

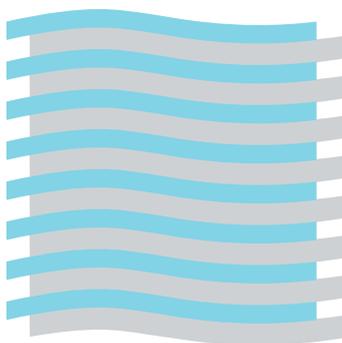
**Sustainable Innovation for a
Competitive Economy in the Region**

**22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary
Conference**

Sustainable Innovation for a Competitive Economy in the Region

22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

Pärnu, Estonia 25-27 August 2013



Sustainable Innovation for a Competitive Economy
in the Region
22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference
US 2013:433

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Print: Rosendahls – Schultz Grafisk

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Science, University of Latvia

Editing: Jan Widberg

Layout: Erling Lynder

Photos: Olev Mihkelmaa, Estonia

Copies: 250

Printed on environmentally-friendly paper

Printed in Denmark



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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 (BS SSC) 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



Laine Randjärv

Beautifully located on the southern shore of the Baltic Sea, Pärnu, the summer capital of Estonia, was the appropriate setting of the 22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference. I am deeply grateful to H.E. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia, and H.E. Ene Ergma, President of the *Riigikogu*, the Parliament of Estonia, for their opening addresses at the Conference. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the *Riigikogu* for providing generous resources and support to the 22nd BSPC. A flawless execution of a Conference this size and composition requires meticulous groundwork; my profound appreciation goes to Ene Rõngelep and her team at the International Department of the *Riigikogu* for their dedicated and skilful preparations of the Conference.

The 22nd BSPC gathered some 200 politicians, experts and friends of the Baltic Sea Region. The BSPC is thus the leading annual arena for political exchange and debate among parliamentarians from the entire Region. The Conference Resolution is the central vehicle for transmitting the collective opinions and recommendations of the parliamentarians to the governments of the Region and to the Council of the Baltic Sea States, BSPC's sister organization on the governmental side. The growing response and positive recognition of the Resolution by the governments and CBSS confirms that the governmental-parliamentary dialogue works well, delivers mutual

benefits, and brings democratic credibility to the cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

The Conference also provides rich opportunities to obtain and update knowledge of topical issues in the regional cooperation. Deepened and widened knowledge contributes to the political weight and relevance of the BSPC. The overarching theme for the 22nd BSPC was Innovation. I believe that an innovative climate and cutting-edge practical performance is a crucial factor for the competitiveness, economic development and social welfare of the Baltic Sea Region.

The Conference is also a congenial venue for social encounters and informal networking. I am convinced that the quality of international political cooperation to a great extent rests on the quality of inter-personal relations among those cooperating. Good, sincere and trustworthy inter-personal relations contribute to an open and permissive atmosphere in which members can both rejoice over joint accomplishments and also debate conflicting positions in a constructive manner. This is highly conducive to efficient and influential political cooperation.

I have had the privilege of chairing the BSPC in 2012-2013. It has been a great joy, and it has reaffirmed my conviction that international cooperation, in which all concerned parties can participate on an equal footing, is an indispensable condition for our ability to tackle the joint challenges facing our joint heritage, asset and future - the Baltic Sea. My heartfelt thanks go to my colleagues in the BSPC Standing committee for their commitment and inspirational contributions to our mission. I also want to thank Jan Widberg, Head of the BSPC Secretariat, for deftly operating the day-to-day machinery of BSPC. It is with great pleasure and confidence that I now hand over the baton to Ryszard Gorecki, Chairman of the BSPC in 2013-2014, and look forward to another year of progress for the parliamentary cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

*Laine Randjärv, Estonia
Chairperson of the BSPC 2012-2013*

Contents

Foreword	3
Opening of the Conference.....	9
First Session: Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.....	15
Second Session: Economic Growth, Innovation and Competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region “Vision 2050 - What Innovation does the Region Need to Become Sustainable?”.....	27
Third Session: Green Growth and Energy Efficiency	34
Fourth Session: A Creative Baltic Sea Region.....	46
Closing of the 22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference	52
Annexes:	
Conference Resolution	55
Programme	60
List of Participants	65





ir of the BSPC



Mrs. Laine Randjärv

Monday, 26 August

Opening of the Conference

Mrs. Laine Randjärv, Chairperson of the BSPC, welcomed the participants of the Conference to Pärnu. The BSPC is a unique and comprehensive political platform enabling all countries of the Baltic Sea Region to cooperate on equal footing and bringing about positive changes for the benefit of the Region and its inhabitants. The 22nd BSPC will mainly focus on innovation and competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region because innovation facilitates economic progress, as well as increases competitiveness and social welfare. Innovation and competitiveness can secure global position of the Region and develop its advantages.

H.E. Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia, underlined that the BSPC brings together many stakeholders from the entire Region. Regional cooperation is of utmost importance, especially when dealing with cross-border issues such as environment, employment, energy, demography, human and drug trafficking, as well as free movement of people, capital, services and products. The Baltic Sea countries share the Baltic Sea, and they all can be characterised by financial responsibility, balanced budgets with low deficits, broadly used information technologies, innovation, transparency in public decision making, as well as political and economic freedom.

The Baltic Sea Region has an enormous potential to become a leader in innovation, and it can begin with developing e-commerce and e-health projects. However, implementation of innovative projects aimed at fostering economic growth requires political will, supportive decisions, relevant educational policies, adequate funding and appropriate legislative framework. The Baltic Sea countries have to continue using their advantages to maintain their competitiveness and should not rest on the laurels. There is an urgent need for the Baltic Sea countries to take determined steps in two areas: fostering of mutual trade and development of infrastructure, including energy and transport connections. Underdeveloped transport connections with insufficient number of direct flights is a particularly worrying aspect.

H.E. Mrs. Ene Ergma, President of the Parliament of the Republic of Estonia, emphasised that the Baltic Sea is surrounded by successful and remarkably creative countries which are still learning to make joint efforts and use their capabilities to move Europe forward. The potential of the Baltic Sea regional cooperation is still



H.E. Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves



H.E. Mrs. Ene Ergma (right)

untapped. However, we have to remember that people expect from this cooperation something more than merely new ideas; they expect quick implementation of decisions.

Any development is based on innovation, sustainability and competitiveness, which are on the agenda of the 22nd BSPC. However, this list should be supplemented with another concept, namely, responsibility. Although responsible and moderate attitude is sometimes claimed to hold back the progress, lack of responsibility and moderation in finance and economy in the long run have led to serious economic and social problems in many European countries, as well as loss of confidence among people. A responsible approach to innovation, however, means intensive and diligent development of new ideas followed by quick implementation.







First Session: Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

Mrs. Laine Randjärv, Chairperson of the BSPC, noted that although the Baltic Sea Region has experienced a tough period of recession and austerity, and our citizens, enterprises and public institutions suffered badly, the Baltic Development Forum Report on 2013 once again ranks the Baltic Sea Region countries among the European leaders in terms of economic growth indicators. Innovation is a central driving force for the adaption to new industrial structures, market conditions and social transformations, and thus it is the right time for the BSPC to establish the new Working Group on Innovation in Social and Health Care.

The environment of the Baltic Sea remains a major pressing issue. The main challenge is to use the ecosystem in a manner that preserves its quality and ensures continuous regeneration. The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan is a road map for restoring good ecological status of the Baltic Sea by 2021. Although governments of all Baltic Sea countries have agreed to implement the Action Plan, actual measures are still lagging behind.

The involvement of NGOs in the institutionalised cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region is of utmost importance because people-to-people contacts are the backbone of political and socio-economic development. Therefore, relevant regulations and consistent financial resources should be put in place to ensure continuous work and international cooperation of NGOs and youth organisations.

Implementation of recommendations of the BSPC Working Group on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency, support to the Baltic Sea Labour Forum, fight against organised crime, as well as coordinated implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the Northern Dimension and the North-West Russia Socio-Economic Development Strategy will remain on the agenda of the BSPC for the coming years.

Mrs. Laine Randjärv welcomed the cooperation with the CBSS, encompassing close coordination of political priorities and practical measures of both organisations. The Russian presidency of the CBSS in 2012/2013 has made commendable efforts to stimulate sustainable economic development, modernisation and innovation in the Baltic Sea Region.

It is also important to implement the recommendations contained in the BSPC resolutions. The BSPC members implement these recommendations in different ways and by different means. A dialogue between governments and parliaments within the framework of Baltic Sea regional cooperation strengthens the overall democratic legitimacy. For example, responses by national governments of the Baltic Sea countries to the implementation of the recommendations by the BSPC have become increasingly timely, qualified and exhaustive.

Mr. Sergey Petrovich, Deputy Director of the 2nd European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and former Chairman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, reported on the implementation of the agenda of the Russian presidency of the CBSS for 2012/2013. The Russian presidency tried to continue implementing the CBSS reform in accordance with the decisions made in Riga (2008) and Vilnius (2010).

It focused on public-private partnership projects which add real value to the entire Region. The Pilot Financial Initiative was launched by signing the Memorandum of Understanding among two national banks, namely, German KfW and Russian Vnesheconombank, and the CBSS. Within the framework of this Initiative, EUR 175 million were allocated for innovation projects and SMEs in the North-West Russia. Mr. Sergey Petrovich expressed hope that other regional financial institutions such as the NEFCO and the NIB will also follow the lead.

