

Green Growth for a Bluer Baltic Sea

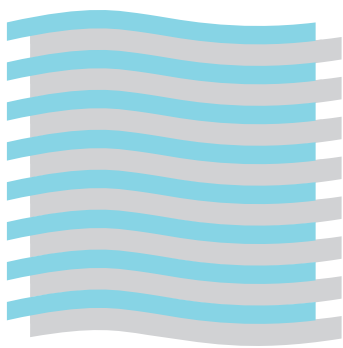
**20th Baltic Sea Parliamentary
Conference (BSPC)**



Green Growth for a Bluer Baltic Sea

20th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

Helsinki, Finland, 28–30 August 2011



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20th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)
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The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

was established in 1991 as a forum for political dialogue between parliamentarians from the Baltic Sea Region. BSPC gathers parliamentarians from 11 national parliaments, 11 regional parliaments and 5 parliamentary organisations around the Baltic Sea. BSPC therefore constitutes a unique parliamentary bridge between all the EU- and non-EU countries of the Baltic Sea Region. BSPC aims at raising awareness and forming opinion on issues of current political interest and relevance for the Baltic Sea Region. It promotes and drives various initiatives and efforts to support sustainable environmental, social and economic development of the Baltic Sea Region. It strives to enhance the visibility of the Baltic Sea Region and its issues in a wider European context. The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference is the annual general assembly in the Baltic Sea Region for broad political debate on Baltic Sea issues. The Conference resolutions are political tools that enable the BSPC to launch and sustain political initiatives, and to approach the governments and regional organisations on issues of common interest. The BSPC has a number of working bodies at its disposal, which serve as resources for driving and implementing BSPC priorities and objectives. A Standing Committee is responsible for the follow-up of BSPC resolutions, for identifying and addressing issues within the BSPC's field of responsibility, and for preparing the annual Conference. The BSPC Working Groups are political vehicles with the overall objective of elaborating joint political positions and recommendations on issues of common interest in the Baltic Sea Region. BSPC external interfaces include parliamentary, governmental, sub-regional and other organisations in the Baltic Sea Region and the Northern Dimension area, such as the CBSS, HELCOM, the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS), the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation (BSSSC) and the Baltic Development Forum.

Foreword



Ms Christina Gestrin

The 20th Anniversary Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference assembled in Helsinki on 29–31 August. It was truly satisfying to meet around 200 parliamentarians, government representatives and experts in the same venue in which the 1st BSPC had been held in 1991 – the *Eduskunta*, the Finnish Parliament. Warm thanks to all of you who attended the 20th BSPC and helped to make it a lively and successful meeting.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Finnish Parliament and its Speaker Mr Eero Heinäluoma for kindly hosting the 20th BSPC. I would also like to extend my profound thanks to the staff of the International Department of the Finnish Parliament – Mr Patrick Zilliacus, Ms Liisa Wallin, Mr Teemu Vuosio, Mr Janne Rajala, Ms Kristina Tallqvist, Ms Niina Hed and Ms Sirpa Mairue – for their dedicated and skilful work in preparing for and managing the Conference.

My thanks also go to our Secretary General, Mr Jan Widberg, for his continuous support and commitment to the work of the BSPC.

Knowledge of history forms a stable platform on which to embark on future endeavours. Paradoxically, globalisation means that the importance of the Baltic Sea Region is growing. Cooperation within and for the Region helps to promote regional development and welfare, but also helps to strengthen the potential and competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region in a wider European and even global perspective.

Like previous Conferences, this year's event reaffirmed the necessity for us to focus on concrete issues of benefit to the citizens of

the Region. Through dialogue, debate and deliberations, we can gradually forge joint political positions and requests and convey them to our governments for action. By working together, our combined impact gains strength and influence. The reports and political recommendations of our Working Groups are a convincing case in point.

Our role as parliamentarians is to assume responsibility for, and do our best to promote, democracy, peace, freedom, environmental sustainability and social welfare for our citizens today, without exhausting the resources and opportunities for coming generations. The debates during the 20th BSPC on topics such as civil security, the environment, and maritime safety were all characterised by a strategic outlook combined with urgent calls for action to deal with current problems and to anticipate and prevent future problems.

An important dimension of our work is to get to know each other and to familiarise ourselves with each other's cultures and political everyday lives. It is both enriching and valuable to visit each other's countries and learn about conditions on the ground in different parts of the Region. I am grateful for every Standing Committee meeting I have attended. Through them, I have learnt a lot about people, politics, environment and the local cultures of the Baltic Sea Region. It has been educational, fascinating and fun.

I have had the privilege of chairing the BSPC for three years. The support and cooperative spirit of my colleagues in the Standing Committee has been indispensable, and I warmly thank them all. I would like to extend special thanks to Ms Valentina Pivnenko, my Vice Chairperson in BSPC. Our cooperation has been excellent, and I have greatly appreciated her constructive approach to the politics of the Baltic Sea Region. I am therefore particularly pleased to hand over the BSPC Chairperson's baton to her and wish her all success in steering the BSPC all the way up to the 21st BSPC in St Petersburg in 2012.

*Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland
Chairman of the BSPC 2008-2011*

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Sunday 28th August

The 20th – Anniversary – Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference was held in the Finnish Parliament in Helsinki on 28–30 August 2011 – the site of the very first BSPC in 1991. On the first day of the conference, participants were treated to a boat trip from the Market Square of Helsinki to the Hanasaari Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre in Espoo, where the day was concluded with a dinner hosted by Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, Chair of the BSPC 2008–2011. Before the excursion, the BSPC Standing Committee held a meeting in which Ms Valentina Pivnenko, Russia, was appointed Chairwoman of the BSPC until the 21st BSPC, and Ms Laine Randjärv, Estonia, was appointed Vice Chairman for the same period.

Monday 29th August

Opening of the Conference

Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland, Chair of the BSPC Standing Committee, welcomed the participants to Finland and declared the 20th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference open.



Ms Christina Gestrin

Mr Eero Heinäluoma, MP, Speaker of the Finnish Parliament referred to Mr Kalevi Sorsa, Speaker of the Finnish Parliament 20 years previously. Although the atmosphere was still uncertain at that time, Mr Sorsa saw a window of opportunity and invited delegates to the first Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in 1991, which was convened in the very same building as this, the venue for the 20th Conference.

Mr Heinäluoma stated that Baltic Sea Region parliamentarians have come a long way since 1991. The overarching target remains: prosperity throughout the Region. Cooperation is deepening and finding new forms. Several tools are now available. However, development can only be sustainable if it is socially just and environmentally sound. Time is running out for the restoration of a sound ecological status in the



Mr Eero Heinäluoma

Baltic Sea, and urgent measures are necessary, Mr Heinäluoma concluded.

Ms Susanna Huovinen, MP, Finland and Chair of the Finnish delegation to the BSPC, noted that many of the challenges that parliamentarians face are common for all the Baltic Sea countries. The condition of the Baltic Sea itself, for instance, remains alarming. She shared Mr Heinäluoma's opinion that parliamentarians must do their utmost to find ways to remedy the situation and to make use of their capabilities in raising awareness, connecting stakeholders and prompting good decision-making.



Ms Susanna Huovinen

Historical review: BSPC 20th anniversary – achievements and challenges

Mr Jürgen Schöning, Former Minister of Federal and European Affairs and Former Head of the State Chancellery of the Free State of Thuringia, Former Director of the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein, gave an introduction to the history of the 20 years of the BSPC. He stated that, while everything started in Helsinki in 1991, the process actually began much earlier, in August 1975, when the Helsinki Agreement of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) was signed. The Agreement led, for example, to the founding of Solidarnosc in Poland, and to the collapse of the Communist regimes in Europe. A spirit of optimism, an atmosphere of change, was noticeable at all levels, including the parliaments.



Mr Jürgen Schöning

Mr Schöning described the establishment and development of both the BSPC and the CBSS, and the relations between these two, as an ongoing process that has shown positive progress during recent years. The report given by CBSS at the annual BSPC Conference has proved to be valuable. However, he would like to see the reports presented by the governments to focus more on the parliamentary Res-

olutions in order to provide information about their implementation status. Mr Schöning supported a current Norwegian proposal that CBSS should be responsible for a self-contained report on the implementation status of the BSPC Resolutions and that it should expand its reporting accordingly. According to Mr Schöning, such a procedure would represent another step towards developing the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference into the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Baltic Sea States.

Mr Schöning described the institutional development of the BSPC in recent years, which has enabled all member parliaments and parliamentary organisations to participate in the work between the annual Conferences. Adopting an annual Work Programme, launching Working Groups and appointing Rapporteurs with clearly defined missions, as well as synchronising the priorities of BSPC and CBSS, represent additional milestones towards greater efficiency and political impact. He also underlined the well-functioning model of parliamentary cooperation in which both national and regional parliaments participate.

Mr Schöning praised the role of the Nordic Council for its commitment to parliamentary cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. Cooperation could benefit from the experience in international relations provided by representatives of the Nordic Council. Cooperation was also advantageous in real terms in terms of staff and administrative costs, since the Nordic Council made secretariat resources available to the BSPC. Secretariat costs are now shared by all BSPC member parliaments, further evidence of the positive development of the organisation.

All in all, Mr Schöning judged the development of the parliamentary dimension in the Baltic Sea Region as remarkable. He felt optimistic about the future and expressed a wish that parliamentarians should send a clear signal that parliamentary cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region has been a success story over the past twenty years.

Mr Pertti Joenniemi, Senior Research Fellow, Danish Institute for International Studies, described the Baltic Sea Region as one of the most developed European regions today, and stated that the EU sees it as an exemplary one. However, he argued that more conscious and planned visions are needed for the future of the Baltic Sea Region; it actually calls for a kind of master plan. Such a plan is needed because the situation has changed both in terms of the opportunities available as well as the problems to be tackled.

Mr Joenniemi said that region-building, particularly with the launching of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, has become part of

Europe-making. The Baltic Sea Region could contribute to and stand out as a forerunner and model in a Europe where macro-regions have a prominent place. For this purpose, more goal-oriented and pro-active policies are required, Mr Joenniemi argued.

He saw the growing eminence of the North Sea and Arctic regions as competitive factors to which the Baltic Sea Region could either contribute or lose. The northern areas are attracting far more attention than previously. The challenge is to devise policies that link the Baltic Sea area to the northern areas, the Arctic, and the North Sea regions.

According to Mr Joenniemi, the growing prominence of the High North forms a foundation for interesting and important visions. As a former periphery, Northern Europe may now develop into a hub. The new sea lines, flight routes, and railway connections make this idea increasingly realistic. In any case, it is in the utmost interest of the Baltic Sea Region to turn the vision into reality, and this aspiration is one of the key issues to be considered in developing a Baltic Sea Region master plan.

Mr Joenniemi underlined the issue of security as one of the key challenges in the Region. Civil aspects of security are indeed on the agenda of Baltic Sea Region cooperation, but security issues at large have so far been too sensitive and delicate to be touched. He stated that a challenge is to catch up and radically reduce the divisive impact of security as a constitutive theme. A possible first step could be to initiate a report along the lines of the one submitted by Mr Thorvald Stoltenberg a couple of years previously, concerning security cooperation among the Nordic countries.

Mr Joenniemi stated that governments and decision-makers have enabled change and facilitated action rather than proactively pushed for region-building. This somewhat passive policy has proved insufficient for a variety of reasons,



*Mr Pertti
Joenniemi*

and much more conscious and active efforts are needed. He hoped that this would also be the spirit underlying cooperation among the parliaments and parliamentarians of the Region. Turning bold visions into reality was very much on the agenda of the first and initial meeting of the BSPC in Helsinki in January 1991, and the challenge as well as chance of success appears to be here again, at the outset of the third decade of parliamentary cooperation, Mr Joenniemi concluded.

First Session

Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland, Chair of the BSPC, was also of the opinion that there have been quite remarkable developments in the Region since the first conference in Helsinki. The biggest and most promising change is that the Region has evolved into an area of peace, democracy and cooperation.

She called the terrorist attacks in Oslo 22 July 2011 an attempt to demolish the very foundations of democracy, to curtail freedom, and to strangle openness. The admirable and steadfast response to the attack of the Norwegian people confirms that such threats to society are best prevented and managed by strengthening democracy, widening openness and deepening participation in society's development.

