

CBSS Ministerial Meeting

Luleå, 29 August 2003

Baltic Sea States' Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development

1. We, Ministers of Environment of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, and Sweden, or our representatives, and the European Commission have agreed on the following Declaration at a meeting of Environment Ministers of the Council of Baltic Sea States in Luleå 29 August 2003.
2. In the context of the new opportunities in Northern Europe with EU enlargement, environmental investments and the increasing close co-operation between the EU and the Russian Federation, we are determined to reinforce our efforts to promote sustainable development for the Baltic Sea Region.
3. We underline the importance of the further development and strengthening of the Northern Dimension (ND) policies of the European Union. The implementation of the second ND Action Plan 2004-2006 and the ND Environmental Partnership adds new opportunities for environmental and cross-border co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region between the EU countries and the Russian Federation. We would like to emphasize the central role of water and the need for a special focus on consumption and production, including energy and transport. The activities of different bodies in the region should contribute to the objective of attaining sustainable development in relevant sectors.
4. The recent Baltic 21 report Towards Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region indicates major challenges to sustainable development in the region. It also summarizes lessons learned from five years of experience and bequeaths on us to further enhance our co-operation. As did the 12th Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CBSS held in Pori, Finland, on 10 -11 June 2003, we welcome the report and note the need to strategically develop the work.

5. The Turku NGO Forum on 9-10 May 2003 emphasized the role of civil society in the sustainable development process and urged CBSS to reinforce Baltic 21. We pledge to promote further civil society participation in environmental activities in the Baltic region.

*

*

*

6. We encourage synergies and effective division of labour in Baltic regional co-operation. We invite all bodies to participate in a Baltic dialogue and to establish partnerships towards joint actions to tackle existing and emerging environmental issues. We encourage co-operation between HELCOM and Baltic 21 in order to link sector policies and projects to the improvement of the Baltic Sea environment.

7. In view of the enlargement of the EU, special attention should be paid to harmonization of environmental legislation and norms between the EU and the Russian Federation, as well as supporting development of effective environmental management and making full use of monitoring systems in the European Union.

8. We emphasize the need to use Environmental Impact Assessments in decision making, taking into account the increasing investment activity around the Baltic Sea both as a result of EU enlargement and of increased economic activity. Trans-boundary effects must be considered.

9. Promotion of better water quality in the region should be central to co-operation with a view to improving human health. We reiterate our commitment to the goals set at the World Summit on Sustainable development in Johannesburg to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and access to basic sanitation.

*

*

*

10. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation calls on all parties and stakeholders to effectively pursue the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, WSSD. The Plan encourages regional and sub-regional

bodies to be part of this process. Experiences and lessons learned in the Baltic Sea Region should be reported to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), in accordance with its two-year cycles. The region's implementation of WSSD targets will be addressed also at our next Ministerial meeting. The Northern Dimension of the EU should be part of the EU follow-up to the WSSD.

As a regional priority we commit ourselves to promoting further action in the following areas:

I. Water

11. Calling upon all parties to take action to reduce the pressure on the marine environment and to combat eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. Continued efforts must be taken to invest in sewage treatment with the aim of covering all of the catchment area, including St Petersburg and the Neva area, and to develop and implement action programmes for pollution reduction by nutrients from agricultural areas in order to diminish the impact to the surface and ground-waters as well as to the Baltic Sea.
12. We are committed to implement the HELCOM and OSPAR Ministerial Declarations adopted on 25 June 2003 in Bremen, Germany.
13. Taking immediate measures in order to develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, in accordance with the WSSD Plan of Implementation. We are committed to use the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) to strengthen our efforts to follow-up on the targets related to water and sanitation at the global and regional levels.
14. Urgently taking concrete measures for enhanced maritime safety in the Baltic Sea in order to tackle the risk for accidents due to increased transportation, especially of oil. The measures set up in the HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration on the Safety of Navigation and Emergency Capacity in the Baltic Sea Area 2001 should be fully implemented in a timely manner. We welcome activities to increase maritime safety and are prepared to discuss measures tailored to the sensitivity of the Baltic Sea and note initiatives to this end.

15. Improving protection and management of trans-boundary waters by developing national and regional strategies, plans and programmes. A good basis for cross-border co-operation is provided through the UN/ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Watercourses and International Lakes and other legal documents that encourage a basin-wide approach in management planning.
16. Implementing the principles of integrated coastal zone management at the national level and encouraging relevant international organisations, including VASAB, to further develop and implement policies and mechanisms on integrated Baltic Sea coastal zone management, fully applying the ecosystem approach.
17. Establishing a well-managed and ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas, in order to protect biological diversity.
18. Limiting of sulphur content in marine fuels to decrease acidification and improve air quality. We are committed to national and international action in this regard and welcome further ratifications of Annex 6 of the MARPOL convention.

