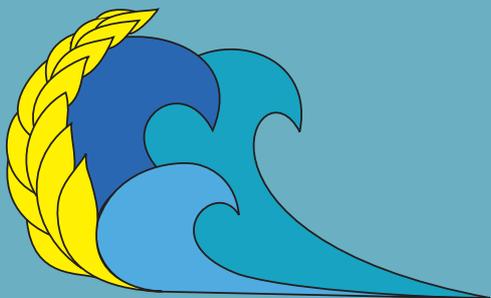


Joint Statement by the High-Level Representatives from Ministries of Agriculture and Environment of CBSS Member States

Saltsjöbaden, Sweden, 19 – 20 April 2007

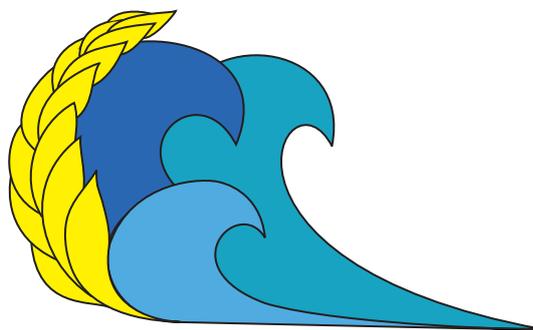


REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry of Agriculture, Food
and Fisheries
Ministry of the Environment

**Joint Statement by the High-Level
Representatives from Ministries of
Agriculture and Environment of CBSS
Member States**

**Saltsjöbaden, Sweden,
19 – 20 April 2007**



1. We, high-level representatives of the governments of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation and Sweden have agreed on the following Joint Statement at the meeting in Saltsjöbaden on 19–20 April 2007.

2. FOLLOWING the political commitments made in the Baltic Sea States' Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development in Luleå on 29 August 2003 and the informal ministerial meeting in Stockholm on 23 November 2005 and the 6th Baltic Sea States Summit in Reykjavik on 8 June 2006;

3. TAKING NOTE of the outcome of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Reykjavik on 3–5 September 2006 and the expert meeting concerning phosphorous losses from agriculture to the Baltic Sea in Stockholm on 27–28 November 2006;

4. REALIZING that eutrophication and the increasing areas of oxygen free sediments are caused by an excessive load of nutrients from agriculture and forestry, municipalities, individual housing, transport, industries, which constitute a serious threat to the marine environment in the Baltic Sea. Action to reduce nutrient loading taken thus far has not in all sectors and all regions been sufficient.

5. RECOGNIZING that the agricultural sector is one of the major sources of nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea;

6. BEING AWARE that the overall environmental situation in the Baltic Sea will be influenced by climate change, resulting in additional pressures and risks to the Baltic Sea environment;

7. RECOGNIZING, that the production of alternative energy offers new opportunities for rural areas, which however have to be realised in a manner that does not create negative effects for the Baltic Sea;

8. ACKNOWLEDGING the urgent need for more cooperation at all levels and for sustainable actions in all areas in order to achieve a good environmental status in the Baltic Sea;

9. REALIZING that the environmental status of the Baltic Sea is so critical that further and targeted action to combat eutrophication is needed;

10. THEREFORE WE AGREE

- to support the on-going work in HELCOM to develop the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) to be adopted at the forthcoming HELCOM ministerial meeting in 2007 in Krakow;
- to encourage HELCOM within the process of developing its BSAP to identify priority areas where measures to reduce nutrient loads are crucial;
- to put the integrated policy approach into practice by including all relevant policy sectors that impact on the quality of the Baltic Sea when taking concrete political and practical actions;
- to take further national actions, additionally to make full use of existing instruments, in order to reduce the nutrient load from all sources and thereby contribute to the restoration of the Baltic Sea;
- to prevent any local or regional increase in nutrient discharges into the Baltic Sea due to non sustainable practices or measures;
- to encourage future work in the Baltic Sea Regional Project (the GEF financed BSRP) to shape environmentally friendly agriculture practices;
- to improve the financial support of further measures by:
 - promoting the use of available EU funds to reduce nutrient leakage to the Baltic Sea;
 - exploring possible financial measures to improve the Baltic Sea environment;
 - encouraging relevant International Financial Institutes (IFIs) to intensify the funding of actions to promote the environment of the Baltic Sea, including exploring ways to achieve emission reduction from diffuse sources;
 - making further use of market-based economic instruments as well as incentives such as public procurement, certification and labelling;
 - support public awareness, information, education and capacity building of all relevant groups of society highlighting best available techniques and best environmental practices;
- to develop joint actions and disseminate results at farm and watershed levels in order to demonstrate sustainable solutions to reduce nutrient discharge;
- to support the BONUS Research Program and disseminate the results especially within the agriculture sector;

- to strengthen further development of cross-border cooperation to combat eutrophication at regional and municipal level;
- to support the initiative of Gotland to become a Testing Ground for sustainable development and its call on other large Baltic Sea islands to join with it in developing a joint project within the framework of the EU Structural Funds;
- to offer a regional view to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, making use of existing structures;
- to support joint initiatives for a cross-sectoral approach to the sustainable use and management of the Baltic Sea;
- to report to Heads of Government at their meeting in 2010 on progress regarding actions taken to reduce nutrient pollution from agricultural sources to the Baltic Sea

11. EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES ALSO AGREE:

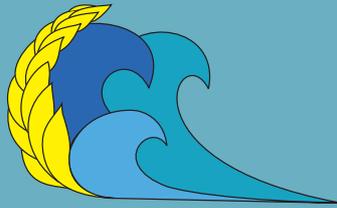
- to support the development and implementation of the BSAP as part of enhancing and facilitating implementation of the European Marine Strategy and its corresponding Directive in the Baltic Sea area;
- to implement relevant EC regulations such as the WFD, the UWWD, the Nitrate Directive, the IPPC as well as the forthcoming European Marine Strategy Directive with a view to combat pollution as well as eutrophication of the Baltic Sea;
- to give input in the 2008 forthcoming “health-check” of the EU CAP, stating the importance to the marine environment concerning the content of e.g. the rural development programmes;
- to support the activities undertaken within the framework of the Collaborative Working Group of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (CWG SCAR) for the development of sustainable agriculture in the Baltic Sea Region with the use of innovative technologies;
- to call upon the European Commission to address the specific problems of the Baltic Sea and enhance cross-sectoral co-operation in order to make policies mutually supportive e.g. biomass impact on nutrient loads;

12. WE CALL UPON BALTIC 21:

- to work on the issue of sustainable rural development and report on progress to the Heads of Government;
- to continue work on sustainable development in practice through capacity building and Baltic 21 demonstration projects, known as Lighthouse Projects, and to enforce its co-operation on sustainable agriculture solution;
- to cooperate with HELCOM to support the implementation of the future HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, once it will have been adopted by Ministers in November 2007;
- to further develop its cross-sectoral approach aiming for rural development cross the borders.

13. WE CALL UPON THE COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES

- to prioritise the value of a healthy Baltic Sea ecosystem;
- to combat the ongoing environmental degradation of the Baltic Sea which is a threat not only to the environment itself but also to the economic development of the region and to the well-being of its population, all depending on a clean and healthy Sea in good ecological status;
- to support work to establish and implement the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan;
- to promote the use of available funds for the improvement of the Baltic Sea;
- to support the co-operation for a sustainable Baltic Sea within the Baltic 21 process.



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