In her report, Ms Gestrin stated that the countries in the Region have moved closer together over the last two decades. Political cooperation has become closer and more focused in a whole range of spheres. The economy has improved, trade has increased and there has been a rise in the number of joint initiatives in research and development.

Many serious environmental problems in the Baltic Sea Region remain. The best tool for achieving good ecological status of the Baltic Sea by 2021 is the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. Ms Gestrin urged the governments to speed up the development of tangible projects and funding plans in order to keep to the timetable of the Action Plan.

Ms Gestrin described the wastewater treatment in Russia and Poland and noted that progress has been particularly rapid in St Petersburg. Progress has also been made in Kaliningrad. She stated that it is vital that the positive activities in Russia in recent years continue to enjoy strong political support.

Ms Gestrin was concerned about the significant variations in economic sustainability and social welfare between different parts of the

region. She also mentioned organised crime, especially the repugnant trafficking in human beings, as a major stain on the Region. But at the same time there is also huge potential for creating collective growth and prosperity through joint endeavours on security and safety, business cooperation, infrastructure, research and development, and by strengthening the joint labour market. Greater mobility in the region requires jointly agreed and fair rules for the workforce as well as for companies, Ms Gestrin stated.



Mr Werner Hoyer

Ms Gestrin described the cooperation with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) as an ongoing process through several channels and by various means. BSPC will continue to seek to co-ordinate its priorities with those of the CBSS and participate in each others' meetings.

Ms Gestrin stressed that the BSPC Working Groups have turned out to be important and productive political instruments in the work of the BSPC. They have produced tangible political recommendations and standpoints that can also be used in the domestic political debate.

She concluded by expressing a wish that all parliamentarians should continue to protect and promote democracy, tolerance and security in the Baltic Sea Region.

Mr Werner Hoyer, MP, State Minister, representing the CBSS, started by stating that the German presidency of the CBSS will continue along the lines drawn up during the Norwegian presidency. In this context he expressed his condolences to the people of Norway for the victims of the terrorist attacks on 22 July 2011. The principles that guided Norway's response to the attacks – openness and democracy – are the same as those to which CBSS is committed.

CBSS has a sound basis and clear priorities. During the German presidency there are three priority areas: a partnership aimed at modernising

the southern part of Baltic Sea Region; a coherent framework for cooperation; and regional identity. Parliamentary cooperation makes a good contribution to the work of CBSS. Mr Hoyer stated that cooperation between CBSS and BSPC is better than ever.

Mr Hoyer stated that the partnership in the southern part of the Region aims to establish closer cooperation with Kaliningrad, Russia and Poland. As far as the partnership is concerned, plenty of progress has been made. The Northern Dimension provides dynamics and structure to the relationship.

A coherent framework for cooperation is a link between various stakeholders. It also promotes a division of labour among the major players. Good governance and best practices are strong guiding principles for the cooperation in the Region. Germany wishes to further develop the ability of the CBSS and its secretariat to implement concrete projects. Greater use will be made of CBSS's potential in implementing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. There is an intention to focus on a limited number of issues on the CBSS agenda in order to maximise output from the organisation.

Networks of transnational organisations and institutions have a key role in strengthening regional identity. A common history book about the Baltic Sea Region would be culturally and historically important, and could also serve to enhance contacts and understanding between people from different parts of the Region. In this context, efforts to strengthen contacts between young people are especially important.

Mr Hoyer also highlighted the CBSS achievements on energy and the environment. On the issue of long-term priorities and environmental issues, Mr Hoyer assumed that BASREC will constitute a common energy strategy for the region by 2020. By 2050 the use of renewable energy should be fully implemented throughout the Region.

EU Baltic Sea Strategy and the Northern Dimension

Ms Diana Wallis, Vice-President of the European Parliament, stated that EU has moved towards the Baltic Sea Region, as the enlargements in recent years have brought four countries from this region into the EU.

Ms Wallis mentioned a group of outstanding former Members of the European Parliament who were instrumental in creating the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and who now hold prominent positions either in their countries or in the EU. She said that the Baltic Sea Inter-group in the EU meets continuously at every session in Strasbourg, and actively discusses issues of interest for the region.

She took up the Northern Dimension aspect of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The European Parliament has expressed its support for the parliamentary dimension of the Strategy. This has resulted in a model in which the EU Commission is responsible for reporting to the European Parliament about the development of the Strategy. The European Parliament has also insisted on new funding for the Baltic Sea Region in 2011.



Ms Diana Wallis

Ms Wallis mentioned a detail in the draft resolution from this conference, namely tourism. She considered this to be an interesting item which could generate targeted projects that involve both transport and employment issues. She closed her remarks by saying that in financial difficulties there always is a temptation to look inwards; however, it is an outward-looking approach that makes the region flourish.

Ms Kadri Uustal, Advisor to Director-General Ahner, European Commission, gave a presentation on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The Commission is facilitator of the work in the Region. First lessons from the Strategy are being collected and processed. The main issues so far have been transport, energy markets in cross-border regions, research and entrepreneurship. Some achievements of the Strategy can be seen. Ms Uustal reported several examples of new projects, but expressed a wish for more projects. Lead targets and progress indicators should also be developed. By 2013, the lessons learned will have been more thoroughly analysed.



Ms Kadri Uustal

Ms Uustal reiterated that the Strategy is not a funding instrument and there will be no dedicated funding for it. However, she saw this more as an opportunity. Existing funds are examined in order to see how they could be better focused on the projects under the Strategy. Needs and money flows will be mapped and presented on a web-based platform. Strong

efforts are made to align the structural funds and other funding sources to the objectives of the Strategy.

The Polish presidency has taken a strong role in the development of the Strategy, Ms Uustal stated.

The Strategy has established new elaborate structures. National high-level priority coordinators play an important role. One fundamental task is to maintain political momentum for the Strategy on the agendas of all relevant meetings. Commitment is needed both at administrative and political level.

Debate

Ms Gestrin saw the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region as a tool that supports flexible development in the Region and boosts its international competitiveness. If the strategy is to continue to develop, all relevant stakeholders in the Region, whether they are part of the EU or not, must be able to participate in the work on an equal footing.



*Mr Olgierd
Geblewicz*

Mr Olgierd Geblewicz, Chairperson, BSSSC, stated that BSPC and BSSSC have a lot in common. The BSSSC gathers politicians from the sub-regional level to discuss topics largely corresponding with the issues on the agenda of the BSPC. Networking is one of the core aims of the BSSSC.

Mr Geblewicz named climate change, maritime issues, transport and infrastructure, public health, and the Northern Dimension as priority areas for the BSSSC. He pointed out the fruitful cooperation on maritime issues between the BSPC, BSSSC and CBSS that had taken place recently in Gdansk.

Mr Alexander Pereplesnin, Chairperson of the Legislative Assembly, Karelia, described the Republic of Karelia as it is today. The Republic has a geopolitically favourable situation. It also has huge potential and resources, since its bigger waterways are linked to the Baltic Sea and several other trans-



*Mr Alexander
Pereplesnin*

port corridors. Mr Pereplesnin said that a large natural national recreation park has been established at the River Neva in Karelia. The river runs from Lake Ladoga to the Baltic Sea and so its environmental effects on the sea start already in Karelia. The Legislative Assembly of Karelia interacts with many Baltic Sea parliaments and plans to increase its cooperation within the Region.



Ms Valentina Pivnenko

Ms Valentina Pivnenko, MP, State Duma, Russia, pointed out that the cooperation structures in the Baltic Sea Region can serve as a model in Europe. The parliamentary cooperation and contact network is a crucial factor in Northern Europe. BSPC successfully combines the Nordic countries and other countries in the Region with Russia. According to Ms Pivnenko, BSPC is capable of addressing all kind of problems and challenges.

She underlined that safeguarding economic growth for the benefit of the citizens in the Region is the greatest challenge. The agenda of the BSPC focuses on concrete issues related to the development of the Region, seeking new ways to deepen cooperation. Sustainable use of environmentally-friendly resources, development and introduction of new techniques and technologies, development of transport infrastructure, monitoring of industrial risks, broader implementation of public-private partnerships to meet the emerging challenges, visa-free travelling, and cooperation between universities are some high-priority topics.

Ms Pivnenko mentioned the Baltic Energy Ring and noted that energy efficiency and nuclear safety are of importance in the energy dialogue. She also observed that nuclear energy will continue to be used, and that it can be made safe for human life and the environment under present conditions. The improvement of international legal and regulatory frameworks for a peaceful and environmentally safe nuclear energy could be discussed in the BSPC, she said.

Mr Vatanyar Yagya, MP, St Petersburg, agreed with Ms Pivnenko on the role of the BSPC. According to him, there have never been any doubts about the significant political resource provided by the parliamentary cooperation in the Region. It is also highly valued and appreciated by governments and foreign ministries. Speaking about the Northern Dimension, he stated that it is important both for Russia and the other countries in the Region. There should be closer cooperation between EU- and non-EU countries of the Region, he said, reiterating that funding for Northern Dimension for non-EU countries is still problematic.



*Mr Vatanyar
Yagya*

Mr Pertti Salolainen, MP, Finland, urged the conference to put pressure on the governments and to raise awareness of the environmental challenges of the region. He reminded the Conference that agricultural policy will be discussed in the EU in the near future, but feared that the environmental issues will not be taken into account sufficiently. Mr Salolainen was of the opinion that the Russian participation at the conference is important, since it creates a valuable meeting platform for parliamentarians from Russia and the other countries in the Region. He also joined those who would like to see BSPC Conference Resolutions debated at the plenaries of the national parliaments, and sent to the governments for follow-up and response.



*Mr Pertti
Salolainen*

Mr Franz Thönnies, MP, Germany, supported the idea of debating the BSPC Resolutions in the national and regional parliaments. Referring to Mr Hoyer's report he appreciated the continuity in the CBSS presidencies and priorities. He also valued Russian participation and mentioned cooperation between Russia and Germany on matters such as monitoring control mechanisms to prevent trafficking of human beings.



Mr Franz Thönnies

Mr Thönnies also mentioned his recent report on cross-border commuting. He felt optimistic that future labour policies would be capable of removing border barriers on the labour market. Cooperation between employers' organisations and trade unions in the Region, which is a prerequisite for economic growth and social security, has been successfully developed in the Baltic Sea Labour Network project, which is coming to a close in the autumn of 2011. However, new projects on labour market issues have received funding and will begin activities later in 2011.



*Ms Christel
Happach-Kasan*

Ms Christel Happach-Kasan, MP, Germany, underlined the significance of functional cooperation on energy and electricity issues, as well as on reducing pollution both in water and air. She said that the successful development of the Baltic Sea Region is important for Germany, and that it should have the same political emphasis as the development of its southern parts.



Second Session: Maritime Issues

HE Gabriella Lindholm, Chair of HELCOM, described the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and its implementation from 2007 until now. The target of the Plan is for the Baltic Sea to reach good environmental status by 2021 through an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities. Measures and actions are focused on eutrophication, hazardous substances, maritime activities, and biodiversity and nature conservation. HELCOM has a key role as a coordination platform for the regional implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The BSAP National Implementation Programmes is expected to have made substantial progress by the HELCOM Ministerial meeting in 2013.



HE Gabriella Lindholm

Ms Lindholm listed the main achievements of the Plan, including the introduction of more stringent regulations for sewage discharges from passenger ships (2007), the Baltic Sea Challenge – call by cities for voluntary delivery of sewage by cruise ships (2008), the commitments on working together with private companies on port reception facilities (PRFs), and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region that designated the improvement of PRFs a flagship activity (2009). In 2010 HELCOM countries agreed on PRF improvements in prioritised ports by 2013, and by 2015 at the latest. This year the IMO agreed on a global designation of the Baltic Sea as a Special Area for sewage discharge.

Another major positive development mentioned by Ms Lindholm was the designation of the Baltic Sea as a Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_x) Emission Control Area (NECA) in order to reduce 80% of NO_x discharges. The overall risk assessment of shipping accidents, the identification of hot spots for oil spills, and the development of new measures for safety of naviga-

tion are some of the main challenges in the years to come.

Mr Jochen Schulte, MP, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Chair of the BSPC Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy, presented the final report of the BSPC Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy. Mr Schulte described the role of maritime policy as partly being economic. He said that one of the central themes of the Working Group has been securing the long-term competitiveness of the maritime economy and strengthening the Region as a business and technology location. At the same time, efficient and sustainable environmental protection in maritime traffic was considered a similarly important objective. Combining both fundamental targets is essential for long-term positive and sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region and its maritime sector.