The Partnership for Modernisation of the South East Baltic Area was launched and followed by the establishment of an innovative environmental and tourism cluster Lake Vystutis and a youth camp Baltic Artek. During the Russian presidency, in March 2013, a support mechanism was established enabling the CBSS to allocate a total of EUR 1 million in the form of seed capital and cofunding for projects with regional significance in the period from 2013 to 2015. Already at the end of May, it was decided to allocate funding to four projects (two of them are implemented within the framework of the SEBA Partnership).

Strengthening the involvement of civil society and developing non-governmental dimension in the Baltic Sea cooperation were among the priorities of the Russian presidency. The XI Baltic Sea NGO Forum held in April 2013 was devoted to tolerance and cultural diversity, and it brought together 300 people who discussed problems related with multicultural communities, youth policies, as well as fight against racism and xenophobia. The Forum has become a platform for civil society to discuss a wide range of regional cooper-



Mr. Sergey Petrovich

ation issues; however, there is a need to facilitate direct contacts between people by *inter alia* abolishing visa restrictions. Mr. Sergey Petrovich underlined the importance of close cooperation between the BSPC and the CBSS. The Russian presidency focused on the implementation of recommendations of the 21st BSPC Resolution.

Ms. Satu Mattila, Chairperson of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, presented the priorities of the Finnish presidency and events planned for 2013 and 2014, and informed that Finland will put an emphasis on interparliamentary cooperation among the Baltic Sea countries. Although interaction between the BSPC and the CBSS has long-standing traditions, it still has room for development. During the Finnish presidency, the CBSS, together with the Finnish delegation to the BSPC and BASREC, will organise a seminar on energy efficiency and green growth. It will be an effort to enhance interaction among different regional stakeholders and to improve coherence.

The theme of the Finnish presidency is a Clean, Safe and Smart Baltic Sea; therefore, Finland has defined the following priorities: first, promotion of cooperation in maritime policy by focusing on clean navigation and use of alternative fuels; second, civil security and enhanced cooperation between authorities, particularly regarding nuclear and radiation safety, as well as prevention of maritime accidents; third, fostering people-to-people contacts, strengthening civil society and promoting tripartite social dialogue in the Region. The Finnish presidency will attempt to achieve tangible results in



Ms. Satu Mattila

areas such as employment, education, human trafficking, protection of children, and in its activities it will follow three guiding principles: coherence, cooperation and continuity. Continuity is the key prerequisite for effective and sustainable cooperation; therefore, the Finnish presidency will be guided by the long-term priorities of the CBSS defined during the Riga Summit in 2008 and set forth in the Vilnius Declaration adopted in 2010. The presidency will review the long-term priorities and assess the progress in achieving the goals of the Vilnius Declaration.

In October 2013, Finland will assume the presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, which will be another opportunity to improve synergy among different regional councils, as well as between the Northern Dimension and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Furthermore, interaction with the CBSS observer states, intergovernmental networks and strategic partners will be enhanced. The highlight of the presidency will be the 10th Baltic Sea Summit to be held in Turku at the beginning of June 2014.

Ms. Darya Akhutina, Acting Chairperson of the Baltic Sea NGO Forum, reported on the activities of the Baltic Sea NGO Network and the Baltic Sea NGO Forum. In her report she emphasised that people-to-people contacts and activities of NGOs significantly facilitate stability, improve social climate, minimise risks of conflicts and prevent tensions, as well as lead to good neighbourly relations, mutual tolerance and trust. The Baltic Sea NGO Forum was established in 2001, and it is a unique platform for debate among NGOs, policy makers and academia on the Baltic Sea regional cooperation.



Ms. Darya Akhutina

The Baltic Sea NGO Forum has expanded into the Baltic Sea NGO Network formed by a large number of NGOs from the 11 Baltic Sea countries.

Ms. Darya Akhutina introduced the recommendations, proposals and conclusions of the XI Baltic Sea NGO Forum which took place on 16 - 17 April 2013 in St. Petersburg. First, the importance of providing general political and financial support to international activity of civil society organisations in the Baltic Sea Region because it is necessary to acknowledge the significance of regional cross-border cooperation among the NGOs. Second, the need to enhance participation of civil society organisations and to use their expertise in the decision-making process, including the planning and implementation of international programmes in the Baltic Sea Region. It could also be suggested to supplement the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014 - 2020 with a “human dimension” and NGO element. Third, the importance of having more joint activities in the framework of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and the Northern Dimension by clearly envisaging the involvement of NGOs. Fourth, the need to establish a mechanism enabling participation of Russia and Russian NGOs. The opportunities envisaged by instruments such as the Northern Dimension, the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme and the Strategy for Social and Economic Development of the North-West Federal Districts of the Russian Federation until 2020 should be considered. Fifth, the need to facilitate the existing visa regimes. It would be wise to expand the list of grounds for visa issuance by including cooperation among NGOs and cooperation among youths in order to enable issuance of visas on the grounds of direct invitations and without registration fee. In the future, a possibil-



Ms. Monika Stankiewicz

ity of having a visa-free regime for all the border areas in the Baltic Sea Region could be considered. Ms. Darya Akhutina invited members of the BSPC to the XII Baltic Sea NGO Forum to be held on 2 – 3 June 2014 in Turku.

Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of HELCOM, delivered a report on the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and thanked the BSPC for its contribution to the draft Ministerial Declaration. As of 3 October 2013, the ministerial meeting will be the major milestone of HELCOM in protecting the marine environment of the Baltic Sea. The main task of the ministerial meeting will be to evaluate the progress in implementation of the BSAP and to oversee the progress achieved by countries ensuring a healthy Baltic Sea. Depending on the progress, ministers and the EU Commissioner are expected to decide on additional measures needed for reduction of eutrophication and amount of hazardous substances, as well as improvement of maritime safety and biodiversity.

Eutrophication is the major environmental problem of the Baltic Sea; therefore, it has been put high on the agenda of the ministerial meeting. An analysis of the eutrophication status shows that there are only few healthy areas in the Baltic Sea; hence there is a need to reduce the content of phosphorus and nitrogen identified at the moment of adoption of the BSAP by 41% and 13% respectively. The ministerial meeting is expected to agree on a division of these reductions among the involved countries. A timely implementation of the BSAP will lead to a healthy Baltic Sea, as since the adoption of the BSAP, the level of nitrogen has decreased by 9 % and phosphorus by



Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher

10%. A remarkable amount of pollution of the Baltic Sea comes from other countries as well; therefore, the HELCOM ministerial meeting will consider the possibilities to involve other countries in protection of the Baltic Sea.

Ms. Monika Stankiewicz reported on the progress in the maritime sector. Sweden, Russia, Germany and Denmark have already ratified the Ballast Water Management Convention, and other HELCOM countries are on their way. It is also expected that the ministerial meeting will agree on a new initiative – The establishment of a Green Technology and Alternative Fuels Platform for Shipping. The BSPC is invited to support this new initiative as it will help to solve many environmental problems.

Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher, Member of the European Parliament, addressed the development of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Northern Dimension. At the end of February 2013, the revised Action Plan of the Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was adopted. The revised Action Plan has three objectives: to save the Baltic Sea; to connect the Baltic Sea Region; and to increase prosperity. The revised Action Plan focuses on two main challenges, namely, environment and economy. Now is the right time to start actual implementation of the Action Plan. With its Conclusions of December 2012 the European Council called for a prompt implementation of the revised Action Plan which gave a strong political impulse for the Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Environmental issues are and will remain high on the agenda of the Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Northern Dimension.

Cooperation with Russia is crucial in order to effectively address regional challenges. Recently the Strategy for Social and Economic Development of the North-West Federal Districts of the Russian Federation until 2020 was presented; therefore, it has to be assessed how both strategies can facilitate the development of the Region. It is also necessary to define the areas requiring interaction and implementation of joint projects.

The Northern Dimension remains the key instrument for fostering prosperity, competitiveness and wellbeing. The European Parliament is looking forward to the upcoming Parliamentary Forum of the Northern Dimension scheduled to be held in November 2013 in Russia. There is a need for synergy among different regional strategies in order to avoid overlapping and ensure tangible results. Successful implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Northern Dimension depends on the political commitment, allocation of adequate funding and efficient awareness raising.

Mr. Lars Kascha, Project Manager of the Baltic Sea Youth Forum, outlined the challenges for youth cooperation in the Region. The Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs in Kiel was working under the Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein, and it was the executive body of the CBSS Expert Group on Youth Affairs which was terminated in January 2013. Thanks to the regional administrations of the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, the Secretariat could continue working. During negotiations with different regional stakeholders it was identified that there is a lack of a coordinating body which could facilitate the work of different organisations and implementation of youth projects around the Baltic Sea, as well as promote active youth participation. Currently, there are several bodies and projects focusing on youth cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region; however, they operate independently and therefore their functions overlap and involvement of youth in political processes turns out to be ineffective.

Therefore it was planned that the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs in Kiel could be a permanent secretariat of the Baltic Sea Youth Forum (BSYF). The goal of the BSYF is to unite different youth organisations in order to learn about their opinions and concerns, and to increase their influence. The BSYF would work with different regional and national youth organisations of the Baltic Sea Region such as youth councils, student councils, political party affiliated youth organisations, as well as other youth organisations orientated towards international cooperation. As of 2014, the BSYF could be held concurrently with the Baltic Sea NGO Forum. The Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs in Kiel has sufficient funding to continue



Mrs. Olena Netetska

its work until the end of 2013; thereafter, a solution has to be found in order to keep the BSYF working.

