



Draft Baseline version – 27 June 2014

*Amendment proposals to the BSPC Secretariat **no later than 15 August 12:00 Danish time***

Conference Resolution

Adopted by the 23rd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants, elected legislators from the Baltic Sea Region States*, assembling in Olsztyn, Poland, 24-26 August 2014,

- a. discussing Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, Environmental Legacy, Baltic Sea Cultural Heritage, A Sustainable Future for the Baltic Sea Region, and Innovation in Social and Health Care,
- b. asserting that the parliamentary dimension constitutes an integral part of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, which can both reinforce the democratic legitimacy of cooperation and provide it with concrete political contributions and support,
- c. reiterating their support to the CBSS, welcoming the new long-term priorities of the CBSS, as well as the efforts by the Finnish CBSS Presidency to improve coherence in Baltic Sea regional cooperation, and acknowledging the progress and achievements of CBSS in fields such as sustainable development, clean shipping, labour market mobility, cultural heritage, trafficking in human beings, and civil security,

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

Regarding Co-operation in the Region, to

1. stress the importance of continuing and developing the existing cooperation structures and formats in the Baltic Sea Region, and of perpetuating the open, broad and trust-building dialogue within existing networks and institutions, also in times of difficulties for pan-European security cooperation;
2. make concerted efforts to strengthen the coherence between the overarching strategies and programmes for the Baltic Sea Region, such as the Northern Dimension, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and the Russian Strategy for Social and Economic Development of the North-West Federal District;

3. take concrete steps to enhance efficiency, coherence and the combined output of Baltic Sea Region cooperation, by improving information exchange, division of labour and actual coordination of activities, and by encouraging e.g. the launching of inter-organizational Task Forces, and the like, to target issues of common interest;
4. support a “Baltic Sea Think Tank” comprising all member states of the BSPC, aiming at creating a broad basis for political research on the common history and future of the Region;
5. pursue concrete measures to facilitate unhampered people-to-people-contacts and cross-border cooperation of the civil society and the cultural, scientific and business sectors throughout the entire Baltic Sea Region, e.g. by reducing or removing visa restrictions and customs procedures;
6. support the Baltic Sea Youth Secretariat in Kiel in order to establish and maintain a permanent institution for political exchange among youth in the Baltic Sea Region;

Regarding Environmental Legacy, to

7. fully honour all commitments made under the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan in order to restore good ecological status of the Baltic marine environment by 2021, without any exception or postponement of agreed decisions and targets;
8. pursue intensified and continuous efforts to identify and remove sources of pollution and eutrophication, such as the newly discovered gypsum waste dumps resulting from the production of fertilizers;
9. proceed with strong efforts and dedicated resources for the continued improvement and modernization of the waste water treatment capacity throughout the entire Baltic Sea Region, in compliance with the stricter threshold values agreed by HELCOM;
10. develop environmentally-friendly cultivation methods and best agricultural practices, e.g. by more precise fertilization practices, closed-circuit manure handling, and recycling of nutrients;

Regarding Baltic Sea Cultural Heritage, to

11. strengthen the role of cultural heritage as an enabler and promoter of sustainable development of society, economy and environment, thereby enhancing connections between cultural heritage policy and regional development policy at regional as well as national level;
12. develop regional cooperation, including teaching, scientific cooperation and support to joint activities such as Ars Baltica, on the safeguarding of the cultural diversity as a regional asset and a basis for an inclusive society and regional development;

13. promote and support maritime cultural heritage in museums as well as in the traditional shipping sector, including support for recording and preserving traditional maritime and boat-building skills;

Regarding Innovation in Social and Health Care, to

14. develop and implement strategies and action plans to promote innovation in social and health care, based on a preventive philosophy and a holistic health economy perspective, and to integrate social welfare and health care issues in other growth strategies;

15. strengthen and systematize cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region on social welfare and health care, including e.g. the exploration of the possibilities of elaborating and implementing joint strategies for social welfare and health care, joint models for the provision of social welfare and health care, joint public procurement models and quality standards, and joint research and development endeavours;

16. take strong measures to ensure equitably available social welfare and health care services, e.g. between urban and rural areas and between socio-economic groups;

17. provide continued support to the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being;

Furthermore the Conference Decides to

18. welcome with gratitude the kind offer of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to host the 24th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in _____ on _____ 2015.