Mr Jochen Schulte

Shipping and the maritime economy are among the most important economic sectors in every Baltic Sea country. They contribute significantly to growth and employment in the Region. Furthermore, a competitive maritime sector can also stimulate growth in many other sectors in the Region that influence maritime policy issues in one way or another. Safeguarding and strengthening the competitiveness and the future viability of the Region is considerably related to the maritime industries. At the same time, this must be balanced with the aims of marine environmental protection and improving the environmental status of the Baltic Sea throughout this transitional period.

Mr Schulte mentioned that the concerns of the Working Group members regarding possible competitive disadvantages for Baltic Sea shipping as a consequence of the designation of the Baltic Sea as a Sulphur Emission Control Area (SECA) have also increased during the second year of work. While supporting the IMO environmental regulations in general, many members of the Working Group believe

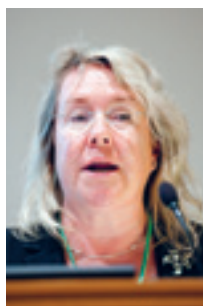
that the decision to lower the limit for sulphur emissions to 0.1% by 2015 was made with too little consideration for the possible consequences for the maritime-related sectors in the region.

For effective and uniform environmental standards, and to avoid competitive distortion detrimental to the Baltic Sea Region, the Working Group has reiterated and extended the demand of the 18th BSPC to work actively within the IMO for a Europe-wide solution for SECAs and a speedy designation of further sea areas, such as the Mediterranean Sea, as SECAs. Furthermore, the Working Group recommends that adequate, accompanying measures should be taken in order to prevent unwanted modal shifts from sea to road, thereby weakening the competitive position of Baltic Sea shipping.

Regarding maritime transport and ports policy, the Working Group has focused on inter-modal transport solutions and measures to improve co-modality, as well as on environmental port services and products.

Mr Schulte concluded by calling for a regular and more structured dialogue between BSPC and other organisations, such as the CBSS and the BSSSC, on maritime issues. That would strengthen the joint potential to deal with the challenges of the Region in an efficient and effective manner.

Ms Anita Mäkinen, Director, Finnish Maritime Agency, gave an outline of international regulations aimed at improving maritime safety in order to avoid oil accidents, especially oil spill catastrophes. She mentioned that, at any given moment, more than 2,000 vessels are passing through the Baltic Sea, and that international shipping is increasing. With the new Russian oil terminals on the Gulf of Finland, more than 150 million tons of oil per year is transported through the Baltic Sea, and the figure is steadily rising.



*Ms Anita
Mäkinen*

Ms Mäkinen presented the most important IMO conventions and EU directives and regulations to prevent oil spill and to maintain oil pollution preparedness, response and compensation. In spite of the numerous regulations enforced, shipping accidents occur in the Baltic Sea. According to HELCOM statistics, there were 105 shipping accidents in 2009, 10 of them involving oil spills.



Mr Are Piel

Both the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan are good platforms for collaboration on Baltic Sea issues in order to enhance maritime and environmental security and safety. In order to minimise the risk of shipping accidents, greater control at ports is needed.

Ms Mäkinen stated that the implementation of regulations and directives requires common policies, instruments and funding, as well as international cooperation and action. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is currently under revision, so there is now an opportunity to influence it. She urged the parliaments to retain the Baltic Sea issues on the agenda in the future.

Mr Are Piel, Director, Estonian Maritime Administration, gave a presentation on GOFREP (Gulf of Finland Reporting System) and the operational environment of the system. GOFREP is a cooperative project between Estonia, Finland and Russia. The principal reason for establishing GOFREP was the construction of new oil terminals and the resulting increase in sea transportation of oil products and other chemical products. Its main mission is to prevent accidents at sea, while also enhancing marine environmental protection. The Gulf of Finland is a shallow sea with underwater rocks, and it is also covered by ice 100 days a year. Mr Piel demonstrated what could happen in the event of an oil spill and how quickly the oil could spread in the sea.

The GOFREP organisation works at several levels. The system is expected to gather information on maritime traffic movements and its compliance with regulations, to improve systematisation of data, to distribute information to ships masters to avoid collisions, and to respond appropriately to emergency situations.



Mr Roger Jansson

A number of measures might help to limit the risk of errors in sea traffic: training and exercises, improved working conditions, improved organisation and working environment, streamlined procedures, check-lists and regulations, incident analyses and simulations, and better knowledge of the physical properties of the water area.

Debate

Mr Roger Jansson, MP, Åland Island, Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy, was concerned about the continuity in BSPC's work on maritime matters when there is no longer a Working Group to deal with the issues. Continued cooperation with CBSS and BSSSC is important. Sulphur emission must be minimised not least for public health in the Baltic Sea Region. Equal conditions regarding sulphur emissions should apply for both land-based and sea-based transportation. Land-based transportation causes heavy environmental strains.

Mr Nikolay Churkin, MP, Russian Federation, said that Russia has the same goals as the other Baltic Sea countries in protecting the environment. Maritime safety is an important task. Research on marine transport and navigation at sea should be intensified. Costs for ameliorative measures will be recovered in the shape of a healthier and therefore more productive sea. Cooperation between various organisations and cross-border actions is a key for solving the many difficult tasks ahead.



Mr Nikolay Churkin

Mr Folke Sjölund, MP, Åland Island, took up the threat to the sea caused by phosphate discharge. Citizens should join the fight against phosphates with the aim of abolishing them from the Baltic Sea. Coordinated measures are needed, and cooperation between HELCOM, CBSS and BSPC on issues related to the EU Baltic Sea Strategy should be considerably strengthened.



Mr Folke Sjölund

Mr Kurt Bodewig, Pro Baltica, expressed a wish for a complete and rapid implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. He also saw a possibility to finance clean shipping projects through a taxation system. An upgraded and greener ro-ro concept could very probably be a functioning model for future shipping connections.

Ms Ingebjørg Godskesen, MP, Norway, said that the opportunity to exchange ideas has a value in itself, and that there is a need to discuss matters such as the IMO regulations. She saw a slight risk that EU regulations on emissions at sea could lead to a situation where sea transports are shifted back to road transports.



Ms Ingebjørg Godskesen

Ms Anita Brodén, MP, Sweden, representing the Nordic Council, pointed out that a green growth for a bluer sea requires a lot of work and devoted people. She agreed that ports must have the capacity to receive wastewater from ships and that there must be a system for treating wastewater. A chain of wastewater treatment stations should be built around the entire Baltic Sea. Moreover, discussions on fishing and agriculture policies must also include maritime environmental aspects.



Ms Anita Brodén

Mr Ole Vagn Christensen, MP, Denmark, emphasised that maritime issues should be discussed in the IMO, and that parliamentarians must be careful not to dilute or weaken regulations that have been agreed there.



Mr Ole Vagn Christensen



Third session: Civil Safety and Security

Mr André Oktay Dahl, MP, Norway, Vice-Chair of the BSPC Working Group on Civil Security and Trafficking, presented the final report of the Working Group on behalf of Ms Line Barfod, MP, Denmark, Chair of the BSPC Working Group.



Mr André Oktay Dahl

Mr Oktay Dahl started with an urgent request to the BSPC members to establish networks of parliamentarians to help the fight against trafficking in human beings. The Working Group had agreed on that point, realising that all the recommendations to the governments could dissipate into thin air if the parliamentarians do not commit to continuously monitoring the progress of various activities to tackle the problem and to develop the relations between the executive and the legislative powers. The members of the Working Group have already decided to establish an informal network as a Facebook group in order to ensure continuity of the fruitful work of the group.

Mr Oktay Dahl mentioned that the Final Report of the Working Group contained 15 political recommendations from the group – plus the request to the parliaments. Recommendations 1–6 were submitted to the 19th BSPC in 2010 and presented in the Mid-term Report of the Working Group and are not repeated in the draft Conference Resolution for this 20th BSPC. Recommendations 7–15 have been discussed and adopted by the Working Group since the 19th BSPC in 2010.

The Working Group has tried to be very precise when formulating the recommendations, but they may nevertheless seem long and detailed. All of the recommendations complement each other, and all need following up.

Mr Oktay Dahl emphasised the role of public authorities, NGOs and inter-governmental

organisations, and projects in maintaining the pursuit of persistent and sustained efforts against trafficking in human beings. He called for secure long-term funding, since insecure and short-term funding threaten the very existence of especially the NGOs.

A victim-based approach should be adopted in all measures and actions against trafficking in human beings. This means that the human rights of trafficked persons should be at the centre of all initiatives against trafficking, and that victims and relatives of victims should receive unconditional assistance, regardless of their status and their willingness to participate in criminal proceedings against traffickers. It is a problem for efficient action against modern slavery if the victims are treated as illegal immigrants rather than as victims.

Mr Oktay Dahl stated that a vital tool is to follow the money, i.e. trace the money flows stemming from trafficking in human beings, as well as strengthening the measures to confiscate proceeds from those engaged in trafficking. Trafficking is big business with enormous profits. Business analyses can be useful in finding the money, and the perpetrators, in this trade.

The work of the group has come to an end but that does not mean that the fight against trafficking in human beings is over. The world has once shown that it was capable of eradicating slavery. Mr Oktay Dahl urged everyone to show that we can also abolish this modern form of slavery.

Ms Eva Biaudet, Ombudsman for Minorities and National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking, Finland, welcomed the report as an important document and said that the work of the Working Group is fully in line with her findings on the matter.

Her first report as the Finnish Ombudsman examined how the rights of trafficked persons



Ms Eva Biaudet



are being implemented and what type of obstacles might be embedded in the Finnish system. The most important observation of the report was that human trafficking and related serious exploitation are probably more common than is usually realised because victims are not identified adequately. Either they are not identified at all, or they are not identified as victims of trafficking or of serious exploitation. As a consequence, victims risk being denied their statutory rights, such as the victim assistance system, or they lose their credibility in a possible trial.

Ms Biaudet agreed with the key findings of the Working Group. She underlined that child protection measures must also be included and should, as a minimum, equal the domestic child protection measures. Measures addressing domestic trafficking are important and particular attention should be given to the risks facing young girls and boys.

She emphasised the necessity of establishing an independent, transparent National Rapporteur who not only gathers data but also analyses existing data and information, and evaluates anti-trafficking policies and actions taken. The report to the Finnish Parliament has resulted in a thorough scrutiny by the Parliament and subsequent clear recommendations to all relevant public authorities. This will obviously stimulate all players to implement more consolidated, efficient and evidence-based anti-trafficking actions.

Ms Biaudet stated that trafficking is a serious crime against human dignity and equality. Trafficking erodes these basic values. Every failure to protect a victim, be it a man, woman or a child, is a failure of society. Victims cannot be blamed. Parliamentarians have a key role in their capacity as opinion-formers and legislators. This is why it is so important that they keep up the political pressure on governments to take action against trafficking in human beings.



*Mr Vladimir
Nikitin*

Mr Vladimir Nikitin, MP, State Duma, Russia, was concerned about the globalised character of trafficking. The law regarding trafficking in Russia has been sharpened, but the problem persists. Organised criminals are adjusting themselves to changing conditions, so it is important to gather more and better data about the phenomenon. Trafficking in human beings is very often also closely related to drug smuggling and smuggling of nuclear materials.

It has been said that 2.4 million people in Russia live in a kind of slavery. The use of forced labour in agriculture and domestic work is quite common. Trafficking in human organs, as well as organised begging, is a growing trend. The situation in Russia is difficult as the introduction of the free market system is relatively recent and many of its consequences are complex to manage. There is a need to better understand how traffickers operate in order to be able to fight the problem adequately.

Successful action against such huge and resourceful powers as traffickers requires support from all levels of society. Both the CBSS and BSPC must continue their work against trafficking. Russia cooperates effectively with European police and foreign experts.

Ms Silva Bendrāte, MP, Latvia, described the issue of migration in the three Baltic States. Both emigration and immigration are debated at national and regional level in the three states. She emphasised that, when talking



*Ms Silva
Bendrāte*



immigration and emigration, it is a question of a two-way movement. Security, especially social security, and social stability are key issues.

Large-scale emigration from the Baltic countries started after the EU accession in 2004. Freedom of mobility gave people the opportunity to leave their countries. Many moved to the Nordic countries, Germany and the UK. In these countries they have obtained higher wages, better social security, and an improved standard of living but, at the same time, many felt they were excluded from the community.