Comments

Mrs. Olena Netetska, Vice-President of PABSEC and Head of the Ukrainian delegation to PABSEC, indicated that economy, environmental, social, political, humanitarian and technological issues are also high on the agenda of PABSEC. During the last few years, the Black Sea countries have begun cooperating in new areas, as well as established new cooperation forums, for example the Black Sea Economic Forum and the Black Sea Tourism Forum. There is a wide range of possible joint activities of the BSPC and PABSEC, for example in the field of medical tourism. Mrs. Olena Netetska informed that the 44th General Assembly of PABSEC decided to grant the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference observer status. Representatives of the BSPC are invited to the 45th General Assembly of PABSEC to be held in December 2013 in Tbilisi.

Mr. Benny Engelbrecht, Member of the Parliament of Denmark, underlined the importance of the Baltic Sea parliamentary cooperation. The Danish delegation is against any kind of discrimination on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation or religion; and therefore it welcomes initiative of some countries to introduce rules ensuring freedom of expression for LGBT people. This way the Baltic Sea Region will serve as an example for other Regions in the field of respect of human rights.



Ms. Sylvia Bretschneider

Ms. Sylvia Bretschneider, President of the Landtag of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, underlined that the BSAP of HELCOM has had positive impact on the environmental status of the Baltic Sea but there is still a long way to a healthy Baltic Sea. The BSPC and HELCOM will work together to implement ambitious goals in protecting the maritime environment. The BSPC HELCOM Observers have submitted proposals to the HELCOM ministerial meeting regarding integrated maritime policy, energy and environmental protection.

Ms. Christina Gestrin, member of the Parliament of Finland, underlined that the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is important for the entire Region because a large part of the Strategy focuses on environmental protection and safeguarding of environment. The competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region is closely connected with its environmental status, and the environment of the Baltic Sea has a direct impact on public health and wellbeing.

Mr. Vatanyar Yagya, Advisor to the Legislative Assembly of the City of St. Petersburg, proposed including education, science and research on the agenda of parliamentary cooperation because they are the foundation for the development of innovation. The BSPC should include the culture and tolerance in the parliamentary agenda as well. Tangible results have been achieved in ensuring a position of the Russian Federation in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Several years ago the Russian parliamentarians were questioning the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. A question on the compatibility of different strategies, such as the Strategy for Social and Economic Development of the North-West Federal Dis-

tricts of the Russian Federation, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the Barents Strategy and the Northern Dimension should be raised.

Mr. Axel Jansson, Member of the Parliament of the Åland Islands, raised a question on the message he could convey to the people of Åland Islands regarding the benefit of participation of parliamentarians or about benefits of the BSPC in the everyday life of ordinary people. The BSPC recommendations have to be more result-oriented and concrete. The BSPC has to focus on finding solutions to problems and challenges. It is also of particular importance to ensure the follow-up to the adopted decisions. Mr. Axel Jansson suggested establishing a BSPC prize awarded for significant regional achievements. For example, the BSPC Working Group on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency, which has completed its functions, could award the BSPC prize to the best performer in the field of green growth. This would also be one of the ways to ensure publicity of the Baltic Sea parliamentary cooperation.

Mr. Franz Thönnnes, Member of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, welcomed the approach of continuity in drafting the CBSS presidency programmes and invited the Finnish presidency to organise the youth forum before the annual conference. He indicated that the planned Baltic Sea Labour Forum annual Round Table will bring together employers, trade unions, management and other stakeholders and will serve as a platform for joint discussion on labour market. There is a need to continue visa liberalisation as it will facilitate people-to-people contacts in the Region.



Mr. Franz Thönnnes



Second Session: Economic Growth, Innovation and Competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region “Vision 2050 – What Innovation does the Region Need to Become Sustainable?”

Prof. Erik Terk, Director of the Estonian Institute for Future Studies, focused on the impact of changing geo-economic environment on the development of innovation, sustainability and green energy. There are different forecasts for long-term economic development. People dealing with future studies believe that global growth in the next decades will not be driven by Europe. The world is changing, and if Europe is willing to continue its economic and social development it has to face current changes in the global arena. The Baltic Sea countries have to think seriously about the structure of their economies, namely, industries, proportion of high-tech production, developing services and geographical pattern of their economic ties. Economic cooperation among the Baltic Sea countries and with countries to the East, for example Kazakhstan, China and Russia, should be considered in more detail. Countries of the Baltic Sea Region, especially Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Norway, are transit countries, and global geoeconomic changes will change the existing transportation networks and logistic routes.

It is still unknown how the new Arctic transportation route with container cargo vessels entering Europe from Eastern Asia through the north will affect Norway, Finland and Estonia. In this context, the Baltic Sea Region countries will become potential transit areas, as well as platforms for broader cooperation. The economy will be completely different in the future; therefore, infrastructure in growth areas has to be modernised. Cooperation patterns between economies and companies of the new EU member states, namely, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, and economies and companies of Nordic countries and Germany have to be revised by the entire Baltic Sea Region. To increase competitiveness and growth of the Baltic Sea Region there is a need to ensure balance in this cooperation.

Mr. Heikki Uusi-Honko, Administrative Manager of Nordic Innovation, reported on the initiatives and regional synergy of the Nordic Innovation, which is an agency located in Oslo and working under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The Nordic



Innovation runs projects and programmes stimulating innovation and improving conditions for Nordic markets and exports. The Nordic Innovation assists policy-makers, policy-implementers, businesses and research organisations from both top-down and bottom-up. In 2013, the Nordic Innovation started ten thematic initiatives.

Mr. Heikki Uusi-Honko underlined the importance of the Nordic Built initiative. This initiative is aimed at the building industry and focuses on harmonisation of standards and promotion of innovation in industry. Many Nordic construction companies have signed the Nordic Built Charter which outlines principles for future construction environment and thus voluntarily agreed to ensure sustainable development in their future activities.

The Nordic High Growth Entrepreneurship Initiative is aimed at facilitating national activities in increasing capacities of innovative companies and achieving visibility and leverage on international arena, as well as promoting cooperation among the innovative companies on local and regional level thus increasing the possibility of Nordic companies to penetrate larger markets. Regional cooperation in the field of innovation should not duplicate measures taken on the local level; it should add value to capabilities, joint branding and cost sharing.

Dr. Silvia Stiller, Research Fellow at the Hamburg Institute of International Economics, presented views on the future potential and challenges of the Baltic Sea area of innovation. The countries of the

Baltic Sea Region which are EU member states represent one-third of the EU population and one-third of the EU's GDP which clearly verifies the potential of the Region. There are four trends in the future development of the Baltic Sea Region: first, continuous integration and convergence of per capita income; second, intensified trade and labour market networking; third, demographic change; and fourth, orientation towards services and knowledge industries. Innovation is particularly essential for the two latter trends.

There are many substantial differences throughout the Region. First, there are still distinct disparities in per capita income. Second, innovation potential of countries differs. Third, there are differences in private and public investments in research and development; education distinctly differs between Baltic Sea Region countries. The Baltic States and Poland have to catch up with the Nordic countries and Germany in GDP per capita, economic structure and knowledge intensive industries, as well as in the share of employment in knowledge-intensive industries. Dr. Silvia Stiller underlined that these processes have to be fostered. The population in the Baltic Sea Region countries is well educated and innovation and introduction of novelties in economy is closely linked with the general education level of society. Another prerequisite for development of innovation is the amount of investments. Sweden and Finland invest more than 3% of their GDP in research and development, while Poland and Latvia invest only 0.7%. The Baltic Sea Region is characterised by substantial structural and developmental differences in innovation potential. Therefore, there is a need to foster cross-border integration and cluster building, to develop infrastructure and promote free movement of labour.

Dr. Andris Andriusaitis, Programme Manager of the BONUS, reported on the role of science in ensuring a better future for the Baltic Sea Region. The largest oil spill in the Baltic Sea was witnessed in 1981 when 16,000 tonnes of crude oil leaked from the *Globe Asimi* tanker into the sea. Of course, this is a small-scale accident in comparison to other oil spills around the world, for example, the spill of 63,000 tonnes of oil from the tanker *Prestige*; however, small oil spills occur in the Baltic Sea from time to time. When dealing with these oil spills, we realise that there is still a lot to be done to prevent them and to eliminate their consequences.

Dr. Andris Andriusaitis informed that BONUS is a research and development programme of the Baltic Sea Region with a EUR 100 million budget for 2011 - 2017. The mission of BONUS is to develop the Baltic Sea research system into a durable, cooperative, interdisciplinary and multinational system. BONUS is focusing on five strategic objectives consisting of 19 specific themes, such as integrated coastal zone



management, ecotechnologies, ICT services, maritime risks, sustainable aquaculture, and innovative measurement techniques. He advocated the ecoinnovation concept which refers to something more than maritime waste management and reduction of waste in water, air and soil. The ecoinnovation is about recycling and reuse of resources, as well as finding new resources and materials. It is particularly topical concept because soon we will run out of resources such as aluminium, iron, nickel, silver, gold and indium.

Mr. Jari Kaivo-Oja, Research Director of the Finland's Futures Research Centre, delivered a report on the changing social structure and systemic social innovation of the Baltic Sea Region. Globalisation demands changing the welfare state policy of the Nordic countries and other Baltic Sea countries. Furthermore, we can expect significant changes in the demographic, economic and social structure of the Baltic Sea countries. If the Region is interested in developing strong partnerships in innovation policy, it has to enhance cooperation among academia, industries, governments, as well as consumers and end-users. A challenge for the Baltic Sea regional cooperation is to ensure democracy in innovation, namely to find out the opinion of taxpayers about innovation policies. Networks of universities should also be taken on board of the Baltic Sea regional cooperation.

