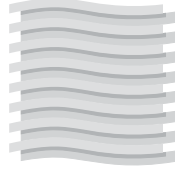


Northern Dimension & the Oceans and Seas

The 15th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference
Reykjavík · 4–5 September, 2006



Speeches at the Conference
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*The 15th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference –
Northern Dimension and the Oceans and Seas*

I.

Northern Dimension and the Oceans and Seas

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The 15th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) took place in Reykjavík, the northernmost European capital with the oldest parliament dating back to the year of 930. Although distant to the Baltic Sea, it served as the perfect host for this year's Conference with its extraordinary nature and welcoming atmosphere. At the Conference issues such as the environment, with particular focus on the Baltic Sea, the Northern Dimension and how to further strengthen co-operation in the Region, were discussed. These themes have always been central to the discussions in the Region, but this year special emphasis was put on how to make the work of the Conference more effective, i.e. how to move from the discussion level of activities to the concretisation of them.

The objective of the BSPC is to strengthen the common identity of the Baltic Sea Region by close co-operation between national and regional parliaments, and it shall initiate and guide political activities in the Region. The underlying concept of the rules for the Standing Committee, which is the permanent political body of the conference, is to make the presence of parliamentary co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region felt beyond the annual conference. All national and regional parliaments in the Baltic Sea Region send delegates to the annual conference, as do some invited international organizations as well.

Northern Dimension & the Oceans and Seas

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The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference is an annually organised conference where parliamentarians from both national and regional parliaments in the Baltic Sea region participate. According to its objectives BSPC shall aim at strengthening the common identity of the Baltic Sea Region by close co-operation between parliaments. BSPC shall initiate and guide political activities in the region and further regional co-operation especially towards the Council of Baltic Sea States. The Conference is a forum for debate and information exchange between parliaments and other organisations in the region.

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The Nordic Council was formed in 1952 to promote cooperation between the parliaments and governments of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Finland joined in 1955. At the sessions held by the Council, representatives from the Faroe Islands and Greenland form part of the Danish delegation, while Åland is represented on the Finnish delegation. The Council consists of 87 elected members – all of whom are members of parliament. The Nordic Council takes initiatives, acts in a consultative capacity and monitors cooperation measures. The Council operates via its institutions: the Plenary Assembly, the Presidium and standing committees.

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II.

Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region

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In her address to the participants of the 15th BSPC, Ms Sólveig Pétursdóttir, the President of the Icelandic Parliament, Althingi, described how Icelanders view themselves as part of the Baltic Sea Region, if not geographically, then politically and culturally. Because of the strong parliamentary history, Iceland stresses the importance of inter-parliamentary co-operation, and the BSPC has been instrumental in implementing such co-operation in the past.

On the issue of further co-operation in the Region, H.E. Christer Persson, Ambassador, Chairman of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) governing body, the Committee of Senior Officials, referred to the 6th Baltic Sea States Summit, which was held in Reykjavik in June and where for the first time the Chair of the BSPC Standing Committee, represented by Ms Arja Alho, was invited. This event can be seen as a further strengthening of the co-operation between the governments and Parliaments in the Baltic Sea Region. Mr Persson explained that, on the initiative of the BSPC, a more formalized collaboration had been discussed on several occasions in the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, but without any successful outcome. The reason for this being that a formal document is not required in order reach closer co-operation on the working level, and he stressed the importance of co-operation with parliamentarians. Mr. Kurt Bodewig, MP of the Federal Republic of Germany, agreed with Mr Persson on this issue, nevertheless, a formal agreement would facilitate co-operation between the CBSS and the BSPC. Among the objectives under the Swedish CBSS Presidency we find environment and safety; transportation; and, trade and investment and with a motto reading:

“Co-operation to achieve common objectives, greater visibility, and concrete results in collaboration with other regional councils, structures and organizations, and with countries in the vicinity of the Baltic Sea States”



Ms Arja Alho and Ms Sólveig Pétursdóttir.

Ms Arja Alho, Finnish MP and Chair of the BSPC, pointed out a few very important issues in her report from the BSPC Standing Committee. Although the Baltic Sea Region has a combination of natural and human resources, and economic growth is the highest in Europe, there are still big differences between the countries in this region. Ms Alho expressed her gratitude to see so many participants at this year's Conference, which evidenced that parliamentary democracy has been established and founded in the region. She also stressed the importance of discussing common issues and putting them on the agenda. Ms Alho explained that the rules of the Conference had been changed at the previous Conference in Vilnius in 2005 and that representatives from both Bundestag in Germany and the European Parliament have assumed their tasks in the Standing Committee. Another important issue has been to implement the Conference Resolution and, in addition to this, also to work by a written work programme, which has been developed during the past year. Moreover, for the first time the Extended Standing Committee will discuss the Resolution at this Conference, which will hopefully bring about continuity in the representation of the national and regional parliaments. Co-operation between the BSPC and the CBSS has reached a new level during the past years, and co-operation needs to prevail in order to increase welfare, strengthen cohesion and civil society, and facilitate economic growth in the Region. Other important instruments in further developing co-operation in the Region are EU policies and activities in the Baltic Sea area, and the observer status the BSPC has at the Helsinki Commission,

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HELCOM. Furthermore, by information exchange between the BSPC and inter-parliamentary regional bodies in South-East Europe, such as the PABSEC, further co-operation can be achieved. Ms Alho also presented new financial decisions to support the work of the secretariat. At present the Nordic Council is in charge of all the costs for the secretariat and as the BSPC has become established as an important actor in the Region and through further co-operation with other organisations these costs have increased. Consequently, the BSPC has copied a model from the CBSS and modified it accordingly to invite also regional parliaments to contribute to the payments of the BSPC. This initiative has received positive feedback and all (but one) parliaments are prepared to pay their contributions.

In his greeting to the Conference participants, Mr Petar Dimitrov, Chair of the Bulgarian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (PABSEC), indicated that the agendas of the BSPC and the PABSEC are very similar; they both comprise environmental, marine strategy issues, and how to further co-operation in the regions in question. Mr Dimitrov stressed the importance of participating at each other's conferences since this will increase parliamentary connections between the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea regions.

