



STOCKHOLM, 12 – 14 June 2022

14 06 2022, 12.00

Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 31st Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants, elected representatives from the

Parliament of Denmark
Parliament of Estonia
Parliament of Finland
Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany
Parliament of Iceland
Parliament of Latvia
Parliament of Lithuania
Parliament of Norway
Parliament of Poland
Parliament of Sweden
Parliament of Åland
Parliament of the Hanseatic City of Bremen
Parliament of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein
Baltic Assembly
European Parliament
Nordic Council,

assembling in Stockholm on 14 June 2022

- reiterate in the strongest possible terms our condemnation of the completely unjustified, unprovoked and full-scale brutal military attack and invasion by the Russian Federation against the sovereignty, independence and people of Ukraine as expressed in the statement of the BSPC Presidents and Heads of Delegations; condemning in the strongest possible way Belarus' participation in the Russian aggression;
- state that day by day, the cruel and inhuman war of aggression against Ukraine is posing an ever more dangerous threat to peace, stability and democracy across Europe and the world and underline that Ukrainian citizens are defending their rights and freedom and the common values that Europe stands for;

- take note with pain that every day innocent people are being killed in a despicable manner, many are being forcibly deported and others are being forced to flee their homeland in fear for the lives of their families, friends and other fellow citizens;
- restate that these attacks are contrary to both international law and European security; they violate the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of International and Humanitarian Law;
- strongly condemn any violation of international law and human rights;
- support the continuation of a decisive and united response of our countries in the form of the toughest possible restrictive measures against the Russian Federation and its representatives, including embargos on fossil fuels, in order to prevent further escalation and aggression;
- expect an immediate establishment of an international commission of inquiry to document and verify facts, accounts and opinions, and an urgent trial of war criminals and call on the international community to bring the guilty parties before international tribunals;
- renew and underline again that democratic values, the rule of law, respect for international law, media freedom, a strong civil society and robust NGOs, equal opportunities for all as well as peaceful and close neighbourliness are the foundation of our cooperation and the fundamental principles of the BSPC;
- declare that only state or supranational parliaments, regional parliaments with legislative powers, parliamentary bodies and organisations which ensure and fight for the guarantee of human rights, peace and democracy as fundamental values of the Baltic Sea Region and Europe can be actors in and partners of the BSPC;
- consider adherence to and advocacy for compliance with the recognised rules of international law as a sine qua non for participation and cooperation in the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference and its work;
- freeze all parliamentary cooperation with the Russian parliaments and Russian observer institutions within the framework of the BSPC as long as these fundamental principles and goals are dramatically violated by the unprovoked, illegal and brutal military attack and aggression by the Russian Federation against sovereign and democratic Ukraine which was initiated by parliamentary decisions regarding Donetsk and Luhansk;
- confirm the suspension of the Russian parliaments and Russian observer organisations from the Annual Conference, the meetings of our working bodies, proceedings, work and projects of the BSPC and freeze any joint activities with them until cooperation under the fundamental principles of international law will once again become possible;
- stipulate that any amendment to this decision requires
 - * careful consideration by the BSPC Standing Committee as to whether there is a prospect of taking account of the principles of international law and the principles of the BSPC,
 - * a recommendation of the Standing Committee to the Annual Conference and
 - * a final decision by the Annual Conference;
- reaffirm our strong wish and intention to continue the crucial and successful work of the BSPC for the benefit of the entire Baltic Sea Region;
- warmly welcome Finland's and Sweden's decisions to apply for NATO membership;

- point out once more that close and intensive people-to-people contacts on all levels – parliaments, governments and civil society – are the backbone for peace, prosperity and protection of the environment in the Region;
- highlight again that the exchange among and the inclusion of the youth and young people are the prerequisite for guaranteeing and securing these foundations of the Baltic Sea Region for future generations as well;
- wish to establish the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum further in close cooperation with the CBSS and the Baltic Sea Youth Platform regularly as back-to-back event to its annual conferences to include the concerns of the young generation in the work of the BSPC;
- welcome the results and support the goals of the CBSS Ministerial Meeting on 25 May 2022;

