

1 October 2002

R E S O L U T I O N

Part I

adopted by
the 11th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC),
assembled in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 30th September - 1st October 2002

The participants of the Conference

concentrating on

WAYS OF INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

based on the Northern Dimension and its special impact on environmental policy as well as on the role of Kaliningrad

taking note of

the declaration on “The future of the European Union”, adopted by the Laeken European Council, convening a Convention with broad participation of parliamentarians in order to pave the way for the next Intergovernmental Conference in 2004,

the EU-Russia Summit in May 2002,

the Action Plan for the Northern Dimension (2000 – 2003), adopted by the Feira European Council,

the Communication from the Commission to the Council on “the EU and Kaliningrad” - COM (2001)26 final - Brussels, Jan 17, 2001,

the Communication from the Commission to the Council on ”EU-Russia Environmental Cooperation” - COM (2001) 772 final - Brussels, Dec. 17, 2001,

the outcome of the 4th Baltic Sea States Summit in St. Petersburg in June 2002,

the positive work carried out in the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and many other regional organisations, such as the the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers, Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), Baltic Sea States Sub-Regional Co-operation (BSSSC), Baltic Chamber of Commerce Association (BCCA) and Trade Union Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region,

the ongoing negotiations between the European Union and the Russian Federation as well as between the European union and the applicant countries regarding future visa and transit arrangement in the light of the EU enlargement,

call on the CBSS and their governments to

undertake joint efforts to strengthen the Northern Dimension,

contribute to a structured implementation and follow-up of the Northern Dimension Action Plan, reviewing the progress achieved and providing policy guidance for further action and for the new action plan to be prepared during 2003,

encourage the European Commission to improve the coordination of financing, so that the different funds can match each other on different sides of borders, as there are the EU and EEA countries, the future member states and Russia,

pay more attention to projects with a genuine cross-border character, dealing with border-crossing infrastructure, economic cooperation between border regions and trans-border environmental issues, using in particular such tool as Euro-region,

undertake joint efforts to include not only roads and railways in the Trans-European Network, but ferry connections in the Baltic Sea as well,

negotiate with the European Commission to pay more attention to the Baltic Sea region and include maritime transportation with ferries across the Baltic Sea as an important transportation link in the Commission's White Book on Transportation,

further streamline cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region by an effective division of labour and responsibilities, so as to better coordinate between the numerous regional bodies and working groups and to ensure that duplication of projects is minimized,

adopt national strategies and action programs to protect the Baltic Sea, aiming to reduce discharges of nutrients in all sectors that contributes to the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea,

face a range of common trans-border environmental concerns in the Baltic Sea Region, such as wasteful energy use and climate change, risks to human health from water and air pollution, depletion of natural resources and management of wastes, including radioactive waste, loss of natural systems and biodiversity, pollution of the Baltic and Barents Sea,

urge the parties to finalize the MNEPR agreement,

prevent the extinction of the harbour porpoise in accordance with the regulations of the UN,

support sustainable development, especially the implementation of the Baltic 21, meaning that in the run of policymaking and decision taking processes equal attention has to be paid to economic, social and environmental considerations,

contribute to the concept of a common European economic space which is under discussion in the framework of the EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and to pay attention to the pilot character of EU-Kaliningrad-relations,

ratify and implement the Kyoto protocol as soon as possible,

unite efforts in advance of the EU-Russia Summit in November 2002 in order to achieve a mutually acceptable solution to the problems relating to passenger and cargo traffic between Kaliningrad district and the rest of Russia and to prevent new division lines in Europe as well as to continue and develop cooperation among people,

provide technical assistance in order to solve problems with organised crime activities,

mobilize society within and beyond the health care system to fight the the HIV epidemic and other communicable diseases,

intensify cross-border cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, creating security and stability and addressing the problems related to uneven development in the region,

agree to

express its gratitude to the Committee on maritime security for the final report on this issue,

accept

with gratitude the invitation of the Finnish Parliament to hold the 12th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in September 2003 in Oulu.