Mr. Jari Kaivo-Oja listed the key trends affecting the Baltic Sea Region: globalisation; demographic change; maturing environmental concerns; rise of complex societies; web-based empowerment of people; digitalisation; internet; expansion of resource-efficient technologies; and rise of bio-economy. In comparison with other Regions, the Baltic Sea Region has developed a comprehensive cooperation network for sustainable development, green growth, research and innovation. Mr. Jari Kaivo-Oja noted that the initiated social media projects - the Eco-Innovation Observatory - could be beneficial for the Baltic Sea Region because it could raise the awareness of citizens, governments and all other stakeholders about the work of the countries and cooperation networks in fields such as innovation, research, green growth, etc.

Mr. Björn Söderberg, Swedish partner to Accelerace Life, and **Ms. Külle Tärnov**, Estonian partner to Accelerace Life, delivered a report on innovation in health care. **Mr. Björn Söderberg** thanked the Estonian government and the Tallinn Science Park Technopol for their contribution to the e-health projects. He explained that e-health is a new sector which demands new solutions and thus requires political guidance to academia, entrepreneurs and society. Governments of the Baltic Sea countries face several challenges in the health sector: increasing health-care costs; ageing population; shortage of health-care specialists; and a burden of chronic diseases. There are

also challenges in the health-care sector which are faced by entrepreneurs: access to health-care related data; new business models; investment capital; and reimbursement system.

Mr. Björn Söderberg presented ten steps that would lead to development of e-health: 1) wider access to capital for new businesses; 2) broader use of IT in health-care sector; 3) development of medical research; 4) improved health-care quality; 5) prevention of medical errors; 6) provision of training and mentoring to entrepreneurs; 7) promoting national innovation; 8) stimulation of entrepreneurship through increased access to government data; 9) protection of small business from unfair business practices; and 10) promotion of innovation in health-care technology.

Ms. Külle Tärnov introduced the Baltic-Scandinavian elite accelerator for health science start-ups. Business incubators and accelerators help entrepreneurs to start their businesses. Accelerace Life brings together five partners – Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Latvia and Denmark which identify the best start-ups in their respective countries. After identification of the best start-ups, the joint selection committee determines the ten best start-ups which are involved in a 6+6 month programme. Undoubtedly, it is difficult to determine the ten best start-ups by assessing only the initial phase of their activity and possible future development. The major challenge is to strengthen capacity of research results to be commercialised, marketed and also implemented.



Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen

Comments

Mr. Wille Valve, Member of the Parliament of the Åland Islands, expressed his view that land-based fish farming is an innovation needed for the Region to become sustainable. He welcomed the amendments proposed by the European Parliament to the 22nd BSPC Resolution regarding marine technologies such as alternative propulsion systems and regarding emerging maritime sectors such as blue biotechnologies, aquaculture and offshore energy.

Mrs. Christel Happach – Kasan, Member of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, agreed that innovation is the key driving-force of economic growth. Innovation is needed in many sectors such as communication, health care and environmental protection. Pollution of the Baltic Sea is a serious problem, and innovation can help in finding substitutes to substances causing pollution.

Mr. Franz Thönnies, Member of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, agreed with Dr. Silvia Stiller that education is an important prerequisite for development of innovation. Another aspect that has to be considered is ensuring accessibility of innovation to rural and urban inhabitants of any age.

Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen, Member of the Parliament of Finland, underlined that eutrophication is a serious challenge which is caused by high phosphorus load. It is well-known that in few decades depletion of phosphorus will challenge global food production, so there is a need to find innovative ways to reuse phosphorus.

Third Session: Green Growth and Energy Efficiency

Ms. Cecilie Tenfjord-Toftby, Chairperson of the BSPC Working Group on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency, presented the final report and political recommendations of the Working Group. Green growth will boost economic performance, create new business opportunities, increase security in supply of essential resources and support the efforts to curb dangerous climate change.

The BSPC Working Group on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency was established by the 20th BSPC in Helsinki in August 2011. The overarching goal of the Working Group has been to elaborate political positions and recommendations in the field of green growth and energy efficiency and to draw political attention to these issues. The political recommendations of the Working Group call on the governments of the Baltic Sea Region and, where appropriate, the parliaments of the Baltic Sea Region to take concrete action. First, to further develop and implement financing schemes that support green growth and energy efficiency at national and regional level, and to develop legislation that facilitates innovative financing of energy efficiency measures. Second, to ensure support that is necessary for promoting development of new green technologies by keeping in mind that the support should not favour particular technologies or crowd out private investment. Third, to attempt to develop and employ green public procurement, as well as to adopt uniform criteria to be used in the entire Region for expansion of markets and innovation. Fourth, to cooperate in developing uniform regional technical standards and building codes in order to prompt economies of scale to opt for green technologies, including a uniform green labelling scheme. Fifth, to support efforts of the EU aimed at improving the CO₂ emission trading market and internalisation of external environmental costs. Furthermore, support to unsustainable production should be reduced. Sixth, to support efforts aimed at ensuring interconnections among national electricity grids and thus attracting investments in production of renewable energy and contributing to energy supply security. Seventh, to facilitate development and investment in infrastructure for delivering ecologically friendly marine fuels such as LNG and CNG. Eighth, to raise awareness among households and enterprises about environmental consequences of the existing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, as well as the mid-term and long-term social and economic gains of green growth and increased energy efficiency.



Ms. Cecilie Tenfjord-Toftby

These political recommendations are reflected in four core proposals submitted for the 22nd BSPC Resolution. First, awareness of households and enterprises is a prerequisite for broad support to green growth and energy efficiency; therefore, governments of the Baltic Sea countries, together with local authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders, need to raise public awareness about the positive impact of green growth and energy efficiency on wellbeing in the Region. Second, uniform technical standards and building codes will open the market for new products and innovative solutions that support green growth. Through green public procurement (GPP), governments can release the business potential in new and innovative solutions. Therefore, governments of the Baltic Sea countries should cooperate in developing uniform technical standards and building codes, as well as uniform criteria for GPP. Third, interconnection of national electricity grids will facilitate investments in renewable energy production and contribute to energy supply security. The governments of the Baltic Sea countries should support efforts of national grid operators to improve electricity connections across borders. And fourth, investment in infrastructure, businesses and buildings is needed in order to exploit the potential of energy efficiency and green growth at national, regional and local level. The governments of the Baltic Sea countries should continue developing and implementing financing schemes that support green growth and energy efficiency, and to develop legislation that facilitates innovative financing of energy efficiency measures.

It is obvious that there is a growing awareness of the need to shift to a more sustainable use of ecosystem and to have a long-term and ecology-based perspective on social development and economic growth. There is also a growing interest in measures aimed at promoting green growth and energy efficiency.

Ms. Christina Gestrin, Member of the Parliament of Finland, informed that in March 2014 the Finnish presidency of the CBSS, in cooperation with the BSPC, will organise a follow-up conference on green growth in Helsinki.

Mr. Timo Mäkelä, Director of the Directorate on Global & Regional Challenges and LIFE Programme of the Environment



Directorate General of the European Commission, shared the vision on the role of green economy in growth, job creation and environment. The world faces three general challenges. First, consumption and extraction of fossil fuels has increased eight times. By 2050, global demand for food might also increase by 70%. It is reality that 60% of world's major ecosystems are already degraded or used unsustainably. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development has concluded that by 2050 resource efficiency has to be increased 4 to 10 times.

Another challenge is increase in competition for resources, including raw materials. In the 1990s, prices for food, raw materials, energy, metal and minerals have dramatically decreased; despite





the financial crisis, prices for these resources are increasing again. The third challenge faced by the EU is its heavy dependence on external resources. Growth and job creation, increased competitiveness and security of supplies, as well as innovation and fiscal consolidation are short-term benefits of resource efficiency, while long-term benefits are economic and environmental resilience, improved quality of life, human health and global stability. Therefore, energy and resource efficiency are the main highlights of the Europe 2020 strategy. When transforming their economies, the EU member states need to focus on four main issues: first, quality of products, efficient production and change in consumption patterns; second, turning of waste into resources; third, facilitation of innovation; and fourth, facilitation of efficient and innovative approaches to the economy. Challenges are serious and countries have only two options - either to find another two or three planets to live on, or to transform and adapt their economies.

Dr. Ing. Sonja Deppish, Head of the Research Group Plan B:altic at the University of Hamburg, focused on climate change and spatial

development in urban Regions of the Baltic Sea coastline. Climate change affects urban complexes in the Baltic Sea basin but this impact is different for urban complexes in the northern and southern part of the catchment area, as well as for those urban complexes directly on the Baltic Sea coastline or on the mainland. Every urban complex is a unique mixture of infrastructure, services, inhabitants, natural resources, green spaces, constructions, location, as well as economic and societal factors. Therefore, it is difficult to generalise the extent of climate change impact from single-case studies.

Three key messages have to be delivered to the decision makers. First, climate change will affect technical infrastructure and buildings. Sea level rise is expected to be higher in the southern part of the Baltic Sea, thus southern coastal cities will be more affected. Second, the vulnerability of urban population differs among social groups. Climate change can have an immediate and lasting impact on people with low resistance to such stressors as extreme weather and changes in quality of air. Third, as climate change will have a manifold impact on socio-economic structures around the Baltic Sea, cities have to begin adapting. Some cities, for example, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Stockholm and Rostock are already adapting. Climate change is a significant challenge, and we can feel its impact already now. Because of the long-term character of climate change, practitioners and politicians do not feel immediate need to act. Climate change also affects ecological and societal developments, and it is hard to conduct an integrated analysis due to sectoral organisation of different administrations; therefore, social and ecological aspects so far have been neglected.

