

SECOND SESSION

Vision 2030: Safeguarding our Environment, Seas and Oceans for Future Generations



Ms. Svenja Schulze

Federal Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear
Safety, Germany, HELCOM Chair, European Council Presidency

Valerijus Simulik, *President of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference*

Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius,

Excellencies,

Members of Parliament,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The coronavirus pandemic and the immediate protection of human health continue to dominate our thoughts and actions. At the same time, it is becoming increasingly clear to many people just how dependent our lives and survival are on the general state of the environment. This also applies to marine protection, which is why today's discussions are so important.

During Germany's HELCOM Chairmanship, we will actively shape the future of the Baltic Sea together. I would like to briefly outline my goals:

- The overarching goal remains improved protection of the Baltic Sea. This is the only way to secure the future of the Baltic Sea region as a whole.
- The economic recovery ahead provides an opportunity to make social and ecological progress: for climate action and environmental protection – including, of course, marine protection. I will work hard to achieve this.
- The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan is the scientific basis for our measures. We should develop this plan for the next ten years to enable it to respond to new challenges and lay down ambitious targets and measures.
- My goal is for the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting next year to adopt an updated plan. This will establish more effective protection of the Baltic Sea at political level too.
- Significant improvements are needed regarding eutrophication and the conservation of marine biodiversity. This is why we will address this issue in detail.
- When it comes to munitions in the sea, all Baltic Sea countries have a shared responsibility. My goal is for this process to lead to joint action. I am pleased that you Baltic Sea parliamentarians have clearly signalled your support.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Another key issue for Germany's HELCOM Chairmanship is global ocean governance. To achieve this, we need cooperation among all relevant players in and between regions. This is why the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference is such an important institution. I am delighted to have you as a partner by our side and by HELCOM's side.

Thank you.