Immigration to the small Baltic countries has not been without difficulties. Sometimes immigrants are perceived as a risk to security, mostly in material terms but also cultural. There is a certain fear that immigration will undermine the national culture and, in smaller countries, this might be an even bigger problem than the economic fears.

There are demographic challenges everywhere in the region, Ms Bendrâte stated. No country can avoid immigration. Therefore, integration programmes for immigrants must be developed so that they become familiar with local cultures and languages. Local people must also learn how to better meet and incorporate immigrants. In order to achieve a win-win situation in the region, preparedness and mechanisms for immigration must be improved, and there must also be a clearer regulatory framework both for legal immigration and emigration.

Also needed are more efficient control and sanctions relating to illegal immigration, efficient return programmes, and good cooperation between countries of transit and origin. We need to exchange information in order to eliminate the risks of immigration and bring out its positive sides, Ms Bendrāte concluded.



*Mr Marek
Maciejowski*

Public Health and Social Well-being

Mr Marek Maciejowski, Head of Secretariat, NDPHS, gave an introduction to the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS). He stated that joint undertakings will certainly help strengthen regional efforts aimed at making the region a better place to live in.

NDPHS is one of the structures operating under the Northern Dimension policy umbrella. The mission of the Partnership is to contribute to sustainable development in the Northern Dimension area by improving people's health and social well-being. The Partnership focuses on two main areas: reduction of the spread of major communicable diseases and prevention of life-style related non-communicable diseases, and improvement of people's standard of living and promotion of healthy and socially rewarding lifestyles.

According to Mr Maciejowski, new health-related threats and developments are emerging, which will have a profound effect on the economies in the next decades. Regional cooperation in tackling these challenges will make the response more effective and cost-efficient.

Health is an indivisible human right, but it is also an economic issue. European countries devote on average 8.3% of their GDP to health spending, and this figure is increasing. Mr Maciejowski argued that these costs can be contained and reduced with timely and low-cost investments. The non-communicable dis-

eases are largely preventable because they are mostly caused by lifestyle. Tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity and unhealthy diet are the main risk factors of non-communicable diseases. Consequently, by strengthening health promotion, it is possible to avoid, or at least shift to an older age, most of the non-communicable diseases and thereby make large savings in national budgets.



Mr Bernt Bull

Investment in health is an investment in economic growth. Sufficient labour supply and high labour productivity are the key elements of economic growth, and health is of direct relevance to both of them. Persons in good health are able and willing to enter the labour market and work longer, or at least not retire prematurely due to declining or poor health condition.

The NDPHS has decided to support initiatives aimed at strengthening policies and activities in the area of prevention of non-communicable diseases. Mr Maciejowski closed his report by saying that, although we come from different countries with different health systems, the main health-related challenges that we are currently facing are the same: the ageing society, the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases and new health threats. Consequently, it is only logical to coordinate the responses to common challenges, and to pool the resources and exchange experiences on effective and less effective solutions. This will support well-informed policy- and decision-making, as well as reduce duplication of efforts and resources.

Mr Bernt Bull, Chair of the FNPHS Expert Group on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, spoke about alcohol and health and described the risk factors relating to diseases and injuries. It is fundamentally important to understand that there is a change in the ability of society to control the situation.

Mr Bull presented different causal models of alcohol consumption, intermediate mecha-

nisms, and long-term consequences as well as alcohol-related diseases and injuries. Speaking about alcohol consumption, there are two main dimensions affecting health: average volume and patterns of drinking, especially binge drinking. Mr Bull said that some 618,000 deaths a year in Europe (2004) are estimated to be attributable to alcohol abuse. An estimated 17 million years are lost annually in Europe due to disability and death (DALY). In Europe, 6.5% of deaths and 11.4% of DALY's are attributable to alcohol use.

Based on the results of 21 European studies, the total cost of alcohol for the European Union in 2003 was estimated to be €125 billion (range of estimates: €79–220 billion). This is equivalent to 1.3% of the gross domestic product (0.9–2.4%). Of this sum, actual spending on alcohol-related problems accounts for €66 billion, while potential production not realised due to alcohol-related absenteeism, and unemployment and premature mortality accounts for a further €59 billion.

Mr Bull presented the five main objectives of the present European Action Plan, which are aligned with those of the Global Strategy and build upon previous European Alcohol Action Plans. First on the list is to raise awareness of the magnitude and nature of the health, social and economic burdens caused by harmful use of alcohol, and to foster increased commitment from governments to address such burdens; secondly, to strengthen and disseminate the knowledge base on the size and determinants of alcohol-related harm and on effective interventions to reduce and prevent such harm; thirdly, to increase technical support to, and enhance the capacity of, Member States to reduce the harm done by alcohol, and managing and treating alcohol-use disorders and associated health conditions; fourthly, to strengthen partnerships and improve coordination between stakeholders and increase mobilisation of resources required for concerted action to reduce the harmful use of alcohol; and fifthly, to improve systems for monitoring and surveillance at sub-national, national and European levels, and to ensure more effective dissemination and application of information for advocacy, policy development and evaluation.

Mr Bull underlined that, given the magnitude and the complexity of the problem, concerted efforts must be in place to support countries in the challenges they face at national level. International coordination and collaboration create the synergies that are needed and provide increased leverage for countries to implement evidence-based measures.

Sustainable action requires strong leadership and a solid base of awareness and political will and commitment in order to build political and community consensus about future directions in policy that targets alcohol abuse and deals with its impact.

Debate

Ms Sonja Mandt, MP, Norway, underlined the economic aspects of the trafficking, which is big business with huge returns. With an estimated 20 billion dollars in profits, trafficking is the second most profitable criminal activity on a global scale after drug trafficking. Moreover, the ‘goods’ in trafficking in human beings – people – can be sold over and over again, which makes it even more lucrative. Efforts must be joined in the fight against trafficking. The middle men should be pursued. Money flows should be monitored in order to track down the perpetrators.



Ms Sonja Mandt

Ms Gun-Mari Lindholm, MP, Åland Island, said that it is necessary to learn more about the problem, to disseminate information, and to talk openly about it. Passion and courage are needed. The report of the Working Group and its recommendations should be taken home and presented to the national parliaments. Governments should be urged to step up their actions against trafficking. Closing borders does not solve the problems. Networking and cooperation between bodies such as trade unions, employer organisations and NGOs are important components in the fight against trafficking.



Ms Gun-Mari Lindholm

Mr Johan Linander, MP, Sweden, Vice-Chair of the Working Group, hoped that cooperation between the Baltic Sea Region countries should be so effective that the activities of traffickers were made impossible. It is equally important to focus on the victims and make sure that measures and structures are put in place to provide various kinds of assistance to them.



Mr Johan Linander

Ms Anke Spoorendonk, MP, Schleswig-Holstein recalled that the Working Group has been dealing with an extremely difficult problem. She wanted to put the spotlight on the status of minority rights in Europe, since she felt that minority issues were losing attention and feared that they were disappearing from the political agenda. The issue of minorities must be discussed and their rights in society supported.



*Ms Anke
Spoorendonk*

Susanna Huovinen, MP, Finland asked why there was still a market for trafficked human beings and gave the obvious answer that there still is a demand for it. International cooperation and more forceful tools are needed in order to study, control and ultimately eradicate trafficking.

Mr Hans Wallmark, MP, Sweden, underlined the usefulness of networking between various players active in the fight against trafficking in human beings. He also pointed out the important role that media can play in drawing attention to the problem and raise public awareness of it.



*Mr Hans
Wallmark*



Tuesday 30th August

Fourth Session: Green Growth and Energy Efficiency

Mr Berndt Voss, MP, Schleswig-Holstein introduced green growth and energy efficiency in Schleswig-Holstein. The green GDP (Gross Domestic Product) as an index of economic growth, with the environmental consequences of that growth factored in, gives an accurate picture of the economic consequences of different costs. Green GDP includes the loss of biodiversity, and accounts for costs caused by climate change. As an example he took any oil spill accident that might occur in the Baltic Sea. The common GDP as index of wealth gives an inaccurate picture, since severe ecological and other damages, such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill or road accidents, result in an increase in GDP



Mr Berndt Voss

The value of natural assets, voluntary services and unpaid domestic work, income inequalities, etc. are not reflected in GDP, although their impact on well-being is significant. Investment that leads to short-term increase in GDP may result in medium- and long-term loss, Mr Voss stated. Climate change can result in losses of 5–20% of world GDP. The costs of climate change are 20 times higher than costs of mitigation policies.

Education and training regarding green growth is needed. There is also a need for a strategy of selective growth through further promotion of technological strength in environmental engineering and technologies such as wind power. Energy saving, rational energy consumption and use of renewable energy are the cornerstones of the green energy.

He advocated a strategy of prevention and sufficiency through promotion of local economies, local infrastructure and local resilience against a worldwide economic crisis. Recycling is one of the key activities and so is the use of domestic building materials. The next cycle in technological development needs to be green. This is not a question of deglobalisation, although there is a wish to support local economies and production. Limits for growth should be discussed. A planned degrowth strategy is needed. Sooner or later we have to take steps towards an environmental and social revision of the economy, Mr Voss stated.



Mr Hans Brask

Europe and the Baltic Sea Region need to be strengthened and a common energy policy developed in terms of renewable energy, energy efficiency green technologies. Green growth is the key to economic growth in the future, Mr Voss concluded.

Mr Hans Brask, Director, Baltic Development Forum, presented the activities of the Baltic Development Forum. He stated that BSPC and Baltic Development Forum are good partners in promoting networking and green growth, two of the fields the organisations have in common. The Baltic Development Forum is closely linked to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Mr Brask underlined that the importance of the EU Strategy serving as pilot for progress in the Region.

According to Mr Brask, the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is the best framework and opportunity that we have in the region for making new progress in regional cooperation and integration. Cooperation with Russia will be strengthened in parallel with the unfolding of the EU strategy for the Region. At the same time the financial instruments for regional cooperation need to be improved and made more flexible. Closer contacts and work with the private sector are needed – not least within the Green Growth agenda – Mr Brask observed.

Regarding energy Mr Brask said that the region needs bigger energy and infrastructure flagship projects that can really make a difference, especially in the field of energy networks and interconnections. It must be recognised that there is not, as yet, a common approach to Green Growth in the Baltic Sea Region. Mr Brask underlined that a common Green Growth agenda can be a common economic advantage. The Baltic Sea Region has the potential to pioneer green growth through small as well as big tech solutions, and thereby be a European Union frontrunner in realising the EU 2020 targets.



*Mr Magnus
Rystedt*

Mr Magnus Rystedt, CEO, NEFCO, gave a presentation of NEFCO's activities. NEFCO is an international financial institution established by the Nordic countries, facilitating loans and equity investments for environmental projects in Eastern Europe. NEFCO has more than 400 projects approved, of which over 50 are wastewater-related projects in the Baltic Sea area. NEFCO works cost-effectively.

NEFCO manages several different funds. One of them, operated together with the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB), is the specific Technical Assistance Fund for facilitating project development related to the HELCOM BSAP. NEFCO is also involved with other international financial institutes (EIB, EBRD and NIB) in the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP), targeting environmental investments in North-Western Russia and Belarus. The NDEP support fund for environmental projects amounts to €127 million and is managed by EBRD. Mr Rystedt described the St Petersburg South-West Wastewater Treatment Plant which treats wastewater from 700,000 people in the city. The project was implemented as a Public Private Partnership (PPP), and the total investment was €150 million, including associated investment of €190 million.

Mr Rystedt told that NEFCO promotes renewable energy in the Baltic States by allocating loans and equity investments for wind farms in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Ms Lene Grønning, Business Ambassador, Bornholm, presented the Bright Green Island project, which started a couple of years ago with the aims of positioning itself in an increasingly competitive environment, attracting its young people back to Bornholm, and making the island green. No later than 2014, Bornholm should have become an established name in the world as a Bright Green Island and be strongly positioned in the debate on climate change and renewable energy sources.



*Ms Lene
Grønning*

Ms Grønning explained how the island had started to turn green. The social composition of the island is like a small region with businesses, industries, hospital, schools and daycare and therefore very suitable as a kind of laboratory for this kind of project. Wind power development was one of the first steps taken and now there is a high proportion of production from renewable resources.

