



Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 16th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants*, elected representatives from the Baltic Sea States and European Parliament, assembling in Berlin, Germany, 27 – 28 August 2007,

Discussing Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, Energy Issues, Labour Market and Social Welfare, Integrated Maritime Policy and Eutrophication,

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

Regarding Co-operation in the Region, to

1. continue and to intensify the exchange of information at all levels,
2. make joint efforts to develop the Baltic Sea Region into a European model region with special regard to energy issues, integrated maritime policy, labour market and social welfare,
3. strengthen the role of interparliamentary and intergovernmental cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, and promote the further development of civil society in the region, including strengthening of NGO´s and supporting the continued activities of the NGO Forum,
4. urge intergovernmental organizations in the Northern Dimension Policy area to intensify cooperation and coordination in order to reach an efficient division of labour and avoid duplication among them, and to support the development of the Baltic Sea Strategy,

Regarding Energy Issues and Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region, to

5. conduct in the medium-term research on energy and environment issues in a joint manner throughout the Baltic Sea states, take concrete steps to strengthen the cooperation on energy issues in the Baltic Sea Region, including efficiency, supply, security and renewable energy sources, while also taking into account measures which are connected with climate change,
6. significantly enhance citizens´ participation in the Baltic Sea Region regarding energy and environmental issues and to explore new ways for such active participation, to understand natural energy resources as a public responsibility, and to develop the Baltic Sea region into a model region for renewable energy sources in Europe,

7. take measures to ensure that information regarding possible economic, environmental and social consequences of infrastructural projects in and on the Baltic Sea will be shared among the riparian states through relevant institutions and also to ensure that thorough environmental impact assessments are conducted for all infrastructural projects (e.g. the North European Gas Pipeline and the Baltic Gas Interconnector) in accordance with international obligations, and take into account the energy supply security requirements of the whole Baltic Sea Region,

Regarding the Labour Market and Social Welfare in the Baltic Sea Region, to

8. remove obstacles for mobility in the labour market, and to provide for decent working conditions in every country,

9. against the background of growing numbers of cross-border workers, put the topic of "cross-border labour markets" on the agenda of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and support policies which lead in the region to the establishment of information centres at heavily used border crossings to promote mobility for workers and advise workers on social-security issues. The aim of such centres would be to provide comprehensive information to workers on fiscal and social security law matters. Information about job and training opportunities in neighbouring countries in the region must also be improved,

10. foster inclusive labour markets integrating disadvantaged groups as well as young people in order to integrate them into work and society and to make use of their potential,

11. promote Corporate Social Responsibility in enterprises in the Baltic Sea states referring to the ILO and OECD standards and not to tolerate double standards of multinational companies,

Regarding an Integrated Maritime Policy, to

12. take concrete steps to develop the Baltic Sea Region into Europe's model maritime region, i.e. into the cleanest and safest sea of Europe, by recommending that all Baltic Sea States ratify the existing international conventions on marine environmental protection, e.g. the Anti Fouling Convention, the Ballast Water Convention and the HNS- and Bunkers Conventions, as well as continue to develop the including the development of "Clean Ship" and "Clean Port" projects,

13. develop ideas on how the Baltic Sea Region could become a pilot region demonstrating that a competitive maritime industry is compatible with effective protection of marine ecosystems,

14. strengthen measures against illegal (IUU) fishing in the Baltic Sea Region, according to internationally recognized rules,

15. take concrete and effective steps – considering the rapidly increasing amount of oil transports in the Baltic Sea – to ensure a high level of maritime safety and security, for instance by

- Improving the Baltic Sea coastguard practices by coordination and cooperation
- promoting innovative navigation technologies, such as the satellite navigation system GALILEO, in combination with GMES (the Global Monitoring System for Environment and Security),
- introducing the use of pilots in navigationally difficult sea routes, defined by internationally acknowledged rules and standards,
- promoting safe operation of ships in severe and icy winter conditions,

- applying the principles used in air traffic control to monitor and manage maritime traffic in the entire Baltic Sea,

Regarding the serious situation of eutrophication and other kinds of pollution, to

16. support the final development of a highly ambitious HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, to be adopted in fall 2007 in Krakow, and to implement all decided measures properly,
17. adopt the Policy Recommendations of the BSPC Working Group on Eutrophication, to implement all proposed measures contained therein, and to present a progress report at the 17th BSPC in Visby 2008.

Furthermore the Conference

18. acknowledges the positive process of dialogue and information exchange with CBSS, looks forward to a further and mutual development of this dialogue, and encourages the governments of the CBSS to present, through the CBSS, an annual report of their implementation of the BSPC Resolutions,
19. calls upon the governments in the CBSS countries to engage in a close dialogue with parliamentarians in all the member countries in promoting the reform process of the CBSS, and furthermore, urges the CBSS presidency to present the overall considerations concerning a new structure to the BSPC Standing Committee for its perusal and comments prior to the Government´s decisions on the matter;
20. recognizes its responsibility for initiating and deepening dialogue and coordination between regional organizations in the Baltic Sea Region and in Northern Europe as a whole,
21. asks the Standing Committee to establish a working group on Energy and Climate Change, to submit a report to the 17th BSPC,
22. asks the Standing Committee to establish a working group on Labour Market and Social Affairs, to submit a report to the 17th BSPC, within a dialogue and in cooperation with the social partners,
23. adopts the amended Rules of Procedure, to take effect after the closure of 16th BSPC,
24. decides to address the issues of energy and climate change at the 17th BSPC in Visby 2008,
25. welcomes with gratitude the kind invitation of the Swedish Riksdag to hold the 17th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference on 1 – 2 September 2008 in Visby.

*Parliaments of Free Hanse City of Bremen, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Greenland, Free Hanse City of Hamburg, Iceland, Kaliningrad Region, Republic of Karelia, Latvia, Leningrad Region, Lithuania, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Murmansk Region, Norway, Poland, Pskov, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, City of St. Petersburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Sweden, Åland, Baltic Assembly, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, European Parliament, Nordic Council, Parliamentary Assembly of North-West Russia