Dr. Florian Haug, Chief Executive Officer of the CleanGas International Ltd. Ab, presented the company's approach to ensuring sustainable development. The CleanGas is privately owned company established in 2009 with the aim to develop sulphur reducing technologies for fuels used by ships and to develop new approaches to waste management and disposal. Between 2009 and 2012, the CleanGas conducted studies and simulations aimed at developing and implementing novel ideas and approaches in engineering and waste management.

The first projects were devoted to gasification of ship fuels, as well as advanced steam and power generation on ships. The CleanGas made also first TGA simulations for gasification and pyrolysis. Between 2010 and 2013, the CleanGas began providing consultations on energy optimisation and emission reduction, for example, reduction of emissions by a plastic moulding facility, optimisation of energy recovery in a biogas plant, as well as audit and optimisation of a pyrolysis plant.

Ms. Aire Olesk, former Estonian trainee at the European Space Agency and representative of the Tartu University and Tartu Observatory, introduced the innovative use of space technologies in the energy and environment sector, as well as environmental monitoring, meteorology, agriculture and forestry. A changing Earth drives innovation in space technologies. Not only science but also politics, economy and people benefit from satellite data. Space technologies have global coverage, rapid measurement capability, and they ensure continuity. The space technologies and their applications are used in the following: Earth observation (weather forecasting, environmental monitoring and mapping); satellite navigation (navigation, search and rescue, precision farming); telecommunications (television, internet, radio); and nanosats (miniature satellites used in space research, for example, ESTCube-1). Global coverage, up-to-date information, ability to see through clouds and at night, as well as rapid response to disasters, are only some of the benefits of space-based platforms.

Space technologies can be used also in the energy sector, for example by assessing mine subsidence in underground mines, measuring geological stability of oil and gas fields, as well as monitoring pipelines and buildings constructed in large urban areas. Earth observation satellites also produce so-called sunshine maps used in the siting of solar power plants and benchmarking their efficiency. It is possible to predict hydro energy production outputs, wind speed and storms etc. Space technologies can be used in meteorology, for example by providing accurate weather forecasts and predicting long-term global climate change (volcanic eruptions, ash clouds, hurricanes and dust storms).

In agriculture, space technologies can be used for ensuring food security and in precision farming; granting of EU subsidies for farmers (detection of grassland cutting, conservation of landscapes and protection of biodiversity); vegetation classification and monitoring (fire damage mapping, identification of growth stages); determination of soil fertility (moisture content in soil, erosion). In forestry, space technologies can be used in making estimates of timber value, validation of reforestation, selective logging, thinning and clear-cut detection.

Mr. Jörg Neubauer, Project Manager of the Swedish Energy Agency, reported on the results of a BASREC project which was completed in 2012. The project was aimed at determining the potential of offshore wind farm construction in the Baltic Sea Region and identifying strategic actions that will maximise its potential. In developing offshore wind farms it is necessary to look at the following factors: first, resource potential, for example, wind



resources, distance from shore, water depth; second, political ambitions defined in national and regional action plans; and third, the actual situation, for example, taxes and support mechanisms.

Offshore wind resources in the Baltic Sea Region are huge enough to reach targets set forth in national and regional energy actions plans. It is necessary to define a common long-term strategy and action plan for offshore wind farm development, as well as detailed environmental and social screening of potentially attractive areas and sites. In this regard there is also a need to set up a Baltic Sea regional policy framework that harmonises rules and legislation, as well as establishes uniform or similar financial incentive schemes to be used in all countries.

Ms. Karin Nygård Skalman, Programme Director of the VINNOVA, shared the vision on the role of innovation in ensuring good ecological status of the Baltic Sea Region. The key question is how

to turn challenges of the Region into opportunities. The BSR Stars programme is a pioneer of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region aimed at strengthening competitiveness and economic growth in the Baltic Sea Region. It involves 63 partners from academia, business clusters, SME-networks, etc. The Clean Water project implemented in the framework of the StarDust project of the BSR Stars aims to create the Baltic Sea Region Clean Water Cluster which would be a cooperation platform for different clusters and the so-called triple helix of the Region. The Clean Water project is led by Lahti Science and Business Park in cooperation with the Institute of Oceanology, the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Kauhavä University of Technology and the Sustainable Sweden South-east AB. Smart specialisation is a smart combination of competencies in different Regions. The aim is to create globally recognised innovation hubs and use the excellence of neighbouring countries.

Comments

Mr. Dan Anders Sundman, Member of the Parliament of the Åland Islands, expressed gratitude to the Working Group on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency. The recommendations of the Working Group suggest raising public awareness about green energy and energy efficiency, and if implemented, they will change people's attitude and the market demand. It is essential for consumers to be aware of realities in the energy market as well as green energy benefits.

Mrs. Anita Brodén, Member of the Parliament of Sweden, thanked the Working Group for the report on green growth and energy efficiency. The importance of ecoinnovation, long-term solutions in energy market and green energy should not be underestimated by the Baltic Sea parliamentarians. Mrs. Anita Brodén highlighted some elements which should be included in the conference resolution: first, there is a need to increase waste water purification capacity; second, the Baltic Sea countries should develop their logistics and infrastructure (for example, ensure access to LNG and electricity at the Baltic Sea ports); third, there is a need to coordinate local efforts in developing smart grids with agreements made on a broader European scale; and fourth, the Baltic Sea countries need to take into account the 5th Assessment Report of the IPCC.

Mr. Tony Asumaa, member of the parliament of the Åland Islands, expressed satisfaction with the results achieved by the Working Group, and indicated that the report has provided a way



Mr. Ryszard Górecki

for new solutions. Green economy will create new jobs and ensure economic growth of the Region; therefore, all politicians have to distribute this report in their parliaments. We already have the resources needed for green energy projects and politicians have to promote green energy and eliminate obstacles for implementing green energy projects. There is a need for public-private partnerships in the field of green energy and energy efficiency.

Mr. Ryszard Górecki, Member of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, informed that the University of Olsztyn has launched a Green University project which entails establishment of a smart grid system, heat insulation and modernisation of buildings, eco-transport, construction of zero-energy buildings, as well as appropriate education and training to youths. This pilot project could serve as an example for other cities, business, etc.





Tuesday, 27 August

Fourth Session: A Creative Baltic Sea Region – Economic and Social Conditions for Creative Entrepreneurship

Ms. Deborah Dawton, President of the Bureau of European Design Associations, presented policy recommendations elaborated by the European Design Leadership Board. A group of 15 experts representing large industries, SMEs, national and regional design and innovation agencies, and academia were assigned to contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the pursuit of a better quality of life for all European citizens. In September 2012, the recommendations were presented at the European Design and Innovation Summit in Helsinki. The Leadership Board drafted 21 policy recommendations for strategic design: differentiation of European design on the global stage; positioning of design within European innovation system; design for innovative and competitive enterprises aiming to strengthen the design excellence that already exist within the large design-led companies; design for an innovative public sector; positioning design research in the 21st century because it is a tool for improvement of design innovation capacity; and design competencies in the 21st century. Cooperation among design sector, companies and public sector should be developed to ensure better services. Design should be embedded in innovation programmes, because it is a tool which will increase prosperity in Europe.

Prof. Dr. Peter A. Bruck, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the UN World Summit on Information Society, introduced the idea of the World Summit Award which is aimed at facilitating innovative solutions, providing smart content and thus contributing to knowledge society. The idea of the Award was to establish ties among people from different countries. The Award is focusing on the use of internet and devices for exchange in high-quality content. The goal of the Award is to address the digital devices not in terms of access but content, and not in terms of costs but usage. For example, the e-government system established in Estonia is an example of how to reduce the bureaucratic burden for businesses. In 2013, 461 national nominees have been applied for the World Summit Award; the meeting of the jury will be held in Tallinn in a couple of days. 40 winners of the World Summit Award will be invited to present their projects at the Global Congress held in October 2013 in Sri Lanka.



Mr. Jochen Schulte

Mr. Priit Salumaa, Cofounder of the Garage 48 Foundation, shared his views on creative entrepreneurship. In creative entrepreneurship there is a need for experts who are able to create the product, designers which make the product appealing to clients, experts who sell the product, and experts who supervise the entire process. In 2010, members of the Estonian Start-up Leaders Club discussed the need to organise a hackathon type of event - Garage 48. A hackathon is an event which gathers good hackers (people who can create something with software or hardware). A hackathon weekend was arranged with the idea to launch a business with zero budget within 48 hours. The overarching goal of Garage 48 was to teach that to launch a business there is a need for a good team. This project brought together experts who could be involved in creative entrepreneurship.

Mr. Mikael Sjövall, Communications Manager of the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), focused on two key concepts - green growth and innovation. In order to improve the ecological status of the Baltic Sea, there is a need to think outside the box. The NEFCO is administrating EUR 549 million, and it is the only international financial institution in the world specialising only in



Mr. Roger Jansson



environmental projects. The Baltic Sea Action Plan Fund, which was initially funded by the Swedish and Finnish governments, is currently administrated by NEFCO. The aim of this Fund is to help to restore ecological status of the Baltic Sea by using innovative approaches in fight against pollution. Especially in the maritime sector, there is a huge potential for reduction of emissions. Pollution should be regarded as an opportunity, namely, pollution should be regarded as business (production of biogas from manure). The major question for politicians is how to wisely use the taxpayers' money on reducing eutrophication, restoring ecological status of the Baltic Sea, reducing discharges of nutrients, etc. In order to minimise pollution in the Baltic Sea there is a need for political commitment of decision makers, adequate funding and feasibility studies.

