

Baltic Sea: Quest for Harmony

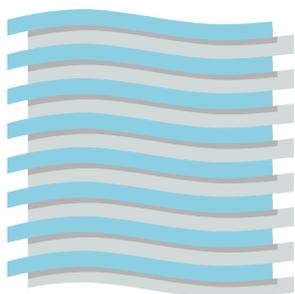
23rd Baltic Sea Parliamentary
Conference



Baltic Sea: Quest for Harmony

23rd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

Olsztyn, Poland, on 24–26 August 2014



Baltic Sea: Quest for Harmony
23rd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

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Text: Piotr Krasnowolski

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Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference
www.bspc.net

Bodo Bahr
Head of BSPC Secretariat
bb@bspc.net

BSPC Secretariat
c/o Lennéstraße 1
19053 Schwerin
Germany
Phone (+49) 385 525 2777

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

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

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

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

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

Introduction



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 23rd Parliamentary conference took place in Olsztyn, the capital of Warmia and Mazury: the land of lakes and forests, situated in the centre of the southern Baltic region. The Library of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn provided the meeting venue for 200 parliamentarians, experts, and officials to discuss the future of the Baltic Sea Region in the context of its valuable cultural and natural heritage.

Juxtaposed against the dramatic events in the near vicinity of the region, the title of this year's conference – Baltic Sea: Quest for Harmony – has acquired a special significance. I am glad that representatives of all the countries of the Baltic Sea Region arrived in Olsztyn despite the political turmoil. Open, honest, and in many cases heated debate made us clearly aware that the future of the region depends on all of us, and we must all cooperate to achieve it.

I believe that by looking into the past, discussing the history, heritage, and culture we share, we are capable of drawing appropriate conclusions for the future. We have, moreover, become aware of the value of the political dialogue conducted for the last 23 years at the BSPC forum and of its achievements. I am convinced that its continuation lies in the active interest of all the people of the region in view of the number of challenges that we are facing. The still burning ecological problems, including the fight against the

eutrophication and pollution of the Baltic, should always remain the focus of our attention. Activities in support of sustainable development and building up an economy founded on clean technologies and innovation will only be efficient with an extensive involvement of our communities and the potential vested in young people. We are not yet fully aware of the threats and dangers that result from the demographic processes in the region, yet these may soon have a significant impact on its condition.

Let me thank all the speakers and participants who contributed to the success of the conference. May I be allowed to address special thanks to the President of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, H.E. Bogdan Borusewicz, for the opening address and to the Marshal of the Warmia and Mazury Region, Mr Jacek Protas, for the warm welcome given to the conference participants.

I also thank the administration of the Senate of the Republic of Poland and my collaborators from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn for the perfect preparation of the conference, and also to all who have contributed to its success.

Let me thank the Secretary of the Polish Delegation, Mr Piotr Koperski, for his support and involvement throughout the Polish Presidency of the BSPC, and to the BSPC Secretary-General, Mr Jan Widberg, for leading me so confidently through all the BSPC practice, and for his precious advice.

Entrusting the BSPC Presidency to Ms Silvia Bretschneider, the Chairwoman of the BSPC in 2014–15, I wish her plenty of success and satisfaction, and I already look forward impatiently to our next meeting in 2015.

**Ryszard Górecki, Senator of the Republic of Poland
Chairman of the BSPC 2013–14**

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Opening of the Conference



Mr Ryszard Górecki

Mr Ryszard Górecki, member of the Polish Parliament, Chairman of the BSPC, welcomed those participating in the conference held in the building of the Library of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. The Conference followed the central theme – Quest for Harmony: cultural and natural heritage as an element of harmonious development of the Baltic Sea Region. Mr Chairman expressed his hope that the papers delivered during the conference would contribute to a lively discussion concerning the planning and implementation of joint projects on the protection of the natural environment and cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea Region.

He also emphasised that the mission of the BSPC is to increase public awareness and prepare joint opinions on current political problems and other issues in the Baltic Sea Region.

H.E. Bogdan Borusewicz, President of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, emphasised that it is the third time that Poland has hosted the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference – the most important forum of parliamentary exchange in the region. He expressed the opinion that the Baltic Sea Region is an area of growing potential for cooperation, ever better integrated and prosperous, which is currently facing an opportunity to reinforce its position in both the European and global dimension. Realistic opportunities for



H.E. Bogdan Borusewicz

improving the competitive edge and innovation and for further development of infrastructure and transport routes are present in the region. The region boasts high economic development indices, with European integration providing the driving force, and the European Union providing good prospects for preventing crises and ensuring the continuation of cooperation and development.

Furthermore the speaker emphasised the fact that the potential for cooperation is increasing, as validated by a broad range of initiatives and an array of forms of cooperation in various fields. Yet taking advantage of new opportunities calls for the joint action of all the partners to develop better conditions on the scale of the whole region. Thanks to the cooperation structures and links developed at various levels, the region has the tools to let it reinforce the sense of community and regional identity at its disposal. The Baltic Sea Region, however, stands predominantly for its vast human potential.

He emphasised that trust is the foundation for the harmony that we would like to see functioning at the scale of the entire region. Nevertheless, as an aftermath of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, the Baltic Sea Region is facing the most significant challenge since the end of the cold war. There exists a real danger of a significant deterioration in the climate of cooperation, cessation of progress, lowering of the level of trust, a slowdown if not blockage of significant initiatives and projects. He expressed the conviction that what must not happen is that the unique achievements in the development and integration of the Baltic Sea Region, unique on a global



Mr Jacek Protas

scale, are lost. The speaker emphasised that there is no development without mutual trust. ‘We are looking for harmony to feel safe and to look hopeful into the future’.

Mr Jacek Protas, Marshal of the Warmia and Mazury Region, welcomed the representatives of the conference to the region on behalf of its authorities. He presented the Warmia and Mazury Region, its natural and cultural wealth and variety, and emphasised that it belongs to the family of the Baltic Sea Region. Referring to the guiding theme of the 23rd BSPC, the Marshal emphasised that the region shares a vision in which economic growth and success is aligned with the protection of universal values, notably nature and stewardship of the environment and care for the heritage of previous centuries and bygone cultures. He emphasised that the region’s priorities in development focus on the challenges of modernity. ‘We want to be an open society in an economically competitive region with modern infrastructure’, he said. The strategic plans of the region speak of the need to respect nature, which is the hallmark of Warmia and Mazury, and an element of sustainable growth. Until 2020, the region strives to further develop the high-tech and knowledge-based economy, in line with its sustainable development vision.



Session one

Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

Mr Ryszard Górecki, Chairman of the BSPC, pointed out the fact that the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, a forum for political dialogue between parliamentarians of the whole region, was set up in 1991 at a difficult time of profound political transformations in the region and great uncertainty concerning future development. He noted that currently we observe that the Eastern neighbourhood of the region is ravished by violent and dramatic events. The crisis in Ukraine continues, and the number of victims is mounting. He emphasised that the vicious circle of violence should be broken by honest initiatives that will make it possible to find a lasting solution to



Mr Ryszard Górecki

the crisis. It is very important to condemn acts of violence and cases of the breaking of international law and breaching human rights. The already existing mechanisms, networks, and institutions should be fully involved in the support of political dialogue leading to the reconstruction of trust so as to find means and ways of solving that crisis. He recognised that today, much like in 1991, a forum like the BSPC is highly needed in a time of crisis.

Furthermore, he pointed out the fact that a few years ago the Baltic Sea Region was still submerged in a deep and profound economic recession. The savings initiatives undertaken, at times painful for the communities, helped to fuel the economy, but nonetheless, while problems continue both in the economy and in the labour market, the Baltic Sea Region is proving to have the highest pace of growth throughout the European Union. The proper use and implementation of innovations, not only for industrial production but also in administration and management, is of special significance for the region's economies.

The speaker emphasised the significance of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, that is HELCOM, which plays a leading role in the efforts to further the promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources in the region. He expressed satisfaction that HELCOM notices a progress in the environmental protection of the Baltic Sea Region, and pointed to the need to speed up the works furthering the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

He advocated the expansion of the BSPC's external contacts, emphasising that the BSPC runs a permanent dialogue with CBSS on the political and administrative levels, and strives to coordinate its political priorities with those of the CBSS. He noted with satisfaction the report of the Finnish Presidency of CBSS presented in January 2014 during the BSPC Standing Committee in Brussels in which the CBSS recognises the BSPC as an important partner and considers BSPC annual conferences and resolutions an important contribution to the development of regional cooperation. He emphasised the need for the involvement of NGOs and youth organisations in various structures of cooperation in the region, and furthermore expressed satisfaction in reporting on contacts between the BSPC on the one hand, and SEECF and PABSEC on the other.

Ms Satu Mattila, Chairwoman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials 2013–14, presented information concerning the activities of the Finnish Presidency in the CBSS. The Finnish priorities under its Chairmanship were coherence, cooperation, and continuity.

As such, she emphasised the significance of long-term cooperation between the CBSS and BSPC. One of the examples of such cooperation was a joint seminar of CBSS, BSPC, and BASREC on energy efficiency, with participation of the Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Erkki Tuomioja.



Ms Satu Mattila

The CBSS also further intensified its cooperation with HELCOM. Ms Mattila cited a conference in January 2014 on the use of alternative fuels in maritime transport as an example of work within the ‘maritime policy’ priority composed of the promotion of clean shipping with a special focus on alternative fuels, support for smart and safe maritime transport, and support for the competitive edge of the Baltic Sea Region. During the Baltic Sea Days in Turku in June 2014 a roadmap for the implementation of green technologies was developed.

