

# **1994 CBSS 3rd Ministerial Session - Tallinn Communiqué**

## **COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES THIRD MINISTERIAL SESSION TALLINN, MAY 24-25, 1994**

### **COMMUNIQUÉ**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. At the invitation of the Estonian Foreign Minister, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden and the representative of the European Commission met in Tallinn on 24-25 May 1994 for the III Ministerial Session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. The Council expressed its appreciation for the Estonian Chairmanship during the second year.
2. The Council noted its satisfaction with the development of relations between the member states, as evidenced by increased bilateral political contacts and dialogue, including at the highest level, and by the increased economic cooperation among member states of the Council.
3. The Council welcomed the positive outcome of the negotiations between the European Union and Finland, Norway and Sweden on their accession to the EU and also welcomed the entry into force of the EU association agreement with Poland. The Council expressed its conviction that negotiations on free trade agreements between the EU and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will reach an early conclusion, that this step will lead to the opening of negotiations on Europe agreements between these Parties, and that relations between the Russian Federation and the EU will be strengthened by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.
4. The Council recognised that political and economic developments in Europe have brought the member states of the Council closer to each other. This process should contribute to the transformation of the region into an important zone of economic growth in Europe. The enhanced political and economic cooperation among the member states and the European Union will also further strengthen regional cooperation and thus increase stability in Europe.
5. The Council welcomed the progress achieved in democratic transformation and economic reforms in Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation. Following the accession of Estonia and Lithuania to the Council of Europe the Council looks forward to the admittance of Latvia and Russia according to the criteria set for membership.
6. The Council welcomed the complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Lithuania and Poland during 1993 and the agreement reached between Russia and Latvia in this matter. The Council expressed its conviction that the withdrawal of foreign troops from Estonia and Latvia will be prompt, complete and orderly.
7. The Council noted the progress achieved in the cooperation among member states and in its activities during the past two years since the establishment of the Council. The Council reaffirmed the principles and priorities laid down in the Copenhagen Declaration of 1992 and in the Helsinki Communiqué' of 1993 and restated its determination to strengthen the cohesion among its members, leading to greater political and economic stability as well as a regional identity. The CSCE principles, documents and agreed guidelines remain a common frame of reference for all parties.

#### **II. DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

1. The Council will continue its efforts to support democratic development, respect for and promotion of human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. As an

expression of its commitment to address these issues, the Council established the post of a CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Including the Rights of Persons Belonging to Minorities and appointed Dr. Ole Espersen to take up this post. The Commissioner will assume his duties on the 1st October 1994 for a period of three years. The Council will then decide whether the post shall be extended.

2. The Council will continue to work towards the elimination of obstacles to the development of democracy. The Council noted the need for continued assistance, especially in such fields as legal reform, local democracy and self-government and freedom of the press. In this context, the Council approved the Program of Action presented by the Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions.

3. The Council welcomed the establishment and beginning of operations of the EuroFaculty and recognized its achievements during the past year in assisting the Baltic states in the retraining of teachers, in curriculum development and in the education and training of new professionals in the disciplines of Law, Economics, Business Administration and Public Administration. The Council supported the request of the Russian Federation for an extension of the EuroFaculty to the University of Kaliningrad. The Council approved a Declaration on and Statutes of the EuroFaculty and initiated elaboration of an agreement on the status of the EuroFaculty. The Council expressed its full support for the work of the EuroFaculty and underlined the necessity of continued efforts and contributions of all participating states and organizations in order to guarantee a solid structural basis of the project and a well functioning integration into the academic structures of the host countries.

4. The Council identified the development of regional transport and energy transmission networks as priority areas for increased regional coordination and urged the implementation of infrastructure projects deemed to be of regional significance. The Council identified the Via Baltica transport network, including its planned branches connecting St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad- Elblag, as a priority, linking the region with other agreed Trans-European corridors. It welcomed its acceptance as a regional project supported by the EBRD. The Council noted the interest of the Baltic states and the international financial institutions in a coordinated approach for the realization of Via Baltica and welcomed the readiness of the international financial institutions to work together with a view to clarifying the financial processes required to complete this important project.