Reports from the BSPC Rapporteurs

The BSCP Rapporteurs **Mr. Jochen Schulte** and **Mr. Roger Jansson** informed about the developments in Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP). **Mr. Jochen Schulte** indicated that since the last BSCP held in St. Petersburg, several significant events have taken place, and several important legislative acts on the EU level have been adopted having direct and indirect impact on all BSCP member states. On 12 April 2013, a conference on competitiveness of maritime industry in the Baltic Sea Region was held in Schwerin. This conference focused on gathering ideas on ship building, ports and offshore wind industry aimed at ensuring sustainable prosperity of the Region. The participants of the conference agreed that sustainable marine technologies, alternative propulsion systems, as well as technologies ensuring efficiency increase, reduction of emission and safety are important for the development of the Region.

Regarding offshore wind energy, it was concluded that this sector experiences steady growth; however, political uncertainties could hamper these recent positive developments. The European Commission has stressed academic knowledge could be turned into marketable products by attracting funds from such programmes as the Horizon 2020 or funding programmes for non-EU member states available in the framework of the EU neighbourhood policy. The 11th Southern Baltic Sea Parliamentary Forum held at the beginning of June 2013 adopted several recommendations concerning the IMP, including satisfaction with the LeaderSHIP 2020 strategy, need for economic incentives, need for uniform logistics technologies and infrastructure on land, as well as need to reduce waiting times in ports. Mr. Jochen Schulte also informed about the amendments introduced into the Directive 1999/32/EC relating to

a reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels. On 22 May 2012, the Council and the European Parliament agreed on the need to adapt the EU legislation to revised and tighter IMO regulations on reduction of sulphur limits in marine fuels from 2015.

Mr. Roger Jansson presented an overview of the progress achieved during the last year. LNG is a fuel option only for new vessels. In comparison to other fuels, LNG seems to be the best option; however, it requires construction of a LNG bunker infrastructure in the ports of the Baltic Sea Region. Therefore, despite the possible increase of 30% in costs, marine diesel with low sulphur content is currently the only viable option. Investments in scrubbers is an option; however, that would decrease cargo capacity of vessels. There is a need to invest in new types of fuels. Energy consumption of ships can also be lowered by uniform logistics technologies and infrastructure on land, which would reduce the idle time in ports and allow ships to reduce their speed at sea.

It needs to be evaluated whether economic incentives for fleet modernisation involving purchase of new vessels and expansion will benefit the maritime economy. Finland has established a state aid system for investments in existing fleet in order to meet the requirements of the sulphur directive. In Germany, existing programs can be used for promotion of pilot projects in adjusting the existing vessels. In order to maintain the competitiveness of the sea transport in the Baltic Sea area, the governments and international organisations have to focus on maritime sector and ensure competitive conditions for its functioning. Only synergy among diverse maritime economic activities will result in increased growth and more jobs.

Mr. Johan Linander, BSPC Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings (THB), presented a final report which emphasised that THB should be regarded as human slavery. Despite the fact that most countries have begun fight against THB, it seems that the results are still distant and that there is a need for harder and smarter approach. The final report of the BSPC Working Group on THB contained a number of recommendations, and their implementation could be crucial in the fight against THB. The Rapporteur strongly called on every government to ensure implementation of these recommendations.

In addition to the earlier recommendations, the Rapporteur added ten other recommendations for strengthening the fight against THB. Each country needs an independent national Rapporteur on



Mr. Johan Linander

THB who should not work under the police or direct government control. There is also a need for national action plans against all forms of THB. Countries need to curb the demand and to elaborate legislation that prohibits every form of exploitation of known THB victims because in some cases, or perhaps even in most cases, people are not even aware that they are exploiting THB victims. It is essential to raise public awareness of the existence of THB, and to promote social responsibility for people at risk and potential victims.

Countries must ensure effective fight against THB by forming special units in police and prosecution service. Every police officer must have an adequate training to be able to spot or suspect a possible act of THB in, for example, forced labour, children stealing under supervision of adults or organised begging. It is also of the utmost importance to ensure effective legislation applicable to all forms of THB, not only sexual exploitation, and criminalising everyone involved in THB. Mandatory minimum sentence must be severe enough to act as a deterrent against THB. The victim support programme must not be a part of judicial proceedings. THB victims must be provided with support and protection even if they choose not to file a complaint, give evidence or participate in the trial against their traffickers. There is a need to improve joint investigation capabilities, as well as to promote cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region in the fight against THB.

Closing of the 22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

Mrs. Laine Randjärv, Chairperson of the BSPC, introduced the draft mandate of the new Working Group on Innovation in Social and Health Care, the work programme of the BSPC for 2013/2014 and the Resolution of the 22nd BSPC. The Conference unanimously adopted the Resolution and the work programme, and approved the mandate of the new Working Group.

In her closing remarks, **Mrs. Laine Randjärv** underlined that the BSPC is a unique platform, and that parliamentarians should devote more attention to implementing real, practical initiatives. The Baltic Sea countries should position themselves more systematically and assertively on the global arena, as well as become European leaders in innovation. Research and development, as well as innovation in the Baltic Sea countries, should get more attention from the European Union. Structural changes in the economies of the Baltic Sea Region are necessary, and further developments depend on success in cooperation and business sophistication. The future of the Region lies in smart specialisation and defining our competitive areas of growth. The world is changing and there is a need to take into account globalisation, demographic change, ageing and longevity. People are concerned about environment and citizens are better involved and empowered through social media and web-based solutions. This leads us to find and use more efficient technologies, gain advantages by digitalization and bio-economy, and pay attention to developing the health services. Success of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region will be judged by Region's ability to have a positive impact on people's everyday life.

Mrs. Laine Randjärv announced that the Parliament of the Republic of Poland is taking over the presidency of the BSPC in 2013/2014, and handed over the Chairman's gavel to **Mr. Ryszard Górecki**, member of the Senate of the Republic of Poland.

The new Chairman of the BSPC **Mr. Ryszard Górecki** invited participants to attend the 23rd BSPC in Olsztyn on 24–26 August 2014.



Mrs. Laine Randjärv hands over the Chairman's gavel to Mr. Ryszard Górecki, Chairman of the BSPC in 2013-2014.

Annexes

Annex 1

Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants, elected representatives from the Baltic Sea Region States*, assembling in Pärnu, Estonia, 26–27 August 2013, discussing Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, Economic Growth and Innovation, Green and Blue Growth and Energy Efficiency, and Creative Entrepreneurship, emphasizing the importance of the parliamentary dimension of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, and asserting that it strengthens the democratic legitimacy of cooperation, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of sustainable ecological, economic and social development, and reiterating their appeal to governments to make sincere and forceful efforts to implement the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, stressing the mutually beneficial interaction between CBSS and BSPC at all levels and in all fields, and acknowledging that a close coordination between the legislative and executive branches will facilitate the implementation of programmes and projects for the benefit of the Baltic Sea Region and its citizens, call on the governments in the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and the EU,

Regarding Co-operation in the Region, to

1. ensure effective and systematic implementation of priority projects in the Baltic Sea region, jointly identified on the basis of regional strategies and policies, and to use regional cooperation structures such as the Northern Dimension and Regional Councils in this work;
2. make sustained efforts to facilitate mobility within the Region, in particular by tackling administrative and physical hurdles, such as customs regulations and practices and visa restrictions, between Schengen and non-Schengen countries;
3. promptly undertake further action in order to reduce eutrophication and pollution of the Baltic Sea, in particular by joint efforts to improve the capacity for purification of sewage waste;
4. facilitate the establishment and work of democratic NGOs in the Baltic Sea Region, and to provide political and financial support for their international cooperation and activities;

5. acknowledge the importance of the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs for youth cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, and to support its work as well as the establishment of an annual Baltic Sea Youth Forum; in this regard, to support also the decision of the XI Baltic Sea NGO Forum on the creation of a Baltic Sea Youth Network; and furthermore to underline the need to continuously strengthen and ensure effective methods and solutions for improved cooperation;
6. make the utmost use of the CBSS core political position in the BSR in creating and implementing a commonly agreed strategic vision of the region;

Regarding Growth, Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship in the Baltic Sea Region, to

7. initiate and support awareness-raising activities on the necessity of innovation for the sustainable development and competitiveness of the Region, applying a comprehensive approach that recognizes innovation as a key element both in the production of goods and the provision of services, and places strong emphasis on environmental sustainability and social cohesion;
8. foster a conducive climate for innovation, for instance by developing national programmes and strategies for innovation and by instructing public agencies and authorities to adopt action plans for innovative management and operations;
9. promote innovative knowledge and skills in basic, vocational and higher education, for instance by making innovation a more explicit strand in educational curricula and by allocating resources to basic R&D on innovation;
10. handle the demographic change also as a source for innovation, where special attention should be put on the development and marketing of barrier-free offers and services;
11. take measures to ensure an appropriate regulatory environment that encourages innovation and eliminates bureaucratic obstacles;
12. support the creative industries as an engine of growth and employment;

