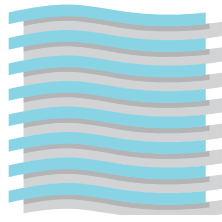


■ The 17th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

■ Visby, Sverige • 31 August—2 September 2008

Energy Efficiency and Climate Change



Energy Efficiency and Climate Change

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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 organizations around the Baltic Sea. The BSPC thus constitutes a unique parliamentary bridge between all the EU- and non-EU countries of the Baltic Sea Region. BSPC aims at raising awareness and opinion on issues of current political interest and relevance for the Baltic Sea Region. It promotes and drives various initiatives and efforts to support a sustainable environmental, social and economic development of the Baltic Sea Region. It strives at enhancing 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 which enables the BSPC to launch and sustain political initiatives, and to approach the governments and regional organizations 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 and an Enlarged Standing Committee are responsible for the follow-up of BSPC resolutions, for identifying and addressing issues within the BSPC field of responsibility, and for preparing the annual Conferences. 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 organizations in the Baltic Sea Region and the Northern Dimension area, among them CBSS, HELCOM, the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation (BSSSC) and the Baltic Development Forum.

Foreword

Dear Friends of the Baltic Sea,

The 17th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference was held in the old Hansa town of Visby on 1–2 September 2008. It was my great pleasure to welcome the participants to Gotland, the Island of Roses, with its long tradition as an arena for trade and meetings between people in the region. Nearly 200 politicians, experts, officials and committed individuals had gathered to devote two days to lively and fruitful discussions about the status of the Baltic Sea and its future prospects.

The overall theme of the conference was climate change, and especially the need for energy efficiency and secure access to energy, in relation to the sensitive environment of the Baltic Sea. Reports about the status of the Baltic Sea are many and alarming. To be sure, environmental action is heading in the right direction, but the process is slow.

Baltic Sea cooperation is important and must become more result-oriented. The wide and profound interest in saving the Baltic Sea must result in powerful measures. The clock is ticking for the Baltic Sea, and the governments of the countries around the Baltic Sea could and should take this seriously.

Once again, we were able to agree on a resolution that included a number of political standpoints and challenges to the governments in the Baltic Sea Region. The resolution has been submitted to the governments, and we will monitor closely what they are doing to implement our recommendations. We parliamentarians can exert pressure and ensure that agreements, such as the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, are put into practice.

I would like to direct warm thanks to all the speakers and participants who helped make the 17th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference relevant and successful. I would also like to pass on warm thanks to the Swedish hosts and to the Speaker of the Swedish Riksdag, Per Westerberg, and his colleagues for the excellent arrangements during the conference. Finally, I would like to direct special thanks to Marianne Samuelsson, County Governor of the Island of Roses, for her support to and encouragement of the conference.

Sinikka Boblin



*Sinikka Boblin,
Member of the Swedish
Riksdag,
Chair of BSPC Standing
Committee 2007–2008.*

Contents

Foreword	3
Opening of The Conference	7
First Session	8
Second Session	11
Third Session	15
Conference Resolution	25
Draft Program	30

Sunday 31 August

The 17th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference was held in Visby, Sweden, 31 August – 2 September 2008. On the first day of the conference, participants were offered excursions with focus on energy issues, climate change or ecology. After the excursions, the Standing Committee held a meeting. The day was concluded with dinner at Wisby Strand Conference Centre, hosted by the Speaker of the Swedish Riksdag, Per Westerberg.





Monday 1 September

Opening of The Conference

The conference participants were welcomed by Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Riksdag, Marianne Samuelsson, Gotland County Governor, and Kent Olsson, MP, member of the Standing Committee of the BSPC.

All the speakers emphasised Gotland's importance, as an island situated in the middle of the Baltic Sea, and the active role Gotland can play in promoting cooperation on Baltic Sea issues. However, they also expressed concern about the situation in the Baltic Sea – one of the most polluted seas in the world, with excessive concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen due to discharge from sources such as agriculture, traffic and flush toilets. The biggest problem is eutrophication, causing algae blooming and fish death.

The introductory speakers also declared their support for HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan, which was adopted by the environment ministers of the countries around the Baltic Sea in November 2007. The Action Plan will help to improve the status of the Baltic Sea by stipulating maximum quantities of phosphorus, nitrogen and other harmful substances that Baltic Sea countries may discharge.

It was also pointed out that, along with climate, the Baltic Sea will be top priority during Sweden's EU presidency during the second half of 2009. A new EU Baltic Sea Strategy is being elaborated. The aim is to adopt the Strategy during the Swedish Presidency of the EU in autumn 2009.

Franz Thönnies, MP, Germany, read out greetings from Diana Wallis, the European Parliament's representative on the Standing Committee. European Parliament representatives could not participate in the conference because parliament was in session at the time.



Per Westerberg



Marianne Samuelsson



Kent Olsson



Franz Thönnies

First Session

During the first meeting, Ambassador Karsten Petersen, Denmark, Chairman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, presented a report from CBSS. Sinikka Bohlin, MP and Chair of the Standing Committee of the BSPC presented a report from the Standing Committee of the BSPC. Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland, presented a report on eutrophication in the Baltic Sea and inform about the HELCOM BSAP implementation group.

Karsten Petersen emphasised CBSS's appreciation of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference as one of the most active players in the Baltic Sea region and as a strategic partner to CBSS. He went on to describe the future work of the CBSS, which will be organised either in the form of expert groups or through different projects – this is to improve efficiency and to produce more concrete results. Future work will focus on five long-term prioritised areas: environment, economic development, competition and innovation, energy, education and culture, and civil security and the human dimension.

Sinikka Bohlin stated that the situation in the Baltic Sea is serious, but not yet irreversible. She pointed out that there is potential to develop the Baltic Sea Region further – some of the prioritised areas involve measures to improve maritime transport, improve efficiency in the fishing industry, and strengthen research and development in the field of energy. In relation to this, non-governmental organizations play an invaluable role as opinion makers.

