

1st CBSS meeting of Ministers in Charge of Industry and Economy-Helsinki (1995)

**Informal meeting of Ministers in Charge of Industry
and Economic Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region
Helsinki, 24-25 August 1995**

NOTE FOR THE FILE

The ministers in charge of industry and economic cooperation met for an informal meeting in Helsinki on the invitation of the Finnish minister of trade and industry, Mr. Antti Kalliomäki.

On 24 August 1995 the following items were dealt with:

1. Economic situation in the Baltic Sea Region. The question was raised whether the regional economic forecasts could be defined by economic research institutes in network in the region.

2. Existing economic and industrial cooperation. Present patterns of cooperation were considered to be on the right track. However, more should be done for in-depth knowledge, and information basis for an assessment of the capacities of the region, increased mutual cooperation, also by intensified EU engagements towards the Baltic Sea Region.

3. Measures to facilitate trade in goods and services as a significant independent economic region. The foundation by international and bilateral agreements for close economic cooperation are in place, but could cover other areas of trade as well.

- Attention should be paid to developing cooperation with all parts of the Baltic Sea Region.
- It is the task of the actors of the market to develop trade, but the ministers declared their willingness to further improve the framework conditions.
- Existing non tariff barriers to trade should be analysed by officials of the ministries of industry and economic cooperation in close cooperation with the economic working group of the CBSS in order to improve the situation and report back to the ministers.
- A network of information infrastructure should be put in place and agree to cooperate regularly. The EU technical assistance programs could be part of this cooperation between trade promotion agencies.

The discussion on 25 August 1995 covered:

4. Promotion of investments. Especially the development of legislation was considered as a priority.

5. Infrastructure and logistics. Focus put on the regional map of the Baltic Sea Region by identifying common interests and priorities.

6. Financing and other related questions. Attention paid to conditions for macro-economic stability and international and domestic ways and means of long-term financing.

7. Future Cooperation. A list of subjects for study and action elaborated. Poland invited to host the next meeting in Gdansk. Preparations in cooperation with national contact persons for the Baltic Sea Region in the ministries and taking into consideration existing regional fora.