Mr Ole Stavad, the President of the Nordic Council, expressed his views on how to achieve parliamentary influence. By being parliamentarians, who not only represent themselves, but also their party groups and parliaments, power is almost unlimited once agreement can be achieved among the participants of the Conference. Unfortunately, however, a reduction of the level of priority given to the Baltic Sea co-operation on the part of many governments in the Region can be noted. Mr Stavad stressed that the opportunities that can be created for the countries neighbouring on the Baltic Sea can only be done in close co-operation with Russia and a close and strong participation on the part of Russia. Parliamentarians have the leverage to pressure their governments, since these depend on the parliaments, and by following-up on agreed decisions governments are required to follow the parliamentarians' decisions. The parliamentarians attending the Conference were thus urged to strive for a situation where the governments turn to them asking for co-operation since they see the need for it. His proposal was therefore to design a model that includes some following-up measures, which could include individual country reports, on mutual agreed decisions in the individual parliaments. He continued by giving examples of how to make the entire Baltic Sea Region into a global winner region, just like the Nordic countries.



Mr Franz Thönnies

By having a flat power structure and inclusive welfare measures (e.g. social security nets where the unemployed have financial security, everybody has the right to free education and free health care) together with competition between the countries create the basis for a winning region. There are many areas that need joint efforts in order for an effective outcome to be possible. One example being the development of the NGOs which can co-operate across national frontiers. To conclude, Mr Stavad called for all to do their homework and report back on what initiatives have been taken at home, something that was agreed upon by many of the participants of the Conference. Everyone should be open and make use of constructive criticism, as these were the only means in order for co-operation to be strengthened, Mr Stavad stressed.

Mr Franz Thönnies, German MP and State Secretary, however disagreed with Mr Stavad and said that in his opinion, it is unfeasible for governments to seek assistance from the parliamentarians, but that the two should rather work on the same level. In addition to continue the discussions at home, it should be done in accordance with the Conference Resolution, Mr Thönnies suggested.

Ms Birgit Schwebs, MP of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, agreed that the only effective way to promote the concerns of the Conference is by adopting the Resolutions, and to then go home and adopt them in the individual parliaments, followed by calling upon the governments to act upon the recommendations in them. This process also includes calling upon the governments to report back to the individual parliaments, which has been done by the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. She therefore urged all participating parliaments to introduce the same process as it would have a positive impact in terms of a more in-depth discussion of the BSPC recommendations in the CBSS.

Ms Anke Spoorendonk, MP of Schleswig-Holstein, representing the Danish speaking minority, suggested that the model on language and minority affairs adopted in Schleswig-Holstein, could be used in the future when addressing minority issues.

Mr Lech Woszczerowicz, Polish Deputy, voiced concerns regarding Russian and Polish relations. The issue in question is shipping in the Vistula lagoon, where, according to Mr Woszczerowicz, the Russian side has closed the Pilawa Strait from time to time, and the situation needs to be resolved. The Polish Foreign Minister sent a letter to his Russian colleagues in February 2006 and is still waiting for a reply.



Ms Outi Ojala

Ms Outi Ojala, Finnish MP, reported that there have been great expectations since her report on the role of the NGOs in the Baltic Sea area was published. However, very little has actually happened. At the CBSS Summit in June Ms Alho, in the capacity of Chair of the BSPC Standing Committee, explained the importance of the work of NGOs and the need for securing both the legal and



Mr Christer Persson

economic prerequisites for further strengthening co-operation in the Region on this subject.

As a response to Ms Ojala, Mr Persson explained that there has been for the past years an expanding co-operation between the NGO Forum and the Working Group on Democratic Institutions of the CBSS. That co-operation is ongoing and constantly developing. The CBSS fully realises the important role played by NGOs in the Region. Lengthy discussions with the Forum have been taking place prior to the meeting this autumn, which does not mean that the Swedish Presidency of the CBSS has any intentions of influencing the contents of the Forum, which is an independent body. Mr Persson explained that provided the CBSS receives concrete feedback from the NGO Forum into the governmental work on what is important for the NGOs and the people and public they represent, the CBSS will definitely listen to such suggestions.

Mr Vatanyar Yagya, Vice-Chairman of the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly, pointed out that the BSPC has already shown how active it is in the Region and that the whole process of co-operation has already happened. However, Mr Yagya expressed concerns regarding Belarus. Isolating an entire country, its parliament and its people from any dialogue with the region around it is unacceptable, he said. He appreciated that due to the political events taking place in Belarus, granting it with either membership or even observer status at the BSPC could be difficult for some of the members of the BSPC. Therefore, he called for an alternative solution. Mr Yagya proposed for a Belarussian delegation to be invited to listen to and observe the ongoing discussions of the BSPC and to thereby see how issues are dealt with demo-

cratically within the Region. He, as a professor at the University of St. Petersburg, also pointed out the importance of education and how this is related to labour markets, which will be discussed further in Berlin in 2007.

Mr Persson asked the BSPC for suggestions on how the CBSS could and should co-operate with parliaments in the Region. Previously he had called for “practical and concrete possibilities of co-operation”, and he suggested that this could be done through the strengthening of the co-operation between Working Groups. Ms Astrid Hoefs, MP of Schleswig-Holstein, confirmed that the BSPC position in CBSS had been strengthened.

With regards to Belarus, Mr Persson said that the Republic is mentioned in the Swedish CBSS Presidency Priorities, and that there is actually ongoing co-operation on the practical level between the CBSS and Belarus. Since the CBSS works on the consensus principle and eight members have decided not to have any contacts on the political level, meaning at the ministerial level, with the Republic of Belarus, such co-operation is not possible at present. He stressed that this decision does in no way mean that there is any intention to isolate the Belarussian people or other institutions, NGOs and parliamentarians. The intention is therefore to work practically, technically, with Belarus in areas where there is a mutual interest for the CBSS countries and Belarus.

Ms Alho asked the participants of the Conference what the proper ways to act at home would be. She also stressed that the issue needs further discussion at the next Standing Committee meeting and agreed that reports could work to monitor the progress of the BSPC. For co-operation to be optimal the door will not be closed to anyone in the catchment area, and she highlighted that co-operation with the PABSEC is a useful instrument for the BSPC, as is the observer status at HELCOM, especially in strengthening the co-operation with Russia.