The following priority was ‘civil security’: assuring closer cooperation in nuclear and radiation security, the development of multi-sector management of maritime accidents, and the reinforcement of cooperation between border control institutions. Ms Mattila emphasised that no country lying on the Baltic can cope with a major catastrophe on the sea on its own and this pointed to the need to set up a rescue forum that would cover the entire region. She also informed those present about a conference in Helsinki on assistance for the victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, organised by the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (CBSS TF-THB) and the CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk.

With the intention of reinforcing the role of civic society and the promotion of questions of labour as part of the ‘interpersonal contacts’ priority, the Finnish Presidency supported the organisation of a forum of non-governmental organisations in Turku and the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) meeting in Helsinki.



Mr Raul Mälik

The speaker emphasised the significant role of projects financed by the CBSS, especially in the field of education and university collaboration. She informed that the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials also debated questions of culture.

During the Finnish Presidency, the CBSS changed the list of its long-term priorities from five to three. The renewed priorities are: regional identity, a sustainable and prosperous region, and a safe and secure region.

Closing, Ms Mattila noted that the political atmosphere changed midway through the Presidency and the planned CBSS summit in Turku was not held owing to the situation in Ukraine. She considered that, despite the political uncertainty, cooperation in the region should continue on legal, expert, and parliamentary levels within the framework of the BSPC.

Mr Raul Mälik, Chairman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, representing the Estonian Presidency informed that the priority of the Estonian Presidency will be the practical implementation of the CBSS new long-term priorities implemented during the Finnish Presidency and the implementation of activities aimed at the achievement of the goals contained in the Vilnius Declaration approved at the CBSS summit in 2008.

He emphasised that the Estonian Presidency initiated its work in a changing political and economic environment and it remains un-



Ms Lina Marcinkut

known how the situation is going to develop, with this uncertainty making an impact on numerous processes throughout the region. The situation provides a threat to the stability of the system of security that has developed in recent decades and ensured political stability, military restraint, and economic growth. He noted that the region continues to struggle with the impact of the economic crisis from five years ago and that the economic rebound after the crisis is taking place slowly, and varies from country to country.

The Estonian Presidency drew attention to the practical dimension and efficiency of actions. The new areas of CBSS interest include scientific and research and development efforts. The Estonian Presidency supports better cooperation between the existing formats and a better division of tasks to avoid duplication. The planned joint meetings of a wide array of bodies for the attainment of the goals they share are an example of such an approach. He also provided information on the meetings planned in 2014 and 2015, and emphasised that the CBSS finds the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference an important partner.

Ms Lina Marcinkut, a representative of the European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), presented a report on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and Northern Dimension.

A series of 21 meetings organised by the DG REGIO with the participation of leaders and action coordinators within the EU

Baltic Sea Strategy was held in the winter. A number of problems, both policy-related and of a political, technical and financial nature, were identified. She informed those present that the document presenting the results of the meetings was drafted and presented for consultation to Member States. One of the significant questions is that of the operation of the steering groups.

She further informed about the Report on Managing Macro-regional Strategies produced in May 2014. The report finds that progress is needed primarily in reinforcing the political leadership and decision-making process and in increasing the transparency of work. The report lists the conditions necessary for ensuring an effective system of managing macro-regional strategies. The report names the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference as a good practice in regional high-level discussions concerning the Strategy.

The speaker emphasised the significance of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) which has significantly helped to improve the condition of the Baltic Sea by undertaking wastewater treatment projects in north-western Russia. Such projects have also been launched in Belarus which lies within the catchment of the Baltic Sea. She presented information about the success of a joint session of interregional working groups in culture: CBSS, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC), and the NDEP. At the close of the presentation, the participants in the 23rd BSPC Conference were invited to the 6th Annual EU Baltic Sea Strategy Forum to be held in Latvia in June 2015.

Mr Hary Liiv, Chairman of HELCOM, presented the Report on the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. He presented information on the results of the meeting of HELCOM ministers in Copenhagen in October 2013, and the declaration that was ratified. The ministers of environment assessed the progress of the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan: one in three actions planned in 2007 have already been completed, 10% are still waiting to be launched, and six out of ten have been partially completed or are at different levels of implementation in individual states.

During the meeting, special attention was paid to questions of eutrophication. It was emphasised that despite the actions undertaken to mitigate the process, the Baltic Sea is still in a difficult position and the areas devoid of oxygen have never been larger in the sea's history. A positive fact is the decrease in the dumping of nutrients into the Baltic by approximately 10% from 1994 to 2010, with the deposition of nitrates being reduced by 18% and of phosphates by 16%. It was emphasised that the analyses proved that



Mr Hary Liiv

the benefits from fighting eutrophication exceed their cost. A decrease in the emission of pollutants is also the priority of the two-year Estonian Presidency in HELCOM (2014–16), which especially intends to pay attention to development plans in rural areas, the management of water resources, and options for nutrient recycling. Another strategic goal of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, namely the assurance of biodiversity, has not been attained. The number of protected areas that have grown in the last year by anything from 11% to 12% has been increased, and these areas have already obtained appropriate plans for their development.

A regional action plan to limit the level of waste dumped into the waters of the sea has been drafted and the final version should be approved the following year. The amount of dangerous substances dumped into the sea has diminished.

Ms Valentina Pivnenko, member of the Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, informed the participants about the Strategy of socio-economic development of the North-West Federal District.

The strategy defined the respective directions of socio-economic development of the region and the results that should be achieved at the scale of the entire region. The main goal behind the strategy until 2020 is to increase the well-being of the population and offset and/or reduce the differences in the standard of life in individual territories that lie within the districts.



Ms Valentina Pivnenko

Actions have been taken since 2012 in support of the development of the economy and innovation, and of removing limitations in transport, energy and infrastructure, which includes 24 national programmes totalling circa 390 million rubles. Both government and the civil society structures will be involved in the implementation of the Strategy.



The area where the Strategy is being implemented borders with EU member states. That is why Russia is also interested in combining the forces of Russia and the European Union to jointly solve the problems of the region as part of the coordinated implementation of both the regional strategies embracing the Baltic Sea Region, i.e. the Russian strategy and the strategy of the European Union. Merging the potentials of both strategies is one of the fundamental tasks of the working group on dialogue, operating in the EU-Russia format set up in 2013. Moreover, Russia participates in the programme of border cooperation 'Baltic Sea Region' designed for 2014–20. The priorities in cooperation include innovation in business, environment and agriculture, transport and safety at sea, civil questions, and civil safety. The speaker expressed the hope that the priorities will be taken account of in all forms of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Furthermore, the speaker presented her point of view on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, considering it an internal conflict in Ukraine, and emphasised the humanitarian nature of Russian activities. She expressed hope for the success of the diplomatic effort for the peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Ms Päivi Kärnä, Project Coordinator at the Baltic Sea NGO Network, presented the report from the 12th Baltic Sea NGO Forum held in Turku (Finland) in June 2014 which brought together 230



participants. The Forum focused on its main theme: NGOs Creating an Active and Innovative Civil Society.

The plenary session of the Forum focused on questions of co-operation between the European Union and Russia, the financing of cooperation between non-governmental organisations in the region, and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The main document emphasised interpersonal cooperation and the fact that the Baltic Sea Region should be an area of peaceful cooperation. The relationships between Russia and its western neighbours should not impact on the cooperation of NGOs within the region. Constant cooperation between citizens promotes stability in the region by decreasing tension, promoting tradition and a good neighbourhood, mutual trust, and tolerance. For the NGOs to have an opportunity to fulfil the role, appropriate instruments for financing their operation should be developed. The forum also emphasised the question of human rights and minority rights.

Ms Daria Akhutina, General Director of the Baltic Sea NGO Forum and Network, shared her remarks on the future and role of NGO networks in the Baltic Sea Region. She emphasised the special significance of interpersonal cooperation in our times. Furthermore, she recognised that the actions of NGOs can have an impact on the harmonisation of relations within the region. She expressed her belief that interpersonal diplomacy will have an exceedingly important role to play in future, and that currently it is not sufficiently exploited and appreciated. In her opinion, parliamentarians, in their capacity as promoters of contacts within the civil society of the region, are a natural partner for the activation and streamlining of such activity. She appealed for the launching of permanent cooperation between the BSPPC and the network of non-governmental organisations.

Recognising the significance of the existing programmes that make it possible to finance the operation of NGOs, she appealed for an opportunity to also have their funds used by small organisations in the region. She pointed out that major EU programmes are inaccessible to small NGOs.

Mr Rumén Gechev, member of Bulgarian Parliament and Chairman of the Economy, Infrastructure and Energy Committee of the SEECP (South-East European Cooperation Process), presented information on the development of parliamentary cooperation within the SEECP. Collaboration between the SEECP member states has developed over 15 years. The Parliamentary

Assembly of the SEECP was set up in Bucharest in 2014 to further peace, security, solidarity, and neighbourhood cooperation. Recognising that the future of all members of the organisation lies within the European Union, the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly focuses its activity on the initiation of various forms of exchanges of experience related to law and its harmonisation with EU law, the reinforcement of civil dialogue with civil society, and taking the leading role in the achievement of synergy between actions in regional initiatives and forms of cooperation in economic and social development, development of infrastructure, energy, internal affairs and justice, and cooperation in safety and the development of human capital, intensification of diplomatic and parliamentary activity, and the development of links with regional, European, and international organisations and institutions.

The speaker informed those present that the model of Baltic cooperation was to a great extent the role model for the SEECP in the development of its Parliamentary Assembly. He greatly appreciated the cooperation between the secretariats of the SEECP and the BSPC and thanked Ryszard Górecki, Chairman of the BSPC, for his participation in the inaugural meeting of the SEECP. Furthermore, he expressed the conviction that the SEECP will soon apply for observer status at the BSPC.

