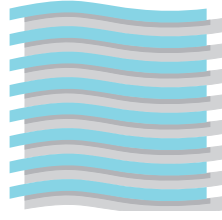


■ 18th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

■ Nyborg, Denmark • 30 August – 1 September 2009

New Security Challenges



New Security Challenges
US 2009:488

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Print: Scanprint a/s

Text: Päivikki Lindroos

Design: Kjell Olsson/Par No 1 A/S

Photos: Johannes Jansson, NMR,

Publication Unit

Copies: 300

Printed on environmentally-friendly paper

Printed in Denmark



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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 enable 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.



*Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland,
Chairman of the BSPC*

Foreword

The 18th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) was held in Nyborg, on the Island of Fyn, Denmark, August 30 – September 1, 2009. The Conference was hosted by the Danish Folketing, and I would like to extend our gratitude to the Speaker of the Folketing, Thor Pedersen, and to Niels Sindal, Chairman of the Danish Delegation to the BSPC, for their support and encouragement of the Conference. I had the pleasure to welcome the participants to two days of presentations, debates and networking. The Conference attracted government representatives, parliamentarians and experts, numbering some 200 persons from the Baltic Sea Region and beyond. The conference continued to bolster the spirit of the Baltic Sea Region as well as cooperation between parliamentarians.

The Baltic Sea Region is a region of good prospects. The agenda of the Nyborg conference addressed new security challenges and maritime safety and security. These are issues which can, and should be solved in cooperation.

I have had the privilege of chairing the BSPC Standing Committee as well as the Enlarged Standing Committee since the 17th Conference in Visby 2008. I would like to extend my thanks to the vice-chair of the BSPC, Ms Valentina Pivnenko, to members of the Standing and Enlarged Standing Committees, and to the chairmen and members of the BSPC Working Groups for all their efforts in promoting the work of the BSPC and preparing the 18th BSPC.

My thanks go to our Danish hosts, to the keynote speakers and parliamentarians, to our observers and guests, all of whom have contributed to the successful outcome of the conference.

Christina Gestrin

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Sunday 30 August

The 18th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference was held in Nyborg, Denmark, 30 August – 1 September 2009. On the first day of the conference, participants were offered excursions to Kommunekemi (company for treatment of hazardous waste and waste with an environmental impact) and to Odense Steel Shipyard (Lindøværftet). They also visited Hans Christian Andersen's House in Odense. Before the excursions, the BSPC Standing Committee held a meeting. The day was concluded with a dinner hosted by Mr Niels Sindal, MP, Chairman of the Danish delegation to the BSPC.





Monday 31 August

Opening of The Conference

Mr Thor Pedersen, Speaker of the Danish Parliament opened the Conference by wishing all participants from 15 countries a warm welcome to the annual parliamentary meeting. He underlined that the Danes have for decades been committed to extensive and broad cooperation in the region. Mr Pedersen reminded that it was in the period 1988-1992 that the grounds for cooperation between governments and parliamentarians were laid. It was the then Danish and German governments with Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and Hans-Dietrich Genscher as Foreign Ministers who took the initiative to found the Council of the Baltic Sea States, CBSS. He also underlined the role of the Nordic Council, which has from the very beginning given its practical support to the parliamentary side of the cooperation. In recent years the bodies of the BSPC – the Standing Committee and the Enlarged Standing Committee – have been more in charge of the political content while the secretariat is at the Nordic Council. Mr Pedersen also referred to the fruitful and profitable cooperation on different CBSS projects, HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan, and cooperation with the Nordic Council of Ministers and EU, especially the projects under the Northern Dimension.

Mr Niels Sindal, Chairman of the Danish delegations to the Nordic Council and to the BSPC, also wished all participants welcome to the 18th BSPC, to Nyborg and the island of Fyn, which has good connections with Denmark and the whole Baltic Sea Region.

Mr Sindal referred to the themes and the draft resolution of the conference and the final documents of the two working groups. The results from the conference must be followed up effectively, especially on the national level, and the governments in the region should be invited to cooperate on the themes of the conference. Mr Sindal regretted that the Swedish government, representing the EU Presidency, had not been able to send a representative to give a presentation on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy at political level.



Mr Thor Pedersen



Mr Niels Sindal



*Ms Asta Skaisgirytė-
Liauskienė*



Mr Mikael Lesko

First Session:

Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland, Chairman of the BSPC, started by directing her and BSPC's warm thanks to the host, the Danish Folketing, and especially to the Speaker of the Folketing Thor Pedersen and to Niels Sindal. In her report from the BSPC Standing Committee, she pointed out sustainable development as one of the key elements for the region. As some of the challenges for the future activities in the BSPC, Ms Gestrin mentioned free movement of labour as a possibility for the whole region. She referred to the huge number of cruise vessels in the Baltic Sea. Some 350 cruise liners visit the Baltic Sea every year. This benefits the Region in many ways, but it is absolutely incomprehensible and unacceptable that a majority of these vessels discharge their sewage, untreated, directly into the sea. The use of our shared environment also entails an obligation to protect and take care of it. Ms Gestrin pointed out that we all have a responsibility to use the Baltic Sea's resources in a judicious and sustainable way.

Parliamentarians can and must be forerunners in public opinion, Ms Gestrin stated. In the draft resolution, the Baltic Sea Strategy of the EU is mentioned as one of the issues which the BSPC has been pursuing and which the parliamentarians very much welcome. The Baltic Sea Strategy must, however, be coordinated with the Northern Dimension policy. Cooperation in energy policy must also be strengthened. She underlined that the prevailing economic crisis must not be taken as an excuse for cutting resources or delaying timetables for environmental work. International cooperation and solidarity are more important than ever in order to withstand all the effects of the economic crisis.

Ms Gestrin touched upon the internal work of the BSPC, presenting the amendment proposal to the Rules of Procedure that will allow all participating parliaments to attend Standing Committee meetings. She reported that the home pages of the BSPC are under renovation and, when ready, will serve as a new platform for information and debate. Most of the contributions from the parliaments to the BSPC Joint Financing Mechanism have been paid and the BSPC now has a better capacity to finance its activities by its own means. The organisation of the BSPC is ready for new challenges.

Ms Gestrin reported from the 15th CBSS Ministerial meeting in June where the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs had emphasised the need for effective cooperation between parliamentarians and governments. Contacts with other partners, such as Baltic Development Forum and Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC) have been pursued. BSPC supports the new project called Baltic Sea Labour Network (BSLN), aiming at strengthening the role and dialogue between social partners. The NGOs play an important role in the development of the Baltic Sea region.

According to **Ms Asta Skaisgirytė-Liauskienė, Vice Minister**

representing the Lithuanian chairmanship in the CBSS in 2009-2010, the CBSS is particularly interested in regular dialogue with the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, which is its strategic partner. She voiced her pleasure that the cooperation has become even closer, especially in terms of synchronization of priorities, such as new security challenges and maritime safety and security. She also mentioned the launch of the first regional EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region which will open the way to implementing the most urgent and important measures in a coherent manner. She thought it would be valuable for both CBSS and other regional organisations to explore how they could contribute to the implementation of the Strategy.

In her report, **Ms Skaistgirytė-Liauškienė** outlined the Lithuanian priorities under the CBSS Presidency. She mentioned three major issues on which attention will be focused. Firstly, focus is put on innovations as an essential source of scientific and technological



progress, which should ensure sustainable development, economic competition and a safe and secure social environment. Secondly, cross-border cooperation involving a range of social groups in multi-faceted cooperation should encourage mutual understanding. And thirdly, a clean and safe environment in the Baltic Sea Region as a vital and essential condition for a safe and viable social life is a long-term goal.

Civil security has always been one of the CBSS priority areas as civil security threats have a cross-border dimension, so cross-border and regional cooperation is needed more than ever, Ms Skaistgirytė-Liauškienė noted. The CBSS has well-developed cooperation in the field of law enforcement. This includes the Baltic Sea Task Force on Organised Crime, which is a network of mainly police cooperation. There is also the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation, focusing on maritime policing issues, illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling. The CBSS Expert Group on Cus-



toms Cooperation and Border-Crossings Aspects deals with monitoring and controlling illegal cross-border activities especially related to trade and transport of goods. The CBSS Prosecutors General Network discusses various problems related to investigating and prosecuting criminals in a transnational context. The CBSS Senior Official Group on Tax Cooperation focuses on transnational tax-related crimes and tax evasion. Ms Skaisgirytė-Liauškienė went on to present the CBSS expert cooperation in the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, and a specialized network called CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk. One of the CBSS activities is focused on nuclear safety. The CBSS Civil Protection network brings together the highest levels of rescue authorities in the region.

Ms Skaisgirytė-Liauškienė closed her report by stressing that the CBSS counts on and welcomes full support of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference for the CBSS activities and in implementing the priorities of the Lithuanian presidency.

Mr Mikael Lesko, Minister Counsellor from the Embassy of Sweden in Copenhagen, representing the Swedish presidency in the EU, spoke in his presentation about the Northern Dimension Policy and about the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Mr Lesko expressed his concerns about climate change and environmental problems but realised at the same time that now there is a great opportunity to demonstrate the strength of the patterns of cooperation within the region. There is a strong commitment around the Baltic Sea to protect the maritime heritage and the quality of life. As to the Baltic Sea Strategy, Mr Lesko mentioned that different Member States will take responsibility for the different priority areas in the Strategy. Regional organisations can also take the lead. For example, the Nordic countries have a long history of cross-border cooperation and have now seized the opportunity to contribute to this process of developing the Baltic Sea Region further.

Within the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP), significant results have been achieved in reducing the amount of pollution discharged into the Baltic Sea. The implementation of major investments with cross-border environmental effects has been successful in St Petersburg. The severe environmental problems in Kaliningrad have not yet been adequately addressed. Mr Lesko underlined that the EU members must continue to develop their policies and enhance cooperation within the union but, at the same time, efforts have to be made with neighbours and partners. He was pleased to see that progress is being made in the preparations for a Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics and a Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture. Mr Lesko concluded by pointing out that there is a need for activities both within the Union and with the neighbours. The Northern Dimension helps to further enhance the positive effects of these endeavours by engaging in partnerships with the countries neighbouring the EU.