The Council underlined the importance of a balanced development of ports and maritime transport in the region and a rational development of interconnections with road and rail transport links. The Council instructed the CSO to organize an expert meeting on this subject, in cooperation with the international financial institutions, using the various feasibility studies and inventories already available to analyze future trends.

The Council recognized that ensuring the efficiency of border-crossings is essential for the stimulation of trade and tourism in the region. In this context, the Council welcomed the active participation of customs and transport officials from all memberstates and the European Commission in a special meeting of the Working Group on Economic Cooperation held in Helsinki on 4 November 1993. There was general agreement to pursue the efforts aiming at internationally harmonized border-crossing procedures. The Council noted with satisfaction the agreements reached on co-financing between the EC - PHARE and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on the upgrading of six priority border-crossing points and instructed the CSO to continue to explore ways and means to facilitate the identification and elimination of remaining border-crossing bottlenecks in the region.

The Council noted the activities by competent international institutions and agencies as well as contributions by member states within the framework of regional energy transmission networks coupled with activities of private enterprise to create conditions for improvement and coordination of energy supply in the Baltic Sea region, including the study of the

possibility to complete the "Baltic Ring" of interconnected electricity grids. The Council welcomed the announcement of the Estonian Foreign Minister that Estonia intends to arrange a high-level meeting of energy officials.

The Council noted the progress made by the CSO in conducting a dialogue with representatives of the international financial institutions at the CSO special joint session held in Tallinn on 2-3 December 1993. The Council reaffirmed its intention to continue this dialogue in order to accelerate implementation of concrete regional infrastructure projects. The Council welcomed assistance extended by the European Union, the G-24 and the international financial institutions to the countries in transition in the Baltic Sea region and expressed the hope that it will be continued and expanded.

5. The Council noted the progress made by member states in the elaboration of a framework favourable to the promotion of private enterprise as a driving force for regional cooperation. The Council encouraged the competent authorities and organizations to conclude appropriate bilateral agreements towards ensuring a favourable climate in the region for business and foreign investment. In this context, the Council welcomed the cooperation established during the past year with the Baltic

Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BC CA) and took due note of the Memorandum on the Lifting of Trade Barriers in the Baltic Sea Area prepared and submitted by the BCCA on the basis of a request by the II Ministerial Session. This document has contributed to understanding the nature of barriers still hindering development of trade and commerce in the region. The Council expressed its support for the activities of the BCCA and reaffirmed its readiness to cooperate with this body on matters of mutual interest.

6. The Council welcomed the future dismantling of trade barriers in the Baltic Sea region by various agreements between the EU and the member states of the Council. These agreements should lead to a free trade area covering the whole Baltic Sea region as part of a Pan-European free trade zone. The Council recognized the importance of additional unilateral market opening measures agreed upon by the European Council in April 1993 in Copenhagen and encouraged further steps in this direction, especially in sensitive sectors.

7. The Council underlined its continuing concern about nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea Region and in this context urged the rapid conclusion of a regional agreement on early warning of nuclear incidents. The Council expressed its satisfaction with the considerable progress made by the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety during the past year and invited the WG to continue its work in accordance with its action plan for 1994-95. The Council welcomed the establishment in Stockholm on 11 May 1994 of an International Expert Reference Group to coordinate assistance in technical, legal and safety questions related to the decommissioning of the Paldiski nuclear facility in Estonia. The Council noted the announcement by several member states of offers of technical and material assistance to help facilitate the Paldiski decommissioning.

8. The Council noted with satisfaction the increasing interest of the Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg regions to participate in subregional cooperation. The Council expressed its conviction that this participation will help the economic restructuring and revitalization of these two important subregions, including the conversion of military industries to civilian uses. The Council welcomed the project initiated by UNIDO in cooperation with several Council members of a regional development survey of the Kaliningrad region.

