



CBSS Briefing to
the BSPC Standing
Committee

CBSS Swedish Presidency 2017-
2018 and the CBSS International
Secretariat

22 February 2018, Brussels

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Swedish Presidency of the CBSS and the CBSS itself, I would like to thank the BSPC for a kind invitation to participate in the meeting of the Standing Committee and the traditional exchange of views between our organisations.

- The work of the CBSS is guided by the long-term priorities, which are: 1. Regional Identity, 2. Sustainable and Prosperous Region, 3. Safe and Secure Region.
- Mirroring the long-term goals, the Swedish Presidency 2017-2018 is focusing on three areas of: Sustainability, Continuity and Adaptability.
- I would like to highlight that the core progress within our operations is made inside our units, expert groups and by the work of senior advisers. As some of you know there are 6 working areas, where the CBSS is continuously improving and developing the Baltic Sea region:
 1. Sustainable development and climate change under the Baltic 2030 Unit.
 2. Economic issues including labour, science, research and maritime topics.
 3. Civil security within the region.
 4. Children at risk.
 5. Culture, education and youth.
 6. Trafficking in human beings.
- Today I would like to give you an overview of the recent developments within the CBSS' working areas as well as propose points of collaboration, as suggested by the Units and Senior Advisers themselves.

BALTIC 2030

- Currently the Baltic 2030 Unit is working on two overlaying themes: Sustainable Development and Climate Change.
- To counter the issue of unsustainability within the BSR, the Unit is preparing an analysis on Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on the common challenges and discrepancies across the Baltic Sea countries (including Russia), with the aim to create a regional dialogue. Outcome of this analysis will be a report "Bumps on the Road to Baltic 2030", that will be discussed at the seminar in Brussels on 11th- 12th of April 2018.
- Building on both Baltic 2030 Unit's and BSPC's experiences on Sustainable Development Goals, we would like to propose an annual CBSS-BSPC event to discuss how to coherently implement SDGs and environmental agendas across the region (e.g. back-to-back with

BSPC annual conference in Marienhamn).

- In addition, the Baltic 2030 invites the BSPC to participate in ReGeneration 2030- a joint initiative by the NCM and the CBSS, focusing on youth engagement in Agenda 2030. ReGeneration 2030 Summit will take place on 18th-20th of August 2018 in Mariehamn, a manifesto from the summit will be handed to the 27th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Mariehamn 26th- 28th of August 2018 as a political message.
- Finally, next to its work on Sustainable development, the Baltic 2030 Unit is also leading the Baltic Sea Region Climate Dialogue Platform - a strategic action under the CBSS Priority "Sustainable and Prosperous Region". The Unit kindly invites the BSPC to nominate their representative to the BSR Climate Dialogue Platform.

ECONOMIC PORTFOLIO

- As the BSPC Working Group on migration and integration was established last year, the CBSS is encouraging a closer cooperation on labour, employment and migration issues.
- To strengthen such relationship, we propose to:
 1. Reinforce the BSPC's interaction with the Baltic Sea Labour Forum.
 2. Jointly use the Policy Recommendations Paper, which included points from the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference's (25th BSPC) Resolution, as well as proposals from the BSLF members.
 3. Consider the points stated in the CBSS Labour Ministers' Declaration adopted in Berlin, June 15th, as a political framework. In this document 6 areas of common concern have been defined - Labour mobility/Migration; Demographic challenges; Knowledge supply; Youth employment; Migration/Integration and Involvement into the labour market of vulnerable people, including persons with disabilities.
 4. To take part in the establishment of an Expert Group on Labour and Employment.
 5. Take part in the upcoming joint meeting of BSLF and ministerial representatives on 18th of April 2018 in Riga.
 6. Take part in the full-scale project application to the European Social Fund (11th of May), on labour issues, which will allow the implementation of suggestions from the Soft Security and Migration conference organized in Helsinki on 30th-31st of May 2017 by CBSS.

7. Consider a CBSS-BSPC joint annual event on labour issues (once again, it could be arranged back-to-back with the BSPC annual conferences).
8. Put joint efforts in creating a model of researcher/academic mobility within the entire BSR. Outcomes of the BSN and TRAM' projects could be used as a foundation for the model. The focus group: young scientists, doctoral students and PhDs.
9. Finally, the CBSS invites BSPC to nominate their representative to the renewed CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy, focusing on sustainable maritime economy, Blue Growth Agenda and cross-sector approach between governments, academia and businesses.