There is widespread enthusiasm on the island for the project. The three target areas are kitchen and local food production on the island; adventure zone; and tourism. Ten families are testing an electric car which was specially made for Bornholm. In the future, tourists would use only electrical vehicles when traveling around Bornholm. In the summer of 2010 some 300 tourists already tested the electric vehicles. Energy excursions are also arranged. The building industry has started marketing green houses in Denmark. Research entrepreneurs in green technologies are finding partners and increasing their activities. The project is also interacting closely with schools in order to involve children in the idea of Green Island.

The project has shown that a clear vision is necessary in order to market the project and to involve citizens. Now, the green practices are

evolving each day, and people are increasingly interested in learning to live on a Green Island.

Mr Alexey Ivannikov, Chief of Management and Development Department, Geographical Unit “Europe”, INTER RAO UES,

gave an orientation on the activities of the state-owned Russian company INTER RAO UES. The company is one of the biggest energy companies in Europe and runs several projects together with neighbouring countries. The company's main goals are to backup new renewable capacities, to create greater possibilities for diversification of the sources of power supplies, balancing and reserves, to expand trading activities in the region, and to create new opportunities for market integration.



*Mr Alexey
Ivannikov*

Inter RAO UE is the main player in the development of EU-Russia cooperation on electricity issues. New interconnections will secure energy sustainability in the region. Mr Ivannikov reported that 40% of the electricity from the company goes to Lithuania. INTER RAO UE has subsidiaries in many countries in the Baltic Sea Region and many projects are in the planning phase. The company takes an active role in EU-Russia dialogue and also participates in roadmapping bilateral energy in the region.

INTER RAO UES realises the crucial need of the European countries to deploy new wind power capacity, and considers wind farm projects as one of its business developments on the European market. Mr Ivannikov presented several regional examples of successful projects on interconnections, e.g. in Karelia, Lithuania, Poland, Estonia, Germany and Norway.

The benefits of Baltic interconnection projects would be as follows: firstly, new interconnections would secure energy sustainability in the region; secondly, they would also lead to environmentally-friendly decisions while also forming a backup of new renewable capacities for normal operation mode; thirdly, the Baltic interconnections should also allow greater diversifi-

cation of the sources of power supplies and expand trading activities in the region; fourthly, there would be new opportunities for market integration and greater market mobility; and fifthly, there would also be more choices, which has a beneficial effect on prices and costs. The market between EU and Russia would be better integrated, which would be positive, Mr Ivannikov concluded.



Mr Sverre Myrli

Debate

Mr Ole Vagn Christensen, MP, Denmark, saw green growth as a realistic possibility, and expressed a wish for more information and knowledge about it. The core purpose of green growth is to promote economic development that is environmentally and socially sustainable. Economic growth, social welfare and ecological health must go hand in hand.

Mr Sverre Myrli, MP, Norway first thanked the chairmanships of CBSS and BSPP for their support after the terrorist attacks in Norway on 22 July. He then recalled that, during the Cold War, Norway was the only NATO country bordering Russia. Today, Norway and Russia cooperate closely on issues such as energy. The Baltic States and Poland are members of both EU and NATO, and contacts with Russia are growing. It is however unsatisfactory that the capacity to facilitate and process cross-border transports is still weak and cumbersome. There are many issues, such as sea transports, energy, and security, in which there is a strong common interest among countries of the Region, and on which cooperation should be further enhanced. The idea of elaborating a kind of a “Stoltenberg-style” report for the whole Baltic Sea Region should be considered.

Mr Torsten Staffeldt, MP, Germany expressed optimism regarding developments in the transport and logistics sector. Research and development has yielded constructive results, such as innovative technological solu-



Mr Torsten Staffeldt

tions for shipping. Continued efforts should be made to facilitate sea transports, since they are environmentally friendly and therefore an important component in a green economy.

Mr Hans Wallmark, MP, Sweden, commented that nuclear power will most likely be an element in the combined energy mix of the Region in the foreseeable future, which makes it all the more necessary to pay greater attention to the security aspects of operation, maintenance and storage of spent fuel.



*Ms Mirjam
Vehkaperä*

Mr Franz Thönnies, MP, Germany was convinced that the younger generation will be even more concerned about the environment and will also be better at saving energy and choosing energy-friendly solutions. He was optimistic about the chances of closing down the German nuclear power plants by 2050 and producing at least 80% of the energy supply by renewable energy sources. Modern wind power facilities, for example, are potentially more efficient, although their expansion and location presents a challenge.

Ms Mirjam Vehkaperä, MP, Finland, representing the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, noted that the Arctic Region and the Baltic Sea Region share the problems of energy policy and climate change issues. She underlined the Arctic parliamentarians' support for a second Arctic Human Development Report and the new opportunities for shipping using the Northern Sea Route. She was pleased to inform delegates that the European Parliament, in its report on A Sustainable EU Policy for the High North, supports the idea of establishing an Arctic Information Centre at the University of Lapland.

Ms Anita Brodén, MP, Nordic Council, reminded the audience that recycling and waste management also contributes to energy efficiency and a more considerate use of resources. New and more efficient waste management plants should be constructed and

waste collection should be made more effective. The disposal of medical waste must be given extra attention, since there is a considerable risk that it causes contamination of ground water.

Ms Gabi Dobusch, MP, Hamburg, noticed that the BSPC so far has not dealt very much with issues such as education and culture. However, the development of a green economy also entails cultural aspects: the renovation of old buildings for the purpose of energy efficiency must take issues of cultural identity and architectural heritage into account.



*Ms Gabi
Dobusch*





Concluding Session. Panel Debate:

The Future of Parliamentary Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area

Mr Sven Hirdman, Ambassador, Moderator of the Debate, opened the panel discussion by raising three areas in which he thought that cooperation must be strengthened in the future and where Parliaments and NGOs have important roles to play to secure lasting results. The first concerns the concept of security. The past has left scars on nations and individuals. Fears and prejudices still exist. Obstacles to contacts, particularly between Russia and the other Baltic Sea states, should be removed. The best way to improve security and well-being in the Baltic Sea Region would be to abolish visa restrictions between Russia and the Schengen countries and establish a free trade zone between the EU and Russia. This would strengthen personal contacts and reduce unfounded fears.



*Mr Sven
Hirdman*

The second area Mr Hirdman took up concerned cross-border infrastructure projects. Several projects have been envisioned and commenced, but much remains to be done to realise new projects across and along the Baltic Sea. More dedicated efforts are needed to facilitate and speed up cross-border transports and develop a cohesive transport infrastructure throughout the entire Region.

Mr Hirdman's third point was maritime safety in the Baltic Sea. Over 100 million tons of Russian oil is shipped across the Sea and through the Baltic straits each year. This entails risk of collisions and spills. Referring to the GOFREP system, he asked why this could not be extended to cover the entire Baltic Sea through a permanent multinational centre working on a 24/7 basis.

Mr Paulus Saudargas, MP, Lithuania, Baltic Assembly pointed to long-term and stable social development as one of the key priorities of the Baltic States. Environmental, economic, and educational issues are other important issues, together with the development of efficient and resilient information systems. Health and social well-being are important components of a positive social development, and civil security and the fight against organised crime are fundamental for the security of the citizens. The Baltic Assembly wishes to utilise existing mechanisms and resources and work shoulder-to-shoulder with the other states in the Baltic Sea Region.



Mr Paulus Saudargas

Mr Ryszard Górecki, MP, Poland, agreed with the chair's selection of key areas. Security is fundamentally important. Poland has always been in favour of free movement, and a visa-free regime would certainly encourage that. Infrastructure in Poland is developing, although the country is lagging behind, especially in roads and railways. More funding would be welcome, although the current economic downturn puts restrictions on allocations. Sea transport and maritime safety are prioritised areas. The idea of extending the GOF-REP system to the entire Baltic Sea is attractive. Parliamentary cooperation and action must be more efficient and result-oriented. BSPC should consider how to use its instruments for better impact.



Mr Ryszard Górecki

Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, Chair of the BSPC, took a slightly different view on this issue, saying that the Conferences do have an important role in providing a platform for meetings, talks and networking. Interacting and communicating across territorial and political borders is an important prerequisite for joint political action. It is essential that parliamentarians across the Region join forces to exert pressure on the Governments to act and follow-up what they do in order to meet the challenges of the Region. Concrete activities are necessary to improve the well-being of citizens, and a

more coherent Region would hold a stronger position in global competition.

Mr Franz Thönnies, MP, Germany underlined the need to work for a stable democracy as a backbone for prosperous social and economic development. An abolition of visa regimes in the Region would probably result in greater cross-border interaction of people and enterprises. Visas are costly and not very effective in the fight against cross-border crime. Trade unions, employer organisations, NGOs, and people-to-people contacts can be instrumental in removing border obstacles, and may benefit greatly from their removal. BSPC could consider raising issues concerning the situation of ethnic minorities and their cultural heritage. The greater participation of young people should also be encouraged, perhaps by arranging a dedicated event for them and their key issues.

Mr Vatanyar Yagya, MP, St Petersburg expressed his strong belief in parliamentary cooperation. BSPC is a project connecting nations around the entire rim of the Baltic Sea. It is an important task for parliamentarians to ensure that the general public is involved and informed about the challenges of the Region. A recent positive example is the dialogue between young people in Russia and Karelia, which has resulted in the establishment of a youth forum. A particular problem of the Baltic Sea is chemical weapons dumped after World War II. There is a suspicion that the poor quality of salmon can be related to leakage from these weapons.

Mr Górecki agreed on the importance of involving and encouraging the young generation to participate in discussion and decision-making. He argued that universities are significant carriers of culture and national history. However, a living culture is nourished by external exchange, and therefore the mobility system between universities in the Region should be improved.

Mr Thönnies emphasised that parliamentarians should unite in the fight against terrorism and xenophobia, using openness and democracy as their prime weapons. The commendable way in which the Prime Minister of Norway had led and united the Norwegian people after the terrorist attacks in July proved that democracy is the main defence against terrorism.

Ms Gestrin agreed that it is a fundamental responsibility of parliamentarians to stand for democracy, openness, transparency and humanity. These values should be constantly on the agenda of the BSPC, and they should permeate the issues with which BSPC is working.

Mr Saudargas referred to the 20th anniversary of the three Baltic States regaining independence, and stated that energy security is not only an issue of energy supply; energy security is equivalent to national security.

Mr Górecki expressed a wish for greater efforts in turning parliamentary recommendations into government action. He also encouraged governments in the region to engage in fruitful cooperation with HELCOM and the CBSS in order to pursue common initiatives for positive development. Some kind of youth activity in BSPC was an idea worth considering further.

Mr Thönnies argued that the Stoltenberg Report on Nordic cooperation on security has not been sufficiently discussed by parliamentarians. This should be remedied in coming deliberations. He suggested that the parliamentarians of the BSPC, upon returning from the Conference, should disseminate the work and results of the BSPC to their constituencies, not forgetting information to schools.

Ms Renate Holznagel, MP, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, joined the discussion about what parliamentarians can do to propagate their recommendations. In her own parliament, there is a long tradition of debating the BSPC Resolution just after the annual conference. She praised the Conference for always being able to adopt a unanimous Resolution although opinions sometimes sharply diverge. It is also laudable that such a slim organisation is able to cover so many topics and get such good results in the course of one year.

Adoption of Documents and Closing of the Conference

The **20th BSPC Resolution**, new **BSPC Rules of Procedure**, and the **BSPC Work Programme 2011–2012** were adopted unanimously.

The Conference granted **BSPC Observer** status to the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS).

Ms Valentina Pivnenko, MP, Russia expressed her gratitude to the Conference for her appointment as Chairperson of the BSPC in 2011–2012. She asserted that BSPC, during its first twenty years, has proven to be one of the most effective political fora in the Baltic Region. The Conference should also aim in the future to secure

its role as the leading parliamentary player in the Region. In the immediate future, the BSPC agenda should consist of concrete issues related to the perspectives of the Region, seeking new ways to deepen cooperation. Sustainable use of resources that pose no threat to the environment, development and introduction of new techniques and technologies, development of transport infrastructure, monitoring of industrial risks, broader implementation of public-private partnerships to meet the emerging challenges – these are some of the topics that seem to be of highest priority, she said. The energy dialogue, with a particular emphasis on the need for energy efficient and safe nuclear technologies, is important. Our challenge is to make it safe for human life and the environment. Continued attention should be given to such topics as combat of organised crime, support for broader people-to-people contacts through relaxed visa requirements, and sustainable growth that promotes well-being and safety for the people of the Baltic Sea Region. The priorities of the Russian Chairmanship of BSPC will reflect the commitment to cooperation in the field of innovation and modernisation. Cooperation along this track could provide continuity for the current and next BSPC chairmanships. We are committed to further strengthen cooperation on key issues for the benefit of our nations and our peoples, Ms Pivnenko concluded, and invited everybody to the 21st BSPC, to be held in the Mariinsky Palace in St Petersburg on 26–28 August 2012.