### **III. RELATED INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

1. The Council welcomed the continued development of cooperation among the transport authorities in the region and expressed its conviction that the results of the Second Conference of the Ministers of Transport of the Baltic Sea region, held in Kaliningrad on 24-25 February 1994, will contribute to overcoming remaining infrastructure bottlenecks in the region. The

Council instructed the CSO and its Working Group on Economic Cooperation to initiate a dialogue with the relevant working group established by the Transport Ministers towards achieving closer coordination of infrastructure development in the region.

2. The Council noted the results of the 15th meeting of the Helsinki Commission, (HELCOM), held on 8-11 March 1994 and stressed the importance of the Report on Chemical Munitions Dumped in the Baltic Sea. The Council welcomed the decision to prolong the mandate of the special working group established for the purpose of implementing the recommendations provided in the Report and urged the relevant authorities in all member states to comply with the decision adopted by the 15th Meeting that all the Baltic Sea States should provide HELCOM by the end of 1995 with information and official documentation concerning chemical munitions dumped after 1947. The Council instructed the CSO to study the possibilities of supporting HELCOM for more effective measures in the implementation of the HELCOM action program for the protection of the Baltic Sea.

3. The Council noted with satisfaction the results of the first conference of the Ministers of Culture of the Baltic Sea region, held in Stockholm on 10-11 May 1993 and assigned high priority to the further stimulation of cultural interchange in the region as an essential element in the building of a regional identity. In this context, the Council expressed its continued support for the Ars Baltica cooperation and related initiatives. As a follow-up of the Conference of the Ministers, Poland will organize in Warsaw on 22-23 November 1994 a meeting aimed at establishing close cooperation on combating theft and smuggling of cultural values.

4. The Council expressed its appreciation to Finland and Sweden for their respective initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation in the field of uncontrolled migration across the Baltic Sea. It noted the conferences held on this subject in Stockholm on 26-27 April 1993 and on 25-26 January 1994, and in Helsinki on 11-12 May 1993.

5. The Council welcomed the Swedish initiative to organize a Baltic Sea Conference on Combating Organized Crime, held in Borgholm on 6-7 December 1993 and expressed its support for continued efforts to strengthen cooperation in this field. The Council noted that a follow-up conference will be held in Poland at the end of 1994.

6. The Council welcomed the development of cooperation in the parliamentary dimension and encouraged the CSO to consider the proposals and recommendations made at the Third Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area, held in Warsaw on 5-6 May 1994.

7. The Council attached particular importance to the development of cooperation between the Baltic Sea subregions and in this context noted that a conference on Subregional Cooperation was held in Stavanger on 7-8 October 1993 with the aim of supporting democracy and sustainable economic development. The Council gave its full support to the follow-up conference planned for Travemünde in October 1994.

8. The Council took note of the Initiative "Visions and Strategies around the Baltic 2010", which held its Second Ministerial Conference in Gdansk in December 1993. It expressed its conviction that this group will contribute to a coherent, decentralized and sustainable spatial development around the Baltic Sea through the conclusion of an over-all Report for its Third Ministerial Conference, to be held in Tallinn in December 1994. The Council welcomed the announcement by the European Commission that it will carry out a study in 1994 on the spatial development of the Baltic Sea region.

9. The Council expressed its support for the continued activity of other regional initiatives and organizations, including the Union of Baltic Cities, The Baltic Ports Organisation, the Baltic Tourism Cooperation and the Pro Baltica Forum. The Council instructed the CSO to continue its efforts to improve exchange of information and practical cooperation between these and other regional initiatives and organizations.

#### IV. PERSPECTIVES

1. The Council, as a regional body, declared its readiness to cooperate with non-member states, other regional groupings and international organizations on matters of mutual interest. In this context, the Council expressed its thanks to the invited guests of the [II Ministerial Session for their interest in and contribution to Baltic Sea cooperation. The Council took note of the membership application of Iceland and directed the CSO to submit a recommendation to the next session of the Council.

2. The Council directed the CSO to study and report on ways and means to broaden the application of the Troika, (i.e. Estonia, Poland and Sweden during the 1994-95 intersessional period), and to examine the adoption of other possible measures to ensure increased continuity and operational improvement of the Council's work.

3. At the invitation of the Government of Poland, the next meeting of the Council of the Baltic Sea States will take place in Poland in May 1995.