Mr Evgeny Nikora, Speaker of the Murmansk Regional Duma, representing HELCOM, gave a report on HELCOM activities, the latest developments in the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic

Sea Action Plan, and the work focusing on the upcoming HELCOM Moscow Ministerial Meeting in 2010. All of these are aimed at achieving good environmental status for the Baltic Sea by 2021.

Mr Nikora spoke about the National Implementation Programmes for presentation at the HELCOM Moscow Ministerial Meeting in May 2010 and the coherence between these. He emphasised the strong interconnection between the work of HELCOM and the work that is carried out at global and European levels. Mr Nikora underlined that, in order to put the international agreements into effect, they have to be implemented at national level. This is why the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan states that all countries are to develop their National Implementation Programmes specifically for the eutrophication and hazardous substances segments in HELCOM's assessment before the 2010 Moscow meeting.

Mr Nikora reminded that the HELCOM Action Plan has been acknowledged as the basis for the environmental pillar of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The Action Plan is a coherent process that runs parallel with many other regional and European initiatives to improve the quality of the marine environment. The Plan has come at the best possible time to complement, facilitate and provide input to major global and EU instruments, Mr Nikora concluded his report.

In her report from the Baltic Sea Action Plan Implementation Group, **Ms Christina Gestrin, Chairman of the BSPC and BSPC Rapporteur on Eutrophication and the Baltic Sea Action Plan**, stressed the linkage between the EU Strategy and the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. She noted that the European Commission has recognized that the Action Plan will be important for the EU marine strategy and water framework directive. The NEFCO/NIB Technical Assistance Fund and donor agreements by Sweden and Finland have been prepared. Financial institutions (NEFCO, NIB, EDRB) are giving strong support to the implementation process.

Ms Gestrin described the dialogue with IMO on enforcing rules for Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) and Sulphur Oxides (SOx) emissions



Mr Evgeny Nikora



Ms Sylvia Bretschneider



Ms Sinikka Boblin



Ms Berit Brørby

from ships and the legislative work to support usage of phosphorous-free detergents in Estonia, Latvia and Sweden. She was optimistic about reaching an understanding about a proposition to IMO on prohibiting wastewater discharge from passenger ships.

She noted that the global economic crisis has not left the Baltic Sea countries unaffected, but Member Countries that are intentionally slowing down the implementation process might have difficulty achieving consensus in some cases. Ms Gestrin was concerned about financial institutions withdrawing their support to the Kaliningrad water treatment facility due to suspicions of corruption and disappointment with the entrepreneur; consequently, the Kaliningrad wastewater goes untreated into the Baltic Sea.

Climate change presents an extra challenge because increased precipitation is forecast, especially in the northern part of the Baltic Sea. Increasing water temperatures lead to increased winter runoff and leaching of nutrients.

As her conclusion Ms Gestrin saw, as did Mr Nikora, that the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Moscow in May 2010 is crucial for the continuation of the process.

Ms Sylvia Bretschneider, President of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, HELCOM Observer of the BSPC, talked about the major results and developments in HELCOM in 2008-2009, referring to the work of the Baltic Sea Action Plan Implementation Group. The deliberations of the national Heads of Delegation and the discussions at the regular HELCOM Meetings have focused on steering the implementation process of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, on limiting land-based emissions from agriculture and forestry, the harmful effects of fishing, options for reducing municipal and industrial effluents, as well as financing measures to improve the environmental status of the Baltic Sea.

She raised the potential organisational dilemma of using the Baltic Sea Action Plan Implementation Group as a political steering committee of HELCOM, since the same people are taking part both in the Implementation Group and the meetings of the Heads of Delegation. Another problem is that environmental and climate protection aspects do not play a major role in the negotiations of HELCOM's Contracting Parties on the budget.

Ms Bretschneider mentioned the planned construction of the Nord Stream gas pipeline and said that the Implementation Group has emphasised that the environmental impact assessment should be carried out openly and transparently based on the Espoo Convention and in accordance with the relevant legislation. The Group does not see any need for HELCOM to be officially involved in the process.

Ms Bretschneider raised concern about the allocation of adequate funds for, in particular, the protection of the marine environment. Policymakers should move away from cost-effective thinking and ask what the costs will be in the future if nothing is done today. BSPC should continue to give active support to HELCOM's work and exercise its observer status at HELCOM, Ms Bretschneider concluded.

Debate

In the following plenary debate, **Ms Sinikka Bohlin, MP, Sweden, President of the Nordic Council**, brought into question the CBSS reorganisation and the role of the very experienced and well-informed NGO fora in the CBSS context. She wished that these organisations could still, although in a new status, play a role in the CBSS. Ms Bohlin also wished that openness and transparency, which were key words in the EU process towards the Baltic Sea Strategy, should prevail and that parliamentarians could be a part of an ongoing debate on the Northern Dimension and the Baltic Sea Strategy.

Concerning NGOs, **Ms Skaisgirytė-Liauskienė** noted that experiences of an active NGO forum in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea Region actually began in the 1990s. Strengthening civic organisations in the countries with limited experiences of civil society was a very positive phenomenon that could be used now as a model for the observer states of the CBSS. She also referred to the CBSS contacts with the NGOs and informed the participants about the next NGO Forum in 2010 as well as the Be Young project.

Mr Lesko hoped that no-one thought that the process has been less transparent during the Swedish Presidency but that, on the contrary, the Baltic Sea Region could be used as an example of openness for the other regions of the Union. Mr Lesko promised to see what could be done to use existing channels more efficiently so that the region could be a model for cooperation and good relations around a common purpose.

During the debate **Ms Berit Brørby, MP, Norway**, interpreted some worries of parliamentarians in the region. There are a lot of parliamentarians who wish to get results and who do a lot of political work to develop the region, compromise when formulating their reports and convey the voice of the people to the governments for the benefit of the people in the region. Nevertheless, Ms Brørby was concerned about the situation in which the BSPC finds itself today, when only a few representatives from the governments are present, e.g. the Lithuanian vice minister who was present and reported about CBSS activities. The structure of the BSPC is weak when the foreign ministers do not participate at the annual conferences. Ms Brørby argued that the ministers could debate the future lines of the CBSS once a year with the parliamentarians. Another aspect of this problem is the resolution from the conference. Ms Brørby wished that the ministers of Foreign Affairs could become acquainted with it and report back to the BSPC on what has been done. Contact with the implementing party is essential. The BSPC speaks with one voice, but is it heard or listened to by the governments, Ms Brørby asked. **Mr Asmund Kristoffersson, MP, Norway and Mr Vladimir Nikitin, MP, State Duma, Russia**, gave their full support to demands to governments to participate in the debates with the BSPC and to report back regarding the resolutions. **Ms Skaisgirytė-Liauskienė**, responding to the question of cooperation between the governments and

parliamentarians in the region, noted that cooperation between the CBSS and the BSPC bodies has been keen and the contacts good. As an example she named the CBSS ministerial meetings and summits to which the BSPC is invited. **Ms Skaistgirytė-Liauškienė** noticed the issue and said that the CBSS will continue to be constructive in its relationship to parliamentarians and that the exchange of information is most important although she realised that the BSPC is not in a position to exert formal parliamentary influence on CBSS activities. In reply to Ms Brørby, Mr Lesko said that it is relatively hard for a small country to be EU president and tackle all the tasks, i.e. representing all the 27 member states at the international level and presiding over all the EU bodies during the presidency.

Mr Vatanyar Yagya, MP, St Petersburg, referred to the report and called for clear connections between the Northern Dimension and the Baltic Sea Strategy. He was concerned about the fact that Russia is not part of the Baltic Sea Strategy, which is an EU project. Financing the Northern Dimension was an issue of concern to Mr Yagya. He felt that Russia lacked information regarding available funding. If Russia wants to be involved in the Baltic Sea Strategy it can and will be very successful. Mr Yagya wished that the Baltic Sea Strategy should not exclude the Northern Dimension or Russia.

Reports from the BSPC Working Groups

Mr Mart Jüssi, MP, Estonia, Chairman of the BSPC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change, reported about the work and proposals of the working group that has established close cooperation with many regional organisations, e.g. Baltic Development Forum, Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation, and the Joint Energy and Climate Platform.

Mr Jüssi noted that the challenge concerning energy and climate change is of great concern for all the countries around the Baltic Sea. Society is currently facing increased use of energy, which in turn is viewed in the context of global



*Mr Asmund
Kristofferson*



Mr Vatanyar Yagya



Mr Mart Jüssi



Franz Thönnies

warming. Climate change has an impact not only on people's physical comfort but also on traditions, culture and behaviour. Climate change has also substantial impact on agriculture, fishing and tourism capacities and productivity.

Mr Jüssi emphasised that with the growth of the economy, it is possible to use less energy if this is managed intelligently with the aim of attaining and preserving a healthy environment and sustainability in the region. The Baltic Sea Region has great potential for achieving remarkable progress in energy and climate change, because of its good infrastructure and production, energy resources and a number of regional organisations dealing with energy and climate issues.

The Working Group had agreed upon four major political recommendations and 29 proposals that are aimed at mitigating the current situation. The four key recommendations are:

- Develop a coherent energy strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;
- Launch actions plans for Combined Heat and Power and Housing Innovation to improve energy efficiency and energy saving by specially including big cities of the region;
- Use the economic crisis as an opportunity. Global warming also means new business plans, new markets, new solutions for environmentally friendly transport, and development of biofuel for transportation and electricity production;
- Establish a regional educational approach with a common regional training programme that would strengthen capacities in energy planning and develop exchange of experiences and best practices.

Mr Jüssi emphasised that these actions would require huge financial resources so he argued that cooperation is necessary in order to solve the challenges properly and to allocate financial resources to the project.

The countries of the Baltic Sea Region are invited to develop strategies and measures to reduce vulnerability to climate change and improve adaptability to the possible consequences of climate change, to explore possibilities of diversifying renewable energy resources and to encourage the use of low-carbon technologies by means of economic and political instruments.