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

Regarding Cooperation in the Region to

1. adopt and initiate all necessary measures ensuring the security of our peoples and the defence of our values and democracies;
2. continue with all efforts supporting Ukraine in defence of their people and democratic values to the maximum extent possible;
3. intensify even more all efforts - particularly in these times of war - to act and react unified in strengthening safety, security, peace and regional identity based on democracy, human rights, the rule of law, peaceful neighbourliness and international law;
4. work together closely, decisively and unitedly in light of the most serious security crisis in the region in years, in order to strengthen the cooperation of our democratic nations in the Baltic Sea Region and to counter the threats to European resilience and security architecture caused by Russia's policy and actions;
5. in all currently necessary measures in the energy policies of our countries take necessary decisions in such a way that all measures continue to be directed towards focussing on energy security, sustainability in its smart and inclusive economic growth, development and innovation and to reach a good ecological status of the Baltic Sea and a sound and sustainable status for the environment of the Baltic Sea Region;
6. tackle current and future challenges and crises through increased unified and joint actions, and reject the notion of "might makes right" in accordance with international law;
7. even more intensify cooperation in education, science, research and culture also under the aspect of promoting elements of a common identity by shared values;
8. place particular emphasis on intensifying youth and youth workers exchanges, with the aim to reach out and mobilize young people to address issues that are most relevant to them, particularly in these difficult times;

9. extend sustainable tourism, and enable more climate-friendly travel based on programmes which promote this trend;
10. reconsider as a strong sign of unity particularly in times of war and crisis during the upcoming years a resumption of the Baltic Sea States Summits of our heads of governments;

Regarding Democracy, human rights and freedom of expression to:

11. continue implementing with particular vigour the calls for action and demands contained in the 30th BSPC Resolution in regard to democracy, human rights and freedom of expression, particularly in times of war and crisis;
12. consistently and resolutely counter the growing threat to the democratic community posed by the disinformation campaigns as well as war propaganda initiated by the Russian government and other state and non-state actors;
13. acknowledge the importance of freedom of press for democracy and democratic development;
14. specifically counteract any deterioration of working conditions in media and free reporting; in countries where problems have evolved, to initiate and promote targeted protective measures for the work of the media, including education and training for journalists, to secure safe working conditions for the media;
15. consider different ways of promoting democracy-building efforts in Russia and in other countries, for example by supporting civil society in exile;
16. strengthen particularly in times of war and crisis efforts to increase confidence in democratic structures and values, promote tolerance and open-mindedness, freedom of the media and expression, and robust NGOs as cornerstones of democracies in the Baltic Sea Region;
17. protect the rights and ensure the safety of refugees, ethnic minorities, LGBTQ people, women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups who are particularly at risk in times of war and threatened by intolerant attitudes;
18. defend sexual and reproductive autonomy and respect the right to reproductive health;

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

19. support the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan and its associated action documents agreed by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting on 20 October 2021 under the current German chairmanship and to ensure a more quickly and consistent implementation of the agreed objectives than before in all countries of the Baltic Sea Region in order to achieve a good ecological status of the Baltic Sea by the end of the decade; regular monitoring of the implementation is essential to support the process;

