p.m. *Boat excursion over rivers and canals of Saint Petersburg*



Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Secretariat
www.bspc.net

c/o Nordic Council
Ved Stranden 18
DK-1061 Copenhagen K.
Phone (+45) 33 96 04 00
www.norden.org.

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