Ms Christina Gestrin began her closing remarks by thanking the host of the 20th BSPC, the Parliament of Finland, as well as the International Secretariat of the Parliament of Finland and the BSPC Secretariat, for hosting the Conference and preparing for it so skilfully. She recognised the value of having the 20th Conference in the same venue as the 1st BSPC in 1991, and the pleasure of seeing several persons at the 20th BSPC who were active in starting up the BSPC in the beginning of the 1990s. Knowledge of history is a sound platform for embarking on future endeavours, she stated. Many of the speakers at the 20th BSPC have thanked BSPC for keeping the political spotlight on issues of vital importance for the Baltic Sea Region, she noted, and vowed that BSPC will continue to exert pressure on the Governments of the Region to carry out effective measures to manage its challenges. This confirms that the BSPC is perceived as an important and influential political player in the Region. She closed the 20th BSPC by wishing every success to Valentina Pivnenko, who will assume the Chair of the BSPC in 2011–2012.



Annexes

Annex 1

Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 20th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants, elected representatives from the Baltic Sea States*, assembling in Helsinki, Finland, 28 – 30 August 2011,

discussing Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, Integrated Maritime Policy, Civil Safety and Security, and Green Growth and Energy Efficiency,

- A. reconfirming their commitment to act persistently for a positive and pluralistic political, social and economic development of the Baltic Sea Region, rooted in environmental concerns and sustainability, by listening to and giving voice to the grassroots of their constituencies, by driving political issues in their parliaments and relevant committees, and by exerting political pressure on governments to fulfill the commitments and obligations they have undertaken for the benefit of the Region;
- B. restating the mutual usefulness of close collaboration between BSPC and CBSS, for instance by a growing and continuous exchange between the various working bodies of the organizations, and by pursuing a closer synchronization of political priorities and target issues, thereby strengthening their individual as well as combined capacity to deal successfully with the challenges of the Baltic Sea Region;
- C. commending the comprehensive Declaration of the 16th CBSS Ministerial Session in Oslo 7 June, which, i.a., welcomes the efforts under way in establishing cooperation between Iceland, Norway, Russia and the EU in areas where common objectives could be identified under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and which also expresses appreciation of the work of BSPC within the CBSS priority areas maritime policy and counter-trafficking in human beings;
- D. reiterating their strong support to the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, and expressing their collective expectation that all HELCOM Governments will implement and successfully fulfill their National Implementation Plans in order to achieve good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021;

- E. maintaining that the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region must be aligned with the Northern Dimension, which brings together EU- and non-EU- countries of the Region on an equal footing, because credible long-term solutions to the challenges of the Region require participation and commitment by all of its central stakeholders;
- F. recognizing that the review of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea, which will take place under Polish Presidency of the EU Council, will give an opportunity to obtain better synergy effects between the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea and the key existing cooperation structures within the Baltic Sea Region;
- G. welcoming the establishment of a parliamentary tier of the Northern Dimension, as embodied in a recurrent Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum, the latest of which was held in Norway in 2011 and the next to be convened in Russia in 2013;
- H. welcoming also the continuation and resource allocation to concrete projects under the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership, the operation of the two new partnerships under the Northern Dimension, on Transport and Logistics and on Culture, and appreciating the mutually beneficial exchange between BSPC and the Northern Dimension Partnership in Health and Social Well-being;
- I. acknowledging the work of organizations and activities at sub-regional level – such as the Committee of the Regions (CoR), Baltic Sea States Sub-Regional Cooperation (BSSSC), the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), and the Parliamentary Forum of the Southern Baltic Sea (PFSBS) – and recognizing their experiences and capacities to identify problems in the Region and implementing concrete measures against them;
- J. welcoming the joint event of the Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference with the Expert Group on Maritime Policy of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Working Group on Maritime Policy of the Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) during the European Maritime Day in Gdańsk on May 20th 2011, and supporting the further coordination and joint activities between these and other institutions and organizations;
- K. emphasizing that citizens should be kept informed and involved in the planning and implementation of strategies and projects that influence the development of the Baltic Sea Region; NGOs play an invaluable role both as opinion-makers and independent

experts, and their views, warnings and advice should be taken seriously;

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

Regarding Co-operation in the Region, to

1. support the further development and activities of the CBSS by providing long-term resources for its project-based and target-oriented approach in dealing with specific issues of central importance for the Baltic Sea Region, and encourage an ongoing collaboration and convergence of priorities with the BSPC;
2. allocate sufficient resources and speed up the work to develop, monitor and implement the National Implementations Plans under HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, aimed at achieving good ecological status of the Baltic Sea by 2021;
3. work for a continued coordination of the priorities and concrete activities of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Northern Dimension, thereby promoting that all stakeholders of the Baltic Sea Region can cooperate on an equal footing;
4. fulfill existing and encourage new commitments to the Baltic Sea Action Summit;
5. solicit an overview to bring sharper clarity over the availability of various funding channels and other resources for projects and investments in the Baltic Sea Region, to ensure that they are used efficiently and that access to funds is widened and facilitated for all stakeholders of the Region;
6. provide financial contributions to the BSAP Technical Assistance Fund, jointly managed by NiB and NEFCO with the purpose of granting assistance to projects that support the implementation of the HELCOM BSAP;
7. encourage and support initiatives, events and mechanisms to bring stakeholders of the Baltic Sea Region together to exchange information and coordinate priorities and activities for the purpose of avoiding duplication and boosting their collective impact; the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum and the Forum on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region are commendable examples;

8. promote the development of civil society and support NGOs by financial and administrative resources;
9. promote cooperation on countering proliferation of threats of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in the Baltic Sea Region;

Regarding Integrated Maritime Policy in the Baltic Sea Region, to

10. revisit the political recommendations concerning Integrated Maritime Policy contained in the 19th BSPP Resolution from 2010;
11. to intensify research and to promote the use of alternative marine fuels such as – for example – Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in the Baltic Sea Region and others by supporting innovative emission reduction technologies and by creating incentives for investments in the development of the necessary port infrastructure with a well developed distribution network and uniform industry- and usage standards;
12. against the background of new studies on the implications of the intended reduction of the sulphur content of ship fuels to 0.1 % from the year 2015 in the framework of the international MARPOL convention, take precautions and to start initiatives to prevent a modal backshift in traffic from sea to land;
13. to support incentives for the modification of existing ships, and to work actively within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for a speedy designation of further sea areas, such as the Mediterranean Sea, as Sulphur Emission Control Areas (SECA), thereby abolishing competitive disadvantages for the Baltic Sea Area;
14. to work for a reduction of administrative obstacles for cross-border maritime traffic;
15. to develop maritime spatial planning as an important instrument for an optimized interaction between the actors in the various maritime sectors in the interest of a more efficient and sustainable usage of sea waters and coastal regions, and to create national, compatible spatial planning concepts, thereby promoting a stronger cross-border cooperation between the Baltic Sea countries;

16. to support a sustainable port development by the development of environmental port services, for instance by building sewage recipient facilities in all important ports in the Baltic Sea by 2015 at the latest, in order to reduce environmental pollution for port residents and simultaneously strengthen the competitiveness of the ports;
17. to further implement an integrated maritime policy with regard to its economic and ecological significance for the entire Baltic Sea Area, particularly by
 - developing and promoting integrated maritime lead projects for the entire Baltic Sea Area (e.g. Clean Baltic Shipping, Galileo Research Port Rostock, SUCBAS – Sea Surveillance Co-operation Baltic Sea) also in the areas of “green, safe transport and a clean environment” for the strengthening of environmentally friendly goods traffic and the port cooperation in the whole Baltic Sea Area in order to further promote the maritime policy in the consciousness on the European level,
 - promoting and facilitating the cooperation on all levels of maritime governance and by
 - the development of national integrated maritime policies of the member states;
18. to support integrated activities of the Baltic Sea Region in the areas of maritime research, technology and innovation, in order to use the growth potential of new maritime sectors such as energy generation in offshore installations and offshore technologies, the security and surveillance technique as well as maritime environmental technology and to enhance access to future markets; for this purpose, create necessary political and judicial framework and disseminate best practices;
19. to further develop environmentally sustainable cruise tourism as a maritime growth industry against the background of its importance for the whole Baltic Sea Region, for example by attractive inland tourist offers and concepts of common marketing in this field of tourism;
20. to proceed with the development and implementation of measures for safe operation of ships in severe and icy winter conditions;
21. to support projects and activities focusing on safety of navigation, such as a Baltic Sea- wide Ship Reporting System (SRS)

and Vessel Traffic Service (VTS), and promoting the development of the Baltic Sea Region as a pilot region for e-navigation;

Regarding Civil Safety and Security in the Baltic Sea Region, to

22. jointly develop trans-boundary scenarios and identify gaps for all natural and man-made hazards and threats of the Baltic Sea Region, in order to identify potential disasters and disruption, to build a comprehensive regional risk register, and to strengthen the combined regional capacity to prevent and manage hazards, by capacity-building, training and exercises;
23. to support the HELCOM ad hoc Expert Group “Munitions” in order to compile all kinds of additional information on dumping activities after World War II and check whether the general conclusions of the “CHEMU-report” are still valid;
24. against lessons learned from the nuclear disaster in Fukushima started in March 2011, to step up regional cooperation for the purpose of elaborating and adopting stringent conditions and regulations for construction, operation and decommissioning of nuclear power plants, as well as for the storage and processing of spent fuel, but also for grasping the opportunity to intensify efforts to promote the development of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and green technologies;

Regarding Trafficking in Human Beings, to

25. revisit the political recommendations concerning Trafficking contained in the 19th BSPC Resolution from 2010;
26. initiate and support extended analyses of the economic aspects of trafficking in human beings, promote coordination between relevant authorities and institutions to detect money flows stemming from trafficking in human beings (THB), enhance the capabilities and cooperation of police, tax authorities and other relevant institutions to track money emanating from THB and strengthen the legal and administrative means to confiscate proceeds from, as well as imposing stern fines on, those engaged in THB;
27. promote efforts to gain more extensive knowledge of the nature and scope of trafficking in human beings for forced labour, taking into account the gender dimension; initiate and

support the development of joint strategies in cooperation with trade unions and employer's organizations and relevant authorities; strengthen legislative and operational means of identifying and combating trafficking in human beings for forced labour; and conduct public information campaigns about trafficking in human beings for forced labour;

28. address the special problems of trafficked children in legislation and in administrative guidelines, employing a multi-disciplinary approach and multi-sectoral coordination with the child's best interest as an overarching priority; this includes e.g. that a child should not be detained as a matter of principle, a formal policy of non-punishment, and a guaranteed provision of shelters with suitable facilities tailored to the needs of the children, including professional personnel trained in building trust with children in order to prevent their disappearances from the shelters;
29. investigate, e.g. by requests to responsible authorities, the efficiency and relevance of existing legislation and legal measures against trafficking in human beings, and develop and adapt, where appropriate, legislation to adequately respond to current and developing forms of trafficking in human beings and strengthen coordination between various sectors of the political and judicial system;
30. make efforts to raise awareness of trafficking in human beings, e.g. by supporting and conducting public information campaigns and outreach activities, such as the "Safe Trip" campaign by CBSS (www.safetrip.se) as well as similar initiatives by e.g. private companies and NGOs, and also support measures to facilitate the reporting to authorities of suspect cases of trafficking in human beings, e.g. by means of hotlines;
31. initiate and support measures to enhance the joint perception and understanding of THB among all actors in the region, thereby advocating a closer cooperation and coordination among them, and furthermore expand exchange and cooperation with international organizations active in the fight against trafficking in human beings, such as UN, IPU, OSCE, Council of Europe, ILO, IOM and others;
32. present continuous evaluation and reporting of the progress and results in the fight against trafficking in human beings, based on jointly developed and agreed success criteria on factors such as e.g. the number of convictions, safe returns of victims, and the like; they should also monitor that programmes

and strategies are continuously updated and adapted to new and changing forms of trafficking in human beings;