13. provide fiscal incentives for innovation, such as tax reliefs, to stimulate the establishment and growth of innovative enterprises and services;
14. in order to strengthen the maritime economy, evaluate if and how (when applicable) economic incentives can be considered for fleet modernization;
15. ensure availability of and access to funding and seed money to support innovative initiatives and enterprises, and to facilitate the development of bankable projects in the field of innovation;
16. note the importance of public-private partnership in the Baltic Sea Region, welcome the establishment of the CBSS Pilot Financial Initiative (PFI) as a new mechanism of public-private partnership, and encourage financial institutions in the Region to join the PFI;
17. exploit the synergies and added value by enhancing inter-regional cooperation on innovation in the Baltic Sea Region, e.g. by facilitating mobility and by supporting knowledge diffusion, networks and clusters on innovation both within and between sectors;
18. take measures to unlock the potential that exists in the coastal and marine environment, which will lead to sustainable growth and employment opportunities;
19. strengthen innovation, growth and cooperation within the maritime economy, e.g. by supporting research and development in marine technologies, such as alternative propulsion systems, and in emerging maritime sectors, such as blue biotechnologies, aquaculture and offshore energy; by facilitating inter-regional cooperation in shipping and ship-building; and by developing logistics and infrastructure, for example for the provision of LNG and electricity in Baltic Sea ports;
20. promote entrepreneurship and a joint transnational cooperative platform for tourism, being a sector that can contribute substantially to innovation and growth in the Baltic Sea Region; furthermore to focus on coastal and maritime tourism;
21. take measures to harmonize labour market and security standards for employees in the creative economy, and launch action

plans for enhanced transparency, tolerance and diversity in society, being key elements in a creative economy;

22. make efforts to ensure that the transformation to a knowledge-based society is not detrimental to economic progress or living conditions in urban and rural areas, e.g. by promoting urban-rural innovation cluster opportunities;
23. support the funding of projects devoted to “Culture and cultural identity” and model projects in the sector of creative industries;

Regarding Green Growth and Energy Efficiency, to

24. strengthen efforts to create public awareness on how green growth and energy efficiency can support social welfare and economic development in the Region;
25. strengthen cooperation for developing common technical standards and building codes defining quality of building, common rules of recognition and evaluation of experts for building evaluation, as well as for developing common criteria for green public procurement (GPP), where appropriate, in order to create a larger market for new products and innovative solutions that support green growth;
26. support and strengthen efforts by the national grid operators, co-ordinated with agreements on a broader European scale, to improve the connections of national grids across borders, in order to facilitate investments in renewable energy production, including offshore, and contribute to energy supply security;
27. further develop and implement financing schemes that support green growth and energy efficiency, and to develop legislation that facilitates innovative financing of energy efficiency investments in infrastructure, businesses and buildings;
28. to encourage the development of new cleaner technologies and support the use of best currently available technologies in order to improve maritime safety, develop clean fuels and energy efficient solutions for both land and water transport in the Baltic Sea Region;
29. against the background of the upcoming tightening of the limits for sulfur emissions in the Sulfur Emission Control Areas, to

support efforts of the Helsinki Commission to found a “Green Technology and Alternative Fuels Platform for Shipping”;

30. welcome the results of the Conference of the Heads of the Baltic Sea states on environmental protection (St. Petersburg, April 5–6, 2013), held in the framework of the Russian chairmanship in the CBSS, as an important step towards environmental rehabilitation in the BSR;

Regarding Trafficking in Human Beings, to

31. follow up the 10 recommendations drawn up by the BSPC Rapporteurs on THB in their final report presented to the 22. BSPC in Pärnu, Estonia;

Furthermore the Conference Decides to

32. establish a Working Group on Innovation in Social and Health Care, to submit a first report at the 23rd BSPC;
33. note the work of the IPCC in relation to the forthcoming 5th Assessment Report (AR5), and to deliberate on its implications for the Baltic Sea Region;
34. adopt the BSPC Work Programme for 2013-2014;
35. welcome with gratitude the kind offer of the Parliament of Poland to host the 23rd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Olsztyn on 24-26 August 2014.

* Parliaments of Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Iceland, Republic of Karelia, Latvia, 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 22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference
25–27 August 2013 Pärnu, Estonia*

“Sustainable Innovation for a Competitive Economy In the Region”

PROGRAMME

Saturday, 24 August

Conference and accommodation
Strand SPA & Conference Hotel,
A.H.Tammsaare blv 35, 80010 Pärnu
www.strand.ee

Sunday, 25 August

10.00 Registration of participants
13:00–15:00 Meeting of the BSPC Standing Committee
16:00–18:00 Excursion and return to the hotel
19:00 Garden reception hosted by **Mrs Laine Randjärv**,
Chair of the BSPC, at the garden of Ammende Villa,
Mere blv 7, www.ammende.ee

Monday, 26 August

08:15 Registration of participants
8:30–9:30 Meeting of the BSPC Drafting Committee
9:30 **Opening of the 22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary
Conference**

Chairs – **Mrs Laine Randjärv**, **Mr Ryszard
Górecki**, **Mr Raimonds Vējonis**

Musical introduction

Estonia – the land of innovation – video clip

Opening words by **Mrs Laine Randjärv**, Chair of
the BSPC

Welcoming address by **H.E. Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves**, the President of the Republic of Estonia

Welcoming address by **H.E. Mrs Ene Ergma**, the President of Riigikogu

10:00–12:30 **FIRST SESSION**

Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

Chairs: **Mrs Laine Randjärv** and
Mr Franz Thönnnes

- Report from the BSPC Chair **Mrs Laine Randjärv**
- **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 on the the CBSS outgoing presidency of Russian Federation
- **Ms Satu Mattila**, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland, report from the CBSS incoming Finnish presidency
- **Ms Darya Akhutina**, Acting Chairperson of the NGO Forum of the Baltic Sea, Report from the NGO Forum of the Baltic Sea
- **Ms Monika Stankiewicz**, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), status report on the progress in the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
- **Mr Pat the Cope Gallagher**, Report from the European Parliament on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and the Northern Dimension
- **Mr Lars Kasha**, Representative of the Baltic Sea Youth Forum

Debates

Coffee break

12:30–14:00 **SECOND SESSION**

Economic growth, innovation and competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region “Vision 2050 – What innovation does the Region need to become sustainable?”

Chairs **Mrs Valentina Pivnenko** and
Mrs Giedre Purvaneckiene

- **Prof. Erik Terk**, Estonian Institute for Future Studies, Tallinn University

- **Mr Heikki Uusi-Honko**, Nordic Innovation, Administrative Manager
Report from the Nordic Innovation on the Joint innovative initiatives in the Baltic Sea Region
- **Dr. Silvia Stiller**, Hamburg Institute of International Economics, “**The Baltic Sea area of innovation – future potentials and challenges**”
- **Dr. Andris Andrusaitis**, BONUS, Programme manager “**Science for the better future of the Baltic Sea region**”
- **Mr Jari Kaivo-oja**, Finland Futures Research Centre, University of Turku, Research Director, “**Key trends of the Baltic Sea countries**”
- **Mr Björn Söderberg**, AcceleraceLife, Swedish Partner and **Ms Külle Tärnov**, Science Park Tehnopol & AcceleraceLife, Estonian Partner “**Innovating Health – Baltic Sea Region joins the forces**”

Debates

14:00-15:00 **Buffet lunch**

15:00-17:30 **THIRD SESSION**

Green growth and energy efficiency

Chairs: **Mrs Christina Gestrin** and
Mr Torfinn Opheim

- **Ms Cecilie Tenfjord-Toftby**, Chairman of the Working Group, Report from the **BSPC Working group on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency**
- **Mr Timo Mäkelä**, European Commission, Environment Directorate General, Director of the International Affairs, LIFE&Eco innovation “**Green Economy for growth, jobs and environment – from Rio+20 to Baltic Sea Region**”
- **Dr.-Ing. Sonja Deppish**, University Hamburg, Head of Research Group Plan B:altic “**Plan Baltic: Climate Change and Spatial Development - Adaptation strategies of urban and regional planning in urban regions of the Baltic Sea coast**”
- **Mr Florian Haug** and **Mr Jörgen Mansnerus**, CleanGas International “**From Waste to Oil –**

Innovative solutions for a sustainable future”

- **Ms Aire Olesk**, European Space Agency (ESA), Estonia
“Innovative use of space technologies in the energy, environment and environmental monitoring, meteorology, agriculture and forestry sectors”
- **Mr Jörg Neubauer**, Swedish Energy Agency, Project manager
“Conditions for accelerating the deployment of offshore wind power in the BSR”
- **Ms Karin Nygård Skalman**, Programme Director of VINNOVA, Sweden,
“Innovation with a purpose - towards a good ecological status of the Baltic Sea Region”

Debates

17:30–18:30 **Meeting of the BSPC Drafting Committee**

19:30 **Cultural programme and gala-dinner** hosted by **Mrs Ene Ergma**, President of Riigikogu, at Pärnu Concert Hall, Aida 4, www.concert.ee/parnu;

Tuesday, 27 August

08:00–09:30 **Meeting of the BSPC Drafting Committee** (if necessary)

09:30–11:00 **FOURTH SESSION**

Creative Baltic Sea Region – The economic and social conditions for creative entrepreneurship

Chairs: **Mr Ryszard Gorecki** and **Mrs Sylvia Bretschneider**

- **Ms Deborah Dawton**, President of the BEDA (Bureau of European Design Associations)
“The 21 policy recommendations of the European Design Leadership Board”
- **Prof. Dr. Peter A. Bruck**, World Summit Award in eContent & Creativity; United Nations’ World Summit on Information Society, Chairman of the Board of Directors,
“E-content and creativity in Baltic Sea region”

- **Mr. Priit Salumaa**, Garage 48 Foundation, Co-founder
“Creative entrepreneurship – how to turn an idea into a working service or prototype within just 48 hours”
- **Mr Mikael Sjövall**, Communications Manager, Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)

Debates

BSPC WG Rapporteurs

- Report from the BSPC Rapporteur on Integrated Maritime Policy: **Mr Jochen Schulte**, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and **Mr Roger Jansson**, Åland Islands
- Report from the BSPC Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings: **Mr Johan Linander**, Sweden