Sinikka Bohlin also reported on BSPC's contacts during the year with CBSS, HELCOM, the EU Committee of the Regions, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

Sinikka Bohlin rounded off her presentation with a couple of reflections. Firstly, she stressed the value of frequent dialogue



Karsten Petersen



Christina Gestrin



Berit Brørby



Kimmo Tiilikainen

between all the players in the region and, secondly, raised the issue about whether it was time to consider changes to the BSPC's working methods.

Christina Gestrin informed the participants that total discharge into the Baltic Sea is currently 15,250 tons, of which phosphorus comprises 13,500 tons. One way to tackle this problem would be for everyone around the Baltic Sea to use phosphate-free detergents for washing up and washing. Discharge of phosphorus would then be reduced by 20 %. Agriculture must also reduce its discharges, and this applies to all countries surrounding the Baltic Sea.

Christina Gestrin reported that HELCOM's Implementation Group had held two meetings during the year, as well as a workshop that agreed on measures that must be taken so that the goal for 2010 – that there are national plans to reduce discharges to the Baltic Sea – is reached.

Discussion

Participants in the subsequent discussion were Berit Brørby, MP, Norway, Kimmo Tiilikainen, MP, Finland, Antti Kaikkonen, MP, Finland, Folke Sjölund, MP, Åland, Christel Happach-Kasan, MP, Germany, Andrzej Jagusiewicz, Vice Minister, Poland, and Rolf Reikvam, MP, Norway. The discussion emphasised the importance of the Baltic Sea Cooperation as a cooperation body for attaining sustainable and positive development. One proposal was to set up a Baltic Sea Union.





Second Session

Asaf Hajiyev, Head of Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) emphasised the importance of the Black Sea region, and hoped that cooperation with the BSPC would be developed further. The Black Sea area comprises an important and strategic region, with large reserves of fossil fuels. Today, cooperation between politicians is more important than ever.

Climate change and energy efficiency

Speakers at the second meeting were Andrej Jagusiewicz, Vice Minister, Poland, Johan-Marcus Carlsson-Reich, expert, European Commission, and Olgierd Geblewicz, Committee Chairman, Parliamentary Forum of the Southern Baltic Sea (PFSBS).

Andrej Jagusiewicz stated that climate change is the biggest problem facing mankind, and warned that this will affect the currents in the Baltic Sea.

Fossil fuel was cheap for many years, and its use was unrestricted, leading to an enormous waste of energy. A materialistic ideology prevailed, leading to more and more products, but this consumer society is damaging the environment.

In 2007 the Council of Europe decided that energy efficiency should increase by 20 %, which is one step towards sustainable development. For example, emission of greenhouse gases must be reduced.

Johan-Marcus Carlsson-Reich emphasised that climate change, with temperature increases, warmer periods, and flooding, is one of the worst crises that politicians have to tackle. The costs of avoiding these are quite reasonable, but Europe cannot act alone in coming to terms with climate change.



Andrej Jagusiewicz



Asaf Hajiyev



Johan-Marcus Carlsson-Reich



Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir

Discussion

Participants in the subsequent discussion were Marcel Oberweis, MP, Benelux Parliamentary Assembly, Kurt Bodewig, MP, Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, Anne Grete Holmsgaard, MP, Parliament of Denmark. Subjects discussed included emphasising the importance of involving young people in work to improve the environment, so it is important to concentrate on education.

Olgierd Geblewicz reported on the work of the PFSBS. The forum holds one session every year. The eighth session was in May 2008 in Poland. Each session results in a unanimous resolution. Attempts are made to involve parties other than top politicians. The subjects discussed in the PFSBS include alternative energy sources such as wind power, solar energy and geothermal energy. International transfer of electricity is also a key issue that must be resolved.

Discussion

Participants in the subsequent discussion were Vantanyar Yagya, MP, Parliament of the City of St Petersburg, Manfred Ritzek, MP, Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein, Gediminas Jakavonis, MP, Council of Europe, Sinikka Bohlin, MP, Chair of the BSPC Standing Committee.

During the discussion, it was emphasised that, when considering the environment in the Baltic Sea, Belarus must be included. It was also emphasised that chemical weapons stored on the bed of the Baltic Sea might pose an important ecological problem that should be solved at European level, especially in view of the fact that the routing of the Nord Stream pipeline must bypass the areas containing old munitions. It was also noted that the problem of disposing of all the waste arising from excessive consumption had not been taken up.

Progress report from the BSPC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change