33. promote the development of favourable working conditions for those active in the fight against trafficking in human beings, for the purpose of reducing the drainage of experienced personnel and enabling continuity of work and accumulation of competencies;
34. promote actions to strengthen the capacity to identify and incriminate the middlemen in trafficking in human beings, meaning persons indirectly profiting from trafficking in human beings by e.g. facilitating contacts between potential buyers and traffickers and/or trafficked persons, e.g. in the taxi, hotel or ferry industries;

Regarding Health and Social Well-being in the Baltic Sea Region, to

35. allocate sufficient and long-term resources for joint regional activities and endeavours to improve health and social well-being, recognizing the crucial role of The Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) in regional work in this area and the necessity to maintain support to its project facilitation and promotion activities, aimed at helping the Baltic Sea Region make progress towards the achievement of objectives of relevant global and European strategies and policies;
36. take concerted action to complement national responses to public health problems, taking into account the gender dimension, caused by avoidable unhealthy lifestyles in general and the harmful use of alcohol and substance abuse in particular, leading into non-communicable diseases, and threatening social cohesion and socio-economic development;
37. encourage consideration of health and social well-being issues in other relevant policy areas, consistent with the health in all policies approach;

Regarding Green Growth and Energy Efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region, to

38. adopt policies and undertake measures to turn the Baltic Sea Region into an Eco-Region, in which economic growth goes hand in hand with environmental integrity and social justice, by promoting eco-innovations, sustainable consumption and production and waste treatment, and sustainable urban and rural development strategies;
39. facilitate research, innovation and business development in green technologies and energy efficiency, including research of the potential to develop renewable energy sources in the Region, for instance by providing legal and other incentives to SMEs in order to encourage capacity-building for sustainable production and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR);
40. promote an integrated approach to improving energy efficiency in households, public authorities, industry and transport, for instance by putting in place legal conditions and physical planning requirements that encourage investments in and conversion to energy-saving devices and methods, as well as building public-private partnerships to encourage more green-tech investments in the future of the Region;
41. provide incentives and conditions for green public procurement and practices among public authorities at all levels, for instance by introducing sustainability as a criterion in tendering and purchasing procedures;
42. take note of the work of the Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation (BASREC) and the conclusions of its upcoming meeting of Ministers of Energy in Berlin in spring 2012;
43. launch information campaigns and activities to raise awareness of green growth and energy efficiency and its individual as well as collective economic and ecological benefits with a focus on demonstrating available practical solutions for increasing energy efficiency;
44. provide continued support to the activities of Baltic 21, and to establish a four-year project on “Green Growth for a Bluer Baltic Sea” in order to define common priority areas within e.g. energy, water, transport and tourism, to develop strategies for enhancing the development and use of renewable energies and increasing energy efficiency, and to provide for an exchange of best practices among actors and stakeholders;

Furthermore the Conference Decides to

45. urge the BSPC members to establish networks of parliamentarians on the fight against trafficking in human beings, in order to secure continuity of commitment and visibility of the issue, to continuously monitor progress of various activities in the fight against trafficking in human beings, and to develop the relations between the executive and legislative powers concerning the fight against trafficking in human beings; in this endeavour, the networks should make use of handbooks and guidelines produced by e.g. UN, IPU, PACE, ILO, and others;
46. grant Observer status to the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being;
47. support the transformation and follow-up of the Baltic Sea Labour Network (BSLN), by establishing a permanent Forum for Social Dialogue in the Baltic Sea Region in order to secure public support in the field of labour rights;
48. establish a Working Group on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency, to submit a report at the 21st BSPC;
49. adopt the BSPC Work Programme for 2011-2012;
50. adopt the revised BSPC Rules of Procedure, to take effect after the closure of the 20th BSPC;
51. welcome with gratitude the kind offer of the Federal Assembly of Russia to host the 21st Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in the Mariinsky Palace, the Legislative Assembly of St Petersburg, on 26 – 28 August 2012.

* Parliaments of Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Denmark, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Republic of Karelia, Latvia, Leningrad, Lithuania, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Norway, Poland, Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, City of St. Petersburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Sweden, Åland Islands, Baltic Assembly, European Parliament, Nordic Council, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Annex 2

The 20th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Helsinki, Finland, 28-30 August 2011

“GREEN GROWTH FOR A BLUER BALTIC SEA”

*Venue: the Annex of the Parliament Building in
Helsinki, Auditorium*

Sunday, 28th August

- 11.00 The registration office opens at the annex of the Parliament Building
- 13.00 **BSPC Standing Committee meeting**
Meeting room of the Grand Committee of the Finnish Parliament, Floor P
- 15.00 Other optional meetings
- 16.30 Departure by bus from the annex of the Parliament building to Helsinki South Harbour, Market Square
- 16.50 Sea excursion with m/s Natalia
- 19.00 Buffet Dinner
Restaurant Jobannes, The Hanasaari Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre, Espoo
- 21.30 Bus transport back to the city centre

Monday, 29th August

- 07.45 The registration office opens at the annex of the Parliament Building. *Floor 1*
- 08.00 Enlarged Standing Committee, as Drafting Committee.
The meeting room of the Grand Committee of the Finnish Parliament, Floor P
- 09.00 **OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE**
Auditorium, Floor P

Musical prelude performed by Mr Janne Ovaskainen,
Mr Miika Jämsä and Mr Tommi Hyytinen

Chair: Ms **Christina Gestrin**, MP, Finland, Chair of
the BSPC

Vice Chair: Ms **Valentina Pivnenko**, MP, Russian State Duma, Vice Chair of the BSPC

- Ms **Christina Gestrin**, MP, Finland, Chair of the BSPC
- Welcome by Mr **Eero Heinäluoma**, MP, Speaker of the Finnish Parliament
- Welcome by Ms **Susanna Huovinen**, MP, Chair of the BSPC delegation of the Finnish Parliament

Historical review: BSPC 20th anniversary – achievements and challenges

- Dr **Jürgen Schöning**, former Minister of State and European Issues, Land Thüringen and former Director of the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein
- Dr **Pertti Joenniemi**, Senior Research Fellow, Danish Institute for International Studies

09.50 FIRST SESSION

Chair: Ms **Christina Gestrin**, MP, Finland, Chair of the BSPC

Vice Chair: Ms **Valentina Pivnenko**, MP, Russian State Duma, Vice Chair of the BSPC

Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

- Report from the BSPC: Ms **Christina Gestrin**, MP, Chair of the BSPC
- Report from CBSS: Dr **Werner Hoyer**, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany

EU Baltic Sea Strategy and the Northern Dimension

- Ms **Diana Wallis**, MEP, Vice President, European Parliament
- Ms **Kadri Uustal**, Adviser to Director-General Ahner, European Commission

Debate

11.30 Coffee break

11.50 SECOND SESSION

Chair: Mr **Ryszard Górecki**, MP, Poland

Vice Chair: Mr **Bernd Voss**, MP, Schleswig-Holstein

Maritime issues

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, Present State of Implementation:

- HE **Gabriella Lindholm**, Chair of HELCOM

Final Report from the BSPC Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy:

- Dr **Jochen Schulte**, MP, Chair of the Working Group
- International regulations to improve maritime safety to avoid oil spill catastrophes: Dr **Anita Mäkinen**, Finnish Maritime Agency;
- Maritime Surveillance, GOFREP (Gulf of Finland Reporting System): Mr **Are Piel**, Head of Vessel Traffic Management Department, Estonian Maritime Administration

Debate

13.30 Lunch

14.30 **THIRD SESSION**

Chair: Ms **Valentina Pivnenko**, MP, Russian State Duma, Vice Chair of the BSPC

Vice Chair: Ms **Gabi Dobusch**, MP, Hamburg

Civil Safety and Security

Final Report from BSPC Working Group on Civil Security/Trafficking

Trailer of the Movie *Not My Life* – A Documentary about Human Trafficking

- Mr **André Oktay Dahl**, MP, Vice Chair of the Working Group
- Comment to the report: Ms **Eva Biaudet**, Minority Ombudsman, Finland
- Organized Crime: Mr **Vladimir Nikitin**, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
- Civil Safety and Security: Mrs **Silva Bendrāte**, Vice Chair of the Social Affairs Committee of the Baltic Assembly, Deputy Chair of the Social and Employment Matters Committee of the Parliament of Latvia

Public Health and Social Well-Being

- Mr **Marek Maciejowski**, Head of NDPHS Secretariat, on behalf of Dr **Oleg Chestnov**, Chair of the NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives
- Dr **Bernt Bull**, Chair of the NDPHS Expert Group on Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Debate

17.00 Enlarged Standing Committee, as Drafting Committee
Meeting room of the Grand Committee of the Finnish Parliament, Floor P

19.30 **Buffet Dinner**
State Hall, Finnish Parliament Building

Musical performance by Finnish a cappella group Viisi

Tuesday, 30th August

09.00 **FOURTH SESSION**

Chair: Mr **Franz Thönnnes**, MP, Germany

Vice Chair: Mr **Torfinn Opheim**, MP, Norway

Green Growth, Energy, Climate, Financing

- Green Growth and Energy Efficiency: Mr **Bernd Voss**, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, Schleswig-Holstein Parliament
- Regional Cooperation Opportunities: Mr **Hans Brask**, Director, Baltic Development Forum
- Financial aspects on Green Growth, Mr **Magnus Rystedt**, CEO, Nordic Environment Finance Corporation

Bornholm Bright Green Island – Laboratory for a Sustainable Society: Ms **Lene Grønning**, Business Ambassador, Business Center Bornholm

Development of EU-Russia Cooperation in the Electricity Sector: Mr **Alexey Ivannikov**, Chief of Management & Development Department, Geographical Unit “Europe”, INTER RAO UES

Debate

11.00 **CONCLUDING SESSION**

The Future of Parliamentary Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area

- Introduction: HE **Sven Hirdman**, Former Swedish Ambassador to Russia
- Panel debate moderated by HE **Sven Hirdman**:
 - Mr **Paulius Saudargas**, MP, Lithuania, Vice President of the Baltic Assembly, Chair of the Lithuanian Delegation to the Baltic Assembly;

- Mr **Ryszard Górecki**, Senator, Senate of the Republic of Poland, Chair of the Polish Delegation to BSPC
- Mr **Franz Thönnies**, MP, Germany, former Parliamentary State Secretary;
- Ms **Christina Cestrin**, MP, Chair of the BSPC
- Mr **Vatanyar Yagya**, MP, Parliament of the City of St Petersburg

12.30 CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

Chair: Ms **Christina Cestrin**, MP, Finland, Chair of the BSPC

Vice Chair: Ms **Valentina Pivnenko**, MP, Russian State Duma, Vice Chair of the BSPC

- Administrative matters
- Adoption of Resolution
- Presentation of Next Year's Host Country – Russia

13.00 Lunch

Restaurant of the Annex building, Floor P

14.30 SIDE EVENT

“Nordic and Baltic Countries – The Next Twenty Years”

Panel discussion and seminar: Representatives of BSPC and of the NB8 (Nordic and Baltic countries) foreign ministers and of the business and trade in the region.

Open for all parliamentarians participating in the BSPC-conference. Auditorium, Floor P

Participation by invitation only.

Programme distributed separately.