Ms Alexandra Ehlers, President of the Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein, presented a Report on the situation of the



Ms Alexandra Ehlers

Baltic Sea Youth Council. She stated that up to 2012, the Council had been financed by all the states of the Baltic Sea Region, and that after the curtailment of that support, the operation of the Council was significantly hampered. Beginning in 2013, the Council began collaborating with other youth organisations. In 2013 funds were obtained from the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The Baltic Sea Youth Forum in Kiel was successfully organised as part of the Kiel Week 2014 thanks to the support of the Schleswig-Holstein Parliament. The forum is an exchange of opinions, positions, and views that are transmitted to politicians. The speaker requested support for the Youth Council so as not to lose the achievements of the earlier efforts. She also appealed for strategic cooperation with parliamentarians of the Baltic Sea Region.

Comments

Ms Karin Åström, President of the Nordic Council, emphasised the very good parliamentary cooperation that has served the citizens of the Baltic Sea Region well since the establishment of the BSPC. She recognised that in recent years we had witnessed many crises that have affected Europe, including the current Russian-Ukrainian conflict, which is having an impact on the climate of cooperation within the region. On behalf of the Nordic Council, she supported the initiation of robust, con-



Ms Karin Åström,



Ms Riitta Myller,

structive systems of communication for the setting up of good cooperation with Russian parliamentarians, appealed for action in support of avoiding a new Cold War, and expressed hope for good cooperation and political communication between the Nordic Council, the CBSS, and BSPC parliamentarians in the future.

Ms Riitta Myller, member of the Finnish Parliament, emphasised that from the moment of its establishment, the BSPC has helped strengthen democratic institutions and the building of trust within the Baltic Sea Region. She recognised that it is more important than ever before to build up democracy, dialogue and cooperation between all the actors in the region.

In addition she noted the main problems that many countries in the region are struggling with, notably the economic slowdown and unemployment among the young. She recognised that innovation, development of the digital economy and clean technologies, and green and blue growth, are an opportunity to increase the level of well-being and the robustness of the region's societies. Another shared concern is the environmental condition of the Baltic Sea, while the implementation of the goals contained in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan provides the opportunity to improve it.

She furthermore recognised that a special emphasis should be laid on the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.



Mr Atis Lejiš

Mr Atis Lejiš, member of the Latvian Parliament, pointed to the need for a reference to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in the final resolution of the 23rd BSPC. He pointed to alleged proofs of Russian military activity in Ukraine, and to the events that have an impact on the situation in the Baltic Sea Region, including the sanctions imposed in the response of the Western states to the Russian military actions in Ukraine and the increase of military activity in the Baltic Sea Region.

Mr Bernd Heinemann, Vice President of the Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein, recognised that the cooperation of young people in the region provides the grounds for future peaceful development. He informed about the success of the Youth Forum in Kiel in June. He also recalled that an agreement about the importance of the Youth Council was reached during the 22nd BSPC in Pärnu, Estonia. He appealed for action to be taken to support the joint financing of the Youth Council.

Mr Jochen Schulte, member of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, BSPC Rapporteur on Integrated Maritime Policy, presented information about the events taking place in Bremen as part of the European Maritime Day. The participants in the events agreed that the sustainable consumption of resources will become increasingly significant for the region in the future. To achieve that, it is necessary to use new, green technologies, which in turn requires cooperation between politicians, industry, and scientists. In his comments, Mr Schulte emphasised that the BSPC endeavours to initiate



Mr Jochen Schulte

such cooperation. He furthermore appealed for continuation of the cooperation that has so far taken place in line with the conference's overarching theme, the Quest for Harmony.

Mr Franz Thönnies, member of Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, referred to the difficult past of the region and emphasised the lessons that have been drawn from it, which have resulted



Mr Franz Thönnies

in the multitude of levels of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. He noted the cancelling of the most recent summit of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, and expressed his concern at the way the situation in Ukraine had been developing. He emphasised that the annexation of Crimea is a violation of international law and, as such, is unacceptable. At the same time, he recognised that any military solution to the conflict is not an option. Furthermore, he pointed out the need for dialogue and constructive de-escalation of the conflict. Mr Thönnies was looking forward with hope to the approaching meeting of the presidents of Ukraine and Russia. He furthermore encouraged a return to the principles agreed in Helsinki in the Helsinki Final Act (Helsinki Declaration) of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and emphasised that the level of cooperation achieved around the Baltic Sea cannot be sacrificed. In his opinion the greatest guarantor of peace is mutual trust and the belief that we can act jointly for our overall safety and security.



Ms Sylvia Bretschneider

Ms Sylvia Bretschneider, President of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the BSPC Observer at HELCOM, emphasised the fruitful cooperation between the BSPC and HELCOM, which has been continuing for 12 years now. She informed about her participation (together with Ms Christina Gestrin) in the Ministerial Meeting of the Helsinki Commission in Copenhagen and addressing the participants on behalf of the BSPC. She

wished every success to the Estonian Presidency of HELCOM, and expressed the hope that HELCOM will maintain its leading role in the endeavours to ensure that the Baltic Sea is in good environmental condition.





Session two

Environmental legacy – environmental challenges

Mr Andrzej Jagusiewicz, Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Poland, presented information about selected activities carried out by Poland to protect the Baltic Sea environment.

He expressed his optimism that Poland would attain the goals of the Baltic Sea Action Plan by 2021, including through the implementation of the National Programme of Construction of Wastewater Treatment Plants. The programme, with a budget of €20 billion, covers the construction, expansion and/or modernisation of wastewater processing plants in all clusters of 2000 or more residents by 2015.

The Inspector referred to the problem of chemical munitions lying in the Baltic. He recalled that Poland leads the UMBRELLA (Underwater Munitions Baltic REmediation cluster LeAgue) cluster project as part of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and is actively involved in other projects in the field, namely CHEMSEA



Mr Andrzej Jagusiewicz

and MODUM. He advocated the complete cleaning of certain areas of the Baltic from the chemical munitions that are deposited there and informed members about ambitions to develop the first pilot project aimed at the complete clearing of the Gdańsk Deep of noxious chemicals used in warfare.

Furthermore the speaker updated the participants about the efficient action that had been taken in order to protect and monitor the condition of phosphogypsum deposit sites in Poland, and emphasised that the deposits are safe and that their state is being monitored in real-time. His account contained news of the joint Polish-Finnish investigation into their condition, and the expression of interest in the situation in phosphogypsum production plants in other countries.

In his closing remarks the inspector advocated open and transparent cooperation between all countries lying within the catchment of the Baltic Sea, including Belarus and Ukraine, in the spirit of mutual trust.

Ms Christina Gestrin, member of the Finnish Parliament, presented a Progress Report on Eutrophication in the Baltic Sea Region recognising that it is the worst problem faced by the Baltic Sea. She noted that the question has repeatedly been discussed at the forum of the BSPC. She also recalled that the BSPC had developed and ratified the Clear and Clean report in 2007. This report included 25 recommendations on how to reduce the release of nutrients into the sea. She emphasised the significance of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. Its approval in 2007 marked the start of a more ordered processes of combating ecological problems in the Baltic. A further step was the acceptance of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in 2009. The inclusion of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan in the strategy increased its significance. The speaker also emphasised the significance of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership in the realm of the environment and environmental protection as it plays a significant role in combining the efforts of non-EU – especially Russia, Ukraine and Belarus – and EU member states in endeavours to overcome environmental problems in the Baltic Sea Region.

Her remarks on the success of multiple projects in support of the environment, and especially the withdrawal of the use of phosphates in detergents, were followed by ones about improvements in wastewater treatment in the south-western part of Saint Petersburg and investments in wastewater treatment plants in Rus-



Ms Christina Gestrin

sia, Poland, and the Baltic States. She drew attention to the fact that the success of many projects was possible thanks to the loans awarded by a variety of institutions, notably the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Nordic Investment Bank (NIB), NEFCO, and also national grants and private foundations. Furthermore, a fund to support technical improvements in order to implement the Baltic Sea Action plan has been launched with support of the Nordic Council and the BSPC. Between 2010 and 2013 more than 30 projects have been supported. Currently, there are no more means available through that fund; a future financing would have to be ensured. In recognition of the success of a wide array of actions and the reduction of the deposition of nutrients in the Baltic, she highlighted the need to expand research on new technologies to solve problems related to the phosphorus burden which has a direct impact on the increase of oxygen-depleted areas on the sea bottom and speeds up blue-green algae blooms.

The Finnish MP recognised that the current political situation in the region is a threat to the lasting positive process of protection of the Baltic Sea. With respect to the current conflict on the territory of Ukraine, the EBRD and the NIB have frozen financial support for new projects in Russia. The speaker emphasised the need to continue cooperation between Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and the EU in the rescue of the Baltic Sea. ‘We should do our utmost to guarantee a continued cooperation and not to let po-

litical differences cause irreparable damage to the successes achieved and put a halt to the promising path ahead’, she said, and expressed hope for a prompt return of the political situation to normal.

Dr Jacek Beldowski, an expert of the Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, presented a report entitled *Chemical Munitions in the Baltic – from Search to Monitoring*, and informed members of the Conference about the most recent research in the area. He placed emphasis on the fact that the chemical munitions lie not only in the Gotland and Bornholm basins (deeps), but also in other areas of the Baltic Sea, and not all the deposition sites are known. Besides the threat to the environment, lack of such knowledge has also influenced economic activity on the sea.

Information about the CHEMSEA project, with the participation of governmental research institutions from Poland, Germany, Sweden, Finland, and Lithuania, included news of it having received support as part of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The research teams participating in the project undertook to identify the locations of chemical munitions in areas that have not yet been investigated, and around the Gdańsk Deep and Gotland Basin, secondly, to estimate the concentration of the chemical warfare agents and the products of their degradation in the sea bottom sediments surrounding the finds, and thirdly – to assess the risk related to the natural or accidental release of such



Dr Jacek Beldowski

substances into the ecosystem of the Baltic Sea. An approximation was made that approximately half of the munitions deposited in the Gdańsk Deep are corroded and leaking. A much higher index of fish diseases was documented around Bornholm compared to other regions. Yet the most significant achievement of the CHEMSEA project was the harmonisation of methods used to analyse the samples of polluted water, sea bottom sediments and tissue (fish and mollusc), and the standardisation of detection procedures in polluted regions. The model developed allows quantitative and qualitative estimation of the spreading of pollution should elements of the chemical munitions be affected, and maps of the polluted areas have been updated.