Mart Jüssi, MP, Estonia, described how the working group had arisen and what its



Mart Jüssi



Olgierd Geblewicz

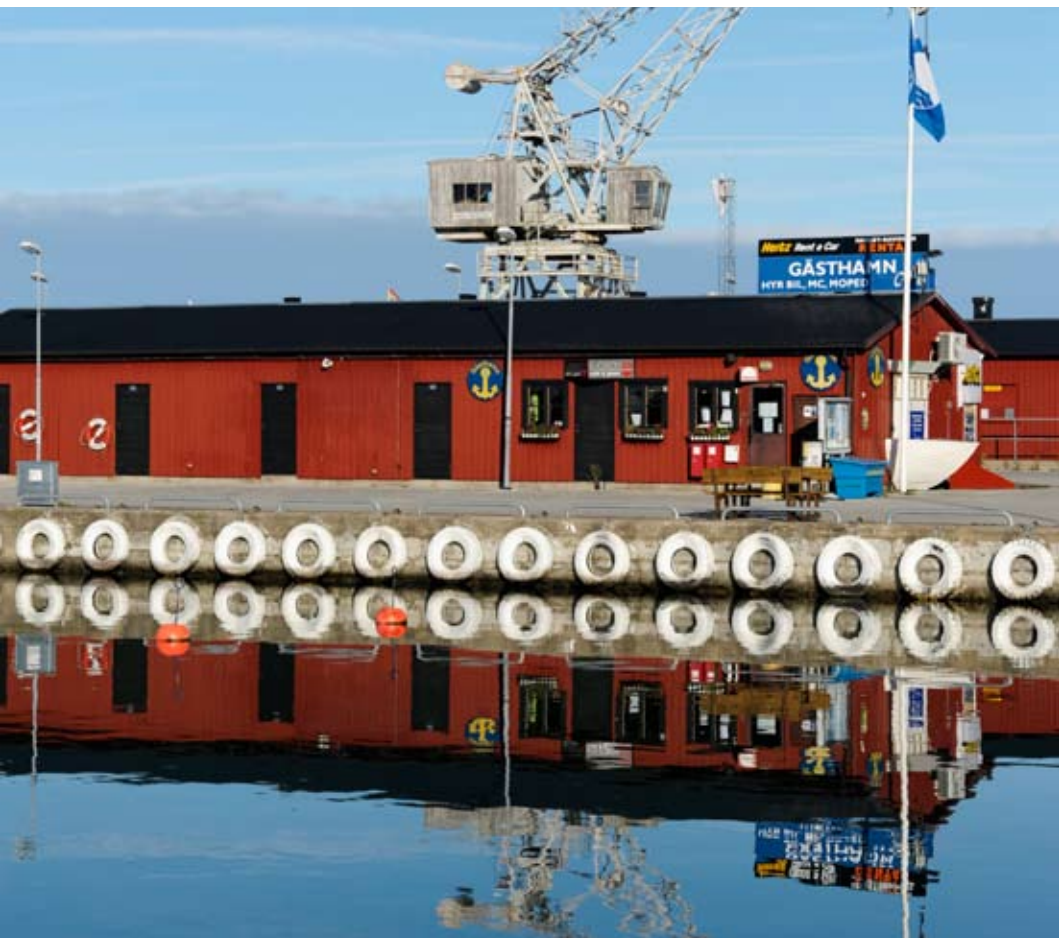


Vantanyar Yagya

objectives are. The overall task is to focus on energy and climate change in the Baltic Sea area. To date, the group has held two meetings, and aims at submitting its final report at the 18th BSPC in 2009.

Participants in the subsequent discussion were Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, MP, Parliament of Iceland, Armand Andres Pajuste, Baltic Sea Forum, Albert Oostland, MP, the Frisian Parliament, Christe Happach-Kasan, MP, Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany and Kurt Bodewig, MP, Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany.

It was emphasised that NGOs can comprise an important element in the continuing work. Another issue raised was that of the cost of reducing CO² emission. Because energy issues and social issues are related, someone must ultimately pay. More imagination is needed to find new solutions. It was also pointed out that it takes ten years for solar energy to become profitable. Solar energy must become more profitable more quickly, so more research is needed.





Tuesday 2 September

Third Session

The third meeting began with a session on energy supply and energy security. Speakers were Erkki Tuomioja, MP, President of the Nordic Council, former Minister for Foreign Affairs in Finland, and Georgy Leontiev, Member of the State Duma of the Russian Federation. Sylvia Bretschneider, Speaker, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, then gave a speech on shipping and maritime safety. Franz Thönnies, MP, Chair of the BSPC Working Group on Labour Market and Social Affairs, then presented a report from the working group.

The third session ended with an extensive debate on the adoption of the conference resolution, arising out of a statement from Poland's delegation about inclusion of an addendum.

Energy supply and energy security

Erkki Tuomioja stated that energy and safety are interdependent but, at the same time, emphasised that the most crucial security issue is climate change. Other factors significant to security are nuclear power, energy provision, energy efficiency and investments in energy savings.

Erkki Tuomioja also raised the issue of the Nord Stream gas project and agreed with the European Parliament statement that all countries around the Baltic Sea must ratify the Espoo Convention on transnational environmental impact assessments before the project is given the green light to continue. The pipeline should be a matter for cooperation instead of a source of conflict.

Erkki Tuomioja concluded by saying that it is easy to discuss the principles for the European energy policy, but much more difficult to implement these principles and turn them into reality.



Anita Brodén



Erkki Tuomioja



Georgy Leontiev

Discussion

Andrey Nelidov, MP, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, raised the issue of whether it really was the right of the strong that ruled the market.

Georgy Leontiev emphasised that energy security was one of the most topical issues, and that energy development was a global process, but there has been a lack of dialogue between governments and different cultures. It is necessary to work out different principles through discussion, without fearing one another.

Russia is gradually losing its competitive advantages. A new partnership is Russia's strategic focus for future work.

Discussion

Participants in the subsequent discussion were Anita Brodén, MP, Parliament of Sweden, Erkki Tuomioja, MP, Parliament of Finland, Anne Grete Holmsgaard, MP, Parliament of Denmark, Christel Happach-Kasan, MP, Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, MP, Valentina Pivenenko, MP, State Duma of the Russian Federation, and Evgeny Nikora, Speaker of Murmansk Regional Duma, member of the Parliamentary Association of North-West Russia (PANWR).

Further development of the argument about developing new, ecologically pure energy technologies was desirable. The discussion cannot just concern how to produce more energy – reduction in energy consumption and energy efficiency must also be discussed. Concern was also expressed over the dependence on nuclear power in the future.

Chairman Valentina Pivnenko, Russia, explained that the reason why Russia is now switching to nuclear and coal-based power is that it exports much of its natural gas. At the same time, a major national project is introducing gas to villages and towns.

Shipping and maritime safety

Sylvia Bretschneider started by talking about the importance of the Baltic Sea for



Rolf Reikvam



Sylvia Bretschneider

surrounding countries, and how dependent we are on the Baltic Sea for our subsistence. Consequently, there must be greater awareness of climate threat and environmental damage.

Sylvia Bretschneider then reported on meetings such as HELCOM's ministerial meeting held on 15 November 2007 in Krakow, and the Heads of Delegations (HODs) 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th meetings in Helsinki and Berlin.