Annex 3

The 20th Baltic Sea Conference – List of Participants

Speakers and chairpersons (see Conference Program)

Barfod, Line	MP, Chairperson, Working Group on Civil Security/Trafficking
Bendrāte, Silva	MP, Vice-chairperson, Social Affairs Committee of the Baltic Assembly, Deputy Chairperson, Social and Employment Matters Committee, Parliament of Latvia
Biaudet, Eva	Minority Ombudsman, Finland
Brask, Hans	Director, Baltic Development Forum
Bull, Bernt	Chairperson, NDPHS Expert Group on Alcohol and Substance Abuse
Chestnov, Oleg	Chairperson, NDPHS Committee of Senior Representatives
Geerdts, Torsten	MP, Schleswig-Holstein
Gestrin, Christina	MP, Chairperson of the BSPC, Nordic Council, Finland
Górecki, Ryszard	MP, Poland
Grønning, Lene	Business Ambassador, Business Center Bornholm
Heinäluoma, Eero	MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Finland
Hirdman, Sven	Former Swedish Ambassador to Russia
Hoyer, Werner	MP, State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany
Huovinen, Susanna	MP, Chairperson of the BSPC delegation, Parliament of Finland
Ivannikov, Alexey	Chief of Department on Management and Development, Europe Geographic Division, International Russian United Energy Network Limited (INTER RAO UES)
Joenniemi, Pertti	Senior Research Fellow, Danish Institute for International Studies
Kristensen, Henrik Dam	MP, Denmark, President of the Nordic Council
Lindholm, Gabriella	Chairperson of HELCOM
Mäkinen, Anita	Head of Marine Environment Protection Unit, Finnish Transport Safety Agency
Nikitin, Vladimir	MP, Russian State Duma
Opheim, Torfinn	MP, Norway
Pedersen, Marion	MP, Denmark

Piel, Are	Head of VTS Department, Estonian Maritime Administration
Pivnenko, Valentina	MP, Vice-chairperson of the BSPC, Russian State Duma
Rystedt, Magnus	CEO, Nordic Environment Finance Corporation
Saudargas, Paulius	MP, Lithuania, Vice President of the Baltic Assembly
Schulte, Jochen	MP, Chairman of the Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy
Schöning, Jürgen	former Minister of State and European Issues, Land Thüringen and former Director of the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein
Skrynikov, Ivan	Expert, Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Karelia
Thönnies, Franz	MP, German Bundestag
Uustal, Kadri	Adviser to Director-General Ahner, European Commission
Voss, Bernd	MP, Chairperson, Committee on European Affairs, Schleswig-Holstein Parliament
Wallis, Diana	MEP, Vice President, European Parliament

Parliamentary Delegations and Organizations

Baltic Assembly

Bendrāte, Silva	MP, Latvia
Kučinskis, Māris	MP, Latvia
Reirs, Jānis	MP, Latvia
Rotbergs, Uģis	MP, Latvia
Saudargas, Paulius	MP, Lithuania
Šiaulienė, Irena	MP, Latvia

European Parliament

Wallis, Diana	MP, Vice President
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Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Council of Federation

Churkin, Nikolay	MP
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State Duma

Nikitin, Vladimir	MP
Pivnenko, Valentina	MP

Nordic Council

Brodén, Anita	MP, Sweden
Foss, Per-Kristian	MP, Norway
Heikkilä, Lauri	MP, Finland
Hjörvar, Helgi	MP, Iceland
Kristensen, Henrik Dam	MP, Denmark
Torstensson, Åsa	MP, Sweden

Parliament of Åland

Gunell, Camilla	MP
Jansson, Roger	MP
Lindholm, Gun-Mari	MP
Nordlund, Roger	MP, Speaker
Sjölund, Folke	MP

Parliament of Denmark

Christensen, Ole Vagn	MP
Pedersen, Marion	MP

Parliament of Finland

Gestrin, Christina	MP
Huovinen, Susanna	MP
Salolainen, Pertti	MP
Satonen, Arto	MP
Sinnemäki, Anni	MP
Tiilikainen, Kimmo	MP
Väätäinen, Juha	MP

Parliament of Federal Republic of Germany

Happach-Kasan, Christel	MP
Lietz, Matthias	MP
Staffeldt, Torsten	MP
Thönnies, Franz	MP
Wadephul, Johann David	MP

Parliament of the Free and Hanse City of Bremen

Schildt, Frank	MP
Schön, Silvia	MP, Vice President

Parliament of the Free and Hanse City of Hamburg

Dobusch, Gabriele	MP
Duwe, Kurt	MP
Hackbusch, Norbert	MP
Möller, Antje	MP
Vahldieck, Heino	MP
Veit, Carola	MP

Parliament of the Karelian Republic

Belyaev, Dmitry	MP
Ershov, Nikolay	MP
Pereplesnin, Alexander	MP, Chairperson of the Legislative Assembly
Romanov, Ivan	MP, First Vice-Chairperson

Parliament of the Leningrad Region

Kiseleva, Tamara	MP
Kotova, Liubov	MP
Kulikova, Galina	MP
Novikova, Nadezhda	MP

Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Holznagel, Renate	MP, Vice President
Jäger, Armin	MP
Kreher, Hans	MP
Mantei, Matthias	MP
Schildt, Ute	MP
Schulte, Jochen	MP
Schwebs, Birgit	MP

Parliament of Norway

Dahl, André Oktay	MP
Godskesen, Ingebjørg	MP
Kofod, Jeppe	MP
Mandt, Sonja	MP
Myrli, Sverre	MP
Opheim, Torfinn	MP

Parliament of Poland

Górecki, Ryszard	MP
Pałys, Andrzej	MP

Parliament of the City of St Petersburg

Yagya, Vatanyar	MP
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Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein

Amtsberg, Luise	MP
Funke, Kirstin	MP
Geerdts, Torsten	MP, President
Herbst, Niclas	MP
Langner, Anette	MP
Spoorendonk, Anke	MP
Strehlau, Ines	MP
Voss, Bernd	MP

Parliament of Sweden

Hultberg, Johan	MP
Larsson, Jan-Olof	MP
Linander, Johan	MP
Oskarsson, Irene	MP
Stenberg, Maria	MP
Wallmark, Hans	MP

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Zingeris, Emanuelis	MP, Vice President
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Observers**Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)**

Vehkaperä, Mirja	MP, Finland
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Baltic Development Forum (BDF)

Brask, Hans	Director, Baltic Development Forum
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Baltic Sea Forum – Pro Baltica

Bodewig, Kurt	Chairperson
Rantala, Eero	Vice Chairperson

Baltic Sea States Sub-Regional Co-operation (BSSSC)

Barczyk, Krzysztof	
Gblewicz, Olgierd	Chairperson
Ludwiczek, Małgorzata	Managing Director

Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-IPA)

Kharitidis, Grigori	Advisor
Striletskyi, Ivan	Deputy Secretary General

Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS), Secretariat

Fridriksdottir, Bjarney	Senior Adviser Task Force-THB
Hellberg, Helge	Project Manager
Magnadottir, Nanna	Senior Advisor

CBSS German Presidency

Almer, Gerhard	Ambassador, Task Force, German CBSS Presidency
Becker, Mirko	Assistant to Dr Hoyer, CBSS German Presidency
Hoyer, Werner	MP, State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
von Lepel, Klaus	Task Force, German CBSS Presidency

Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

Lindholm, Gabriella Chairperson of HELCOM

Parliamentary Association of North-West Russia (PANWR)

Shashurin, Alexander MP, Chairperson of Committee

Union of Baltic Cities (UBC)

Lohikoski, Mikko Strategy Coordinator

Nordic Investment Bank (NIB)

Alm, Anders Senior Manager

Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)

Homanen, Kari Vice President

Lehtinen, Karl-Johan Senior Manager – Environment

Rystedt, Magnus Managing Director

Sjövall, Mikael Communications Manager

Invited Guests

Axelin, Henni	Coordinator of International Affairs, Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi
Bussian, Jochen	Head of the Press Unit, Embassy of Germany in Helsinki
Domisch, Mika	Executive Secretary, Council of Nordic Trade Unions, NFS
Ehlers, Alexandra	Youth representative, Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein
Ekroos, Marja	Counsel to the Environment Committee, The Parliament of Finland
Förster, Tom	Project co-manager, Baltic Sea Labour Network
Geipel, Mareike	Secretary of Legation, Embassy of Germany in Helsinki
Hagemann, Henrik	Former Secretary General, Danish secretariat to the Nordic Council
Henttonen, Jaakko	NDEP Fund Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Hissa, Jaakko	Former Secretary of the Finnish delegation to BSPC
Januszewski, Andrzej	former Secretary of Polish Delegation to BSPC
Jansone, Signe	Counsellor, Embassy of Latvia in Helsinki
Kankaanpää, Kalle	Counsellor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
Korotkova, Anna	Deputy Director, Federal Institute for Health Care Organization & IT
Lindberg, Minna	President, Nordic Youth Council

Lindroos, Päivikki	Guest
Lintilä, Kaisa-Leena	Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU
Litvin, Alexey	Assistant, Embassy of Russia in Helsinki
Lorenz, Silke	Research Coordinator, BSLN
Maciejowski, Marek	Head of Secretariat, NDPHS
Namtvedt, Leidulv	Ambassador, Embassy of Norway in Helsinki
Ojala, Outi	Former MP and former Chair of BSPC, Finland
Oleksii, Selin	Counselor, Embassy of Ukraine in Helsinki
Olena, Parysh	Diplomat, Embassy of Ukraine in Helsinki
Pekkola, Tapio	Communications manager, Nord Stream AG
Rajakangas, Timo	Ambassador for Baltic Sea Issues, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
Rumpff, Johannes	Embassy of Germany in Helsinki
Röbbelen-Voigt, Katariina	Project Manager, BSLN
Scholz, Peter	Ambassador, Embassy of Germany in Helsinki
Schwartz, Philipp	Head of Joint Technical Secretariat, Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013
Seidenberger, Ulrich	Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Germany in Helsinki
Siukosaari, Jukka	Director, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
Smekal, Eva	Former Secretary of the Swedish delegation to BSPC
Smekal, Heinz	Accompanying person
Tarmak, Mart	Ambassador, Embassy of Estonia in Helsinki
Tideström, Ulrik	Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Sweden in Helsinki
Tsereteli, Zaza	International Technical Advisor, NDPHS
Zilliacus, Patrick	Counsellor of International Affairs, Parliament of Finland

Secretariats

Baltic Assembly

Laizāne-Jurkāne, Marika	Secretary General
Putniņa, Ingrīda	Senior Advisor
Rõngelep, Ene	Senior Advisor

BSPC

Widberg, Jan Head of Secretariat

European Parliament

Arnold, Stewart Assistant to Diana Wallis
 Krings, Thomas Deputy Secretary General, ALDE Group
 Malovec, Michal Desk Officer

Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation*Council of Federation*

Dakhova, Nadezda Advisor
 Sokolov, Alexander Head of Staff

State Duma

Antyufyev, Philipp
 Brumberg, Andrey Cameraman
 Dashko, Vladimir Interpreter
 Esina, Elena Counsellor
 Guskova, Nadezhda Accompanying person
 Guskova, Yulia Advisor
 Vorobiev, Oleg Correspondent
 Voronina, Natalia Interpreter
 Yakhmenev, Petr Head of Staff

Nordic Council

Bostrup, Tina Senior Advisor
 Enestam, Jan-Erik Secretary General
 Jansson, Johannes Photographer
 Pentler, Jenny Senior Advisor
 Sørensen, Torkil International Advisor
 Wang, Beate Christine Senior Advisor

Parliament of Åland

Slotte, Niclas Committee Secretary

Parliament of Denmark

Munck, Anna Head of Section
 Stegemüller, Ulla Higher Executive Officer
 Vestergaard, Mette Counsellor

Parliament of Finland

Hed, Niina Assistant for International Affairs
 Kuusinen, Katriina Head of the International Department
 Mairue, Sirpa Assistant for International Affairs
 Rajala, Janne Trainee
 Sandberg, Johanna Assistant to Ms Gestrin
 Tallqvist, Kristiina Assistant for International Affairs

Vuosio, Teemu	Secretary for International Affairs
Wallin, Liisa	Assistant for International Affairs

Parliament of Federal Republic of Germany

Bou-Said, Andrea
Weiland, Anna Waltraud

Parliament of the Free and Hanse City of Hamburg

Wagner, Reinhard

Parliament of the Karelian Republic

Belyaev, Mikhail	Expert
Skrynikov, Ivan	Expert

Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Bahr, Bodo	Deputy Director
Herrmann, Kathrin	Head of Division, Committee on Internal Affairs
Strätker, Georg	Head of Division, Committee on European and Legal Affairs

Parliament of Norway

Andreassen, Thomas	
Fraser, Thomas	
Myhre-Jensen, Kjell	Head of the Secretariat
Seip, Marianne	Political Advisor

Parliament of Poland

Koperski, Piotr

Parliament of the City of St Petersburg

Terekhovskiy, Sergey	Chief of the External Relations Department
Yagya, Said	Assistant of the Deputy-Chairperson

Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein

Schmidt-Holländer, Jutta

Parliament of Sweden

Hjelm, Eva	International Secretary
Ohlsson, Bengt	Senior International Advisor

Interpreters

Domisch, Nina
Eskin, Igor

Golabek-Asikainen, Anna
Hupli, Anne
Kieninger, Georg
Kral-Leszczyński, Tomasz
Lammi, Kirsi
Nyblom-Kuorikoski, Heidi
Repin, Aleksei
Skogster, Christina



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