Mr Mibail Orda



Ms Anita Brodén



Ms Valentina Pivnenko



Ms Leena Harkimo

Mr Jüssi referred to the promising recent initiative taken by the Government of the Kaliningrad Region of Russia. Together with BAS-REC, the regional organisations for governmental energy cooperation, the Russian federal authorities, the Baltic Development Forum and the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Kaliningrad Region has launched a number of activities and processes to start projects on energy saving, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Franz Thönnies, MP, Germany, Chairman of the Working Group on Labour Market and Social Welfare, presented the final report of the Working Group, referring to the recent development in this area, in which a growing number of cross-border workers are encountering difficulties in their everyday working life. Mr Thönnies told that the reports from institutions in various countries show that the reasons for commuting from country to country are many and varied. As examples, he named freedom of establishment and freedom of movement of workers in the EU, demand for labour in some coun-



tries, prevention or ending of unemployment, better incomes, better working and living conditions, better relations between employers and employees, social security and stability, and better opportunities in education, career and employment.

Experience has shown that cross-border commuting is often difficult because of lack of information about the new employment and new country. Some countries and regions have already established information centres, which the Working Group supports as one of the measures to be pursued.

Mr Thönnies spoke about the impact of the current global financial and economic crisis and its effect on labour markets. Cross-border labour markets improve employment opportunities and can contribute to dynamic regional development, which benefits the economy, business and employees.

Barriers to mobility should be identified and efforts made to dismantle them. Regular fora should be held for the sharing of information on the situation of cross-border workers with the participation



of the associations of cross-border workers, trade unions, employers and political decision-makers.

Mr Thönnies voiced concerns about youth unemployment, which he saw as a grave problem in the northern and western parts of the region. The main causes of youth unemployment are the shortage of training places and jobs, difficulties in job orientation and in the transition from school to work. The introduction of young people into working life must be facilitated. Important factors are cooperation, cooperation between schools, the business community, authorities in charge and ministries, Mr Thönnies stated. He also reported on the problem of lack of information and statistics that could be comparable between countries. A common and comparable database is urgently needed.

Debate, continued from Session 1

Mr Mihail Orda, MP, Belarus, expressed his gratitude to BSPC for inviting the parliament of Belarus as guest to the conference and hoped that the relationship would be fruitful. Belarus would certainly be interested in developing ties to the BSPC. He named a number of examples in which countries in the Baltic Sea Region on one hand and Belarus on the other have been interacting and helping each other. Developing civil society is an area in which mutual benefits could be reached.

He described the Belarusian economy and trade, which have developed positively in recent years and become more international. The Baltic States are important trade partners to Belarus. Cooperation with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland takes very practical forms. Trafficking in human beings is a problem that requires concerted measures and cooperation with neighbouring countries. Mr Orda mentioned the Northern Dimension as one of the important projects in which Belarus has an active interest.

Ms Anita Brodén, MP, Sweden, was concerned about the problems in the environment field that have to be taken seriously since they also involve a security aspect. Parliamentarians



Mr Paul Rübzig



Mr Kurt Bodewig



Ms Anke Spoorendonk



Mr Hans Wallmark

have a responsibility not only to discuss but also to raise the issue in various fora. She claimed that parliamentarians should concentrate and coordinate their efforts and plans, and that the resources should be used in a way that is conducive to saving the Baltic Sea.

According to Ms Brodén, three issues are important in the forthcoming work: parliamentarians should not cover too many issues at one time, efforts must be coordinated, and communication and information between organisations is important. Environmental and sustainable development should be the main principles in all activities.

Ms Valentina Pivnenko, MP, Russian State Duma, Vice Chairman of the BSPC, referred to the work of the Standing Committee and regarded it as a well-functioning body aiming to achieve political results. Ms Pivnenko described the situation in Russia, which has been severely hit by the economic crisis. In the field of energy, the ministers in Russia have launched some new initiatives. She thought that participation of the Russian government in regional cooperation such as the Arctic, Euro-Barents and CBSS is of great value. She touched upon the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and expressed a wish that the mechanisms for participation and influence should be clarified. It would also help the BSPC to reach its long-term goals. The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan is a Russian priority, supported by all levels of the decision-making bodies. HELCOM has a Russian Chair and a Russian national implementation plan will be presented by May 2010. Nord Stream is also prioritized; the route is not only a major financial investment but also presents a new environmental standard. In transport and logistics, IMO has a leading role. Ms Pivnenko claimed that double standards should be avoided, barriers dismantled and the visa system improved in order to facilitate people's travel in the region. We should work for the people in the Region, for the integration of the region and to deepen our cooperation, Ms Pivnenko concluded.

Ms Leena Harkimo, MP, Finland, stated that, as a member of the Working Group on Energy and Climate Change, she has become acquainted with many other policies with a bearing on climate change, making the work very useful and rewarding. Much remains to be done, although public awareness is growing. She observed that information concerning energy saving and energy efficiency is essential. Schools have an important task here. Improved energy efficiency is the best way to reduce energy consumption and emission of greenhouse gases. In order to reduce greenhouse gases, focus should be placed on houses and cars. Forests hold immense resources of renewable energy, the use of which could be increased, Ms Harkimo proposed.

Mr Paul Rübzig, MEP, told the audience about his satisfaction with the Swedish Presidency of the EU, as it is committed to reaching a decision on the Baltic Sea Strategy. It will have many practical consequences for the Region. Mr Rübzig will actively be working for the dissemination and discussion of the resolution from the conference in the European Parliament. He referred to the 20–20–20 principle,



which is a package of proposals that will deliver on the European Union's commitments to fight climate change and promote renewable energy up to 2020 and beyond. The EU is committed to reducing its overall emissions to at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2020. It has also set itself the target of increasing the share of renewables in energy use to 20% by 2020. The Climate Action and Renewable Energy package sets out the contribution expected from each Member State to meeting these targets and proposes a series of measures to help achieve them, Mr Rübig said.

Mr Asmund Kristoffersson, MP stated that there is now a full and complete energy plan for the Region including a concrete and concise policy. It is a demanding and necessary plan in terms of the environment. He argued that a well-functioning and integrated electricity transmission grid is a must. Emissions of greenhouse gases must be reduced. Mr Kristoffersson also saw a possibility that the economic crisis might generate opportunities for investment and innovation in better environmental solutions. Education, professional training, and exchange of experiences and opinions are important instruments in spreading environmentally friendly approaches.

Mr Kurt Bodewig, MP, Germany, stated that the measures in Mr Thönnies' report should be applied in the Baltic Sea countries in order to help unemployed young people. He saw a link between the two Working Groups in the process of promoting sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region, since they might result in major local projects for new energy savings and efficiency that could spawn investment opportunities and employment. Wind power and off-shore wind power farms are necessary in the region and could provide possibilities for local employment. Mr Bodewig noticed that selling energy might also have an impact on the employment situation. When there is a crisis in the energy market attempts should be made to find and make use of the advantages that the situation might present. Households must start saving energy. There is already a good understanding of and successful methods for energy efficiency, but now the goal must be extended to include renewable energy.

Ms Anke Spoorendonk, MP, Schleswig-Holstein, underlined the skills of workers in the border regions, especially language skills, which can lead to better employment positions and make a difference in the labour market. Ms Spoorendonk underlined the role of minorities in the border areas and saw them as bridge-builders in the Region.

Mr Hans Wallmark, MP, Sweden, spoke about energy import and export, which are opposite sides of the same transaction. The Region needs a common energy market. He warned of possible conflicts over natural resources, for instance water which could become a scarce resource. There is a lot of modern research that could open the door to new approaches and methods for energy provision and efficiency. He reminded that defence and security policy aspects are always present in the energy debate. The economic and environmental aspects must also be considered.

Ms Gabriele Dobusch, MP, Hamburg, was also concerned about the lack of data about employment figures, which Mr Thönnies mentioned in his presentation. Reliable and objective figures are always an essential basis if the work is to be carried out and continued properly. She also wanted data on gender to be included in the statistics relating to youth unemployment in the region.

Mr Per Rune Henriksen, MP, Norway, was concerned about the serious situation in the labour market, which has hit all the countries in the region hard. Youth unemployment can easily lead to social tensions. He said that workers need information in order to avoid the risk of being treated unfairly and unequally, leading to social dumping.

He described the situation in the Murmansk area where the economy is growing and where there is a huge need for information for newcomers in the labour market. Mr Henriksen wished that the social partners would be mobilised in a campaign against youth unemployment, which is a big problem in all societies. The strong Norwegian economy has certainly facilitated various measures to tackle problems. Norway has established a youth guarantee which secures education for everyone.

Mr Rolf Reikvam, MP, Norway, was also concerned about youth unemployment which, according to him, is a result of the financial crisis. He argued that unemployment can have serious consequences both for the unemployed generation and for the following generation. He argued that public services must be organised to help young people find employment.

Mr Thönnies concluded by saying that it is unacceptable that one in four young people lacks employment. He urged parliamentarians to approach their governments and ministers responsible for employment and push for strong measures against unemployment. He also reiterated the necessity of providing reliable and transparent statistics on the issue.



Ms Gabriele Dobusch



Mr Rolf Reikvam



Second Session:

Maritime Safety and Security

Mr Per Sønnderstrup, Head of Division, the Danish Maritime Authority, gave an outline of Danish activities in the field of maritime safety. He started by characterising the Baltic Sea waters in Denmark as an area of strong sea currents, high traffic density, head-on situations, narrow fairways for deep draught ships and therefore risks of groundings and collisions. He explained how the safety of navigation has been improved by 'defence lines', in which quality-certified ships, proper voyage planning, use of pilots, competent crews and responsible ship owners, aids to navigation, seamark lighthouses, electronic charts, maritime surveillance, port state control, vessel traffic services, state flag inspections, maritime standards, technical standards and equipment, training and education, operational standards and cargo owners play important roles.

He informed that pilots are used through the Danish straits in 96-98 % of all passages. Vessel Traffic Services monitor ship movements, and new traffic routes and inspection of ships in Baltic ports (Port State Control) and phasing out of single-hull oil tankers makes maritime transport much safer. He called for higher compensation rates for oil spills.