One recurring discussion topic at HELCOM's meetings is the gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea and the risk that the gas pipeline may be laid over areas that contain chemical munitions and other remains from various wars.

The conclusion is that the Baltic Sea Action Plan is an ideal instrument for improving the status of the Baltic Sea. The problem is just that we do not have much time. Greater activity and better implementation of the proposals in the Action Plan are therefore necessary.

Discussion

Participants in the subsequent discussion were Anita Brodén, MP, Parliament of Sweden, Christina Gestrin, MP, Parliament of Finland, Nils Sindal, MP, Head of Delegation, Veronika Thörnroos, MP, Parliament of Åland and Kurt Bodewig, Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany.



One of the questions raised was what lies behind the analysis that safety had been improved. Much remains to be done in the area of safety, particularly in view of the large increase in the number of maritime transport movements. The situation has actually been improved as a result of the reinstatement of the requirement for double hulls, but the biggest danger is small vessels that ignore the regulations and vessels that sail under flags of convenience. Another problem was that some cargo vessels have double hulls, but that they use the intermediary space for bunker oil, which can cause major pollution.

Another matter that should be discussed is the language used in communication between vessels. This is a current issue that is related to pilots and authorisation to operate vessels.

In response, Sylvia Bretschneider expressed dissatisfaction with maritime safety. There are no guarantees against accidents, because it cannot be excluded that the human factor is involved. However, the Action Plan is vital in improving the situation.

Progress report from the Working Group on Labour Market and Social Conditions

Franz Thönnies presented a report from the Working Group on Labour Market and Social Welfare. The working group had come to the conclusion that the reason why people look for jobs in other countries is related to living standards. They are looking for better-paid work and better social conditions. The difficulties that can arise are that different countries have different labour market regulations, different insurance terms and conditions, different views on trade union movements, different tax systems, etc. There are currently 60,000–80,000 people in the region who regularly cross national boundaries and work in another country than their own.

Discussion

Participants in the subsequent discussion were Rolf Reikvam, MP, Nordic Council, and Renate Holznagel, Vice President, Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

The question was raised whether trafficking in human beings lay outside the remit of the working group. According to Franz Thönnies, the issues were outside the working group's remit, but there is intensive cooperation between politicians in the countries in question.

Adoption of the resolution

Ryszard Górecki, Senator, Poland, Member of BSPC Standing Committee, speaking on behalf of the Polish delegation, proposed an addendum concerning Nord Stream and the necessity that the European Commission and the governments of the CBSS states fully commit themselves to analyse the environmental consequences of the construction of the Nord Stream.

Gediminas Jakavonis, Council of Europe, Lithuania, supported Poland's proposal. Lithuania's position was the same as Poland's.





Lithuania could not imagine a resolution without this point about Gazprom. Jānis Reirs, MP, Parliament of Latvia, supported Poland's position.

Anne-Grete Holmsgaard, MP, Parliament of Denmark, pointed out that she had a proposal that had been circulated around the countries. The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference was to support the Kyoto countries' document from Bali, that discharge into the Baltic Sea is to be reduced by 24–40 % before 2020. The conference should also support the EU's long-term target of a reduction by 60–80 %.

Sinikka Bohlin, MP, Chair of BSPC Standing Committee, explained that the first proposal for the resolution had been sent to all parliaments. Ahead of the conference, three parliaments – of which Poland was one – had put forward proposals. The final proposals were submitted the previous day, before the drafting committee had started its work. At that time, there were 50 new proposals. The drafting committee tried to incorporate as many of these proposals as possible into the new proposed resolution, but many countries' proposals were not included. However, there was agreement that the resolution should be brief, focused and concrete.

With regard to Poland's proposal about Nord Stream, it should first and foremost be remembered that the discussion should relate to the themes of this year's conference. Last year, the conference adopted a paragraph in the 17th BSPC conference resolution about infrastruc-

ture in the Baltic Sea, and that still applies.

Franz Thönnies, MP, member of BSPC Standing Committee, pointed out that this issue had been discussed in depth in Berlin and Reykjavik. Consequently, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference has already clearly stated our wishes.

Jan Widberg, Head of the BSPC Secretariat, pointed out that without consensus, there is no resolution. Delegates are either for or against. A decision by consensus requires that everyone agrees on the text, or, put another way, that no one objects to it. The option to abstain from signing the document does not exist in the BSPC Rules of Procedure (RoP). If a consensual decision can not be reached, another solution must be found.

The Rules of Procedure of the BSPC state unequivocally that decisions during the plenary session are to be taken in consensus between the participating delegations. The draft conference resolution is to be discussed in the Extended Standing Committee. This committee then takes a decision on the basis of a simple majority. Dissenting views can be declared in the plenary session. Consequently, if the conference is to adopt a resolution, it must be adopted in consensus. Deviation from this procedure or inclusion of footnotes is not compatible with the consensus principle stated in the BSPC RoP.

Jürgen Schöning, Director, Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein, pointed out that everyone at the conference can naturally make a declaration, but it had never occurred before at the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference.

Sylvia Bretschneider, President of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, expressed strong reservation to the introduction of footnotes in the resolution, arguing that such a procedure is not viable.

Franz Thönnies, MP, Member of BSPC Standing Committee, had never experienced anything like this before, at the same time as he urged that the resolution be adopted. It is important to have a common statement from the conference on which to build future work, and by which the BSPC can approach the governments of the Baltic Sea Region with requirements and recommendations.

Kent Olsson, MP, Swedish member of BSPC Standing Committee, stated that the 50 amendment proposals to the draft conference resolution had been properly considered in the Drafting Committee and resulted in a unanimous proposal. For 16 years the conference had succeeded in producing a common resolution. Was it not possible for the conference to produce a common resolution for the 17th time, especially in view of the fact that the countries basically were in agreement on everything? The issue of the gas pipeline had not been discussed at all during this year's conference. However, BSPC's position on this issue had been included already in last year's resolution. Nothing had changed.

