

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. promote the further development of civil society in the region, including strengthening of NGO's and supporting the continued activities of the NGO Forum,
2. urge intergovernmental organizations in the Northern Dimension area to intensify cooperation and coordination in order to reach an efficient division of labour and avoid duplication among them,
3. support the development of a Baltic Sea Strategy within the new Northern Dimension,

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

4. 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,
5. develop the Baltic Sea region into a model region for renewable energy sources in Europe,
6. 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

7. remove obstacles for mobility in the labour market,
8. 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. Some examples already exist, such as the "GrenseTjänsten" between Norway and Sweden in the Värmland-Dalarna/Åkershus – Østfold region, the Haparanda Information Centre in Tornedalen between Sweden and Finland, the "Centre

for the Finnish Labour Market" between Finland and Estonia in Tallinn, the "labour centres for cross-border workers" between Sweden and Denmark in Copenhagen, Malmö and Helsingör and the "Border Information Centre" between Denmark and Germany in the Sønderjylland-Schleswig region. 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,

Regarding an Integrated Maritime Policy, to

9. take concrete steps to develop the Baltic Sea Region into Europe's model maritime region, i.e. into the most clean and safest sea of Europe, including the development of "Clean Ship" and "Clean Port" projects,
10. 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,
11. strengthen measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Baltic Sea Region,
12. establish, within the CBSS, a Maritime Policy Task Force for the Baltic Sea region,
13. take concrete and effective steps – against the rapidly increasing amount of oil transports in the Baltic Sea – to ensure a high level of maritime safety and security, for instance by
 - establishing a common and efficient Baltic Sea Coast Guard,
 - 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 mandatory use of pilots in difficult waters,
 - promoting regulations to ensure that ships are constructed and equipped to operate safely 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

14. support the final development of a highly ambitious HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, to be adopted in fall 2007 in Krakow, to commit themselves to the plan, and to implement all decided measures properly,
15. 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

16. 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,

17. 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,
18. asks the Standing Committee to establish a working group on Energy and Climate Change, to submit a report to the 17th BSPC,
19. asks the Standing Committee to establish a working group on Labour Market and Social Affairs, to submit a report to the 17th BSPC,
20. adopts the amended Rules of Procedure, to take effect after the closure of 16th BSPC,
21. decides to address the issues of energy and climate change at the 17th BSPC in Visby 2008,
22. 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.

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