The speaker also informed members of the MODUM Project which had recently commenced. Its objective is to conduct a more detailed investigation within smaller areas to stocktake and determine the condition and types of munitions, and to define the ecological condition around the area of their deposition. The project involves institutions from Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Germany, Poland, Russia, and Sweden.

The long-term goal of the above-mentioned projects is the formulation of standard procedures for monitoring on a larger scale and the development of new methods for conducting analyses from ship decks in the future, and the setting up a network for the permanent monitoring of chemical munitions deposited in the Baltic Sea.

Professor Urmas Lips, Head of Department of Marine Physics, Chair of Oceanography, Institute of Marine Systems, Tallinn University of Technology, made his presentation on the operational information on the state of the Baltic Sea based on novel approaches and regional cooperation, and remarked that appropriate action needs to be taken to achieve the objectives contained in the Baltic Sea Action Plan, and their efficiency can only be assessed against thorough and solid knowledge of the condition and functioning of the maritime ecosystem. This is why scientifically credible systems for monitoring and evaluation must exist. Moreover, he reminded members that HELCOM had approved a new strategy for monitoring and assessment in 2013. Monitoring activities are coordinated between the countries, and – wherever possible – made accessible throughout the region. This is achieved by, among other actions, the application of joint initiatives including questionnaires, campaigns, cruises, and joint stations; the use of teledetection and autonomous measurement tools to obtain data from cruise ships; the use of modelling for data aggregation and the



Professor Urmas Lips

construction of optimised data layers, and the provision of access to infrastructure. Moreover, the speaker counted the Seatrack HELCOM Web operating system and the Baltic Operational Oceanographic System (BOOS) among the significant elements of the monitoring system.

The speaker recognised that due to significant variability of the maritime ecosystem, the development and use of new tools for monitoring, ones that collect and transmit data in real-time, is very important. He further disclosed that operating forecasts and the use of models for the assessment of environmental impact require high resolution data from sufficiently large areas. He also considered remote detection applications, sampling along ferry lines, and the use of autonomous buoy-type stations and vehicles most efficient and economically justified. He pointed out that international cooperation is the most efficient way of reducing the costs of research and monitoring, both as far as investments and the necessary activities are concerned.



Mr Danne Sundman

Comments

Mr Danne Sundman, member of the Parliament of Åland, informed members that a mass growth of algae was observed around the islands in 2014. He emphasised that the life of the inhabitants of the islands depends on the condition of the sea, and algae are toxic both for people and animals. He expanded on the information by pointing to the need to fight eutrophication and take steps to improve the well-being of the Baltic Sea. Furthermore, he emphasised the importance of the eutrophication clauses in the final resolution of the 23rd BSPC. His closing remarks were that the residents of the Åland Islands are undertaking steps to reduce the pollution of the sea, and he asked for adequate steps to be taken by others.

Mr Dietmar Eifler, member of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, informed that Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is on a good path of reaching HELCOM goals in eutrophication even though some farms still exceed the emissions of nutrients. Continuing, he expressed the opinion that authorities should take actions towards deficient farms in such cases. He also pointed to the need to undertake steps to reduce soil erosion and appealed for the instigation of actions in support of limiting the seepage of nutrients to ground waters and to the Baltic. Furthermore, the MP stated that a programme for the protection of peat bogs has been carried out in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern since 2000 and that means of using such areas for the storage of nutrients are being



Mr Ryszard Górecki

considered. In his closing remarks the speaker emphasised the detrimental nature of the long-lasting plastic waste that finds its way into the maritime environment.

Mr Ryszard Górecki, member of the Polish Parliament, informed members of the Conference that, thanks to his work for the BSPC, he had intensified his involvement in activities supporting environmental protection, for example, he had inspired the implementation of the Green University programme in the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn which includes student education, scientific research in energy and environmental protection, thermal modernisation of university buildings, and the setting up of a botanical garden. Moreover he inspired the setting up of a new scientific institute devoted to questions of environmental protection with a special focus on limnology. A new course: Cultural and Natural Heritage will start this year so as to increase the number of specialists in the field.

Session three

Baltic Sea Cultural Heritage – Providing orientation for a good partnership

Mr Piotr Żuchowski, Secretary of State at the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, stated that the Baltic Sea Region is one of the priorities of the Polish cultural policy, which finds its expression in their activity and involvement in cultural cooperation in the region.

Since 2013, Poland has co-coordinated the Culture Priority Area in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The speaker noted that the strategy announced in 2009 covered 15 priority areas, leaving culture aside. Following a joint initiative of Poland and the Land of Schleswig-Holstein, culture was brought within the scope of the Strategy and selected as a priority. He recognised the fact that culture had acquired a priority status in a micro-regional strategy of the EU which was a success of the entire region.

In parallel, since 2014, Poland has presided over the Northern Dimension Partnership Culture (NDPC). The Partnership con-



Mr Piotr Żuchowski



centrates on supporting the culture and creative sectors in the region which form one of the priorities in the development of culture in Poland. The realm of NDPC's interests also extends over cultural heritage construed as the development of new tourist products. The speaker disclosed that the strong involvement of Poland in the area of culture will be intensifying in the region in the coming years. In July 2015, Poland will assume its Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), and culture will be one of the priorities of the Polish Presidency, with special focus on increasing the efficiency of cultural cooperation and the significance of culture and cultural heritage for the development of regions.

The speaker recognised the idea of the Baltic Heritage Atlas (an interactive atlas of the Baltic Sea Region) which is highly significant as it accounts for the most important cultural heritage sites in the region. The project leader is the Maritime Museum in Gdańsk. The project also covers information and educational activities, and the introduction of state-of-the-art communication tools related to the key cultural heritage of the region.

Ms Anke Spoorendonk, Minister of Justice, Cultural and European Affairs of Schleswig-Holstein, referred to culture as a new priority in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. She emphasised that the strategy, in which culture is one of 17 priority areas, provides an opportunity to give the region a shared political framework.

The speaker believes culture to be a value in itself, as it builds bridges, unites, and brings people and regions together. Joint actions in culture are significant for the inclusion of Russian partners in Baltic cooperation even during the conflict in Ukraine, and emphasised that the conflict cannot result in the breaking of communication. She recognised that a part of regional identity means that having different views, we shall tolerate them while discussing and cooperating with one another.

The speaker emphasised the significance of the business aspect in culture and the creative industries which provides the EU with 4.5% of its added value. Culture is a significant catalyst for innovation and is important for other sectors as well. Culture is what defines the quality of life in cities and regions. She pointed to the leading culture-related goals within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in relation to the above. These are support for culture and the creative industries in the region, maintenance of cultural heritage and its visibility, support for cultural dialogue, and supporting structures for its efficient operation.



Ms Anke Spoorendonk

Furthermore, she emphasised the significance of the project entitled the Academy of Baltic Cultural Heritage Management whose goal is to build – as part of the Strategy – an expert network for cultural heritage management. The speaker also informed participants about the meeting on cultural dialogue that took place in Turku (Finland) in June 2013 during the Baltic Maritime Days. The participants identified the need for the improvement of the framework for financing cultural projects. It was recognised that cultural dialogue should focus on culture and social development and the speaker pointed out that the creative industries are important not only for the development of innovation and prosperity, but also material for the civil development of the region's communities. Art and creativity are the forces driving social innovation and the reinforcement of social cohesion.

The Minister also professed her support for the involvement of young people and her support for the operation of the Baltic Sea Youth Forum.

Professor Henryk Samsonowicz focused his considerations on the theme The Baltic Sea – a Frontier or a Meeting Point, pointing to the historical multitude of economic, cultural, and social contacts across the southern Baltic.

He emphasised the role of the Baltic as the keystone for the lands inhabited by the tribes that evolved into the Polish state, and the areas inhabited by various Germanic peoples, as has been noted since antiquity. He pointed to the special historic significance of the first cit-



Professor Henryk Samsonowicz

ies of the Baltic: Liubice/Old Lübeck, Strzałowo/Stralsund, Wolin, and Truso. Later, he proceeded to highlight the cultural and economic significance of 13th-century colonisation based on German law and later to grand historical processes, the development of the Hanseatic League headed by Lübeck, and the establishment of the monastic states of the Order of Teutonic Knights and the Livonian Brothers of the Sword in Prussia and Livonia respectively. The significant role of cities and Baltic merchants in European trade, and the significant role of the region in its capacity as a link to the East were both mentioned. Such links resulted in the development of specific cultural forms, enriched by influences from Europe's East and West. The speaker emphasised that despite the plethora of conflicts, cultural differences, and language barriers, the area of contacts that developed in time connected Slavic and Germanic countries, thus contributing to the development of European culture.

Professor Jörg Hackmann, University of Szczecin, presented information on the Baltic Sea History Project which is a flagship project of the culture priority area in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The objective of the project is to look at the history of the Baltic Sea Region from a new perspective and to present various perceptions of Baltic Sea history.

The project is coordinated by Academia Baltica from Flensburg (Germany), and its main partners are Tallinn City Archives (Estonia), the Aue Foundation from Helsinki (Finland), and the University of Szczecin (Poland).



Ms Anke Spoorendonk,

The main features of the project include a constructivist approach to history, promotion of supranational disputes including local and regional initiatives, focus on collective memory, and online publications.