Mr Sønnderstrup expressed his satisfaction that there is currently a relatively small number of accidents – fewer accidents in relation to the increase in ship traffic – which means that the situation is improving. There ought to be a shift of focus from maritime regulations for ship construction and equipment to competent crews and operational procedures (the human element) and environment and climate (emission from ships). These high standards should be in force in 2012.

Ms Charlotte Wiin Havsteen, Head of Division Danish Maritime Safety Administration, spoke about shipping and environment in Danish waters. She also stressed the difficulties of managing ships in the Danish waters that link the North Sea to the Baltic Sea. The straits are narrow and relatively shallow. There are a large number of vessels in transit and they are increasing in size and draught. The seas are environmentally very vulnerable.

In all safety work, focus is placed on prevention of accidents. The authority collects and monitors environmental data such as depth, water level and tides, current and its direction and speed, wind, salinity, temperature (air and sea), and waves. It gives forecasts for ships using AIS, VMS, VDS and SafeSeaNet.

Ms Wiin Havsteen also presented the HELCOM survey plan 2003-2011 and the multibeam echo sounder data system which are important for safety in Danish waters. The land-based AIS system and the Sea Track Web oil spill backtracking are also useful when identifying illegal polluters. Ms Wiin Havsteen also gave an orientation on the Maritime Spatial Planning and the new e-Navigation services in which information is sent to the ships.

Mr Tapio Gardemeister, Head of Division, Finnish Maritime Administration gave a presentation on the actions of Finnish authorities regarding maritime safety and security.

Under the Finnish Ship and Port Facility Act the authorities used in security matters are the Finnish Maritime Administration, the Police, Border Guard and customs. The division of labour is clear. In a case of a security incident, the police service is the leading authority. Customs checks the pre-arrival notification and informs other authorities if security issues are discovered, and it also assists the Finnish Maritime Administration on request.

The main focus in maritime security on board Finnish ships is protection against illegal trafficking of weapons, drugs and persons. According to Mr Gardemeister, the main security aspect addressed is to prevent organised crime. Piracy has so far not been considered a threat in the Baltic Sea but ships sailing in waters known to be subject to piracy are implementing protective measures. The Finnish Maritime Administration conducts continuous monitoring of security measures in connection with other inspections and maintains a port facility exercise database and participates in the planning and command of large-scale live exercises. The Administration has a broad participation in national Security Strategy programmes as well as major national safety and security focused exercises together with other authorities.

In terms of maritime precautionary measures, **Mr Ulf Bustorff, Deputy Head, Central Command for Maritime Emergencies, (CCME) Germany**, took as a point of departure for his presentation the Pallas accident in 1998, when M/V Pallas caught fire off the Danish coast near Esbjerg in stormy weather. Three days later, the burning cargo vessel was stranded two nautical miles off Amrum in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. Tons of fuel oil and oil sludge spilled into the sea. The accident led to several precautionary measures in order to improve safety at sea. The consequences were manifold and the subsequent measures took many forms. Mr Bustorff mentioned examples such as the intensification of information exchange between services, extension of presence at sea by joint coordination, cooperation and mutual support, and maintenance of the high standards of safety at sea.

Mr Bustorff presented the Network Maritime Safety and Security Centre and its contacts with other authorities. An intensification of cooperation by the maritime safety authorities and shared accommodation, including central emergency response and Point of Contact, are some of the steps taken. He discussed the definition of a complex emergency situation which, according to him, exists when there is an extraordinary threat to human life and health or to the environment, when goods of special value are in danger, when the safety and ease of navigation is threatened, and when the routine emergency response services are exhausted. In such a situation, central coordination and a unified command structure for the management of different response services is necessary.

Debate

Mr Kimmo Tiilikainen, MP, Finland, informed the audience about the Finnish government's report on the Baltic Sea, which was presented to the Parliament in June 2009. The report is broad and concentrates mainly on environmental issues, although it also has aspects on economic and social welfare improvements. There are some 70 different actions and a governmental follow-up is included in the report. The report strongly supports the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. It also tackles maritime safety, which, it says, should be strengthened. This is natural, given that 75 % of Finnish foreign trade products are transported through the Baltic Sea, and some 30 % of the Russian foreign trade uses the sea as its transport channel. An important step is to promote closer co-operation between the ministers of transport.

The COFREP system was introduced about five years ago when Estonia, Finland and Russia launched a mandatory reporting system. Since then, no major accidents have occurred, although the risk still remains. Mr Tiilikainen said that more practical cooperation is needed and called for increased capacity to combat major oil spills. The Finnish government is considering a new fee for imported oil as one way of funding the maintenance and improvement of the oil spill defence system. Mr Tiilikainen underlined that delays in improving maritime safety and quality of environment cannot be accepted because of the economic crisis. On the contrary, he fully supported those previous speakers who saw the crisis as a challenge to find new solutions.

Ms Kari Lise Holmberg, MP, Norway, told the conference about the recent accident of m/s Full City in July 2009 in Norway. The natural environment close to Telemark is especially vulnerable and the shores, plants and bird life are suffering from the spills of heavy oil used to run the engines. One positive aspect was that several NGOs mobilised to help the authorities. International help was also received, particularly from Sweden. Nevertheless, it will take months before the coastlines are cleaned up. Ms Holmberg made a reference to the Stoltenberg report which covers a number



Mr Per S nderstrup



*Ms Charlotte Wiin
Havsteen*



Mr Tapio Gardemeister



Mr Ulf B storff

of proposals regarding such accidents and how to prevent them.

Ms Marion Pedersen, MP, Denmark, referred to some actual near-accident situations in the Danish straits. AIS is very useful but it is not yet compulsory for all vessels. **Ms Sinikka Bohlin, MP**, was concerned about the draft resolution and called for as concrete a text as possible regarding safety and security at sea. **Mr Ingbert Liebing, MP, Germany**, acknowledged that a lot of work had been done but that security at sea could still be improved. He expressed the need for better cooperation and coordination. He appealed for the high standards onboard to be implemented also in other seas, such as stringent environmental protection standards. No dumping should be accepted anywhere.

Mr Ryszard Gorecki, Senator, Poland, indicated that weather conditions might play a role in search-and-rescue operations. He proceeded to ask whether the AIS could be an answer to overcoming the risks of vessel traffic in the straits of Denmark. He wanted harmonisation in maritime training and education and hoped that universities in the region could get involved and make use of their long tradition of good cooperation.

In his response, **Mr Sørenstrup** said that the icebreakers in Denmark have not been needed for several years, although they still represent a capacity. He said that AIS has already been installed in some fishing ships but it is quite expensive and so the Danish authorities have tried other solutions. Mr Sørenstrup warned about excessive concentration on information. The burden to report takes more and more time which could be detrimental to the actual operation of a ship. **Mr Bustorff** underlined the sharp difference between safety and security. **Ms Wiin Havsteen** noticed that national prevention is based on coordination of land and sea resources.

Mr Gardemeister took as an example the cooperation between Denmark, Sweden and Finland, which collect data and statistics on all accidents reported by shipowners, such as groundings or equipment failure. This is a way to foster improvement. Still, Mr Gardemeister did not find it feasible to request AIS in all 500,000 pleasure crafts sailing in Finland.



Mr Kimmo Tiilikainen



Ms Marion Pedersen



Mr Ingbert Liebing





1 September

Third Session:

Threats to security

Mr Ingmar Weitemeier, Director of the Criminal Police Office of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, spoke about organised cross-border crime in which international cooperation is very intensive. That is also why action against this kind of criminality must be international by nature. Mr Weitemeier gave an example in which a GPS-based search for stolen cars had been used. In this case a car was stolen in Germany, but located and found in Poland with new licence plates. Two days later the thieves were arrested. Investigations can be very precise nowadays, and cooperation between police in neighbouring countries and the whole Europe is working well.

Mr Weitemeier said that criminal groups are increasingly active across borders. This region is a haven for cross-border crime and organised criminal groups because unchecked movement of peoples and goods is possible, and travel and transport routes traverse the region, which is densely trafficked and contains many countries that serve as transit countries. In the Baltic Sea Region there is a market for stolen goods. Cigarette and narcotics smuggling are very typical crimes; car, property and money thefts, as well as money laundering, are growing, as is credit card fraud. Criminal groups are becoming more specialised. The damage they cause can be counted in millions of Euro. Product piracy and smuggling are emerging forms of crime. Unfortunately, Russian-organised crime plays an important role in the region. Trafficking in weapons, trafficking in human beings to and through the region, and economic crime within the EU are most often carried out by organised groups. In the Nordic countries there has been a trend for smuggled narcotics to be confiscated in larger amounts than previously.

Since 2000 more data has been available on the criminal groups. The police in the region must engage itself more strongly against organised crime. The Region must also be prepared for international terrorism. Police resources are needed for investigations. Mr Weitemeier warned against dismantling police forces in the region because too little is known about organised crime and its impacts on society.

Mr Weitemeier said the cruise liners and other passenger ferries in the Baltic Sea are vulnerable because passengers embark quickly and cannot be properly checked. Explosives could be brought on board. It is extremely important that the police concentrate on monitoring developments in international organised crime and terrorism.

Mr Weitemeier underlined the importance of parliaments engaging much more on the menace of organised crime and combating its effects. Legislative changes may be needed in the EU and probably also in the Baltic Sea Region. Legislation must be more effective. A further

step is to enhance contacts within the region and the neighbouring countries. Joint investigation groups need to work across national borders, information exchange is important, and the police needs to improve language skills in order to be able to work internationally.

Mr Maciej Pisarski, Director of the Department of Strategy and Foreign Policy Planning, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, agreed that the energy, environment and economy fields need closer coordination, as do the new challenges for security in the Baltic Sea Region. The majority of the new threats are of a broader and even universal nature with some important local characteristics. According to Mr Pisarski, Europe remains a stable area in which military power is not a factor that defines the position of a country in the international order. Mr Pisarski outlined the most acute problems in the security field. He also observed that the protection of critical infrastructure relating to transport and energy security should be in focus.

The proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction is a threat which over the last years has been growing despite international efforts to eliminate it, Mr Pisarski stated. There is a real possibility that weapons of mass destruction may be acquired by terrorist groups. In order to avert this threat, smuggling of fissile materials must be prevented and financing of terrorist groups stopped.

The restoration of economic growth also requires better security relating to energy supplies. There is growing awareness in Europe of the need to develop alternative sources and routes of energy supplies in order to avoid dependence on a single source. Mr Pisarski was also concerned about climate change, which has been steadily growing over the past decades. The two problems, diminishing energy resources and climate change, pose a threat to international security by aggravating the rivalry over energy resources and by diminishing the prospects for economic development.

Mr Pisarski reminded about the importance of measures to protect the Baltic Sea against toxic wastes originating from industry and ships. The work should also include cooperation with Belarus and Ukraine, because industrial wastes generated there ultimately end up in the Baltic Sea. He was concerned about the Nord Stream gas pipeline, which could adversely affect the ecosystem of the Baltic Sea.

Mr Pisarski saw a new and growing threat in the so-called cyber crimes, where manipulation and cyber attacks can be carried out very swiftly and with devastating effects. In order to better cope with this major challenge, we should combine our resources and expertise within the Baltic cooperation. Special attention should also be given to preventing the spread of contagious diseases, which constitutes a new type of security challenge.

Mr Pisarski was looking forward to the adoption of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. While the Strategy is an EU internal project, the Northern Dimension should continue to serve as a framework for cooperation with neighbouring countries. Moreover, the Council of the Baltic Sea States should play an active role in implementation of the Strategy.

Ms Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, described the observations from her work on trafficking. The concept of security has widened to incorporate human security. Trafficking for sexual exploitation is the most common type of trafficking on a global scale and also in Europe. Globally, 80 % of identified victims had been trafficked for sexual exploitation.



She reported of cases in which foreign workers are offered jobs on false grounds, are not paid, and, instead of work, are exploited for sexual or other purposes. Treating women as a commodity is facilitated by local customs and legal practices that treat women as property, but it is also perpetuated by the global sex industry, which normalizes the exploitation of people, mostly women and children.

Migration is and will be necessary. It can be very positive for societies and it can empower the migrating individual. Ms Biaudet underlined that it is necessary to keep in mind that lack of knowledge of language and of society's structures, together with economic distress and low level of education, can put people at risk of exploitation. She told about hundreds or even thousands of missing children, which are now also documented in various reports. Many of these children are victims of human trafficking.

Ms Biaudet warned for several new threats. Organised crime is assuming new forms. Various illegal activities, such as corruption, terrorism and even the business around counterfeit CDs and DVDs, can be linked to trafficking in human beings. At the same time, economic inequalities and the widening gap between rich and poor are exacerbated by the economic crisis, resulting in growing migration flows.

Trafficking in human beings threatens personal security, social coherence and basic human values. Core issues for solving the problems are setting up systematic strategies and structures to improve effectiveness in the fight against trafficking and to enable these structures to work in regional cooperation. It is also important to improve victim support and international cooperation to assist victims. Particular measures and structures must be created to prevent child trafficking and to assist child victims.

Respect for human dignity, equality and social responsibility is worth fighting for, Ms Biaudet emphasised. Trafficking erodes these basis values. When trafficking occurs, it is always a failure of society. The victim must never be blamed. Ms Biaudet stated that the Baltic Sea Region is a specific region with good potential to fight trafficking, and that parliamentarians



Mr Ingmar Weitemeier



Ms Eva Biaudet



Mr Kent Olsson

are in a key position to place trafficking high on the political agenda.

Mr Mantas Adomenas, MP, Lithuania, President of the Baltic Assembly, focused on new challenges, threats and vulnerabilities in the Baltic Sea Region. The concept of security has changed significantly during recent years. Today's security challenges are global and cannot be divided clearly into hard and soft security. New threats are more diverse, less visible and less predictable, such as cyber crimes, climate change and trans-border diseases. The economic and financial recession adds a new dimension to the concept of security. The broadened concept of security for the Baltic Sea Region comprises several sectors of security, such as traditional, military and political security, internal national security, social, economic and environmental security, and also information and communications security. The expanded concept of security cannot be safeguarded through a modern defence system and a wide range of weapons.

Mr Adomenas spoke about the conditions that have to be fulfilled in order to guarantee regional security. He pointed out that regional actors are stable and have no aggressive intent towards their neighbours. Actors are predictable and transparent. There is relative homogeneity and absence of sharp contrasts. Actors share communality of goals. Security objectives cannot be achieved when regional cooperation is treated as a zero-sum game and cooperation processes and formats are exploited to reach unilateral goals. Mr Adomenas then characterised today's threats. He listed social threats, civil security threats, economic threats, energy threats, energy security, environmental threats, demographic decline, terrorist threats, political tensions, pandemic diseases, challenges to democracy and changing pattern of globalisation, but stated that there are currently no immediate large-scale threats. Mr Adomenas spoke in favour of expanding and deepening the security area of the Baltic Sea Region by involving the Eastern Partnership countries in the cooperation.

It is necessary to have a target-oriented and concrete approach to managing all these threats. The involvement of civil society is important. Security policy today is facing huge financial challenges, and only open dialogue and open cooperation instead of confrontation improves capability to meet new security challenges and threats together. Mr Adomenas proposed using the framework of the BSPC, the CBSS as well as other Baltic Sea regional organisations to elaborate concrete and practical answers on how to meet the challenges mentioned. Mr Adomenas concluded by stating that security is becoming more complex and a new security agenda could be discussed in the region by the existing organisations.

Debate

Mr Rolf Reikvam, MP, spoke about international crime that undermines democracies, law and order. He was concerned about organised crime and new types of trafficking in human beings. There is often a link between prostitution and trafficking. Mr Reikvam de-

scribed the Norwegian legislation that bans sexual purchase. It was a step forward but not enough. He demanded several concerted parallel actions, such as reducing social differences in society, protection of vulnerable women, education, creating jobs, and fighting poverty in all countries. Mr Reikvam proposed that the very basics of trafficking in human beings must be scrutinised. The victims must get help in finding employment so that their resources could be used in society. There are effective means against prostitution and trafficking that must be deployed both nationally and internationally.

Mr Hans Wallmark, MP, spoke about the new risks of IT crime and claimed that the countries must be prepared and have a clear strategy on how to tackle this problem. He referred to the music download systems and wished to see legal alternatives. The Internet cannot be closed down. As to drugs and narcotics, they are endangering and undermining social coherence as well as national health. Mr Wallmark also named trade of illegal weapons and illegal money transfer and laundering as forms of crime that pose severe problems in the Baltic Sea Region. **Ms Renate Holznagel, Vice-President, Mecklenburg- Western Pomerania,** reported on a new dimension to organised crime. The doors were opened 20 years ago when cross-border mobility became a reality. The dark side of mobility is organised crime, which is closely linked to corruption. She praised the good cooperation between authorities in neighbouring countries in combating smuggling and trafficking. She also spoke about maritime security, which is important because of the high levels of exports and imports transported by sea. Improving safety in harbours is important and Ms Holznagel invited the other participating countries to become involved in the Galileo surveillance system.

Mr Nikolay Churkin, MP, Council of Federation, Russia, said that security in its widest sense has global aspects and affects the whole of society. We need a holistic approach in the Baltic Sea Region and in the whole of Europe. No area can be excluded. Mr Churkin spoke about the risks facing vessels in the Baltic Sea, where sabotage is always a possibility. Taking a bomb onboard is simple today. He joined those who called for more effective measures against organised cross-border crime. Mr Churkin referred to the Russian decision-making process and said that sustainable development and security are very high on the agenda. The discussion in the Council of Federation and State Duma must be given enough time before results and recommendations can be presented to the government. Protection of the environment and generation of wealth are compatible endeavours. Mr Churkin was also concerned about the cultivation, transport and trafficking of drugs. Combating distribution networks of drugs is an issue that requires joint forces. President Medvedev has stated that strong measures are crucial for improving the health of the entire Russian society.

Kent Olsson, MP, Sweden, wanted a thorough discussion on trafficking, as he saw it as one of the pressing political issues of today. At the same time it is a covert activity that is difficult to tackle because of its very nature. Cross-border and international police cooperation

must be increased and strengthened. Statistics on crime show that very few of the measures carried out, for example, in the Council of Europe have achieved their intended results. Too little has been done. **Ms Marion Pedersen, MP**, stated that trafficking in human beings must always be high on the agenda. She felt positive that the work can and must lead to results. Cooperation on information is important. Improved statistics are needed because there are currently no real and comparable figures, only estimates based on information received from the police.

Mr Arkadiusz Litwiński, MP, Poland, spoke about the value of parliamentarians working on security issues in their own constituencies, especially on issues of civil security. He was worried about the acute threat of the chemical weapons on the seabed of the Baltic Sea, which might be corroded and release toxic agents when the pipeline is built. **Vladimir Nikitin, MP**, observed that the 1st September is the first day of the Russian school year, called the Day of Knowledge. He congratulated teachers and scholars and urged them to develop society and give good guidance for the next generations. Combating today's threats and bearing in mind that societies are in a new phase of global competition is of the utmost importance. A change in Russian foreign policy has been seen, where emphasis is put on humanity and development of civil society. Cooperation can flourish in very many different ways.

Ms Eva Biaudet thanked the participants in the discussion. The issue of trafficking is a highly humanitarian one with many aspects linked to the rule of law. She reminded that all countries participating in the Baltic Sea cooperation are also OSCE members and should combat trafficking both at national and international levels.

Ms Valentina Pivnenko, MP, was optimistic that the presentations of problems that have been tackled means that the hard work done has already had results. Nevertheless, a great deal is still to be done both nationally and internationally. She referred to the 1st of September also as a day of remembrance for the victims of the Beslan school massacre in 2004, saying that this is a reminder that the work must continue very actively in order to avoid any threats in the region.

Closing of the Conference

Mr Franz Thönnies, MP, presented the draft 18th BSPC Resolution. The resolution is directed to the governments of the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and the EU, and it also serves as a guideline for forthcoming work in the BSPC Standing Committee, Enlarged Standing Committee and Working Groups. The resolution, which also includes the amended Rules of Procedure for the BSPC, was adopted unanimously by the conference.