Mr Sigurður Kári Kristjánsson, Icelandic MP and member of the Standing Committee of Arctic Parliamentarians, referred to the Arctic Parliamentary Conference in Kiruna in August 2006, where further co-operation with regards to environment, search and rescue matters needs to increase. He explained that such co-operation should not be limited to the Arctic region, but extended to adjacent areas.

IV.

Oceans and Seas

Mr Berndt Röder, President of the State Parliament of the Free and Hanse City of Hamburg, discussed in the light of the European Commission's Green Paper, the importance of maritime policy and marine protection and stressed that these two can no longer be separated. The protection of natural resources is a precondition for good economic development and it is therefore necessary to create awareness of the problems that are encountered and accept environmental measures. The Green Paper, which focuses on economic growth, social prosperity and environmental protection, is nothing less than the creation of a dynamic, sustainable maritime economy for the 21st Century. Moreover, there are political measures in place to regulate various types of maritime activity however; the breakdown into the different political fields makes it difficult to predict the potential impact of one area on another or to predict possible conflicts of interest in advance. The challenge is to optimize current and future maritime economic activity. A holistic policy should aim at accessing the considerable growth potentials and at the same time guarantee the protection of the marine environment. He pointed out that such goals are very much in line with the Lisbon Strategy of sustainable growth, employment and security. An integrated maritime policy opens many promising opportunities for all in the Region, not least in financial terms. Nevertheless, greater co-operation and co-ordination in order to preserve the health of the Baltic Sea can achieve better prosperity and higher standards of living for the people in the Region, Mr. Röder concluded.

Mr Miezyślaw S. Ostojkischair of HELCOM, described the Baltic Sea as a shallow semi-enclosed sea with slow water exchange. The main environmental challenges are therefore to fight eutrophication and hazardous substances in order to reduce destruction habitats and biodiversity (including over-fishing). Other worries Mr Ostojski expressed were the growing maritime and off-shore activities. HELCOM wants to have the Ecosystem Approach, which was agreed by the Ministers in 2003, and use the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan to do so. The Baltic Sea Action Plan identifies ecological objectives, indicators and targets in order to achieve agreed objectives. The Plan also has a wide stakeholders' involvement with high political commitment



by the Contracting Parties. The actions are scientifically sound and clearly linked to processes in the Baltic ecosystem and these actions are based on sub-regional specifics of the Baltic and on cost-benefit and cost-effective analysis. National policies should not be forgotten, and through the use of international and/or European policies, such as the Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy, Maritime Strategy, EU Common Agricultural Policy, and EU Financial Mechanisms and Programmes, and input to political processes, actions can be implemented.

Mr Jón Ólafsson, Expert at Iceland's Marine Research Institute (MRI), explained the scientific implications the changing conditions have on our seas. The level of carbon dioxide is growing, the reason for this being higher emission levels of nutrients, which affects the health of the seas negatively. An increase in carbon dioxide means that the acidity of the water increases, which in turn has a negative biological impact: as the acidity increases, the biological variation of the sea decreases, which results in diminished species in the seas and hence, economic losses.

Mr Árni Múli Jónasson, Expert from Iceland's Ministry of Fisheries, gave examples of how Iceland manages its fisheries. The Ministry of Fisheries is responsible for the long term planning and policy making of fisheries, and it acts upon recommendations made by the MRI. The Directorate of Fisheries is entrusted with the day to day administration of fisheries and food monitoring, whereas the Icelandic Coast Guard is responsible for patrol, monitoring and rescue operations in Icelandic waters. The Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) system has been setup to issue permits for commercial fishing, where the Ministry of Fisheries decides which species to include under the system and

what the total allowable catch ought to be. In the Icelandic model, vessels are obliged to have a catch quota for their catches in all species. There are also regulations concerning the type of fishing gear permitted, e.g. minimum mesh size etc. Should a vessel take catches in excess of its catch quota, it will be suspended from fishing. The objectives of the policies driven by of the Ministry of Fisheries are to achieve sustainable utilisation of all marine resources; preserve the oceans' biodiversity and ecosystem; and, ensure all decisions are based on the best available scientific and economic information.

Mr Asanbuba Nyudyurbegov, Russian MP, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Environment in the State Duma, said that the environmental questions discussed were impressive and important, and highlighted the dangers of the chemical weapons on the Baltic Sea seabed. Mr Nyudyurbegov stressed that Russia will make sure that no leaking of any nuclear substances will take place. He said that damages to the sea environment are mostly caused by transportation but the issue is being addressed through joint projects and implementation of new technology in the Finnish Gulf. He argued that the North-European Gas Pipeline will hardly touch the seabed and that the project can guarantee safety.

Mr Asmund Kristoffersen, Norwegian MP, Chairman of the BSPC Working Group on Eutrophication, and Chairman of the Nordic Council Environment and Natural Resources Committee, explained that the Working Group had been established in January 2006 to raise political and public awareness and focus on the eutrophication problem. Mr Kristoffersen explained how the ecological balance has been disrupted by over-enrichment by nutri-

ents and that this causes problems for fisheries and for the recreational opportunities at sea and on the coasts. He also encouraged the CBSS and national governments to implement the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Marine Strategy, since this would be a vital part for the ecological status of the sea. Mr Kristoffersen stressed that the EU Common Agricultural Policy has a tremendous influence on the agricultural mode of production, and hence on that sector's input of Nitrogen and Phosphorous to the Baltic Sea. Mr Ostojski pointed out that the levels of these substances need to be reduced by 10 and 35 per cent respectively. Mr Kristoffersen also urged all participants to work politically at home in order for a joint agriculture and environment ministers' meeting to take place in 2007. At such a meeting ministers would develop a regional approach to the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Water Framework Directive and thereby strive for a less eutrophicated Baltic Sea. Ms Schwebs said that the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern supported and welcomed a joint ministerial meeting between both the ministers of environment and the ministers of agriculture, to take place in 2007 and asked the Working Group if it were able to submit recommendations at such a conference as this would be useful. Ms Schwebs continued by thanking the Working Group on Eutrophication and pointed out that it had developed a questionnaire on the current status of political measures already implemented in this field. It had been difficult to obtain answers from all the countries and regions concerned, and all governments were urged to provide their answers, which would facilitate the task of the Working Group and that of HELCOM. Ms Schwebs also reported that Mecklenburg -Vorpommern has not only been directly involved in the activities of the Working Group, but that discussions are initiated in the relevant parliamentary committees. On the issue of integrated Maritime Policy, Ms Schwebs said that Mecklenburg-Vorpommern had adopted a resolution on recommendations for action in the framework of the Southern Baltic Sea Parliamentary Forum held in May 2006 in Kiel. She suggested that a Working Group on this issue would be established. It could submit a position paper of the BSPPC to the European Commission during the consultation process on the Green Paper.