The speaker referred to the fact that shared history is commonly perceived as the starting point for cooperation and that there is interest in the development of post- or supra-national identities, e.g. European, Nordic, and Baltic. He recognised that multiple perspectives can operate as a tool for coping with monocultural, ethnocentric, and/or exclusive worldviews.

In future, the project envisages involving a broader target group (teachers, students, representatives in cultural stages, etc.) inviting them to cooperate, develop a network of partnership organisations and transform the pilot module into a broad interactive platform, using it for workshops, seminars, etc.

Mr Mikko Härö, Director of the Department of Cultural Environment Protection of the National Board of Antiquities of Finland, defined heritage in his paper on heritage and sustainability; trends and challenges as infrastructure consisting of the resources inherited from the past that people identify as the reflection and expression of their – ever-changing – values, beliefs, knowledge, and traditions. The paper furthermore suggested that the only constant feature of heritage is permanent change.



Mr Mikko Härö

The new approach to heritage assumes that the definitions of heritage should be developed by communities and not by administrations. The speaker mentioned the Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society of the Council of Europe of 2005 on the value of cultural heritage to society, which makes it possible to inscribe heritage into human activity and disassociate it from political associations.

The speaker recognised the European Commission Communication entitled Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe (July 2014) as a milestone in the EU's approach to heritage. Thus heritage is considered an important factor that permits the development of business and trade, and a comfortable environment for life. Moreover, he advocated support, if not promotion, of changes in the cultural environment should such changes occur in line with the criteria of sustainable development.

Dr Hanna Hagmark-Cooper, Director of the Åland Maritime Museum, described the role of maritime museums as guardians of marine heritage and promoters of marine culture. She expressed the conviction that maritime museums have a key role to play in the maintenance and promotion of the marine cultural heritage, both as part of traditional museum assignments and also as a unifying force for external initiatives and actors. Through their activity, museums become involved in cooperation and attract the commitment of local communities. This feeds economic growth and social cohesion. Moreover, museums become involved in external activi-



Dr Hanna Hagmark-Cooper

ties. The director described plans to rebuild the historical port in Mariehamn. Another important aspect of the operation of museums is international cooperation. Five Baltic Sea Region Cultural Heritage Forums have been organised since 2003.

Furthermore, the speaker encouraged the strengthening of ties between museums, research institutes and other institutions.

Ms Anita Vaivade PhD from the Latvian Academy of Culture and expert of the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO discussed Prospects for Regional Cooperation on Intangible Cultural Heritage.

In the last decade, intangible cultural heritage has become a concept recognised all over the world and a current question in policy development in various parts of the world. The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was ratified in 2003. It has been agreed that such heritage encompasses knowledge, know-how, skills, practices, and expressions that communities, groups, and individuals recognise as part of their own cultural heritage that requires protection. Nearly all the countries of the Baltic Sea Region have become parties to the Convention. There are eight centres dealing with the question worldwide, although their profiles differ. Cultural heritage, both material or tangible and intangible, is also increasing in significance in the European Union and the Baltic Sea Region. In 2014, with the support of the French-Latvian research programme Osmosis, an international research project began



Ms Anita Vaivade

on the development of a network of reflection on intangible cultural heritage law. Its purpose is to develop a network of researchers dealing with the legal questions related to intangible cultural heritage and the development of a methodology for comparative analysis of such heritage in the legislation of individual states.

The speaker mentioned The Baltic Way, a human chain developed in the Baltic States on 23 August 1989, as an example of intangible cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea Region. The event also received recognition from UNESCO. In addition she discussed examples of intangible heritage in the region, notably polyphonic singing, traditions of smoke sauna, and the recognition of places important for the Viking era. Furthermore, she emphasised that intangible heritage was of the greatest significance for the functioning of local communities.

Comments

Mr Jörgen Pettersson, member of the Parliament of Åland, emphasised the significance of the maritime heritage of the Baltic Sea Region. The marine history and maritime culture which has developed over centuries in the Baltic area is what brings our civilisations together. The MP expressed the conviction that there are new opportunities available today which make it possible to set up a peaceful, clean and prosperous Baltic Sea Region founded on



Mr Jörgen Pettersson

green and blue energy. He furthermore considered that the region sets an example to the whole world of joint effort in support of sustainable development.

Mr Piotr Bauć, member of the Polish Parliament, addressed the parliamentarians with an appeal to consider how to include culture into actions in support of peaceful development. He appealed for overcoming barriers and differences with knowledge-based tools and dialogue, and expressed hope that thanks to references to



Mr Piotr Bauć



Mr André Brie

cultural heritage and inclusion of culture, proper solutions can be found and military conflicts suppressed.

Mr André Brie, member of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, expressed his conviction that culture is an opportunity for the entire region owing to the rich shared cultural heritage. This heritage is a very powerful resource for the region whose wealth is also associated with variety. Furthermore, he announced that Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has proposed the strengthening of cooperation between the region's states in the area of culture at the Southern Baltic Sea Parliamentary Forum.

The speaker went on to provide information on the virtual Museum 2.0 Plus project developed by the European Union. Its main objective is to combine the region's main oceanographic museums into a network. It is a good example of good transborder cooperation that serves all of its participants. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern intends to further the intensification of cultural cooperation and dialogue in the Baltic Sea Region.

Mr Franz Thönnnes, member of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, thanked the speakers for their presentations portraying a great variety of the history we share, and cultural and historical heritage. He expressed the hope that knowledge of the conflicts from the past will make it possible to resolve today's conflicts through parliamentary means. He also appealed for joint responsibility to be taken towards contemporary challenges.



Mr Franz Thönnies

Having emphasised the importance of the involvement of young people, he asked for support for the Baltic Sea Youth Secretariat.

In addition he addressed the significance of the protection of the maritime heritage, including the traditional forms of maritime transport, which should be seriously considered in today's business. He further appealed for the facilitation of the operation of traditional vessels at sea, and considered that it is important to preserve cultural heritage by maintaining living cultural traditions. Closing the session, the speaker pointed to the important role of culture in ensuring cohesion between nations.

Mr Vatanyar Yagya, Adviser to the Parliament of the City of Saint Petersburg, emphasised that culture can assure a good and fruitful partnership. He explained that culture plays a role as the most effective ambassador of the country. He appealed for the retention of the political culture that evolved in the BSPC over more than the last two decades, emphasising that the BSPC has worked out unique values of parliamentary cooperation between national and regional assemblies.

In addition he reported that Saint Petersburg has concluded approximately 80 memoranda on cultural cooperation with other bodies, and that the Russian Federation has developed scientific and cultural centres in approximately 80 countries. Moreover, he suggested that there is a need to take the question of science and education to the BSPC forum.



Mr Vatanyar Yagya

Ms Daria Akhutina of the NGO Network provided information on the latest initiative, set up in Novgorod, concerning the development of a cultural tourism related project in the Baltic Sea Region. The purpose of the project, supported by the CBSS and assuming cooperation aimed at the development of a regional promotion strategy, is to use cultural heritage as a driving force. It is believed that through the development of a platform for cooperation between institutions, the potential of cultural heritage could be used for the development of tourism and the promotion of products and services in third-party countries.



Ms Daria Akhutina







Session four

The Baltic Sea Region in search of a harmonious and sustainable future

Dr Leszek Mellibruda, in his presentation on public confidence in the new sense of freedom and challenge of interpersonal relationships, referred to the contemporary revolution in notions of trust, authority, and freedom. What is being observed is a crisis of social trust. The notion of trust is linked to the support of the state or institution(s), safety and security, satisfaction, and pride that gives sense to one's actions. The academic expressed the opinion that politicians cannot frequently influence the way they are presented in the media, and yet it is in the media that their image is built. That is why the development of public trust is currently made extremely difficult. Social trust refers to the notion of authority. There is a need for a new approach to authority in which co-participation plays a significant role. World events visibly influence the significance of the notion of personal freedom. New meanings of freedom refer to an array of new attitudes that are conditioned by the generation one belongs to.



Dr Leszek Mellibruda



Ms Kinga Dudzińska

Ms Kinga Dudzińska of the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) presented a report entitled Cross-Border Movement between Gdańsk, Olsztyn, and Kaliningrad expressing the view that the introduction of the agreement on local border traffic between the Republic of Poland and the Russian Federation has proved a success in the social, economic, and cultural dimensions. This makes it possible for the residents of the Kaliningrad Oblast, and some counties in the Pomorskie and Warmia and Mazury regions to cross the border on the basis of permits has initiated more frequent contacts. The speaker quoted statistical data proving a significant increase in commerce in the areas lying on both sides of the border covered by the agreement, with the tourist sector also drawing benefits. Thanks to the agreement on local border traffic, scientific collaboration, youth exchange, and mutual contacts between NGOs have also been developing. What has not proved justified on the other hand was the anxiety about the intensification of ordinary criminal activity in border regions. In the current political context, the functioning of the agreement illustrates the challenges faced by both states, for example, in the development of border infrastructure and the intensification of cooperation between local authorities.

Mr Mikalai Katsetski, project manager at RUMCE, the Dnepro-Bug Waterway Republican Unitary Maintenance and Construction Enterprise, from Belarus spoke about the 'Revitalisation of the Water Trail E40, Baltic Sea – Black Sea Plans and Actions for a Sustainable Future' project, giving information about the intention to revive the trail and the works already conducted on the



Mr Mikalai Katsetski

Belarusian section of the waterway. The route E40 has a long history dating back to the 18th century. In the past, it used to connect the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. Its total length is 2000 km, of which 626 km lie on the territory of Belarus. A stretch of 250 km across that country is cascaded through locks and sluices. Multi-stage reconstruction works, including the construction of hydro-power plants, have taken place on the Belarussian section. This route needs connection to other waterways to exploit fully its potential and currently there is no connection to Western Europe. The project, conducted with Polish and Ukrainian partners, assumes that the waterway will actually be recreated. Currently, it is at the stage of analysis and a feasibility study is underway.