Mr Evgeny Nikora, MP, did not want to propose any amendment to the resolution but he voiced his concern about paragraph 9, which could raise unnecessary discussions (e.g. on use of pilots) with organisations outside the framework of the Baltic Sea Region cooperation. He said that it could lead to overlapping of the activities of international organisations specialised in developing universal technical rules and regulations. All decisions in the field of maritime safety should be made through IMO, which is the acknowledged and universal actor in presenting rules and regulations within the sphere of international maritime shipping.

Mr Franz Thönnies, MP, announced that the BSPC Standing Committee had unanimously reappointed **Ms Christina Gestrin, MP**, as Chairman of the BSPC for 2009–2010. It had also unanimously reappointed **Ms Valentina Pivnenko, MP**, as Vice Chairman of the BSPC for 2009–2010. The 18th BSPC unanimously reconfirmed these appointments.

Ms Gun-Mari Lindholm, MP, Åland Islands, welcomed BSPC to Mariehamn to conduct its 19th Conference on 29 – 31 August 2010.

Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, thanked all participants for the active involvement and constructive debates, and looked forward to continued and intense activities in all BSPC bodies during the coming year. She reminded all parliamentarians to take the resolution back to their parliaments and governments and urge them to implement its recommendations. She reiterated her thanks to the Danish host for inviting BSPC to Nyborg, and to the Danish secretariat for its skilful and smooth organisation of the Conference. She thanked Ms Pivnenko for chairing the last part of the conference and for her vice-chairmanship in the Standing Committee. Finally, she closed the conference by wishing the participants welcome to the 19th BSPC in Mariehamn, on the Åland Islands in the middle of the Baltic Sea.



Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 18th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants*, elected representatives from the Baltic Sea States, assembling in Nyborg, Denmark, 31 August – 1 September 2009, discussing Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, Maritime Safety and Security, Civil Security, Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and Labour Market and Social Affairs,

- A. emphasizing the significance of a parliamentary dimension and parliamentary involvement in the strategies and efforts to develop the Baltic Sea Region, thereby contributing to a broad debate, transparency, legitimacy and support of the work;
- B. reaffirming the mutually beneficial contacts and exchange between BSPC and CBSS, and recognizing the important role of the CBSS in initiating and coordinating actions against the challenges of the Baltic Sea Region;
- C. reiterating their support to the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) as a central tool for restoring a good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021, and underlining that governments must fulfill their pledges to implement the plan according to its agreed timetable;
- D. supporting the design and development of strategies and programs for the Baltic Sea Region as important instruments for setting priorities, while also maintaining the necessity to coordinate the strategies with the Northern Dimension policy;
- E. stressing that the present economic downturn must not be taken as an excuse for lowering environmental goals, cutting environmental resources or delaying timetables for environmental plans and projects;

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

Regarding Co-operation in the Region, to

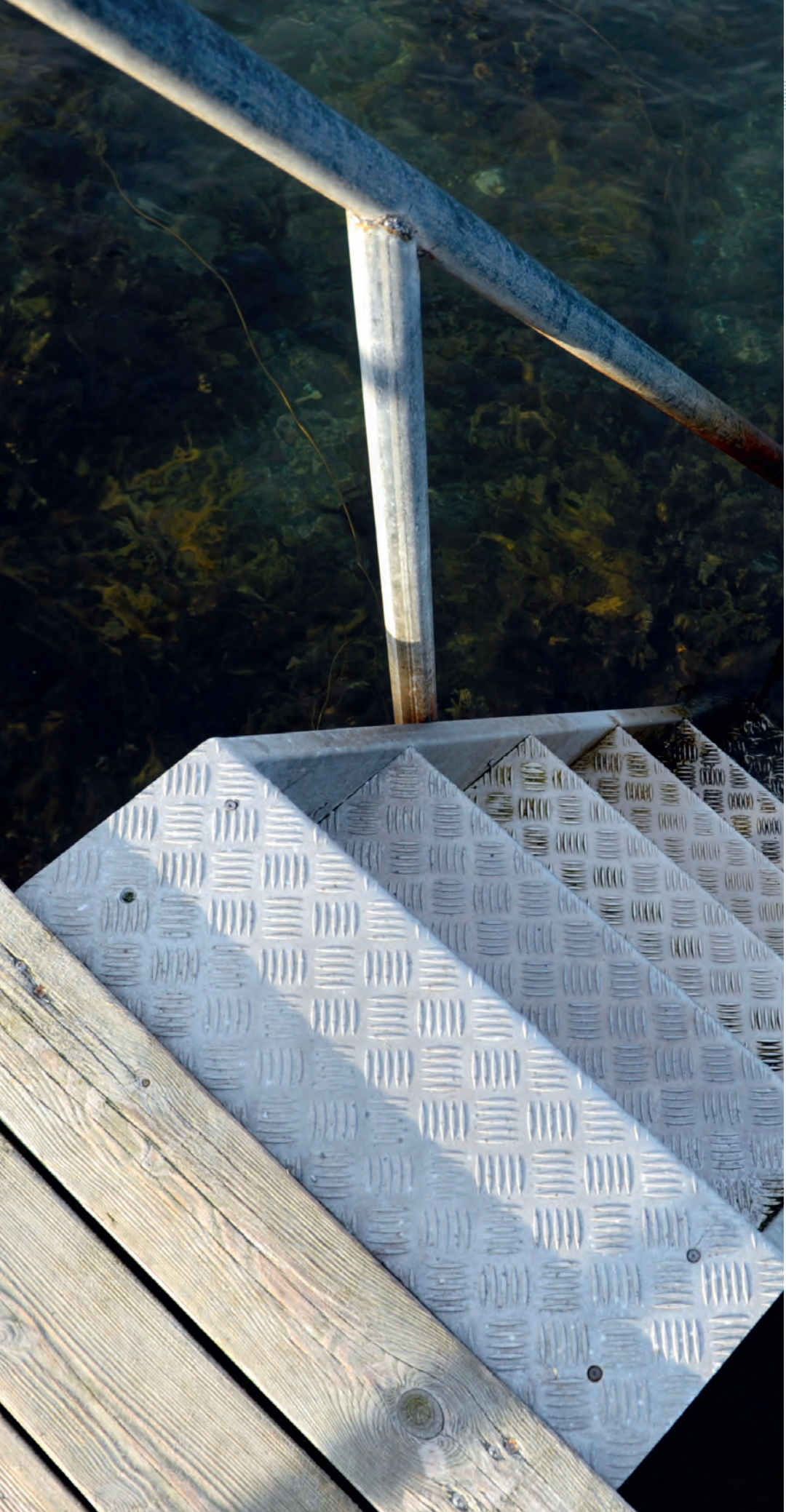
1. define and pursue a common political agenda for the Baltic Sea Region, e.g. by devising a joint understanding of governance, leadership and division of labour among the leading regional and sub-regional actors in the Region, and by enhancing coordination between them;

*Parliaments of Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Latvia, 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, European Parliament, Baltic Assembly, Nordic Council.

2. proceed with strong and sustained measures to fulfill the overall environmental goals and objectives of the HELCOM BSAP, and to assure that the obligations to produce national action plans to the HELCOM Ministerial meeting in Moscow in May 2010, as well as to implement them prudently, are honored;
3. ensure a close linkage between the forthcoming strategies and programs for the Baltic Sea Region and the HELCOM BSAP;
4. take concrete steps to ensure that strategies and programs for the Baltic Sea Region, such as the emerging so-called EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, are closely attuned to and coordinated with the Northern Dimension, in order to secure a mutual cooperation on an equal basis between Russia, Iceland, Norway and EU, and to incorporate the interests of the non-EU Baltic Sea Regions states in the strategies;
5. Support the abilities to develop bankable projects for the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, involving the financial support to the project development fund managed by Nordic Investment Bank (NiB) and Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO);
6. ensure that citizens are kept informed and involved in the planning and implementation of strategies and projects that influence the development of the Baltic Sea Region; NGO's play an invaluable role both as opinion-makers and independent experts, and their views, warnings and advice should be taken seriously;
7. take concerted and solidaric measures to deal with the causes and consequences of the current economic recession; a mutually supportive and successful regional approach would also contribute to the positive branding of the Baltic Sea Region and to the credibility and usefulness of regional cooperation;

Regarding Maritime Safety and Security in the Region, to

8. encourage active cooperation within the International Maritime Organization(IMO) on the development of relevant measures to reduce the environmental impacts of shipping in the Baltic Sea, recognizing that IMO rules and regulations are the basis for maritime development of any region, and that the regulations should be developed according to current challenges;
9. promote continuous initiatives, support and concrete measures within the field of Maritime Safety, such as increasing the use of pilots in narrow and difficult international shipping lanes, and enhancing the joint preparedness to tackle spills of oil and hazardous substances;
10. promote and support concrete projects to implement maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region, encouraging cross-sectoral and transnational coordination of resources, and thereby holding up the Baltic Sea Region as a model region;
11. support the BSSSC Five Point Action Plan "Clean Baltic Shipping", aimed at, i.a., reducing nitrogen and sulphur oxides emissions in ports by using shore-to-ship power supply, minimizing sewage discharge from ships, reducing the environmental load from



- cruise shipping, encouraging sustainable port management, and stimulating research and development of green and clean maritime technologies;
12. support the designation of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the North-East Atlantic and the Irish Sea as Sulphur Emission Control Areas (SECA), as is already the case with the Channel, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, provided the criteria for such a designation are fulfilled;
 13. consolidate and further develop the progress made within the fields of maritime safety and ship traffic monitoring, on the one hand with a view to improving monitoring and separation of the growing maritime traffic, especially in connection with hazardous cargo and severe winter conditions, and on the other hand with a view to monitoring the Baltic Sea for the purpose of environmental protection, fishing and combating crime;
 14. join and support the Surveillance Cooperation Baltic Sea (SUC-BAS) with the purpose of improving maritime situational awareness across the entire Baltic Sea and its approaches in support of maritime safety, maritime security, protection of the environment and countering illegal activities in the maritime environment;
 15. contribute to the efforts of the Baltic Sea Region Harmonisation Working Group on Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and Ship Reporting Systems (SRS) established to harmonise and integrate VTS and SRS operation to ensure that all systems assist safe navigation of ships in an optimised and uniform manner;
 16. join and support the initiatives under the Single Hull Tanker and Banned Vessel monitoring project, developed jointly by HELCOM and the European Maritime Safety Agency, for the purpose of further improving maritime safety and supporting the Port State Control authorities with the aim to eliminate the operation of sub-standard ships in the Baltic, and ensure that the maritime transport operates in a safe, secure and environmentally friendly way;