11:45-12:00 Coffee break

12:00

CLOSING OF THE 22nd BSPC

Chairs: **Mrs Laine Randjärv**,
Mr Richard Górecki,
Mr Raimonds Vējonis

- Closing remarks by Mrs Laine Randjärv, Chair of the BSPC
- Administrative matters
- Adoption of The Conference Resolution
- Address by the incoming Chairman of the BSPC 2013-2014

Presentation of Next Year's Host Country

13:00

Lunch

Annex 3

List of participants

Speakers

- Darya Akhutina, General Director, Norden Association, St. Petersburg
- Andris Andrusaitis, Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme
- Peter A Bruck, Chairman, United Nations World Summit on Information Society
- Pat the Cope Gallagher, European Parliament
- Deborah Dawton, Design Business Association
- Sonja Deppisch, University of Hamburg
- Ene Ergma, President of Riigikogu
- Florian Haug, CleanGas International Ltd
- Toomas-Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia
- Roger Jansson, Åland Parliament
- Jari Kaivo-Oja, Research Director at Finland Futures Research Centre, University of Turku
- Lars Kascha, Project Manager of the Baltic Sea Youth Forum
- Satu Mattila, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
- Timo Mäkelä, European Commission, Environment Directorate, Director of International Affairs
- Jörg Neubauer, Swedish Energy Agency
- Aire Olesk, European Space Agency, University Tartu
- Karin Nygård Skalman, Programme manager of VINNOVA
- Sergey Petrovich, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia
- Laine Randjärv, Vice-president of Riigikogu, Chair of the BSPC
- Priit Salumaa, Co-Founder and the Member of the Board at Garage48 Foundation
- Mikael Sjövall, Communications Manager of the NEFCO
- Jochen Schulte, MP of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of HELCOM
- Silvia Stiller, Hamburg Institute of International Economics
- Björn Söderberg, CEO of the SWE ICE AB
- Cecilie Tenfjord-Toftby, MP, Parliament of Sweden
- Erik Terk, Tallinn University Estonian Institute for Futures Studies
- Külle Tärnov, Tallinn Science Park Tehnopol
- Heikki Uusi-Honko, Organization Manager, Nordic Innovation

BSPC Member Parliaments and Parliamentary Organizations

Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Vadim Tulpanov, MP
Konstantin Dobrynin, MP
Anatoliy Lyskov, MP
Oleg Tkach, MP
Vladimir Chub, MP
Nadezhda Dakhova, staff

State Duma of the Russian Federation

Valentina Pivnenko, Head of delegation
Vladimir Nikitin, MP
Oleg Nilov, MP
Petr Yakhmenev, chief of staff
Yulia Guskova, staff
Natalia Voronina, interpreter

Parliament of Denmark

Benny Engelbrecht, MP
Jeppe Kofod, MP
Kamilla Kjølgaard, staff

Parliament of Estonia

Ene Ergma, MP
Laine Randjärv, MP
Aadu Must, MP
Maria Alajõe, head of chancellery
Rein Oidekivi, head of Foreign Relations Department
Anu Adra-Entsik, press officer
Riina Otsepp, head of protocol
Anu Mõtsla, staff
Häidi Kolle, staff
Enel Otsavel, staff
Ene Rõngelep, staff
Anneli Entson, staff
Boriss Burdin, staff
Jüri Altmann, staff
Arvo Kruusimägi, staff

Parliament of Finland

Kimmo Tiilikainen, MP
Christina Gestrin, MP
Riitta Myller, MP
Mika Laaksonen, staff

Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany**Bundestag**

Franz Thönnies, MP
Herbert Behrens, MP
Jürgen Klimke, MP
Christel Happach-Kasan, MP
Petra Gräß, staff
Waltraud Anna Weiland, staff

Parliament of Iceland

Helgi Hjörvar, MP
Jóhanna María Sigmundsdóttir, MP
Róbert Marshall, MP
Lárus Valgárdsson, staff

Parliament of Latvia

Raimonds Vējonis, MP
Jānis Reirs, MP
Jānis Vucāns, MP
Vitālijs Orlovs, MP
Kārlis Engēlis, MP
Ingrīda Stīcenko, staff
Rolands Kangers, staff

Parliament of Lithuania

Giedrė Purvaneckienė, MP
Irena Šiaulienė, MP
Rytas Kupcinskas, MP
Antanas Miniotas, staff

Parliament of Norway

Torfinn Opheim, MP
Siri Meling, MP
Heidi Sørensen, MP
Torgeir Trældal, MP
Kjell Myhre-Jensen, chief of staff
Bjørn Andreassen, staff
Marianne Seip, staff

Senate of the Republic of Poland

Ryszard Górecki, Senate
Leszek Kieniewicz, head of chancellery

Sejm of the Republic of Poland

Jerzy Borowczak, Sejm
Mariusz-Orion Jędrysek, Sejm
Stanisław Wziątek, Sejm

Marek Gos, Sejm
Piotr Koperski, staff
Arkadiusz Bereza, staff

Parliament of Sweden

Karin Åström, MP,
Marianne Berg, MP
Anita Brodén, MP
Stefan Caplan, MP
Jan-Olof Larsson, MP
Cecilie Tenfjord-Toftby, MP
Åsa Torstensson, MP
Maria Stenberg, MP
Johan Linander, MP
Bengt Ohlsson, staff

Parliament of Åland

Wille Valve, MP, HoD
Roger Jansson, MP
Mikael Holmberg, MP
Dan-Anders Sundman, MP
Axel Jonsson, MP
Tony Asumaa, MP
Niclas Slotte, staff

Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Bremen

Frank Schildt, MP
Silvia Schön, MP

Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Hamburg

Norbert Hackbusch, MP
Jens Kerstan, MP
Barbara Duden, MP
Sabine Steppat, MP
Roland Heintze, MP
Johannes Düwel, chief of chancellery

Parliament of the Karelian Republic

Alexander Merkushev, MP
Sergey Kolin, staff

Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Sylvia Bretschneider, President of the Parliament
Detlef Müller, MP
Wolf-Dieter Ringguth, MP
André Brie, MP
Silke Gajek, MP

Jochen Schulte, MP
Jürgen Seidel, MP
Wibke Reincke, staff
Bodo Bahr, staff
Georg Straetker, staff

Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein

Klaus Schlie, President of the Parliament
Rainer Wiegard, MP
Regina Poersch, MP
Bernd Voss, MP
Ekkehard Klug, MP
Torge Schmidt, MP
Jette Waldinger-Thiering, MP

Legislative Assembly of the City St Petersburg

Tatiana Zakharenkova, MP
Sergey Andenko, MP
Alexander Kushchak, MP
Konstantin Sukhenko, MP
Sergey Terekhovskiy, Head of External Relations Department
Vatanyar Yagiya, adviser

Baltic Assembly

Raimonds Vējonis, MP, President
Laine Randjärv, MP, Vice-President
Giedre Purvaneckiene, MP, Vice-President
Jānis Reirs, MP
Aadu Must, MP
Irena Siauiliene, MP
Marika Laizāne-Jurkāne, Secretary General

BSPC

Jan Widberg, Head of the Secretariat

European Parliament

Pat the Cope Gallagher, MP
Tarvo Kungla, staff

Nordic Council

Helgi Hjörvar, MP, Iceland
Karin Åström, MP, Sweden
Torkil Sørensen, staff
Heidi Orava, staff
Kristina Aaltonen, staff

BSPC Working Group on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency

Cecilie Tenfjord-Toftby, MP, Chair of the Working Group, Sweden

Tony Asumaa, MP, Vice Chair of the Working Group, Åland

Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland

Mariusz- Orion Jedrysek, MP, Poland

Siri Meling, MP, Norway

Oleg Nilov, MP, Russian Federation

Jochen Schulte, MP, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Sabine Steppat, MP, City of Hamburg

Wille Valve, MP, Åland

Raimonds Vējonis, MP, Latvia

Observers to the BSPC Annual Conference

Baltic Development Forum (BDF)

Hans Skov Christensen, Chairman

Baltic Sea Region University Network (BSRUN)

Kari Hyppönen, President

Baltic Sea States Sub-Regional Co-operation (BSSSC)

Janne Tamminen, Secretary General

Baltic Sea Youth Forum

Lars Kascha, Project Manager

Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

Satu Mattila, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Sergey Petrovich, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia

Jan Lundin, director general, CBSS secretariat

European Commission

Timo Mäkelä Director of Directorate E: Global and Regional Challenges

Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary

Nordic Council of Ministers in Estonia

Berth Sundström, Director

Madis Kanarbik, Head of Tartu branch

Triin Oppi, Communications adviser

Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (PABSEC)

Olena Netetska, Vice-President, Head of the Ukraine delegation to the PABSEC

Kyrylo Tretiak, Secretary General of PABSEC

Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)

Mikael Sjövall, Communications Manager

South-East Europe Parliamentary Cooperation (SEEPC)

Mariana Vitanova, Head of the Regional Secretariat

Adela Gutu, national coordinator, Moldova

Guests

Raul Mälk, MFA, Estonia

Urmas Kõiv, Koiv Invest Ltd

Uwe Sassenberg, DESY, Germany

Katariina Röbbelen-Voigt, DESY, Germany

Tom Förster, DESY, Germany

Voldemar Arder, master of ceremony

Olev Mihkelmaa, photographer

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Aleksander Jakimowicz

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Carolina Widberg, SE

Natalia Tretiak, UA

Janina Górecka, PL

Anastasia Ilinskaya, MFA, RU

Valentina Nikitina, RU

Pavel Nikitin, RU

Evelin Salumaa, EE

Marek Melke, FI

Liena Sticenko, LV

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US 2013:433