The speaker emphasised the role of waterways in their capacity as a connector between states, and underlined the economic potential of the project in question.

Ms Olaug Bollestad, Chairwoman of the BSPC WG on Innovation in Social and Health Care, presented the Midway Report from the BSPC Working Group on Innovation in Social and Health Care. The group was set up after the 22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in 2013.

So far, three meetings of the group have taken place, and the final report of its work will be presented in 2015 together with the political recommendations it has developed. Fourteen representatives of eight states have participated in the work of the Group.





Ms Olaug Bollestad

The speaker mentioned the main healthcare problems that the group has been investigating, namely, the ageing of the population, inequalities in health care, diseases that result from lifestyle, and financial pressure. Innovation was highlighted as a tool to meet these challenges in a cost-efficient manner and to simultaneously be able to offer qualitatively sound health services. Among the preliminary recommendations of the Working Group are strategies and action plans for the promotion of innovation in social and healthcare, organisational and structural reforms, fiscal incentives to help SMEs, favourable financing conditions for the health economy, the foundation of competence centres for the commercialisation of scientific insights, competence enhancements in education and training, equitably available healthcare and social welfare services, a greater awareness of the needs of elderly people, the exchange of best practice, as well as the continued support of the work of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being.



Ms Annette Holmberg-Jansson

Comments

Ms Annette Holmberg-Jansson, member of the Parliament of Åland and member of the BSPC WG on Innovation in Social and Health Care, commented on the unfavourable demographic changes as a huge challenge that the communities of the Baltic Sea Region are facing. She referred to the issue of senile dementia re-





Mr Piotr Bauć

sulting from this phenomenon, which is turning into an increasing problem, both at community and financial levels. She appealed for a quick reaction to the subject and the investigation of strategies and solutions for coping with this problem.

Mr Piotr Bauć, member of the Polish Parliament, emphasised the significance of the E40 waterway revival project. He remarked that





Ms Silke Gajek

the waterway, crossing the territory of both EU and non-EU states, provides an opportunity to develop commercial and tourist contacts as well as ties between communities. Furthermore he informed members of the Conference about the planned presentation of the project in the headquarters of the European Parliament, and also mentioned plans to develop a network of waterways in Poland.

The speaker expressed satisfaction and underlined the success in the operation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Rules of Local Border Traffic.

Ms Silke Gajek, member of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, referred to the dark side of commodification in health care. She emphasised the importance of dignity in ageing and recognition of the significance of mobility for the older generation. She commented on the social changes and disappearance of multi-generation families which is becoming a problem for the less wealthy. Moreover, she pointed out the problem of accessibility of certain services and the importance of voluntary work. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has launched a Study Commission to deal with questions of ageing in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.



Ms Valentina Pivnenko

Ms Valentina Pivnenko, member of the Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, underlined importance of the work carried out by the BSPC WG on Innovation in Social and Health Care, and expressed her belief that the interest of the BSPC in the area of healthcare would also continue in the years which follow once the Working Group has finished its operations.





Closure of the 23rd BSPC

Closing the conference, **Mr Ryszard Górecki**, stepping down from the position of Chairman of the BSPC, expressed his satisfaction that he had gained from the opportunity to meet parliamentarians at a time of a profound political crisis in the immediate vicinity of the Baltic Sea Region, and hoped that the BSPC would remain an important instrument for building trust in the region. He said that the sessions proved how many challenges the countries of the Baltic region are facing. ‘What should be done so that economic development takes place without harming the environment? How can we best harmonise the activities of numerous organisations so that the investment of our time and means is most effective in days of crisis? What should we do so that political tensions do not mar good interpersonal relations which have been cherished with such a great effort?’, and he added that these are but a handful of questions that will absorb the attention of conference participants in the very near future.

Mr Ryszard Górecki also thanked Jan Widberg for his long service in the post of BSPC Secretary General. He wished Mr Widberg every success in his new post, and expressed hope for future cooperation.



Mr Jan Widberg thanked those present for creating the warm atmosphere for pursuing compromises in the BSPC. He remarked that working on his new post in Riga, he will remain within the orbit of the Baltic Sea.





Mr Ryszard Górecki informed those present that the Presidency of the BSPC for 2014/2015 is now being taken over by the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and the symbol of Presidency has passed to **Ms Sylvia Bretschneider**, president of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.



Ms Silvia Bretchsneider, Chairwoman of the BSPC in 2014–2015, thanked Mr Ryszard Górecki and then the Polish hosts for the organisation of the conference. She also thanked Jan Widberg for his long-term intensive work at the post of the General Secretary of the BSPC.

The new Chairwoman invited the members of the Conference gathered in Olsztyn to the 24th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, which will be held in Rostock-Warnemunde from 30 August to 1 September 2015, and explained that it is not going to be the first gathering of the BSPC organised by the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, as the previous one was held in 2001.



The speaker emphasised that the BSPC is more than just a conference, as it is an event that gathers together people living around the Baltic Sea, and remarked that delegates represent various people who differ in experience, skills, emotions, feelings. Further, she emphasised the will and eagerness to live in peace and good neighbourhood, reassuring that a meeting of parliamentarians aims at development of mutual understanding and friendship in the spirit of respect for various opinions and lifestyles. She highlighted the value of meetings and discussions also in the face of difficulties and problems, as this can contribute to the construction of the Baltic Sea Region promising a good life in future.



Annex 1

Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 23rd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants, elected legislators from the Baltic Sea Region States*, assembling in Olsztyn, Poland, 24-26 August 2014,

- a. discussing Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, Environmental Legacy, Baltic Sea Cultural Heritage, A Sustainable Future for the Baltic Sea Region, and Innovation in Social and Health Care,
- b. asserting that the parliamentary dimension constitutes an integral part of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, which can both reinforce the democratic legitimacy of cooperation and provide it with concrete political contributions and support,
- c. reiterating their support to the CBSS, welcoming the new long-term priorities of the CBSS, as well as the efforts by the Finnish CBSS Presidency to improve coherence in Baltic Sea regional cooperation, and acknowledging the progress and achievements of CBSS in fields such as sustainable development, clean shipping, labour market mobility, cultural heritage, trafficking in human beings, and civil security,
- d. deeply concerned over the crisis in Ukraine, and welcoming all steps that can contribute to a peaceful solution of the crisis;

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

*Parliaments of

Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Iceland, Kaliningrad, 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, Nordic Council.

Regarding Co-operation in the Region, to

1. stress the importance of continuing and developing cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, including Northern Dimension, and of perpetuating the open, broad and trust-building dialogue within existing networks and institutions;
2. make concerted efforts to strengthen the coherence between the overarching strategies for the Baltic Sea Region, such as the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Russian Strategy for Social and Economic Development of the North-West Federal District (NW2020);
3. make full use of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and other regional initiatives to deliver on a sustainable Blue growth agenda in the Baltic leading to growth and jobs from the maritime economy;
4. take concrete steps to enhance synergy, efficiency, coherence and the combined output of Baltic Sea Region cooperation, by improving information exchange, division of labor and actual coordination of activities, i.a. through the further development of a structured dialogue between relevant organizations and formats; by encouraging e.g. the launching of inter-organizational Task Forces to target issues of common interest; and by working towards a visa-free future of the Baltic Sea Region, providing as many possibilities for people-to-people-contacts and for cross-border-cooperation of the civil society, cultural, economic and scientific sector as possible;
5. consider supporting a “Baltic Sea Think Tank” comprising all member states of the BSPC, aiming at creating a broad basis for research on the common history and future of the Region;
6. pursue concrete measures to facilitate unhampered people-to-people- contacts and cross-border cooperation of the civil society and the cultural, scientific and business sectors throughout the entire Baltic Sea Region, e.g. by reducing or removing visa restrictions and by facilitating NGO contacts as well as their possibilities to make their views known;
7. support the Baltic Sea Youth Secretariat in Kiel and its efforts to launch a Baltic Youth Forum in order to establish and maintain a permanent institution for exchange among youth in the Baltic Sea Region;

Regarding Environmental Legacy, to

8. fully honour all commitments made under the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan in order to restore good ecological status of the Baltic marine environment by 2021, without any exception or postponement of agreed decisions, as well as the revised country-wise nutrient reduction requirements adopted at the HELCOM 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting;
9. make efforts to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the 2013 HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration and reflect or prioritize the Action Plan's targets in the country specific and co-operation programmes;
10. support undertakings that create synergy between strategies and programmes for the Baltic Sea Region and their equivalents for other regions;
11. pursue intensified and continuous joint efforts to identify and remove sources of pollution and eutrophication, such as the newly discovered gypsum waste dumps resulting from the production of fertilizers;
12. support efficient enforcement of environmental requirements for ships recognizing that this is a vital precondition for the promotion of environmental sustainability;
13. proceed with strong efforts and dedicated resources for the continued improvement and modernization of the waste water treatment capacity throughout the entire Baltic Sea Region, in compliance with the stricter threshold values agreed by HELCOM, and to ensure continuous work to upgrade reception facilities for sewage in passenger ports in line with the Special Area Status of the Baltic Sea under MARPOL Annex IV of the International Maritime Organization;
14. develop environmentally-friendly cultivation methods and best agricultural practices, e.g. by more precise fertilization practices, closed-circuit manure handling, and recycling of nutrients;
15. Support the joint HELCOM-VASAB Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020 and make every effort to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach;

