



Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 13th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants*, elected representatives from the Baltic Sea States, assembled in Bergen, Norway on 30 - 31 August 2004, to discuss sustainable development, protection of the marine environment, and shared concerns and responsibilities related to the Baltic Sea Region and the future of the parliamentary co-operation in Northern Europe,

Convinced that

a common focus on Baltic Sea issues among Parliaments is indispensable for identifying practical areas where actions can be taken by CBSS, HELCOM, other regional organisations and national governments and that this will be to the benefit of not only individual countries but to international co-operation and to the region itself.

Noting

the gradual development of strengthening of the parliamentary dimension in the Baltic Sea Region and achieving the position of parliamentary co-operative partner in the CBSS,

the Northern Dimension and the European Neighbourhood Policy promoting further development of regional and sub-regional co-operation.

Taking into account

that co-operation among governments and parliamentarians recognise and draw on experience from NGOs in ensuring popular grass-root participation in political, social and economic life,

Call on governments in the Baltic Sea region and the CBSS to

support the Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing thereby improving co-operation and co-ordination in the prevention of major public health problems,

support the establishment of a Partnership in Education on Environmental Effects on Public Health,

promote the basic idea of a Civil Society by involving NGOs, when appropriate, in the decision-making process and to strengthen the co-operation between NGOs in the region, for instance by giving economic support to international networking of NGOs

Call on governments in the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and HELCOM to

take action to reduce the pressure on the marine environment and to combat eutrophication of the Baltic Sea in order to promote a well-balanced ecological system,

take into account the need to implement the results of the commemoration of 30 years of the Helsinki Convention, and to develop common proposals under the umbrella of HELCOM for supplementary measures to achieve further improvements of maritime safety and security in the Baltic Sea and to submit these proposals to the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee (NAV),

to support effective associated protective measures with respect to relevant provisions in all the resolutions of BSPC on the protection of marine environment of the Baltic Sea.

Ask the Standing Committee to

elaborate proposals on how to develop the parliamentary dimension in co-operation with the CBSS and the participating parliaments and the relevant inter-parliamentary bodies.

Furthermore

the Conference welcomes and accepts with gratitude the kind invitation of the Lithuanian Parliament to hold the 14th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference on 28 – 30 August 2005 in Vilnius.

*Baltic Assembly, City of St. Petersburg, Denmark, Estonia, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Free and Hanse City of Bremen, Free and Hanse City of Hamburg, Latvia, Lithuania, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Nordic Council, Norway, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Poland, Schleswig-Holstein, Sweden, Åland.