CHILDREN AT RISK

- Children at Risk Unit within the CBSS would like to raise your awareness of the need to have a strong children and youth focus in national and regional activities, policies and goals, which should be underpinned by data, assessments and expected results.
- Based on children's feedback we know that there are groups of young individuals which are threatened by violence in a close proximity and which are unable to enjoy social protection of the public services. We also know that children and youth appreciate high level of education as well as protection/welfare structures.
- In such background, we believe that there is a need to provide youth and children with hope, opportunities, inclusivity and reliability on adults. Therefore, we encourage you to spread the message to the national parliaments that painting a negative picture of the future in media, is counter-effective regarding the safeguard and welfare of children.
- Furthermore, the Children at Risk Unit works closely with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which promotes children's rights overall and their specific rights to be protected against abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence. The Unit also relies on SDGs and children participation and feedback and suggests that such documents and assessments are a good starting point for work on children wellbeing.

CIVIL SECURITY

- Last year, a major achievement in the civil security area was the adoption of the Joint Position on Enhancing Cooperation in Civil Protection Area at the 15th Meeting of the Directors General for the Civil Protection in the Baltic Sea Region, held in Keflavik (Iceland) on 12th of May 2017. The document set out a long-term perspective for enhanced cooperation between national authorities responsible for civil protection in the Baltic Sea region.
- The implementation plan for the priorities agreed in Keflavik has been agreed in November 2017 by the EUSBR Policy Area Secure Steering Group and is now being conducted.
- Overall throughout the recent years, the CBSS Civil Security Team contributed to the progress of strengthening cooperation in the following areas:
 1. Changing the perspective in organising civil security systems from disaster management to disaster risk reduction.
 2. Strengthening resilience of societies towards major emergencies and accidents by establishing an effective framework for international cooperation between professional civil protection agencies, volunteer organisations, local governments, the academia and business.
 3. Establishing a workable connection between research and innovation centers and practitioners (end-users).
 4. Developing the CBSS Civil Protection Network.
 5. Contributing to the law enforcement cooperation.

CULTURE, EDUCATION AND YOUTH

- The CBSS strives to be an attractive and competent partner in the field of regional cooperation on culture, youth and education. Our contact with the BSPC in this regard is already established.
- The CBSS Project Support Facility 2018 is allocated to the long-time priority of Regional Identity. Projects for, with and by children and young people that aim to strengthen children and young people's influence and participation in organizational, cultural, and educational settings are highly valued. The call to be a part of PSF is open until 31st of March 2018.

- In addition, the CBSS has launched several initiatives and strategic efforts in the field of youth and their participation. Examples of such projects are: youth contribution to the CBSS Vision Group, which was set up by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the programme Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue as well as coordination of many BSR bodies in the joint endeavour of youth participation.
- Another flagship initiative in the field of education is the CBSS Summer University, which has recently opened a call for participation. We are very glad to have already received a great interest from various universities across the region to participate in the 2018 round of the initiative.
- Finally, we would like to note that cultural heritage is a priority of both the incoming Latvian presidency of the CBSS (2018-2019) and the EU (European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018), we see an emerging platform to prioritise the development of cultural heritage across the region. We are also aware of the recent reports on Cultural Heritage from BSPC rapporteur on culture.

TASK FORCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

- Main aim of the TF-THB for 2018 is to develop a Transnational Referral Mechanism for victims of human trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region and to include the main countries of origin: Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine.
- TF-THB also focuses on reducing vulnerability of migrants to different forms of exploitation and trafficking in human beings and improving identification of victims in Finland, Germany and Sweden.

CONCLUSION

- A short overview of the plans of the Swedish Presidency 2017- 2018 and an overview of the Vision Group's work.
- We see a great foundation for the development of the dialogue and collaboration between the CBSS and the BSPC.
- We hope that you will respond positively to our invitations for new collaboration points. As well as we are looking forward to the 27th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Mariehamn and its outcomes.
- Finally, I would like to thank you once again for the invitation!

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