

Gdańsk, 15 May 2023



*Recommendations of the BSPPC Working Group on Climate Change and Biodiversity
for the 32nd BSPPC Resolution
unanimously agreed by the BSPPC WG CCB in Gdańsk on 15 May 2023
to be included in the*

Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 32nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPPC)

The participants, elected representatives from the Baltic Sea Region States of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, and Sweden,

assembling in Berlin on 29 August 2023

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call on the Governments in the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and the EU,

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Regarding mitigation of climate change, preserving biodiversity and adapting to climate change to:

Climate Change

- 1. increase the efforts and speed to implement ambitious national climate targets and adapted extensions – corresponding to the current scientific and measurement results – in line with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1,5 degrees Celsius above those;**
- 2. strengthen regional collaboration and information exchange among the democratic Baltic Sea countries and the Arctic to intensify joint strategies and policies addressing climate change and regularly adapt them to the newest research results;**
- 3. urge at every opportunity the world's three largest CO₂ emitters, which currently account for more than 50 % of global CO₂ emissions, to step up their efforts to achieve ambitious climate targets;**
- 4. incentivise renewable energy development by shortening the permitting process for wind, solar, other clean and stable energy sources;**
- 5. taking into account the risks connected with the increasing dependence of the European market on the suppliers of rare metals and other raw materials;**
- 6. increase the speed in implementing national strategies for transitioning away from fossil fuels and towards low-carbon energy systems, including phasing out coal-fired power plants;**
- 7. acknowledging the different energy strategies and focuses in different states to reach these goals;**
- 8. increase the focus on the communal and regional levels on implementing adequate climate change measures and to raise awareness in the responsible administrations;**
- 9. implement coastal management plans to protect and restore coastal ecosystems, which can act as carbon sinks and buffer zones against sea-level rise;**
- 10. support increased research and innovation in climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies, encouraging collaboration between academic institutions, industries, and governments;**

- 11. develop incentives and support for integrating climate change education and awareness-raising programmes into curricula, public campaigns, and professional development programmes;**
- 12. foster cross-border cooperation on regional climate initiatives, engaging neighbouring countries and international organisations in joint efforts to address climate change in the Baltic Sea region;**
- 13. convene annual Baltic Sea Climate and Biodiversity Summits to raise public awareness, track progress, share best practices, and refine regional strategies to accelerate increased climate action and adaptation;**

Biodiversity

- 14. make every effort to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 while ensuring inclusive, socially and environmentally sustainable economic growth and development as well as energy security and contribute to making the democratic Baltic Sea Region as much as possible a macro-regional best practice example in this regard for the world;**
- 15. fully implement as fast as possible the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP15) on 15 December 2022 with its mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, adapt the existing national and Baltic Sea broad strategies and programmes and to cooperate intensively among the democratic Baltic Sea States to realise a swift and effective implementation of the GBF so that the Baltic Sea region becomes a global best practice example in implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework;**
- 16. contribute to the rapid entry into force of the landmark international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) from 4 March 2023 and use its tools and possibilities in intensive cooperation within the CBSS and HELCOM to reach the goals mentioned above;**
- 17. expand the existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) network and improve cooperation and transboundary management between marine protected areas in the Baltic Sea to ensure proper enforcement to protect vulnerable habitats and species;**
- 18. consider an ecosystem-based management approach when revising and adapting action plans and strategies to achieve these goals and implementing these measures. This means management that considers the whole ecosystem and all human activities, which is aware of and incorporates all pressures and interactions and aims to protect, restore, or enhance the resilience and sustainability of the aquatic ecosystem to**

ensure the sustainable provision of ecosystem services and maintain the biodiversity;

- 19.establish and enforce recognisable, legally binding sustainable fishing quotas in the Baltic Sea Region with diversification for species, including regulations on fishing nets or other methods, ensuring that fish stocks remain healthy and sustainable in the long term. All actions should be based on respected, up-to-date research;**
- 20.further commit to protecting biodiversity and increasing carbon sequestration and natural storage with common and national policies for:**
 - a. conservation of carbon-rich ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and natural rivers;**
 - b. continuation of sustainable forest management;**
- 21.develop and execute plans to enhance the resilience of the Baltic Sea ecosystem to climate change, including protecting coastal habitats and restoring wetlands;**
- 22.reverse land degradation by 2030, and promote sustainable forest management given their importance for climate and biodiversity;**
- 23.significantly increase efforts to fundamentally improve nutrient management in agriculture, industry, and wastewater treatment plants to reduce nutrient runoff into the Baltic Sea, which contributes to eutrophication and biodiversity loss;**
- 24.ensure a quick and strict implementation of the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan and its associated action documents within the agreed timelines to achieve a good ecological status of the Baltic Sea by the end of the decade and consider as far as possible implementing further measures from the policy-relevant suggestions for various policy areas in the HELCOM 2021 Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Fact Sheet to reach this goal;**
- 25.develop and adopt regional strategies to deal with transboundary emergencies caused by climate change and pollution, including forest fires, eutrophication and the spread of pathogens. The strategies should include research into the causes of such emergencies, cooperation between rescue services and joint monitoring programmes that indicate the risks of such emergencies.**