Ms Hoefs pointed out that the Directive's objective is to implement the aims, which are good environmental health in ground waters, lakes and seas, and called for the setting up of an EU Green Paper Parliamentary Working Group, since parliamentarians need to be part of the work.

Mr Yagya referred to the discussions that took place in the Second Conference in Oslo in as early as 1992 regarding environmental issues and, in particular, what lies on the bottom of the

Baltic Sea. He suggested that NATO be involved if the Region cannot find a concrete solution to how to remove the chemical weapons from the seabed.

Mr Kimmo Sasi, Finnish MP, addressed a question to the Chair of the CBSS, Mr Persson, regarding Sweden's intentions to stop the North-European gas pipeline project. Mr Persson clarified that Sweden had no intentions of stopping the project, but that the Swedish Prime Minister, Göran Persson, had expressed concerns regarding the project.

Mr Stavad, as the BSPPC observer at HELCOM, gave an update on the North-European Gas Pipeline and said that neither of the parties has applied for permission for an environmental assessment, and that this needs to be agreed by all the countries in the Region. He also explained that the project falls under the 1991 Espoo Convention, and that all countries but Russia have ratified the agreement. Russia has signed the document and by doing so signalled that they will comply with it.

Mr Karl-Martin Hentschel, MP of Schleswig-Holstein, referred to Mr Stavad's encouragement of being constructive in criticism, and welcomed the criticism regarding the planned gas pipeline. Different parliaments in Europe see different problem areas on this issue, and Mr Hentschel therefore proposed that the Green Paper would be used to solve the effluent emissions into the sea; over-fishing, by granting two catch quotas; and shipping and maritime safety. He also suggested a unified harbour policy. He was happy that the BSPPC had initiated its own working paper, but proposed that the EU Green Book be extended and that Mr Joe Borg, EU Commissioner in charge of the European Maritime Policy, be invited to this meeting.

The market for illegal fishing is considerable in the Baltic Sea area and therefore a need for binding agreements is vital in order to give more political power to the issue, Mr Ivar Kristiansen, a Norwegian MP said. If the question of how to clean up the Baltic Sea cannot be resolved, then eventually, Mr. Kristiansen said, UN Resolution will be needed, and called for greater co-operation on the subject. Mr Sverker Thorén, Swedish MP, agreed and added that more protective measures are required.

Ms Veronica Thörnroos, MP of the Parliament of Åland, pointed out that the Åland Islands are made up of over 6500 isles and for those living there clean water is a pre-condition for their standard of living. The two main industries are tourism and shipping. At the moment households need to re-do their sewage systems in order to reduce the emissions of phosphorous and nitrogen. The inhabitants of these islands have questioned this policy because it is a very expensive undertaking and because daily over one thousand ships traffic the seas around Åland, and discharge their completely untreated sewage water in accordance with

MARPOL 73/78. Ms Thörnroos therefore called for more concrete actions and for harbours to be able to accept sewage from the ships, something that, to her best knowledge, harbours in neither Finland nor Sweden are equipped for today.

Mr Gabriel Romanus, Swedish MP and Member of the Nordic Council, spoke of the dangers of the Gas Pipeline Project since it will be placed on the seabed where fishing will become prohibited. He pointed out that there are plenty of mines in addition to the chemical weapons on the seabed, and that therefore the project raises questions regarding the economy, energy supply and security. Mr Romanus called for Russia and Germany to work for an alternative solution, one which can be more acceptable in the region.

Mr Manuel Sarrazin, MP of the Free and Hanse City of Hamburg, pointed out that St. Petersburg and Hamburg are twin cities and that therefore Hamburg has been actively involved in the sponsoring of sewage systems in St. Petersburg. Mr Sarrazin also urged for closer co-operation with Russia and to not close the door to anyone once the Green Paper has been published.

Ms Christel Happach-Kasan, German MP and a member of the Working Group on Eutrophication, noted that since the 1990s, when the political changes took place in the Region, great improvements can be observed. She pointed out that maritime safety depends on ship affluence and that the quality of the sea is not only determined by wastewater treatment, but also diesel emissions. Greater awareness about what can be used at sea needs to be launched.

Mr Trivimi Velliste, Estonian MP, referred to Charles Darwin's theory of struggle for life and posed the question whether it is better to enter into competition with each other or should not countries seek to foster co-operation. He agreed with Mr Persson regarding closer co-operation and striving for more concrete results; and Mr Stavad and with Mr Romanus concerning more openness among parliamentarians and alternative measures.

Mr Thönnes pointed out that the North-European Gas Pipeline, which will be part of the Trans-European Network (TEN), is a private project and that it needs to adhere to regulations. He also highlighted that all states are allowed to lay lines on the seabed with the approval of the other states, meetings are being held and co-operation is on-going. NGOs will be, if they not already are, involved. Ms Dorota Arciszewska-Mielewczyk, Polish Senator, stressed that the Gas Pipeline project presents both environmental and political issues, where ecological problems lead to energy and safety issues.

V.

Northern Dimension Policy

Counsellor from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland, and Member of the CBSS CSO, Mr Tauno Pesola, gave background information on the Northern Dimension Policy on behalf of the Finnish EU Presidency. The initiative, started by then Finnish Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen in 1997, has through its two Action Plans developed into an important tool for co-operation within the Region. On the macro level the Policy is a political concept in order to get EU-attention to Northern Europe, especially North-West Russia, and to develop fields of mutual interest, which is done on the micro level through partnerships and project activities by various actors (single countries, countries together, the European Commission, NGOs etc) in the Northern Dimension area. In 2001 the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) was established to focus on wastewater, solid waste, energy efficiency and nuclear waste, with current projects running in North-West Russia. Another important partnership is the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social well being (NDPHS), which focuses on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and diseases related to a low standard of living. The process is two-fold: collection of information and identification of problem spots, and here co-operation and sharing of information between the parties become vital in order for the Partnership to become a success. For the future, strengthening the already existing partnerships and promoting other concrete project activities will be the goal. Among the Finnish objectives are commitment of all parties; additional financing to NDEP; and, increased political and financial contribution to NDPHS. Other Finnish objectives include the launch of a new partnership on transport and logistics; energy efficiency projects to be included in NDEP; and, hopefully to start discussing culture, education and student mobility in the Region.