Ryszard Górecki, Senator, Member of BSPC Standing Committee, announced that Poland, Latvia and Lithuania were open to a modification of their statement.

Sinikka Bohlin, MP, Chair of the BSPC Standing Committee, stated that the Standing Committee has an important task at its next meeting, to clarify the rules of procedure for the Drafting Committee so that today's events are not repeated in the future. She did not see it as the Chair's task to decide how the delegates should vote. But it would be a pity to leave the conference without having adopted a resolution. So there are three options. The conference can say yes to the resolution. If the vote is no, or there are abstentions, there is no resolution. She underlined that an abstention from voting meant an abstention from the entire text.

Decision

Following the extensive debate, the conference decided to adopt the resolution by consensus.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Sinikka Bohlin, MP, Chair of BSPC Standing Committee thanked the Swedish delegation and the Speaker of the Swedish Riksdag for allowing the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference to convene on Gotland, the Island of Roses.

Then, with a warm heart and a warm hand, Sinikka Bohlin passed the baton to the new chair, Christina Gestrin, and wished her good luck with the continuing work.

Christina Gestrin expressed her thanks for the handover and the outstanding arrangements. She also thanked Sinikka Bohlin for her hard work, her active involvement, her goal-oriented approach, and her great contribution over the past year.

Then followed a presentation of Denmark, where the next Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference will be held in Nyborg
31 August – 1 September 2009.





Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 17th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants*, elected representatives from the Baltic Sea States, assembling in Visby, Sweden, 31 August – 2 September 2008, discussing Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Energy Supply and Security, Eutrophication, Maritime Policy and the Baltic Sea Action Plan, and Labour Market and Social Affairs, reiterating their profound and shared concern about the state of the terrestrial and marine environment in the Baltic Sea region, and welcoming the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan as a central tool for restoring a good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021, call on the governments in the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and the EU,

Regarding Co-operation in the Region, to

1. take into account the development of a EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and ensure its coordination with the existing formats of cooperation in the region, namely the CBSS and the new Northern Dimension policy, including measures to strengthen dialogue and coordination with parliamentary organizations and parliamentarians of the Baltic Sea Region;
2. promote coordination between intergovernmental actors and other stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region, for the sake of environmental and fiscal efficiency, encouraging the evolution of a division of labour and responsibilities in accordance with their respective objectives and competencies;
3. support, facilitate and heed the work of NGOs in the Baltic Sea Region, especially concerning public awareness raising on environment, climate change, labour market and social affairs, as well as other relevant issues;

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

4. Coordinate and cooperate on strategies before the COP-14 in 2008 (Poznan) and COP-15 in 2009 (Copenhagen) in order to provide consolidated support from the Baltic Sea Region to ambitious measures for the mitigation of man-made CO² emissions, by recommending:

*Parliaments of Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Iceland, Latvia, Leningrad Region, Lithuania, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Murmansk, 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, Nordic Council, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly of North-West Russia.

- a significant reduction of CO² emission in 2020, as concluded by the ad hoc working group of the Annex–1 countries under the Kyoto Protocol at the COP–13 session in Bali, and
 - fulfil recommendations of the Council of the European Union to achieve a significant emission reduction by 2050 compared to 1990;
- 5. extend cooperation to reduce the vulnerability and improve the adaptability to the consequences of climate change, as well as to the enhancement of the capacity to prevent and manage adverse consequences of climate change (such as natural hazards and technological accidents);
- 6. strengthen the capacity to support and coordinate Baltic Sea regional energy cooperation in developing an integrated and optimized regional approach to the energy issues in the Baltic Sea Region, taking into account the various energy mixes of the countries in the Region and the possibilities for developing cross-border power links;
- 7. support the construction and greater use of land-based and offshore wind power, as well as increase the investments in the construction and upgrading of new three-phase supply networks, and promote the development of a European ultra-high voltage DC transmission network in order to enhance interconnectivity within Europe;
- 8. promote the establishment of an inter-modal transport system in the Baltic Sea Region to save energy and make the Region a model region in Europe;
- 9. support transport projects of energy and energy carriers that minimize environmental threats to the Baltic Sea and intrusion on its environment, and which increase the level of the security of supplies, without diminishing security of one or more states in the Baltic Sea Region;
- 10. promote – by means of e.g. technology transfer, research and development, and vocational training – more effective actions to develop renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy savings in all sectors in the Baltic Sea Region, while taking initiatives to exploit the positive research, job and business potentials of environmentally friendly technologies;

Regarding the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the Integrated Maritime Policy, to

- 11. fully commit themselves to the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and the work of the BSAP Implementation Group, for instance by unreserved compliance of the nutrient reduction objectives in each sub-region of the Baltic Sea, and developing national programmes of action to be considered by the HELCOM Ministerial meeting in 2010 at the latest;
- 12. take active measures against eutrophication, in accordance with the recommendations of the 16th BSPC and the BSPC Working Group on Eutrophication, for instance by promoting research and

- concrete measures to bind and reduce phosphorous in the Baltic Sea, and by building new sewage plants, fostering the use of phosphate-free detergents and reducing emissions from agriculture, transport, industry and households;
13. take concrete steps to develop the Baltic Sea Region into Europe's model maritime region, recognizing that maritime policy must be seen within an overarching framework of sustainable development, environment, marine spatial planning, safety at sea and intermodality, according to IMO (Law of the Sea) and EU maritime policies;
 14. continue to support global regulation with regard to safety and marine environmental protection, thereby ensuring that all ships that sail through the Baltic Sea comply with the same high level of safety and environmental standards, irrespective of flag;
 15. ensure that all States of the Baltic Sea Region are continuously committed to the ratification, effective implementation and enforcement of existing IMO instruments;
 16. support the establishment of an IMO regulatory framework, preferably already in 2008, for an ambitious and binding regulation for the reduction of total global CO²-emissions from ships;
 17. take continued concrete and effective steps within the framework of IMO to ensure binding regulations for maritime safety, safety of navigation and security, considering among other things the rapidly increasing number of oil transports in the Baltic Sea and the severe winter conditions especially in the northern parts of the Baltic Sea;
 18. support the harmonisation of Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) procedures throughout the Baltic Sea region, a programme for the gradual development and introduction of a satellite-based, emission-related monitoring system for ships;
 19. support the stepwise development of land-based electricity supply for cargo and passenger ships in harbours regarding the international development;