II Energy

19. Encouraging parties to the Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation (BASREC) to continue reducing environmental impacts when promoting the integration of energy markets in the Baltic Sea Region and to work for the removal of market distortions, inter alia through reforming energy pricing and action to reduce and, where possible, remove energy subsidies which counteract an efficient use of energy and/or have harmful effects on the environment.
20. Inviting parties to BASREC to set up targets for substantially increasing the contribution of renewable energy sources to total energy supply and to contribute to a successful outcome of the International Conference on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in June 2004 in Bonn, Germany. We welcome the Johannesburg Joint Declaration on the Way Forward on Renewable Energy.
21. Progressively introducing energy efficient technologies in each member country.

22. Implementing the Climate Convention and achieving the goals of the Kyoto Protocol and in this context welcoming the Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation (BASREC) decision to establish a Baltic Sea Region Testing Ground for international co-operation to promote the use of flexible mechanisms under the Kyoto protocol, when the protocol has entered into force. We anticipate further reductions of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in the region beyond the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.
23. Recognizing the need to use the vast potentials for bio-energy in the region by improved practices in the forestry, agriculture and energy sectors.

III. Sustainable consumption and production patterns

24. Recognizing the decision from the WSSD on a ten-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. Sustainable consumption and production should be a crosscutting issue to be considered in all sectors.
25. Minimizing serious negative impacts on human health and the environment from the production and use of chemicals, including by applying the precautionary principle and to secure a high standard of chemicals management and to enable consumers to make well-informed choices. Requiring the chemicals industry to declare the characteristics of new substances, including existing chemicals of high concern in order to ensure that production or use of chemicals do not lead to significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. Reaffirming our commitment to early ratification or accession/adoption and implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC).
26. Decoupling transport growth from pollution and reducing emissions from transportation, giving particular emphasis to the introduction of clean vehicles and fuels and shifting towards a more sustainable transport system.
27. Continuing work on cleaner production and sustainable development in the industry sector in order to reduce pollution, increase energy efficiency, promote environmental technology

and modernize the industry. Methods and resources that promote corporate responsibility and accountability should be developed as well as exchanges of best practises.

IV. Sustainable development as a sectoral challenge

28. We recognize sectoral integration and a broad multi-stakeholder participation as major characteristics of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region, including actions to be taken within the Baltic 21 process. Ongoing strategy work aims at further improving this process.

29. We emphasize the following elements to be reflected in the future work and in the new mandate for Baltic 21:

- a) Consideration of the implications of the new Action Plan for the EU Northern Dimension in its work
- b) Enhancement of Sector Ministers' responsibility and strategic development of their work within Baltic 21
- c) Development of cross-sectoral approaches and initiatives, taking into account relevant thematic clusters of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development(CSD) two year cycles
- d) Further development of co-operation with civil society and other stakeholders
- e) Application of a participatory approach with particular attention to action and co-ordination especially at the local level
- f) Reinforced effects of co-operation at project level, including developing Baltic 21 demonstration projects
- g) Increased co-operation with financial institutions and other regional bodies in order to make the process more effective and to promote synergies
- h) Exploration of possibilities for exchange of experiences with actors in other relevant regions, such as the Mediterranean region and the Black Sea.

30. Conveying the elements above, in addition to strategic sectoral development and assessments as well as the outcome of review work within the organizations, to the Baltic Sea Summit in June 2004 in order to obtain sector-overarching guidance and a new mandate for the future work of Baltic 21.

31. Promoting action programmes for sustainable agricultural production to protect biodiversity and the rural landscape, phasing out unsustainable subsidies, supporting organic production and reducing risks associated with the use of pesticides. Developments in the agricultural sector will be crucial for biodiversity and for the Baltic Sea environment. We invite Ministers of Agriculture to, together with us, take stock and to discuss further action concerning the environmental situation in the Baltic Sea Region.
32. Inviting the fisheries sector to take timely action within an ecosystem approach in order to take up the great challenge of restoring fish stocks to sustainable levels including closure of areas of particular concern.
33. Applying sustainable forest management through which production methods take biodiversity protection into account and consumption is geared towards sustainable levels.
34. Promoting education for sustainable development, which is a key for creating sustainable consumption and production, taking into account a gender perspective. We appreciate the initiative taken by Ministers of Education within CBSS in this context and the plans for implementation of the Ministerial Decisions in Baltic 21.

*

*

*

35. We, the Ministers of Environment of the Baltic Sea States call for further improved co-ordination and collaboration between the regional organisations and structures, particularly the CBSS, Baltic 21, HELCOM, the Barents-Euro Arctic Council, the Arctic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers and VASAB and welcome increased European Commission involvement in the region.
36. We will assess and evaluate progress in the implementation of this Declaration as well as review the need for new initiatives at the next meeting of the Council of Baltic Sea States Ministers for the Environment in 2006.