20. derive and implement further measures from the policy-relevant suggestions for various policy areas in the 'HELCOM 2021 Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Fact Sheet' that will enable an even faster and more extensive reduction of climate-relevant emissions to achieve the targeted climate neutrality as early as possible;
21. recognise that anthropogenic activities such as agriculture and industrialization in the Baltic Sea catchment area have caused large increases in inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus over the past 150 years and underline the importance of continuing the work on reducing outlets of nitrogen and phosphorous into the Baltic Sea, reminding that an increased water temperature also will increase the effects of overnutrition;
22. intensify all efforts and cooperate closely in several fields at the same time to obtain the chance of limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels through the rapid, comprehensive expansion of renewable energies and their technologies, by the reduction of emissions, less energy use, increased energy efficiency at the same time as strengthening and increasing natural sinks for CO₂ and research and development of innovative and sustainable technologies;
23. particularly in those countries that are still more dependent on domestic and imported fossil energy sources and uranium imports, push forward the use of zero and low emission renewable energies from domestic sources and in the long-term those imported from democratic and reliable partner countries in combination with innovative applications of hydrogen and hydrogen derivatives on the basis of renewable energies in industry and commerce as well as in the heating and mobility sector, in order to achieve their own, affordable, more independent and resilient energy security and energy sovereignty and at the same time to contribute to the achievement of the climate goals;
24. cooperate with countries that are most dependent on fossil fuels and uranium imports from Russia in their efforts to switch to more reliable and environmentally friendly energy sources;
25. widely deploy the extensive existing low-cost and efficient renewable energy generation technologies, and effectively and significantly boost even more intensive research as well as the introduction and deployment of innovative green solutions, particularly in green hydrogen technologies, and develop as fast as possible hydrogen strategies and road maps to complement the European hydrogen strategy and the new green deal and bring by joint efforts and close cooperation the Baltic Sea Region in a pole position in green transition;
26. concerning sea-dumped munitions, also in the current times of war continue unabated in close cooperation with HELCOM and CBSS to strengthen efforts exploring, identifying, recovering and neutralising explosive ordnance in the Baltic Sea with concrete measures through multinational cooperation according to the 28th, 29th and 30th BSPC Resolutions as well as the interim and final BSPC rapporteur's reports on sea-dumped munitions and establish the Baltic Sea Region as a global model region for the environmentally sound, rapid and affordable salvage and decontamination and removal of explosive ordnance dumped in the sea;
27. encourage the countries who are responsible for dumped munitions in the Baltic Sea to start a recovery fund and to lead the recovery effort that would help achieve a Baltic Sea free from dumped explosive ordnance; we welcome the efforts of the incoming German CBSS presidency to push this issue;

28. implement methods of nature-friendly farming and actively phase out the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers by local farmers as well as allocate funds to researching into less hazardous alternatives, and make sure that the policies are well connected to science;
29. intensively integrate rural areas with their broad potential in the production of renewable energies, the expansion of grids and storage facilities, and allow them to participate comprehensively in the success, support sustainable innovation in green energy, reduce the use of non-renewable sources of energy and support innovation to make urban and rural life more sustainable by enhancing green transportation solutions, and make sure that the policies are well connected to science;
30. develop and implement policies and regulations around fishing, shipping and other industries, together with all relevant stakeholders, that harm the biodiversity in the Baltic Sea and the global climate, that aligns with the needs and challenges from the IPCC report and the internationally binding targets of the Paris Agreement;
31. promote the building of facilities from recycled materials to develop regulations regarding the re-use of construction materials, establish plans for the re-use of materials as a requisite for demolition permits as part of the effort of finding sustainable supply lines along the Baltic Sea and to introduce public bail systems for plastic bottles in the Baltic Sea Region and furthermore support cascading use in every possible field;
32. communicating and developing strategies to implementing a new innovative lifestyle to make the difference by intensive communication about the fact that each individual making a change for themselves made a difference overall;

Regarding demographic challenges in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine; migration, labour market and the social welfare model to

33. with the highest appreciation of all decisions and actions taken so far to address the refugee flows from Ukraine, in particular in the most affected countries, ensure, through further comprehensive systemic and financial measures and policies, that related demographic structural changes and challenges related to housing, education, child and health protection, labour market and attitudes towards incoming refugees are optimally addressed and best possible support for temporary stayers and inclusion for permanent stayers is guaranteed;

Furthermore, the Conference Decides to

34. welcome with gratitude the kind offer by the German Bundestag to host the 32nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Berlin on 27-29 August 2023.