Mr Antti Kaikkonen, Finnish MP, pointed out that the main objective within Northern Dimension is to support and enhance co-operation, stability and welfare. During the Finnish Presidency three things have been combined: the regional interest with Russia; the issue areas included in the Northern Dimension; and the wider EU-Russia Dialogue perspective. Mr Kaikkonen stressed that a real dialogue can only be realized between equal partners. An example of where co-operation between

national governments, the European Commission, NGOs, private and public financiers, and private companies has been successful and brought about concrete results is the opening of the St. Petersburg Southwest Wastewater Plant.

Mr Sasi asked whether the planned gas pipeline project should be implemented into the Northern Dimension Policy and emphasised two things within the Policy: firstly, the importance of the environment, waste water management in particular; and secondly, transport routes in the Region, namely European transport routes (via Poland to Eastern Europe). Harbour movements too need to be facilitated so that customs clearances only take a maximum of a couple of hours.

In her report from the BSPC Standing Committee, Ms Alho pointed out the relation between the Northern Dimension Policy and the Region. The Policy will be a new one between three non-EU countries (Iceland, Norway and Russia) from the Region and the EU, i.e. the Baltic Sea Region has therefore been lifted up within the Northern Dimension.

Ms Diana Wallis, Member of the European Parliament, discussed



Ms Diana Wallis

the importance of the Policy as both an internal and external policy of the European Union. Ms Wallis warned for limiting the Policy to the Baltic Sea area, and urged the participants of the Conference to applying it to the Arctic region. Since the 1990s, from when the Policy back-dates, Europe has changed greatly and the European Union has grown. These changes in the Baltic Sea Region have been facilitated through the Northern Dimension Policy, and it is therefore important to now use this same policy to respond to the changes the Arctic region experiences terms of climate change etc. Ms Anna Kristín Gunnarsdóttir, an Icelandic MP, urged everybody to look outside the box, further to the Arctic region. Global warming will be most felt there and this will have an immediate effect especially on the areas in the vicin-



Mr Dmitry Polanskiy

ity. These changes will also affect the fishing grounds and that close co-operation is thus strongly needed.

Mr Dmitry Polanskiy, Chief of Division, Department of European Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia, informed the Conference participants that meetings on the Northern Dimension are held between partners every month. Initially Russia experienced some difficulties in this field of work since Russia, although an important partner could only implement projects, not suggest any. Today Russia is on an equal footing, which facilitates co-operation. He said that in his opinion co-operation in health care and social development is not possible because the Region finds itself in a vacuum situation on the discussion level only. Combating HIV and AIDS is already dealt with, according to Mr Polanskiy, whereas he expressed concerns regarding the financing issue. The greatest fear is whether enough financing for current and future projects become available and asked the European Union and the European Commission to clarify where the money will come from.

Mr Persson pointed out that the Northern Dimension Policy should be used as the common policy to deal with the current situation of the environmental status of the Baltic Sea, since it has been a success. The CBSS has been recognized as one of the key players for the elaboration and implementation of the new common Northern Dimension policy, Mr Persson explained. He described the CBSS as being the vertical link from the Baltic Sea Region to all the parties of the Northern Dimension by supplying some of the means necessary to achieve the policy objectives. In order to implement the new policy, the experience of regional and local actors, such as the CBSS is needed.

Mr Kristjan Vaigur, Secretary General of the Baltic Sea Trade Union Network, BASTUN, pointed out that Russia is an important strategic partner to the European Union, and that it is therefore

beneficiary for both that co-operation is well-functioning between the two. The Northern Dimension Policy is a good tool to accomplish this, but plans need to be realistic and based on common understanding in order to be realised. From the BASTUN point of view, the Policy has not touched upon labour market issues, and Mr Vaigur would therefore like to see developments in this direction.

Regarding labour markets, Mr Kazimierz Kuberski, Vice-Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Poland, stressed the importance of free movement of workers in the Northern Dimension countries and in the European Union in general. In countries with more restrictive measures on free movement of labour, illegal employment and abuse of regulations can be noted. Because of the gap in standards of living in the Region, it would be profitable for the countries to send and receive workers more freely. Mr Kuberski urged therefore for all countries to facilitate this mobility and remove legal, administrative, practical and mental obstacle barriers in order to contribute to more dynamic economic growth in the Region.

Mr Jan-Henrik Fredriksen, Norwegian MP, said that the environment, nuclear safety and health care need to be preserved and that concretisation of the on-going projects is greatly called for. Public health issues, such as fighting HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis for instance, need to be dealt with trans-nationally. He urged for information sharing and pointed out that Russia is key partner in these questions. By working together and co-operating all countries will be better off in economic growth terms as the countries all depend on the neighbouring countries' economic prospects.

Mr Steingrímur J. Sigfússon, Icelandic MP, discussed the need for further work in the field of labour markets and social dumping. He gave as an example the situation of Baltic and Polish illegal workers and how such social dumping leads to trafficking in women, drug dealing and other criminal activities. Pleased that labour markets brought up, Mr Thönnes informed that they will be further discussed in Berlin next year. He explained how these markets were connected to mobility and information sharing: both workers and employers need to know where they are going to work and under what conditions and for whom, and vice versa. Mr Thönnes welcomed all the participants to take part of the 16th BSPC in 2007 in Berlin.

At the end of the Plenary Discussion in the Third Session the Conference Resolution, which was elaborated by the Extended Standing Committee convening during the Conference, was unanimously adopted, after which Mr Orgolaynen declared the Conference closed.

VI.