Regarding Baltic Sea Cultural Heritage, to

16. strengthen the role of cultural heritage as an enabler and promoter of sustainable development of society, economy and environment, thereby enhancing connections between cultural heritage policy and regional development policy at regional as well as national level; by e.g. promoting sustainable cultural and ecological tourism throughout the region
17. develop regional cooperation, including teaching, academic research, scientific cooperation and support to joint activities such as the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage, Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture, EUSBSR Priority Area Culture and Ars Baltica, on the safeguarding and promotion of the cultural diversity as a regional asset and a basis for an inclusive society and regional development, underlining the significance of art and culture for the economic, social and sustainable development;
18. acknowledge the cultural variety of the Baltic Sea Region and of its national minorities as an added value and as an identity feature of this region and to maintain and promote this asset, to strengthen minorities, to preserve regional languages, and to support cultural exchange in the region;
19. promote and support the preservation, documentation and dissemination of maritime cultural heritage in museums and by other heritage actors and initiatives; when crafting new regulations and requirements it is important to mind the preservation of traditional shipping, including a close dialogue between the organizations of the owners of traditional shipping as well as support for transboundary cooperation between their organizations;
20. support projects which capture and provide traditional knowledge and skills, to promote education and its application as well as to develop educational programs for the future preservation of traditional boat building;
21. support projects and activities aimed at protecting architectural monuments, including those which increase energy efficiency in historic buildings without destroying their heritage values;
22. encourage dialogue and cooperation in the fields of contemporary culture and creative industries and support cultural operators in innovation and cross-sectoral cooperation;

Regarding Innovation in Social and Health Care, to

23. develop and implement strategies and action plans to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in social and health care, based on a preventive philosophy and closely involving the health economy, and to consider the social welfare and health care dimension also in the innovative health economy when developing growth strategies;
24. strengthen and systematize cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region on social welfare and health care, including e.g. the exploration of the possibilities of elaborating and implementing joint strategies for social welfare and health care, transferable models for the provision of social welfare and health care, public procurement models and quality standards, and joint research and development endeavours;
25. further strengthen measures to ensure equitably available health care services, e.g. between urban and rural areas and between socio-economic groups; the development and application of modern communication technologies such as telemedicine is especially relevant in this regard;
26. provide continued support to the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being;

Furthermore the Conference Decides to

27. welcome with gratitude the kind offer of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to host the 24th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Rostock-Warnemünde on 30 August – 1 September 2015.

Annex 2

*The 23rd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference
24-26 August 2014, Olsztyn, POLAND*

„Baltic Sea: Quest for Harmony”

*Venue: University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
University Library, Oczapowskiego 12B str., Olsztyn*

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 24th August

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:00 – 9:00 | Registration of participants
<i>(in the hotels)</i> |
| 8:30 | Departure from Warmiński Hotel & Conference
Excursion I – Warmia and Mazury
<i>(back at the hotel around 16:00)</i> |
| 9:00 | Departure from Hotel Marina Golf Club
Excursion I – Warmia and Mazury
<i>(back at the hotel around 16:30)</i> |
| 12:30 | Departure from Hotel Marina Golf Club
Excursion II – Olsztyn Old Town
<i>(back at the hotel around 15:30)</i> |
| 13:00 | Departure from Warmiński Hotel & Conference
Excursion II – Olsztyn Old Town
<i>(back at the hotel around 15:30)</i> |
| 17:40 | Departure from Hotel Marina Golf Club and
from Warmiński Hotel & Conference <i>(only parti-</i>
<i>cipants of the BSPC Standing Committee)</i> |

18:00 – 20:00 Meeting of the BSPC Standing Committee
(*University Library, room 116, 1st floor*)

20:10 Departure from Hotel Marina Golf Club and from Warmiński Hotel & Conference

20:30 – 22:30 Reception hosted by Mr Ryszard Górecki – Chair of the BSPC
Restaurant “Przystań”, Olsztyn

Departure to hotels

Monday, 25th August

8:00 – 9:30 Registration of participants
(*University Library*)

8:00 Departure from Hotel Marina Golf Club and from Warmiński Hotel & Conference (*only participants of the BSPC Drafting Committee*)

8:40 Departure from Hotel Marina Golf Club and from Warmiński Hotel & Conference

8:30 – 9:20 **Meeting of the BSPC Drafting Committee**
(*University Library, room 116, 1st floor*)

9:30 **Opening**
Chair: Mr Ryszard Górecki,
MP, Poland, Chair of the BSPC
Vice-Chair: Mrs Sylvia Bretschneider,
MP, Vice Chair of the BSPC

Welcome by:

- Mr Ryszard Górecki,
MP, Poland, Chair of the BSPC
- Mr Bogdan Borusewicz,
President of the Senate of the Republic of Poland
- Mr Jacek Protas,
Marshal of the Province of Warmia and Mazury

Musical prelude -
„Forget-me-not” Dulcimer Ensemble

10:00

FIRST SESSION**Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region***Chair – Mr. Jānis Vucāns, MP, Latvia**Vice Chair – Mr Per Rune Henriksen, MP, Norway*speaking time:
10 min.

- Report from the BSPC Chair
Mr Ryszard Górecki
Reports from the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS):
- **Ms Satu Mattila**, Finland, outgoing Chairman
CBSS Committee of Senior Officials
- **Mr Raul Mälk**, Estonia, incoming Chairman
CBSS Committee of Senior Officials
- Report from the European Commission (EU
Baltic Sea Strategy and Northern Dimension),
PhD. Lina Marcinkutė, European Commission,
Directorate General for Regional and Urban
Policy
- **Mr Harry Liiv**, Chair of the HELCOM, “Re-
port on the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan”
- **Ms Valentina Pivnenko**, MP, Russia - ”Strategy
of socio-economic development of the North-
West Federal District”
- **Ms Päivi Kärnä / Ms Daria Akhutina**, NGO Fo-
rum, “Report from the NGO Forum of the
Baltic Sea”
- **Mr Rumen Gechev**, MP, SEECP Parliamentary
Assembly, Statement from the SEECP
- **Ms Alexandra Ehlers**, President of the Regional
Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein, "Report
on the situation of the Baltic Sea Youth Secre-
tariat".

Debate

12:00

Coffee break

12:30

SECOND SESSION**Environmental legacy - environmental challenges***Chair – Mr Ryszard Górecki, MP, Poland**Vice Chair – Mr Benny Engelbrecht, MP, Denmark*

Introduction - movie “Shipwrecked” (9 min.)

speaking time:
10 min.

- **Mr Andrzej Jagusiewicz**, Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection, Poland - “Polish environmental protection strategy for the Baltic Sea – selected actions”
- **Ms Christina Gestrin**, MP, Finland – “Progress report on Eutrophication in the Baltic Sea Region”
- **Dr Jacek Bełdowski**, Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, “Chemical Munitions in the Baltic – from Search to Monitoring”
- **Prof. Dr Urmas Lips**, Leader Researcher, Head of Department of Marine Physics, Chair of Oceanography, Institute of Marine Systems, Tallinn University of Technology - “Operational information on the state of the Baltic Sea based on novel approaches and regional co-operation”

Debate

14:00

Lunch

15:00 – 17:00 **THIRD SESSION**
Baltic Sea Cultural Heritage –
Providing orientation for a good partnership
Chair – Mr Franz Thönnies, MP, Germany
Vice Chair – Mrs Giedre Purvaneckienė, MP, Lithuania

- speaking time: 10 min.
- **Mr Piotr Żuchowski**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Poland - "Culture as a driving force for enhanced Baltic Sea Cooperation".
 - **Ms Anke Spoorendonk**, Minister of Justice, Cultural and European Affairs Schleswig-Holstein – “New Priority Culture within EU Baltic Sea Strategy”
 - **Prof. Henryk Samsonowicz** – “The Baltic Sea – a frontier or a meeting point”
 - **Prof. Jörg Hackmann**, University of Szczecin – “Baltic Sea History Project”
 - **Mr Mikko Härö**, Director of the Department of Cultural Environment Protection of the National Board of Antiquities of Finland) – “Heritage and sustainability; trends and challenges”
 - **Dr Hanna Hagmark-Cooper**, Director of the land Maritime Museum, land Island - ”Maritime cultural heritage”
 - **PhD. Anita Vaivade**, Assistant Professor at the Latvian Academy of Culture, Expert of the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO – "Prospects for Regional Cooperation on Intangible Cultural Heritage"

Debate

Return to hotels

17:00 – 18:00 Meeting of the BSPC Drafting Committee (if necessary)
(University Library, room 116, 1st floor)

- 18.05 Transfer to hotels for Drafting Committee members
- 18:50 Departure by buses from Hotel Marina Golf Club to the Warmia and Mazury Philharmonic Hall in Olsztyn
- 19:05 Departure on foot from Warmiński Hotel & Conference to the Warmia and Mazury Philharmonic Hall
- 19:30 Concert “Film music by Wojciech Kilar”
Warmia and Mazury Philharmonic Hall in Olsztyn
Departure on foot from Philharmonic Hall
(3 min.)
- 20:30 Dinner hosted by:
Mr Bogdan Borusewicz, President of the Senate
of the Republic of Poland
Warmiński Hotel & Conference, Banquet Hall
- Return to hotels

Tuesday, 26th August

- 08:00 Departure from Hotel Marina Golf Club and from Warmiński Hotel & Conference (only participants of the BSPC Drafting Committee)
- 08:30 Meeting of the BSPC Drafting Committee (if necessary)
(*University Library, room 116, 1st floor*)
- 08:50 Departure from Hotel Marina Golf Club and from Warmiński Hotel & Conference

09:30

FOURTH SESSION**The Baltic Sea Region in search of harmonious and sustainable future***Chair – (tbc)**Vice Chair – Ms Valentina Pivnenko, MP, Russia*speaking time:
10 min.