Regarding Civil Security in the Region, to

17. enhance cooperation and coordination on civil security issues in general, in order to foster a joint and comprehensive understanding of the risks and threats facing the Baltic Sea Region, as well as strategies and measures to counter them;
18. step up strategic and operational cooperation between law enforcement authorities and other relevant actors in order to strengthen the joint capacity to identify, monitor and take forceful action against organized cross-border crime, such as trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, illicit trade, corruption, money laundering, illegal migration, illegal labour, hate crimes, and others;
19. intensify cooperation against trafficking in human beings, placing emphasis on, i.a., preventive measures, protection and support – by means of e.g. safehouses – for victims and people at risk, as well as strategies and measures against the root causes of trafficking;

20. improve and coordinate data collection concerning the scale of the problems of trafficking in human beings in order to provide a realistic basis for the development of adequate measures to fight the problem;
21. carry out the adoption, implementation and coordination of proper legislation – in accordance with relevant UN and Council of Europe protocols and conventions of which they are parties – against trafficking in human beings, which targets all forms of exploitation and includes measures to assist victims;
22. strengthen cooperation on crisis management and civil protection against natural, technological and man-made risks and emergencies, e.g. by coordinating planning, prevention and resources, and by streamlining existing arrangements within a comprehensive region-wide framework;
23. take concerted action to reinforce IT security by analyzing, detecting and managing cyber crimes, and by launching defensive and protective measures against the disruption of critical infrastructure systems;

Regarding Climate Change and Energy Issues in the Region, to

24. actively work for a new international climate agreement, addressing all relevant climate change risk factors in accordance with their impact;
25. develop a coherent energy strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, in order to enhance security of energy supply, increase the use of renewable energy, and strengthen interconnection between countries, for instance by interconnected transmission lines that will gradually develop into a smart grid between the countries and the off-shore windmill parks;
26. launch action plans for the propagation of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and for building renovation and housing innovation, for the purpose of improving energy efficiency and energy-saving;
27. use the present economic crisis as an opportunity to promote qualitative growth in the Baltic Sea Region, for instance by directing financial packages, investment plans and subsidies, as well as international financial resources, towards renewable energy production, energy efficiency investments, CHP, efficient district heating systems and interconnecting the electricity grid;
28. establish a common regional training programme to strengthen the joint capacities in energy planning, for instance by developing the exchange of experiences and promoting best practices among officials at local and national level;

Regarding Labour Market and Social Affairs, to

29. make systematic and coordinated efforts to identify barriers to the development of cross-border labour markets and mobility, in accordance with the political recommendations in the final report of the BSPC Working Group on Labour Market and Social Welfare, and to carry out practical measures to dismantle and prevent such barriers;





30. make labour market and social welfare issues a priority task on the agenda of the CBSS, taking into account the work and results of the Baltic Sea Labour Network (BSLN);
31. strengthen the existing information centres in the Baltic Sea Region and to establish new centres in locations where the number

of cross-border commuting is growing but where centres do not exist; the information centres should have the capacity and mandate to provide comprehensive and official information on social security, employment legislation and tax legislation in all the languages spoken on both sides of the border, including, where applicable, minority languages;

32. foster regular dialogue between associations representing cross-border workers, trade unions, employers and political decision-makers, and strengthen cooperation regarding cross-border labour markets via the establishment of councils for border regions and the development of networks; likewise, an exchange of experience should be organised regarding the work of the information centres throughout the Baltic Sea Region;
33. enhance transport and logistic capacities in border regions, especially as regards public transport, in order to facilitate cross-border commuting and to promote economic growth; efforts undertaken should be compatible with the overall objectives of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics;
34. take concerted action to exchange and implement best practices regarding training and employment of young people in the Baltic Sea Region, including cooperative activities between schools, social partners, public authorities and civil society, and paying special attention to disadvantaged groups;
35. begin giving pupils an introduction to the world of work two years before they leave secondary school, propose agreements between governments and the social partners to ensure sufficient training places are created, and ensure that, in the case of youth unemployment, the employment agencies offer integration plans and, after three months of unemployment at the latest, further training, the opportunity to gain additional qualifications, training places or jobs;

Furthermore the Conference

36. confirms its support to the CBSS in its transformation towards a more focussed and target-oriented organization, and in realizing the political and operational priorities of the CBSS, hence looks forward to ongoing cooperation with CBSS;
37. agrees – concerning the year 2009-2010 – that the Enlarged Standing Committee should convene twice a year and the Standing Committee convene twice a year with the Standing Committee open for observers from national and regional parliaments that are not represented in the Standing Committee;
38. asks the Standing Committee to establish a Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy, especially infrastructure and logistics, and a Working Group on Civil Security, especially trafficking in human beings, to submit reports to the 20th BSPC;
39. adopts the amended Rules of Procedure, to take effect after the closure of 18th BSPC;
40. welcomes with gratitude the kind offer of the Åland Islands to host the 19th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Mariehamn on 29 – 31 August 2010.

Programme

18th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) Nyborg, Denmark, 30 August – 1 September 2009

Venue:

Best Western Hotel Nyborg Strand • Østerøvej 2 • DK-5800 Nyborg

Languages:

English, Russian, German, Scandinavian and Polish

Saturday 29 August

Arrival of participants

Sunday 30 August

Morning/noon	Arrival of participants
08.30 –	Registration
10.00 – 11.30	Standing Committee meeting (working language: English, interpretation into Russian will be provided)
12.00 – 13.00	Buffet Lunch
13.00 – 18.30	Excursion 1: Visit to Kommunekemi (company for treatment of hazardous waste and waste with an environmental impact) and to Hans Christian Andersen's House, Odense or Excursion 2: Visit to Odense Steel Shipyard (Lindøværftet) and Hans Christian Andersen's House, Odense
18.30 – 19.30	Optional time for meetings
20.00	Dinner, hosted by Mr Niels Sindal, MP, Chairman of the Danish Delegation, the Nyborg Strand Hotel

Monday 31 August

- 08.00 Registration
- 08.00 – 09.00 Optional time for meetings
- 09.00 Enlarged Standing Committee meeting as Drafting Committee (working language: English, interpretation into Russian will be provided)
- 10.30 **Opening of the conference**
 Chair: Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland, Chair of the Standing Committee of the BSPC
 Vice-Chair: Ms Valentina Pivnenko, MP, State Duma of the Russian Federation, Vice-chair of the Standing Committee of the BSPC
 Welcome by Mr Thor Pedersen, President of the Danish Parliament
 Music:
The Fog is Lifting by Carl Nielsen, and four dances from *Elf Hill* by Friedrich Kuhlau.
 Flute: Ms Mikela Mann
 Harp: Ms Tine Rehling
 Welcome by Mr Niels Sindal, MP, Denmark, Member of the Standing Committee of the BSPC
- 11.00 **First Session**
Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region
 Chair of the meeting: Ms Valentina Pivnenko, MP, State Duma of the Russian Federation, Vice-chair of the BSPC
 Vice-Chair of the meeting: Mr Niels Sindal, MP, Denmark, Member of the Standing Committee of the BSPC
 Report from the Standing Committee of the BSPC
 - Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland, Chairman of the BSPC
 Report from the CBSS
 - Ms Asta Skaisgirytė-Liauškienė, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania
 The EU Baltic Sea Strategy and the Northern Dimension
 - Mr Mikael Lesko, Minister Counsellor, the Embassy of Sweden in Copenhagen
 The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan
 - Mr Evgeny Nikora, Murmansk Regional Duma (on behalf of Mr Igor Maydanov, Russia, Chairman of the Helsinki Commission)
 Report from the Baltic Sea Action Plan Implementation Group
 - Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland, Chairman of the BSPC, BSPC Rapporteur on Eutrophication and the Baltic Sea Action Plan

- Presentation of report
- Ms Sylvia Bretschneider, President of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, HEL-COM-Observers of the BSPC
- Plenary debate
- 12.20 ***Reports from the BSPC Working Groups***
- Final report from the Working Group on Energy and Climate Change
- Mr Mart Jüssi, MP, Estonia, Chairman of the BSPC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change
- Final report from the Working Group on Labour Market and Social Affairs
- Mr Franz Thönnies, MP, Germany, Chairman of the BSPC Working Group on Labour Market and Social Affairs
- Plenary debate
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 **Second Session**
- Maritime Safety and Security***
- Chair of the meeting: Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland, Chairman of the BSPC
- Vice-Chair of the meeting: Mr Ryszard Górecki, MP, Poland, Member of the Standing Committee of the BSPC
- Maritime Safety and Environment
- Mr Per Sønderskov, Head of Division, the Danish Maritime Authority
 - Ms Charlotte Wiin Havsteen, Head of Department, the Danish Maritime Safety Administration
- Navigation Security
- Mr Tapio Gardemeister, Head of Division, the Finnish Maritime Administration
- Rescuing and Combating Averages – Maritime Precautionary Measures
- Mr Ulf Bustorff, Deputy Head, Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME), Germany
- Plenary debate
- 17.30 Enlarged Standing Committee meeting as Drafting Committee (working language: English, interpretation into Russian will be provided)
- 19.00 Departure by coach for Holckenhavn Castle
- 19.30 Dinner hosted by Mr Thor Pedersen, Speaker of the Danish Parliament, Holckenhavn Castle