Regarding Labour Market and Social Affairs, to

20. establish fair, clear and accessible ground rules for labour mobility and business establishment and provision of services, for instance by securing transparency regarding rules and regulations in various countries and by expanding the already existing network of info-centers in the northern and eastern parts of the Baltic Sea Region;
21. further develop the cooperation in the field of education and science for sustainable development as a means of further boosting the competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region;
22. continue to pursue an active policy against youth unemployment, for harmonization of vocational training programmes, and for strengthening the dialogue between social partners;

Furthermore the Conference

23. appreciates the acknowledgement, made by the Heads of Government at the 7th Baltic Sea States Summit in Riga 4 June 2008, of a close and regular dialogue between CBSS and BSPC, of a deepened cooperation, and of the importance of its continuation;
24. welcomes and supports the text of the Declaration on the reform of the CBSS, elaborating the priorities of regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea area;
25. advocates that the new, long-term priorities of cooperation in the framework of the CBSS also be taken into consideration during the 18th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference;
26. acknowledges the positive process of dialogue and information exchange with CBSS, looks forward to a further and mutual development of this dialogue, and encourages the governments of the CBSS to present, through the CBSS, an annual report of their implementation of the BSPC resolutions;
27. asks the Standing Committee to carry out a review and assessment of the structures and working methods of the BSPC, based on considerations within the BSPC Extended Standing Committee, and to report to the 18th BSPC in 2009;
28. welcomes with gratitude the kind invitation of the Danish Parliament to host the 18th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Denmark 31 August – 1 September 2009.



Draft Program

Sunday 31 August

- 10.00 1) Excursion, focus on energy
- 12.00 2) Excursion, focus on climate change
- 15.15 3) Excursion, focus on ecology
- 16.00–20.00 Registration
- 17.00–19.00 Meeting of the Standing Committee
- 20.00 Dinner at Wisby Strand
- Host: Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the
 Swedish Riksdag

Monday 1 September

- 08.30–18.00 Registration
- 09.30 **Opening of the Conference**
Chair: Ms Sinikka Bohlin, MP, Sweden
Vice Chair: Mr Franz Thönnies, MP, Germany
 - Welcome by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the
Swedish Riksdag
 - Welcome by Ms Marianne Samuelsson, Governor
of Gotland
 - Welcome by Mr Kent Olsson, MP, Swedish member
of the Standing Committee of BSPC
- 10.00 **First Session**
Report from the CBSS
 - Mr Karsten Petersen, ambassador, Denmark, Chair-
man of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials
- 10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break
Report from the BSPC Standing Committee
 - Ms Sinikka Bohlin, MP, Sweden, Chair of the BSPC
Standing Committee
- Progress report on Eutrophication and HELCOM
BSAP**
 - Ms. Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland, member of the
Standing Committee of the BSPC
- Question and Answer session
- Debate
- 12.30–14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 **Second Session**
Chair: Mr Ryszard Górecki, MP, Poland
Vice chair: Mr Kent Olsson, MP, Sweden
Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
 - Mr Andrzej Jagusiewicz, Vice Minister, Chief In-
spectors for Environmental Protection, Poland
 - Mr Johan-Marcus Carlsson-Reich, Senior Expert on
the Climate Change and Energy Package, Euro-
pean Commission

- Mr Olgierd Geblewicz, chairman of the Commission for economy, Infrastructure and Environmental Protection of the Westpomeranian regional Parliament, Parliamentary Forum of the Southern Baltic Sea (PFSBS)
- Question and Answer session
- Debate
- 15.15–15.45 Coffee break
- Progress report from the BSPP working group on Energy and Climate Change**
- Mr Mart Jüssi, MP, Estonia
- Debate
- 17.30–19.00 Meeting of the Expanded Standing Committee as drafting committee
- 20.00 Dinner
- Host: The Swedish Parliament

Tuesday 2 September

- 08.30–09.30 Meeting of the Expanded Standing Committee as drafting committee
- 09.30 **Third Session**
- Chair: Ms Valentina Pivnenko, MP, Russia
- Vice chair: Mr Kent Olsson, MP, Sweden
- Energy Supply and Security**
- Mr Erkki Tuomioja, MP, Finland, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, President of the Nordic Council
- Mr Georgy Leontiev, MP, Russia
- Question and Answer session
- Debate
- 11.00–11.30 Coffee break
- Maritime Policy and Maritime Safety**
- Ms Sylvia Bretschneider, MP, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- Progress report from the working group on Labour Market and Social Affairs**
- Mr Franz Thönnies, MP, Germany
- Plenary Debate**
- Chair: Mr Trivimi Velliste, MP, Estonia
- Vice chair: Mr Kent Olsson, MP, Sweden
- Adoption of resolution**
- Presentation of new host country, Denmark**
- Closing Remarks**
- Press conference
- 13.00 Lunch
- Optional Excursion by foot in the Medieval City of Visby