- **Dr Leszek Mellibruda** - "Public confidence in the new sense of freedom and challenge of interpersonal relationships"
- **Ms Kinga Iwona Dudzińska**, The Polish Institute of International Affairs, PISM - "Crossborder movement between Gdańsk and Olsztyn and Kaliningrad"
- **Mr Mikalai Katsetski**, Project Manager, Republican unitary maintenance and construction enterprise "Dnipro-Bug Waterway", Belarus, "Revitalization of the water trail E 40, Baltic Sea - Black Sea. Plans and actions for a sustainable future."
- **Ms Olaug Bollestad**, Chair of the BSPC WG on Innovation in Social and Health Care, Midway report from the BSPC Working Group on Innovation in Social and Health Care

Debate

12:00

CLOSING OF THE 23rd BSPC*Chair: Mr Ryszard Górecki, Poland,**Chair of the BSPC**Vice Chair: Mrs Sylvia Bretschneider,**Vice Chair of the BSPC*

- Administrative matters
- Adoption of The Conference Resolution
- Address by the incoming Chair of the BSPC 2014-2015
- Presentation of Next Year's Host Country

13:00

Lunch

Departure of participants

Annex 3

List of participants

Member parliaments and parliamentary organizations:

Baltic Assembly

Giedrė Purvaneckienė – MP, Vice President

Jānis Vucāns – MP, Vice President

Kārlis Engēlis – MP

Atis Lejiņš – MP

Rytas Kupčinskas – MP

Raimundas Paliukas- MP

Jānis Reirs – MP

Valerijus Simulik – MP

Juris Viļums – MP

Marika Laizāne-Jurkāne – Secretary General

Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Vladimir Nikitin – MP

Oleg Nilov – MP

Valentina Pivnenko – MP

Yulia Guskova – Adviser

Nordic Council

Karin Åström – MP, President of the Nordic Council

Olaug Bollestad – MP

Benny Engelbrecht – MP

Christina Gestrin – MP

Per Rune Henriksen – MP

Elin Hirst – MP

Helgi Hjörvar – MP

Anders Karlsson – MP

Johan Linander – MP

Jörgen Pettersson – MP

Kimmo Sasi – MP

Johanna Maria Sigmundsdottir – MP

Maria Stenberg – MP

Hrannar Arnarsson –Secretary General of the Socialdemocratic Group

Beate Christine Wang – Senior Adviser

Torkil Sørensen – International Adviser

Parliament of Åland

Danne Sundman – MP
Karl-Johan Fogelström – MP
Annette Holmberg-Jansson – MP
Jörgen Pettersson – MP
Niclas Slotte – Secretary of the Delegation

Parliament of Denmark

Benny Engelbrecht – MP
Kamilla Kjelgaard – Head of Section

Parliament of Estonia

Ene Rõngelep – Foreign Relations Adviser

Parliament of Finland

Christina Gestrin – MP
Riitta Myller – MP
Kimmo Sasi – MP
Hanna Tainio – MP
Kimmo Tiilikainen – MP
Mika Laaksonen – Secretary of the Delegation
Marja Huttunen – Assistant Secretary of the Delegation

Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany

Herbert Behrens – MP
Sonja Steffen – MP
Peter Stein – MP
Thomas Stritzl – MP
Franz Thönnies – MP
Thomas Grimm – Secretary of the Delegation
Andrea Bou-Said – Executive Officer, Secretariat of the German
Delegation to the BSPC

Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Hamburg

Carola Veit – President of Parliament
Kurt Duwe – MP
Roland Heintze – MP
Sabine Steppat – MP
Johannes Düwel – Director of Parliament

Parliament of Iceland

Elin Hirst – MP
Helgi Hjörvar – MP
Johanna Maria Sigmundsdóttir – MP

Parliament of Kaliningrad Region

Pavel Fedorov – MP

Marina Prozorova – Head of Department of International and Interregional Relations

Alesya Korshunova – Assistant of Standing Committee on International and Interregional relations, Security and Public Order

Parliament of Latvia

Kārlis Enģelis – MP

Atis Lejiņš – MP

Jānis Reirs – MP

Juris Viļums – MP

Jānis Vucāns – MP

Ingrīda Sticenko – Senior Adviser of the Saeima Interparliamentary Relations Bureau

Parliament of Lithuania

Rytas Kupčinskas – MP

Raimundas Paliukas- MP

Giedrė Purvaneckienė – MP

Valerijus Simulik – MP

Rasa Matusevičiūtė – Adviser of the Committee on Environment Protection

Skirmantas Strimaitis – Staff

Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Sylvia Bretschneider – President

André Brie – MP

Dietmar Eifler – MP

Silke Gajek – MP

Detlef Müller – MP

Jochen Schulte – MP

Bodo Bahr – Vice Director of Parliament

Dirk Zapfe – Leader, President's Office

Stefan Janssen – Unit Leader, Protocol

Georg Strätker – Unit Leader, EU and Legal Affairs Committee

Florian Lipowski – Adviser, EU and Legal Affairs Committee

Parliament of Norway

Olaug Bollestad – MP

Eva Kristin Hansen – MP

Per Rune Henriksen – MP

Bjørn Andreassen – Senior Adviser

Julie H. Brevik – Adviser

Marianne Seip – Political Adviser

Parliament of Poland

Bogdan Borusewicz – President of the Senate of the Republic of Poland

Ryszard Górecki – MP, BSPC Chair

Piotr Bauć – MP

Jerzy Borowczak – MP

Stanisław Wziątek – MP

Artur Kozłowski – Head of Cabinet of the President of the Senate

Leszek Kieniewicz – Director of the Office for International and European Union Affairs

Piotr Koperski – Secretary of the BSPC Delegation

Parliament of the City of St. Petersburg

Maxim Reznik – MP

Tatiana Zakharenkova – MP

Nargis Akhadova – Chief of the External Relations Department

Vatanyar Yagya – International Adviser

Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein

Bernd Heinemann – Vice President, Head of Delegation

Angelika Beer – MP

Astrid Damerow – MP

Ekkehard Klug – MP

Bernd Voss – MP

Jette Waldinger-Thiering – MP

Jutta Schmidt Holländer – MP

Parliament of Sweden

Karin Åström – MP

Anders Karlsson – MP

Johan Linander – MP

Cecilia Magnusson – MP

Maria Stenberg – MP

Bengt Ohlsson – Secretary of the Delegation

Ann-Louise Månsson – International Department

Other participants

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Secretariat

Jan Widberg – Secretary General

Baltic Sea Region University Network

Kari Hyppönen – President

Sigitas Stanys – Vice Rector

Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation

Ossi Savolainen – Chairman

Jari Sainio – Vice President of The Board

Janne Tamminen – Executive Secretary

Jaakko Mikkola – Director of International Affairs

Council of the Baltic Sea States

Raul Mälk – Ambassador-at-Large, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials

Satu Mattila – Ambassador, outgoing Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials

Jan Lundin – Director General

Iris Kempe – Senior Adviser

European Commission

Lina Marcinkute – Programme Manager, Competence Centre for Macroregions and European Territorial Cooperation

Euroregion Baltic

Sebastian Magier – Head of International Permanent Secretariat

Helsinki Commission – HELCOM

Harry Liiv – Chairman

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Poland

Piotr Żuchowski – Secretary of State

Anna Ceynowa – Senior Expert

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

Ewa Dębska – Deputy Director, European Policy Department

Katarzyna Barcikowska – II Secretary

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation

Sergey Petrovich – Deputy Director, Department of European Partnership

Ministry of Justice, Cultural and European Affairs, Schleswig-Holstein

Anke Spoorendonk – Minister

Sven Freitag – Junior Expert

Nordic Council of Ministers

Michael Funch – Senior Advisor - Communication

Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being

Marek Maciejowski – Director

Thomas Ifland – Representative of the Chair Country

Office of the Marshal of the Warmia and Mazury Region

Jacek Protas – Marshal

Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

Kyrylo Tretiak – Secretary General

Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein

Alexandra Ehlers – President

Maike Janneck – Project Coordinator

Skåne Regional Council

Anna-Lena Hogerud – Member

South-East Europe Parliamentary Cooperation

Rumen Gechev – MP

Union of Baltic Cities

Mikko Lohikoski – Director

Speakers

Daria Akhutina – General Director, Baltic Sea NGO Forum and Network

Jacek Beldowski – Expert, Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Olaug Bollestad – MP, Norway

Kinga Dudzińska, Analyst, Polish Institute of International Affairs

Alexandra Ehlers – President, Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein

Rumen Gechev – MP, Bulgaria, South-East Europe Parliamentary Cooperation

Christina Gestrin – MP, Finland

Ryszard Górecki – MP, BSPP Chair

Jörg Hackman – Professor, University of Szczecin

Hanna Hagmark-Cooper – Director, Åland Maritime Museum

Mikko Härö – Director of Department, National Board of Antiquities of Finland

Andrzej Jagusiewicz – Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection, Poland

Mikalai Katsetski – General Director, RUMCE “Dnipro-Bug Waterway”

Päivi Kärnä – Project Coordinator, Baltic Sea NGO Network, Finland-Russia Society

Harry Liiv – Chairman of the HELCOM

Urmas Lips – Head of Department of Marine Physics, Chair of Oceanography Institute of Marine Systems, Tallinn University of Technology

Satu Mattila – Ambassador, outgoing Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials

Raul Mälk – Ambassador-at-Large, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials

Lina Marcinkute – Programme Manager, Competence Centre for Macroregions and European Territorial Cooperation, European Commission

Leszek Melibruda – Academic, Journalist and Independent Consultant

Valentina Pivnenko – MP, State Duma, Russia

Henryk Samsonowicz – Professor, former Rector of the University of Warsaw and Minister for National Education

Anke Spoorendonk – Minister of Justice, Cultural and European Affairs, Schleswig-Holstein

Anita Vaivade – Assistant Professor, Latvian Academy of Culture

Piotr Żuchowski – Secretary of State, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Poland



Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Secretariat
www.bspc.net

BSPC Secretariat
c/o Lennéstraße 1
19053 Schwerin
Germany
Phone (+49) 385 525 2777