



FOLKETINGET

**Tiltrædelsestale 29. august 2023, Bundestag
Henrik Møller, præsident for BSPC**

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed parliamentarians and
guests,

Thank you for the opportunity to stand here today, and for
the honor of being appointed President of the Baltic Sea
Parliamentary Conference. A task I will undertake with
humbleness and dedication.

I would like to thank former German President, Mr. Johannes Schrapf for his work for the BSPP during his presidency. Your engagement during these trying times has been very important for this cooperation. And congratulations on a successful conference here in the Bundestag.

The BSPP was established in 1991 as a forum for political dialogue. Unfortunately Russia's aggression in Ukraine

has been a reminder of a dark period that once seemed so far away.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We need to remember that in the late 20th century, the Baltic Sea region found itself divided by the harsh realities of the Cold War. Nations surrounding the Baltic Sea were separated not only by physical borders but by ideological differences. However, a spark of hope emerged when politicians, diplomats, and citizens of these nations recognized the pressing need for unity and cooperation.

In the face of these challenges, the BSPC emerged as a platform for dialogue, understanding, and joint action.

During the early 1990s when the Baltic States - Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania - were seeking to regain their independence from the Soviet Union - the BSPC played a crucial role in providing a forum for these nations. The collaboration fostered by the BSPC enabled the Baltic States to amplify their voices on the international stage, gathering support from other nations and organizations. This collective strength ultimately led to the restoration of

independence for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, marking a historical triumph for the region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This serves as a reminder of the vital role that the BSPC plays in nurturing cooperation, promoting mutual understanding, economic integration, and sustainable development across the region. By bringing together parliamentarians, experts, and stakeholders, the BSPC facilitates dialogue, the exchange of ideas, and the formulation of joint strategies to tackle common

challenges. The BSPC stands as an example of the power of cooperation and unity. Its historical significance, as demonstrated by the Baltic States' struggle for independence, showcases how collaborative efforts can overcome even the most difficult obstacles.

Esteemed parliamentarians,

During my Presidency I will work to enhance the role of the BSPC in promoting regional cooperation. By upholding the principles of dialogue, understanding, and joint action, we can continue to harness the collective

strength of the Baltic Sea nations and once again build a brighter future for us all.

The Russian attack on Ukraine not only rattled the foundations of continental stability but also triggered a significant shift in the energy policy in Europe. The urgent need to diversify away from Russian energy sources, accelerate the transition from fossil fuels, and rapidly scale up low-carbon energy and technologies has left an indelible mark on European economies and societies.

No corner of Europe has been spared from this transformative energy dynamic, including the Baltic Sea Region. We need to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead and work towards a secure, sustainable, and resilient energy future.

Also, the governance of our environment must be adaptive and flexible to meet the challenges posed by climate change. This summer's horrific sceneries flooding and fires are very present in our minds. It is obvious, that we must recognize the limitations in predicting future

changes and chain reactions. Therefore, our governance arrangements and management practices should integrate scientific knowledge with local expertise. By fostering dialogue, offering financial incentives, and, when necessary, using coercion, we can ensure the integration of climate adaptation and mitigation across various sectors.

Esteemed parliamentarians,

In conclusion, safety and defense in the Baltic Sea area is of utmost importance for us all here today. The security

situation in the Baltic Sea has changed significantly over the past 5 years. And with Finland and soon Sweden's membership of NATO, the Baltic Sea will be a "NATO lake". And to meet the security challenges in the Baltic Sea, we need to cooperate closer than ever to strengthen our defense capabilities.

This is all something that I, as President of the BSPC, will focus on in the coming year.

I look forward to heading a constructive and fruitful cooperation. Thank you.