Ten Years of Hard Work

The 15th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference was Ms Päivikki Lindroos' Head of Secretariat, last Conference. She has left her mark with her hard work: during her ten years she became the personification of the co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region with her profound commitment and wide and deep knowledge of the Area. Ms Alho thanked Ms Lindroos on behalf of the BSPC for her true dedication and wished her all the best for the future by referring to Stevie Wonder's song "Isn't She Lovely" and handing over the book *Mare Balticum, Mare Nostrum*.



VII. Resolution

Adopted by the 15h Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

THE PARTICIPANTS*, elected representatives from the Baltic Sea States and European Parliament, assembled in Reykjavik, Iceland 3–5 September 2006, to discuss co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, the Northern Dimension and European Maritime Policy

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Regarding the Co-operation in the Region call on governments in the Baltic Sea region, the CBSS and the EU to

give coordinated support to the new EU neighbouring countries in building the civil and democratic society and to promote reform processes in these countries

Call on the CBSS to

strengthen the interaction between the CBSS and the BSPC by further reinforcing and developing dialogue and information exchange

Regarding the Northern Dimension call on the European Commission and the Governments of Iceland, Norway and Russia to

pay attention to the results of the Round Table of the Northern Dimension held on 30 January 2006 in Copenhagen and encourage the members of the BSPC Standing Committee to attend the Parliamentary Forum on Northern Dimension, to be organised by the European Parliament in November 2006

support and further develop the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) and Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing (NDPHS)

* 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.

work to secure concrete goals and financing mechanisms of the Northern Dimension

aim at filling the four EU-Russia common spaces with concrete content

strengthen coordination and cooperation between regional organisations in Northern Europe

consider establishing a partnership on Transport and Logistics in the Framework of Northern Dimension

Regarding the European Maritime Policy and the Baltic Sea Action Plan

call on the governments in the Baltic Sea region, the CBSS, HELCOM and the EU to

work for an integrated maritime policy in order to create favourable conditions for a prosperous, socially balanced and ecologically sustainable development of the Baltic Sea region

establish a balance between the many competing economic benefits of the sea on the one hand, and adequate protection of the marine environment on the other, so as to allow an economically and ecologically sustainable use of marine resources

include marine sciences and technologies for marine resources as priority fields in future research programmes

strive for harmonization of the current variety of political and legal measures, programmes and action plans at European level within the framework of an integrated European maritime policy

pursue a European fisheries policy that will take into account the particularities of the Baltic Sea and implement the principle of sustainable fisheries by active participation in the Baltic Sea RAC (Regional Advisory Committee)

strengthen cooperation in the field of maritime safety and security, especially regarding search and rescue matters

Regarding the proposed North European Gas Pipeline (NEGP), call on the governments in the Baltic Sea Region and HELCOM to

ensure that the assessment of the feasibility of the proposed NEGP is carried out with a high level of transparency and in compliance with all applicable international obligations

Regarding the serious situation of abnormal algae blooming and lifeless areas of the Baltic Sea seabed call on the governments to

strongly support all kinds of measures and instruments designed to further reduce pollutant and nutrient inputs from agriculture, municipalities, shipping and industries

support HELCOM activities in the full catchment area in order to fight the eutrophication in the Baltic Sea

take active part in the planned April 2007 CBSS conference of ministers of environment and ministers of agriculture, in order to optimize their contribution to a less eutrophicated Baltic Sea and to present the results of this conference at the 16th BSPC-Conference in Berlin 2007

Furthermore the Conference decided to

ask the Standing Committee to include the Green Paper on Maritime Policy to the Standing Committee work programme, to take part in the discussion on the Green Paper, to discuss the BSPC contribution at the next Extended Standing Committee meeting and to consider the installation of a working group on Maritime Policy in order to monitor the follow-up of the Green Paper process

include the issue of energy on the future agenda of the BSPC Standing Committee meetings

ask the Standing Committee to start discussions on social and labour market issues with labour market partners

acknowledge with satisfaction the new proposals by the CBSS Presidency about co-operation between the CBSS and the BSPC

note with pleasure the decisions by the participating parliaments to contribute to the financing of the secretariat as proposed by the Standing Committee

address the European Green Paper on the European Integrated Maritime Policy, labour market issues and social welfare as items at the next Conference in August 2007 in Berlin

welcome with gratitude the kind invitation of the German Bundestag to hold the 16th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference on 27–28 August 2007 in Berlin.

VIII. List of Participants

Speakers and Chairpersons

Alho, Arja	MP, Finland, Chair of the BSPC Standing Committee
Arciszewska-Mielewczyk, Dorota	Senator, Parliament of Poland
Dimitrov, Petar	MP, Bulgaria, Chair of the Bulgarian delegation to the PABSEC
Jónasson, Árni Múli	Iceland's Ministry of Fisheries
Khripel, Gennady	MP, Council of Federation, Russia, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee
Kristoffersen, Asmund	MP, Norway, Chair of the Working Group on Eutrophication
Kuberski, Kazimierz	Vice-Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Poland
Mazuronis, Valentinas	MP, Lithuania, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee
Nyudyurbegov, Asanbuba	Vice-Chairman, Committee on Environment, State Duma
Ólafsson, Jón	Expert at Iceland's Marine Research Institute
Olsson, Kent	MP, Sweden, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee
Orgolaynen, Alexandr	MP, State Duma of the Russian Federation, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee, Chairman of HELCOM
Ostojski, Mieczyslaw S	H.E., Ambassador, Chair of the CBSS CSO
Persson, Christer	Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland, Member of the CBSS CSO
Pesola, Tauno	President of Althingi
Pétursdóttir, Sólveig	Chief of Division, Department of European Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia
Polanskiy, Dmitry	President of the State Parliament of the Free and Hanse City of Hamburg
Röder, Berndt	MP, Denmark, President of the Nordic Council
Stavad, Ole	MP, State Secretary, Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee
Thönnnes, Franz	Secretary General of BASTUN
Vaigur, Kristjan	MEP, European Parliament
Wallis, Diana	

Parliamentary Delegations and Organisations

Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Bremen

Arnold-Cramer, Ursula	MP
Gunthner, Martin	MP
Oppermann, Karl Uwe	MP
Schmidtman, Dirk	MP