Speakers

Bohlin, Sinikka	MP, Chair of the BSPC Standing Committee
Bretschneider, Sylvia	President of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Carlsson-Reich, Johan-Marcus	Senior Expert on the Climate Change and Energy Package, European Commission
Geblewicz, Olgierd	Chairman of the Commission for Economy, Infrastructure and Environmental Protection, West Pomeranian Parliament, Parliamentary Forum of the Southern Baltic Sea (PFSBS)
Gestrin, Christina	MP, Member of BSPC Standing Committee
Jagusiewicz, Andrzej	Vice Minister, Chief Inspector for Environmental Protection, Ministry of the Environment, Poland
Jüssi, Mart	MP, Chair of the BSPC Working group on Energy and Climate Change
Leontiev, Georgy	MP, State Duma of Russia
Olsson, Kent	MP, Swedish Member of BSPC Standing Committee
Petersen, Karsten	Ambassador, Chairman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials
Samuelsson, Marianne	Governor of Gotland, Sweden
Thönnies, Franz	MP, Chair of the BSPC Working group on Labour Market and Social Affairs
Tuomioja, Erkki	MP, Former minister of Foreign Affairs, Finland President of the Nordic Council
Westerberg, Per	Speaker of the Swedish Parliament

Invited parliaments and parliamentary organizations

Baltic Assembly

Jüssi, Mart	MP
Reirs, Jānis	MP
Šiaulienė, Irena	MP
Velliste, Trivimi	MP, President, Member of BSPC Standing Committee
Zommere, Ērika	MP, Vice President
Laizāne-Jurkāne, Marika	Head of the Secretariat
Godfrey, Renata	Chief Advisor, Lithuania delegation
Rõngelep, Ene	Secretary of the Estonian delegation
Putniņa, Ingrida	Secretary of the Latvian delegation

European Parliament

Olsen, Henrik	Head of Secretariat
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Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Churkin, Nikolay	MP, Member of BSPC Standing Committee
Nelidov, Andrey	MP
Dakhova, Nadezda	Senior Counsellor

State Duma of Russia

Leontiev, Georgy	MP
Nikitin, Vladimir	MP, Member of BSPC Standing Committee
Pivnenko, Valentin	MP
Shestakov, Vasily	MP
Reshetnikov, Gleb	Secretary of delegation
Yakhmenev, Petr	Head of Secretariat

Nordic Council

Bohlin, Sinikka	MP, Chair of BSPC Standing Committee
Gestrin, Christina	MP, Member of BSPC Standing Committee
Grönfeldt Bergman, Lisbeth	MP
Johansson, Ann-Kristine	MP
Reikvam, Rolf	MP
Seurujärvi, Janne	MP
Wahlström, Göte	MP
Ekberg, Kenneth	Senior Advisor

Enestam, Jan-Erik
Nytoft Rasmussen Jens
Wang, Beate Christine
Widberg, Jan

Secretary General
Senior Advisor
Senior Advisor
Head of the BSPP Secretariat, Senior
International Advisor

Parliament of Åland

Sjölund, Folke
Thörnroos, Veronica

MP
MP

Slotte, Niclas

Delegation Secretary



Parliament of Denmark

Bonnesen, Erling	MP
Holmsgaard, Anne Grete	MP
Kier, Vivi	MP
Kofoed, Jeppe	MP
Sindal, Niels	MP, Head of delegation
Andersen, Bente	Head of Protocol
Hagemann, Henrik	Secretary General to the Danish Delegation, Nordic Council
Pedersen, Kim	Head of Security
Stegemüller, Ulla	Higher Executive Officer

Parliament of Estonia

Jüssi, Mart	MP
Velliste, Trivimi	MP

Parliament of Faroe Islands	
Nielsen, Hergeir	Speaker

Parliament of Finland

Harkimo, Leena	MP
Kaikkonen, Antti	MP
Tiilikainen, Kimmo	MP, Head of Delegation

Hissa, Jaakko	Senior Counsellor of International Affairs
Zilliacus, Patrick	Counsellor for International Affairs

Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany

Adam, Ulrich	MP
Bodewig, Kurt	MP
Happach-Kasan, Christel	MP
Liebing, Ingbert	MP
Thönnies, Franz	MP, Member of BSPC Standing Committee
Müggenburg, Hardo	Secretary

Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Bremen

Guenthner, Martin	MP
Mathes, Karin	Vice President

Parliament of the Free and Hanse City of Hamburg

Dobusch, Gabriele	MP
Hackbusch, Norbert	MP
Röder, Berndt	President
Roock, Hans-Detlef	MP
Weggen, Jenny	MP
Wagner, Reinhard	Director

Parliament of Iceland

Halldórsdóttir, Kolbrún	MP
Ólafsson, Kjartan	MP
Valgardsson, Lárus	Advisor on International Affairs

Parliament of Latvia

Reirs, Jānis	MP
Zommere, Ērika	MP

Leningrad Region Legislative Assembly

Bezdetko, Tatiana	MP
Kiselev, Nikolay	MP
Klimov, Vitaly	MP
Kuzmin, Nikolay	MP
Labutin, Pavel	MP

Parliament of Lithuania

Endzinas, Audrius	MP
Martinkaitienė, Vilma	MP
Šiaulienė, Irena	MP

Duburaitė, Rasa Ona	Advisor
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Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Bretschneider, Sylvia	President
Holznagel, Renate	Vice President
Müller, Detlef	MP
Reese, Sigrun	MP
Schwebs, Birgit	MP
Tebben, Armin	Secretary General
Gutzeit, Gerald	Head of Division
Bahr, Bodo	Head of Department Parliamentary Service

Parliament of Norway

Brørby, Berit	MP
Fredriksen, Jan Henrik	MP
Hagebakken, Tore	MP

Myhre Jensen, Kjell	Head of Section
Oftedal, Eline	Advisor

Parliament of Poland

Górecki, Ryszard	Senator, Head of Delegation, Member of BSPC Standing Committee
Kozak, Zbigniew	MP

Biera, Leszek	Delegation Secretary
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Parliament of the City of S:t Petersburg

Yagya, Vatanar	MP, Plenipotentiary for International Relations
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Terekhovskiy, Sergey	Chief of the External Relations Department
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Yagya, Said	Assistant
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Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein

Baasch, Wolfgang	MP
Hamerich, Hartmut	MP
Matthiessen, Detlef	MP
Ritzek, Manfred	MP

Schöning, Jürgen	Director
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Parliament of Sweden

Brodén, Anita	MP
König Jerlmyr, Anna	MP
Larsson, Jan-Olof	MP
Olsson, Kent	MP, Member of BSPC Standing Committee
Stenberg, Maria	MP
Tornberg, Stefan	MP

Hjelm, Eva	International secretary
Smekal, Eva	Head of Secretariat

Council of Europe

Jakavonis, Gediminas	MP
Olsson, Kent	MP

Observers

Andres Pajuste, Armand
Brors, Inge
Ehlers, Alexandra

Gjaldbaek, Kirsten
Grothe, Thies
Häggman, Larserik
Häjiyev, Asaf

Häkkinen, Mika
Hammerman, Margareta

Hansen, Hans Heinrich

Henningsen, Bernd
Hoffmann, Caroline

Istikhovskaya, Marina

Jankevica, Anitra

Kötschau, Gabriele

Nikora, Evgeny

Øren, Arne
Ribaciauskaite, Rimante
Shmatkova, Marina

Szabo, Kinga Valeria

Tiidus, Urve

Urb, Jaan
Veivo, Risto

Baltic Sea Forum
Secretary General, BSSSC
Regional Youth Council Schleswig-Hol-
stein

BS-NGO-FORUM
Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs
Secretary General, Norden in Finland
Head of Delegation, Parliamentary As-
sembly of the Organization of the Black
Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC)
Executive Secretary, BASTUN
Information Officer, BS-NGO-Network,
Sweden

President, Federal Union of European
Nationalities, FUEN

Prof. dr, NEKON
Dr, Baltic 21 Unit, Council of Baltic Sea
States (CBSS)

Speaker of the State Council of the Komi
Republic, President of the Parliamentary
Association, North West Russia (PANWR)
Senior Advisor, Council of the Baltic Sea
States (CBSS)

Director, Council of the Baltic Sea States
(CBSS)

Speaker of the Murmansk Regional
Duma/PANWR

Chairman, BSSSC
National Youth Council of Lithuania
Advisor of the Murmansk Regional
Duma/PANWR

Project Manager, Baltic Development
Forum

Vice President, Mayor of Kuressaare,
Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)

National Youth Council of Estonia
Head of Secretariat, Baltic 21, IGO



Guests

Aaltonen, Kristina	Group Secretary, Social Democratic Group in the Nordic Council
Andersson, Lena	Head, County Administrative Board of Gotland
Bakas, Ann	Social Democratic Group in the Nordic Council
Brinksma, Janny	Drs, Province of Groningen/Nordconnect
Dahllöf, Bo	Regional Chief Executive, Municipality of Gotland
Edlund, Lennart	International Affairs, County Administrative Board of Gotland
Fager, Karin	Head, County Administrative Board of Gotland
Hammar skjöld, Gabriella	Programme Officer Environmental Issues, SIDA, Baltic Sea Unit
Hartholt-van der Veen, Cornelia Drs,	The Frisian Parliament
Hedin, Piret	Regional Advisor, SIDA, Baltic Sea Unit
Hemsteede, Bert	MP, The Frisian Parliament
Johansson, Thomas	Director, SIDA, Baltic Sea Unit
Karlstam, Cristina	Head, County Administrative Board of Gotland
Kulander, Lena	Desk officer Environmental Affairs, County Administrative Board of Gotland
Lewinski, Mirosław	Head of Economic Section, Embassy of Poland
Lund, Anna	Executive Officer, International Barents Secretariat
Mortiers, Ingrid	Drs, Regional Parliament of Groningen
Nikolajsen, Mads	Party Group Secretary, Left-wing Socialist Green Group in the Nordic Council
Norman, Kjell	County Administrative Board of Gotland
Nypelius, Eva	Mayor, Municipality of Gotland
Oberweis, Marcel	MP, Benelux Parliamentary Assembly
Obrycki, Norbert	MP, Chairman of the Commission for Development, Promotion and International Co-operation, West Pomeranian Parliament
Oostland, Albert	MP, The Frisian Parliament
Persson, Thomas	Head, County Administrative Board of Gotland
Pettersson, Ulla	Director for International Affairs, Municipality of Gotland
Płocharski, Mariusz	Expert in Energy Policy, West Pomeranian Parliament

Seip, Marianne	Social Democratic Group in the Nordic Council
Svanell, Dan	Swedish Representative, Nord Stream AG
Thunes, Henrik	Party Group Secretary, The Conservative Group in the Nordic Council
Tikkala, Terhi	Political secretary, Nordic Council Centre Group
Tjärvar, Anna	Programme Officer Environmental, SIDA, Baltic Sea Unit
Vallin, Lars	County Administrative Board of Gotland
Vass, Andreas	Nordic Council Centre Group

Conference secretariat

Bergum Kinsten, Silje	Information Officer
Jansson, Johannes	Information Officer
Green, Christina	Information Officer
Gröndahl Tyllström, Gunilla	Rapporteur
Alvarson, Dan	International assistant
Camén, Mikael	Security
Carling, Kjell	Technician
Eklöf, Lena	International secretary
Forsell, Göran	Security
Hemlin, Lena	International assistant
Johnson, Bertil	International assistant
Nilsson Jernberg, Emelie	Assistant
Nylöf, Roger	Security
Rahikainen, Jarmo	Security
Smedberg, Ove	Technician

Interpreters

Almaas, Elena	Duvantier, Claire
Fleischhacker, Karin	Jakimowicz, Aleksander
Johnson, Catherine	Krasnowolski, Piotr
Larsen, Stein	Olsen, Heide
Repin, Aleksei	Tchekhov, Alexandre

Press

Schill, Lars	Reporter, Gotlands Allehanda
Wallström, Tobias	Photographer, Gotlands Allehanda

Energy Efficiency and Climate Change
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