Tuesday 1 September

- 08.00 Enlarged Standing Committee meeting as Drafting Committee – if needed
(working language: English, interpretation into Russian will be provided)
- 09.00 **Third Session**
New Threats to Security
 Chair of the meeting: Mr Franz Thönnies, MP, Germany, Member of the Standing Committee of the BSPC
 Vice-Chair of the meeting: Ms Valentina Pivnenko, MP, State Duma of the Russian Federation, Vice-Chair of the BSPC
 New Security Challenges in the Baltic Sea Region, Mr Maciej Pisarski, Director of the Department of Strategy and Foreign Policy Planning, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
 Organized Cross-border Crime
 - Professor Ingmar Weitemeier, Director of the Criminal Police Office of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
 Trafficking
 - Ms Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, former Minister for Health and Social Services, Finland
 New Challenges and Threats to Security in the Baltic Sea Area: Regional Answers
 - Dr Mantas Adomenas, MP, Lithuania, President of the Baltic Assembly
 Plenary debate
- 12.00 Rules of Procedure
 Adoption of resolution
 Presentation of next year's host country
 Closing remarks
 - Ms Christina Gestrin, MP, Finland, Chairman of the BSPC
- 13.00 Lunch/departure



List of Participants

Speakers

Adomenas, Mantas	MP, Lithuania, President of the Baltic Assembly
Biaudet, Eva	OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, former Minister for Health and Social Services, Finland
Bretschneider, Sylvia	MP, President of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, official HELCOM-Observer of the BSPC
Bustorff, Ulf	Deputy Head, Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME), Germany
Gardemeister, Tapio	Head of Maritime Inspections Division, Finnish Maritime Administration
Gestrin, Christina	MP, Finland, Chairman of the BSPC
Havsteen, Charlotte Wiin	Head of Division, Danish Maritime Safety Administration
Jüssi, Mart	MP, Estonia, Chairman of the BSPC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change
Lesko, Mikael	Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Sweden in Copenhagen
Maydanov, Igor	Russia, Chairman of the Helsinki Commission
Pedersen, Thor	MP, President of the Danish Parliament
Pisarski, Maciej	Director of the Department of Strategy and Foreign Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
Sindal, Niels	MP, Denmark, Chairman of the Danish Delegation to the BSPC
Skaistgirytė-Liauškienė, Asta	Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania
Sønderstrup, Per	Head of Division, Danish Maritime Authority
Thönnies, Franz	MP, Germany, Chairman of the BSPC Working Group on Labour Market and Social Affairs
Weitemeier, Ingmar	Director of the Criminal Police Office of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Parliaments and parliamentary organisations

Baltic Assembly

Adomenas, Mantas	MP, President of the Baltic Assembly
Reirs, Jānis	MP, Head of the Latvian Delegation to the Baltic Assembly
Reps, Mailis	MP, Member of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly
Laizāne-Jurkāne, Marika	Head of the Secretariat of the Baltic Assembly
Putniņa, Ingrīda	Secretary of the Latvian Delegation to the Baltic Assembly
Rõngelep, Ene	Secretary of the Estonian Delegation to the Baltic Assembly

Council of Europe

Lundgren, Kerstin	MP, PACE and Swedish Parliament
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European Parliament

Rübig, Paul	MEP
Olsen, Henrik	Head of Secretariat

Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Churkin, Nikolay	MP
Nelidov, Andrey	MP
Dakhova, Nadezda	Secretary of Delegation

Nordic Council

Arhinmäki, Paavo	MP, Member of the BSPC Standing Committee
Bohlin, Sinikka	MP, President of the Nordic Council
Gestrin, Christina	MP, Chairman of the BSPC
Hjörvar, Helgi	MP
Olsson, Kent	MP
Enestam, Jan-Erik	Secretary General

Parliament of Denmark

Barfod, Line	MP
Bisgaard, Per	MP
Dahl, Bente	MP
Holmsgaard, Anne Grete	MP, Member of the BSPC working group on Energy and Climate Change
Kofod, Jeppe	MP
Pedersen, Marion	MP, Member of the BSPC working group on Labour and Social Welfare
Pedersen, Thor	President of the Danish Parliament
Sindal, Niels	MP
Hagemann, Henrik	Head of Division

Parliament of Estonia

Jüssi, Mart	MP, Chairman, BSPC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change
Muravjova, Tatjana	MP, BSPC Working Group on Labour Market and Social Welfare
Velliste, Trivimi	MP, Member of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly
Reps, Mailis	MP, Member of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly
Rõngelep, Ene	Secretary of the Estonian Delegation to the Baltic Assembly

Parliament of Finland

Harkimo, Leena	MP
Kaikkonen, Antti	MP
Tiilikainen, Kimmo	MP
Hissa, Jaakko	Secretary to the Delegation
Zilliacus, Patrick	Counsellor for International Affairs

Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Bremen

Günthner, Martin	MP
Mathes, Karin	MP, Vice President of Bremen Parliament

Parliament of Free and Hanse City of Hamburg

Dobusch, Gabriele	MP
Heintze, Roland	MP
Heyenn, Dora	MP
Röder, Berndt	MP, President
Wagner, Reinhard	Director

Parliament of Greenland

Motzfeldt, Josef	MP, Speaker of Parliament
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Parliament of Latvia

Zommere, Ērika	MP
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Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Bretschneider, Sylvia	MP, President
Holznagel, Renate	MP, Vice President
Müller, Detlef	MP
Reese, Sigrun	MP
Ringguth, Wolf-Dieter	MP
Schwebs, Birgit	MP
Timm, Gottfried	MP
Bahr, Bodo	Vice Director

Parliament of Norway

Brørby, Berit	MP
Henriksen, Per Rune	MP
Holmberg, Kari Lise	MP
Kristoffersen, Asmund	MP
Reikvam, Rolf	MP
Woldseth, Karin S.	MP
Andreassen, Bjørn	Delegation Secretary

Parliament of Poland

Górecki, Ryszard	Senator, Chairman of the BSPC Delegation
Litwiński, Arkadiusz	MP
Pałys, Andrzej	MP
Wziątek, Stanisław	MP
Koperski, Piotr	Secretary of the BSPC Delegation

Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein

Franzen, Ingrid	MP, Vice President of Parliament
Hamerich, Hartmut	MP
Spoorendonk, Anke	MP
Holländer, Jutta Schmidt	Delegation Secretary

Parliament of Sweden

Bergman, Lisbeth Grönfeldt	MP
Brodén, Anita	MP
Eriksson, Alf	MP
Larsson, Jan-Olof	MP
Linander, Johan	MP
Nilsson, Jennie	MP
Wallmark, Hans	MP
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Smekal, Eva	Head of Secretariat

Parliament of the City of St Petersburg

Yagya, Vatanar	MP, Plenipotentiary for International Relations
Terekhovskiy, Sergey	Chief of External Relations Dept.

Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany

Adam, Ulrich	MP
Bodewig, Kurt	MP
Happach-Kasan, Christel	MP
Liebing, Ingbert	MP
Thönnies, Franz	MP, Parliamentary State Secretary
Weiland, Anna Waltraud	Secretary of Delegation

Parliament of Åland

Gunell, Camilla	MP
Jansson, Roger	MP
Lindholm, Gun-Mari	MP
Sjölund, Folke	MP
Eriksson, Sten	Head of Secretariat

Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE

Kofod, Jeppe	MP
Oliver, Spencer	Secretary General
Ollus, Natalia	Executive Officer
Schøn, Tina	Deputy Secretary General

State Duma of Russia

Leotiyev, Georgy	MP
Nikitin, Vladimir	MP
Nyudyrbegov, Asanbuba	MP
Pivnenko, Valentina	MP, BSPC Vice-Chairman
Semyonov, Pavel	MP
Shestakov, Vassily	MP
Yazev, Valeriy	MP, Vice-Chairman of the State Duma
Guskova, Yulia	Delegation Secretary
Tribunsky, Alexander	Interpreter
Yakhmenev, Pyotr	Head of the Committee Secretariat

Observers

Hansen, Hans Heinrich	President, FUEN-Federal Union of European Nationalities.
Hyppönen, Kari	Chairman of the Steering Committee, Baltic Sea Region University Network (BSRUN)
Häkkinen, Mika	Executive Secretary/Baltic Sea Officer
Jankevica, Anitra	Senior Adviser, CBSS
Larsen, Asger	Regional Councillor, BSSSC
Lewlska, Katarina	Senior Project Manager, Baltic Development Forum
Moldovan, Cosmina	Researcher-Archivist, PABSEC
Munk, Morten	Consul, Supervisory Board member, Baltic Sea Forum
Nikora, Evgeny	MP, Speaker
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Sazhinov, Pavel	MP, Chairman of the Committee, PANWR
Schöps, Alfons	Director, State Legislative Leaders Foundation / Europe
Shmatkova, Marina	Senior Advisor, Murmansk Regional Duma

Guests

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Sørensen, Torkil
Tikkala, Terhi

Wang, Beate Christine

Youth Representative
Youth Representative
Ambassador-at-Large, Head of Secretariat
Ambassador of Belarus to Scandinavia
Project Manager
Chair of the Femern Belt Committee
Senior Director
MP, Regional Parliament in Groningen, the Netherlands
MP, Belarus
Youth Representative
BSLN project manager
Landtagsdirektor a.D.

Party Group Secretary, The Social Democratic Group in the Nordic Council
Secretary
Senior Advisor, Nordic Council
Senior Adviser, CBSS Task Force against Trafficking
Secretary General for VSG og NGLA
Assistant, Parliament of Åland
Head of Division, Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Head of Office, German Bundestag
Photographer, Nordic Council
Senior Advisor, Nordic Council
Driver, State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein
Driver
Project manager, Nordic Council of Minister
Driver
Adviser, Parliament of Norway
Deputy Director General, Nordic Council
Adviser, Centre Group in the Nordic Council
Political adviser, Parliament of Norway
Senior Advisor, Nordic Council
Secretary General, Centre Group in the Nordic Council
Senior Advisor, Nordic Council

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 Widberg, Jan

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 Coordinator, BSPC Secretariat
 Head of BSPC Secretariat

Secretariat of the Parliament of Denmark

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New Security Challenges

Text: Päiviikki Lindroos

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