European Parliament	
Wallis, Diana	MEP
<i>Parliament of Denmark</i>	
Hansen, Lene	MP
Simonsen, Irene	MP
<i>Parliament of Estonia</i>	
Sester, Sven	MP
Taimla, Andres	MP
Velliste, Trivimi	MP
<i>Parliament of Finland</i>	
Alho, Arja	MP, Chair of the BSPC Standing Committee
Kaikkonen, Antti	MP
Sasi, Kimmo	MP
<i>Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany</i>	
Adam, Ulrich	MP
Bodewig, Kurt	MP
Happach-Kasan, Christel	MP
Klimke, Jürgen	MP
Liebling, Ingbert	MP
Thönnnes, Franz	MP, State Secretary, Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee
<i>Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Hamburg</i>	
Frank, Günter	MP
Harlinghausen, Rolf	MP
Röder, Berndt	President
Sarrazin, Manuel	MP
<i>Parliament of Iceland</i>	
Gunnarsdóttir, Anna Kristín	MP
Hjartardóttir, Drifa	MP, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee
Kristánnsson, Sigurður Kári	MP, Standing Committee of Arctic Parliamentarians
Sigfusson, Steingrímur J.	MP
Sveinsdóttir, Arnbjörg	MP
<i>Parliament of Latvia</i>	
Emsis, Indulis	MP
Petersons, Aigars	MP
Solovjovs, Igors	MP
Stalidzane, Jevgenija	MP
Zommere, Erika	MP
<i>Parliament of Lithuania</i>	
Mazuronis, Valentinas	MP, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee
Simulik, Valerijus	MP
<i>Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern</i>	
Jarchow, Hans-Heinrich	MP
Schwebs, Birgit	MP

Skrzepski, Gesine	MP
<i>Nordic Council</i>	
Alho, Arja	MP, Finland, Chair of the BSPC Standing Committee
Gudmundsdóttir, Rannveig	MP, Iceland
Lorentzen, Kristian Pihl	MP, Denmark Vice-President of the Nordic Council
Ojala, Outi	MP, Finland
Olsson, Kent	MP, Sweden, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee
Romanus, Gabriel	MP, Sweden
Stavad, Ole	MP, Denmark, President of the Nordic Council
<i>Parliament of Norway</i>	
Fredriksen, Jan-Henrik	MP
Haugen, Arne. L	MP
Kristiansen, Ivar	MP
Kristoffersen, Asmund	MP, Chair of the Working Group on Eutrophication
Reikvam, Rolf	MP
<i>Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland</i>	
Arciszewska-Mielewczyk, Dorota	Senator
Kurski, Jacek	MP
Piekarska, Katarzyna	MP
Woszczerowicz, Lech	Deputy
Wiechecki, Rafal	Deputy, Minister of Maritime Economy.
<i>Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation</i>	
COUNCIL OF FEDERATION	
Khripel, Gennady	MP, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee
Lyskov, Anatoly	MP
Tkach, Oleg	MP
Vasilev, Sergey	MP
STATE DUMA	
Malchikmin, Valery	MP
Nikitin, Vladimir	MP
Nyudyurbegov, Asanbuba	MP, Vice-Chairman, Committee on Environment
Orgolaynen, Alexandr	MP, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee
<i>Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein</i>	
Hentschel, Kari-Martin	MP
Hoefs, Astrid	MP
Klug, Ekkehard	MP
Ritzek, Manfred	MP
Spoorendonk, Anke	MP
<i>St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly</i>	
Yagya, Vatanyar	Vice Chairman
<i>Parliament of Sweden</i>	
Bohlin, Sinikka	MP

Ekholm, Berndt	MP
Oberg, Maria	MP
Romanus, Gabriel	MP
Thorén, Sverker	MP

<i>Parliament of Åland</i>	
Perämaa, Mats	MP
Thörnroos, Veronica	MP
Winé, Göte	MP

Observers and Guests

<i>BASTUN, Baltic Sea Trade Union Network</i>	
Vaigur, Kristjan	Secretary General

<i>CBSS, Council of the Baltic Sea States</i>	
Jankevica, Anitra	Senior Advisor
Kötschau, Gabriele	Director
Persson, Christer	H.E., Ambassador, Chair of the CBSS CSO

<i>CPMR, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions in Europe, Baltic Sea Commission</i>	
Mälly, Marko	Executive Secretary

<i>HELCOM</i>	
Ostojski, Mieczyslaw S	Chairman

<i>NFS, Nordic Trade Unions</i>	
Saxén, Tom	General Secretary

<i>PABSEC, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation</i>	
Dimitrov, Petar	Chair of the Bulgarian delegation to the PABSEC

<i>SCPAP, Standing Committee of Parliamentarians in the Arctic Region</i>	
Kristánsson, Sigurður Kári	MP

<i>SLLF, State Legislative Leaders Foundation, Europe</i>	
Schöps, Alfons	Director

<i>South Sweden Chamber of Industry and Commerce</i>	
Müchler, Stephan	President and CEO

<i>Union of The Baltic Cities</i>	
Zaboklicki, Pawel	Secretary General

<i>West Nordic Council</i>	
Pórarinnsson, Þórður	Secretary General

<i>Baltic Youth Forum</i>	
Ehlers, Alexandra	
Lüthen, Jens-Christian	
Sæmundsson, Höskuldur	Secretary General

Diplomatic corps

Blauveldt, Anna	Ambassador, Canadian Embassy
Eilers, Jens	Councillor, German Embassy
Gross, Andreas	National Councillor, Switzerland
Junqi, Yang	Councillor, Chinese Embassy
Mehmet, Alp	Ambassador, British Embassy
Nyholm, Nanna	U.S., Embassy Copenhagen
Reimann, Leif Mogens	Ambassador, Danish Embassy
Røberg, Vilde Høvik	Chargé d'affaires a.i., Norwegian Embassy
Ströje-Wilkens, Madeleine	Ambassador, Swedish Embassy
Sundquist, Ingemar	Councillor, Swedish Embassy
Tatarintsev, Victor I.	Ambassador, Russian Embassy

Secretariats

<i>Baltic Assembly</i>	
Laizane-Jurkane, Marika	Head of Secretariat

<i>Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Bremen</i>	
Krause, Walter	Head of Department

<i>European Parliament</i>	
Arnold, Stewart	Policy and Communications Adviser
Olsen, Henrik	Head of Secretariat

<i>Parliament of Denmark</i>	
Vestergaard, Mette	Counsellor
<i>Parliament of Estonia</i>	
Rõngelep, Ene	Secretary to Delegation

<i>Parliament of Finland</i>	
Hissa, Jaakko	Senior Counsellor of International Affairs, Secretary to Delegation
Zilliacus, Patrick	Counsellor, Finland

<i>Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany</i>	
Meier, Silke	Secretary to Delegation
Stieler, Gabriele	Assistant

<i>Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Hamburg</i>	
Wagner, Reinhard	Director

<i>Parliament of Iceland</i>	
Bernódusson, Helgi	Secretary General
Brynjólfsson, Tómas	International Secretary
Gunnarsdóttir, Hildur Gróa	
Theriault, Belinda	Head of Department
Valgarðsson, Lárus	International secretary

<i>Parliament of Latvia</i>	
Putnina, Ingrida	Secretary of Delegation

<i>Parliament of Lithuania</i>	
Jankauskaite, Renata	Secretary to Delegation

Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Bahr, Bodo Vice-Director
Gutzeit, Gerald Head of Division

Nordic Council

Nokken, Frida Secretary General, Denmark
Hagemann, Henrik Secretary General of the Danish delegation to the Nordic Council, Denmark
Nikolajsen, Mads Secretary, Left/Green Party Group, Denmark
Rasmussen, Jens Nytoft Senior Adviser, Denmark
Schwarz, Jesper T. Senior Adviser, Denmark
Sørensen, Torkil Senior Adviser, Denmark
Widberg, Jan Senior Adviser, Denmark

Parliament of Norway

Grøthe, Stian Political Advisor
Ofteidal, Eline Advisor

Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland

Januszewski, Andrzej Secretary to Delegation

Russian Federation

COUNCIL OF FEDERATION

Dakhova, Nadezda Secretary

STATE DUMA

Guskova, Yulia Secretary

Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein

Schöning, Jürgen Director
Schmidt-Holländer, Jutta Head of Division

St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly

Terekhovskiy, Sergey Chief of Foreign Affairs Department

Parliament of Sweden

Hjelm, Eva International Secretary
Smekal, Eva Head of Division
Stenarv, Gunnar Political Secretary, Social democratic group

Parliament of Åland

Holm-Johansson, Marine Senior Advisor

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

Lindroos, Päivikki Head of Secretariat
Hayes, Anja Rapporteur
Gadebusch, Camilla Secretary

Translators' and Interpreters' Group

Fleischhacker, Karin English/Russian/German/Swedish
Johnson, Catherine English/Russian/German
Larsen, Stein English/Russian/German/Scandinavian
Repin, Aleksei English/Russian/German/Scandinavian
Schenck, Linda English/Russian/German/Swedish
Zoëga, Anne English/Russian/German/Scandinavian

Ministries

Iceland

Sigmundsson, Kornelíus Ambassador, Iceland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Poland

Grzyb, Janusz Deputy Director, Dept. of Migration
Kuberski, Kazimierz Undersecretary of State

Russia

Kutaeva, Natalya Expert, Ministry of Transport

Accompanying persons

Muus, Kirsten
Olsson, Inger
Smekal, Heinz
Thönnnes, Rita

IX. Programme

Monday, 4 September 2006

From 08.00	Registration	
09.00–09.30	Opening of the Conference Chair: Arja Alho	35
	Address by Ms Sólveig Pétursdóttir, President of Althingi	
	Cultural programme Greeting by Mr Petar Dimitrov, Chair of the Bulgarian delegation to the PABSEC (Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation)	
09.30–12.00	FIRST SESSION Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region Chair: Mr Gennady Khripel Presentation on behalf of the CBSS H.E. Christer Persson, Ambassador, Chair of the CBSS CSO Report from the BSPEC Standing Committee Ms Arja Alho, MP, Finland, Chair of the BSPEC How do we get parliamentary influence? Mr Ole Stavad, President, Nordic Council, MP, Denmark	
11.00–12.00	Plenary discussion Chair: Kent Olsson	
13.30–16.30	SECOND SESSION Oceans and Seas Chair: Mr Valentinas Mazuronis European Maritime Policy and Baltic Sea Marine Strategy Mr Berndt Röder, President of the State Parliament of the Free and Hanse City of Hamburg HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan Northern Dimension and the Oceans and the Seas Mr Mieczyslaw S Ostojwski, Chairman of HELCOM Greenhouse gases and marine ecosystems Mr Jón Ólafsson, Expert at Iceland's Marine Research Institute	

Ecological problems of the Baltic Sea

Mr. Asanbuba Nyudyurbegov, MP, Vice-Chairman,
Committee on Environment, State Duma

Algal Blooming—a Baltic Sea Distress Signal

Midterm Report from the Working Group on Eutrophication
of the Baltic Sea

Mr Asmund Kristoffersen, MP, Norway, Chair of the Working
Group on Eutrophication

Icelandic Fisheries Management System

Mr Árni Múli Jónasson, Iceland's Ministry of Fisheries

15.30–16.30 Plenary Discussion
Chair: Ms Dorota Arciszewaska-Mielewczyk

17.00–19.00 Extended Standing Committee

Tuesday, 5 September 2006

08.00–08.30 Extended Standing Committee (if needed)

08.45–11.00 **THIRD SESSION**
Northern Dimension Policy
Chair: Mr Franz Thönnies

Northern Dimension—enhancing fruitful co-operation

Mr Tauno Pesola, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Finland, Member of the CBSS CSO

European Parliament and the Northern Dimension

Ms Diana Wallis, MEP

Russia as a partner in Northern Dimension

Mr Dmitry Polanskiy, Chief of Division, Department of
European Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia

Social Dimension and Labour Market issues of the Northern Dimension

Mr Kristjan Vaigur, Secretary General of BASTUN

Labour market issues and the Northern Dimension

Mr Kazimierz Kuberski, Vice-Minister of Labour and
Social Policy

09.45–10.30 Plenary discussion
Chair: Mr Alexandr Orgolaynen

10.30–11.00 **Adoption of the Final Document and Closing of
the Conference**
Chair: Mr Alexandr Orgolaynen

11.15 Press Conference