



---

The Council of the Baltic Sea States - 20 years









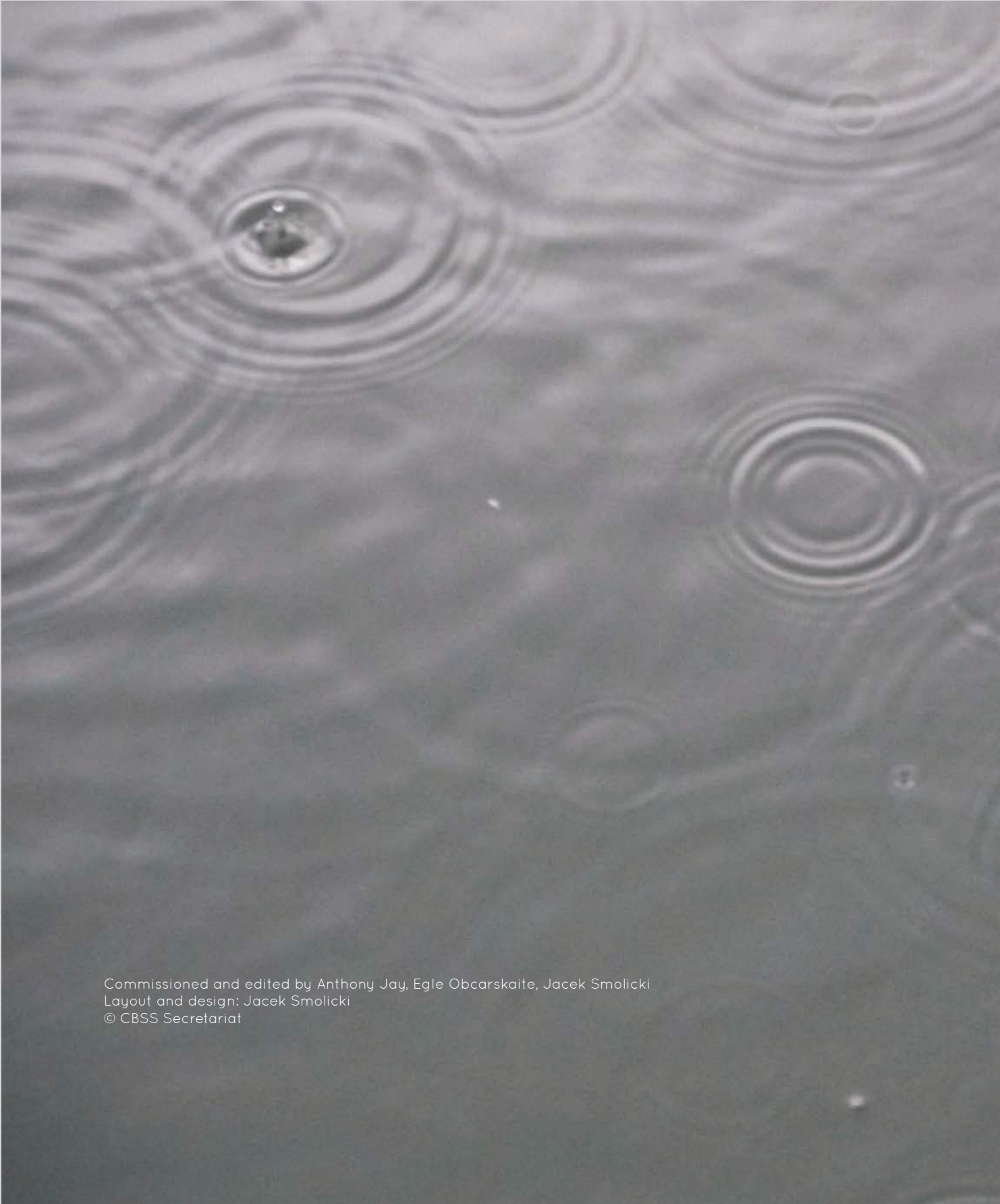












Commissioned and edited by Anthony Jay, Egle Obcarskaite, Jacek Smolicki  
Layout and design: Jacek Smolicki  
© CBSS Secretariat





# Index

---

Presidium 17

Foundation 25

Strategies for Sustainable  
and Innovative Future 51

Multi-level Governance  
and Regional Cohesion 57

Resilience and Inclusion  
in times of austerity 67

The Machine Room 79



The Council of the Baltic Sea States was founded in a completely different political, cultural and technological landscape. In the last 20 years the population of the Baltic Sea Region has become more diverse and more urbanized. The Council was founded primarily to build a sense of confidence, cohesion and commonality after years of dislocation. The Governments and individuals involved in those first tentative steps needed to familiarize themselves with one another and forge relationships that would enable trust.

This publication is a humble compendium of thoughts and ideas from some of those involved in the process. Ten women and men from across the region share their impressions on 20 years under three thematic subjects:

It is fitting that currently Germany holds the Presidency of the CBSS for a year alongside Denmark just having taken over the rotating Presidency of the European Union for six months. The Presidium of current Foreign Ministers is thus “mirrored” by reflections from the two founders and former Foreign Ministers, Mr. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and Mr. Hans Dietrich Gensher.

The archives were also trawled for some facts and figures about the development of the Council (nowhere near exhaustive) which were illustrated in a lighter fashion to complete our commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

## **Strategies for Sustainable and Innovative Future**

### **Multi-Level Governance and Regional Cohesion**

### **Resilience and Inclusion in Times of Austerity**





# Presidium



# Dr. Guido Westerwelle

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany since 2009

“

*No other forum is placed better to foster cooperation among all Baltic Sea countries*

As current President of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, I am delighted to be part of the celebrations marking its 20th anniversary. I felt honoured that so many of you from all over the Baltic joined us at Plön Castle for a truly memorable and festive occasion. I was particularly honoured by the presence of our “founding fathers”, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, to whom we owe the success of a visionary political project.


For years up to 1989, the Baltic Sea had been a theatre of East-West confrontation. Following the watershed changes in Central and Eastern Europe, the fall of the Berlin Wall and German unification, this is now history. With the disappearance of the Iron Curtain - or the Icy Curtain, as the Baltic Sea Region was once known - the Baltic Sea Region has become a bastion of freedom and opportunity. The region now connects - economically, politically, culturally and in human terms - all the countries on the shores of the Baltic Sea.

It was in Rostock in October 1991 that the then Danish and German Foreign Ministers Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and Hans-Dietrich Genscher first spelt out their vision for a new forum for closer cooperation around the Baltic Sea. Thanks to their inspiration and initiative, the Council of the Baltic Sea States was founded in Copenhagen in March 1992. What the two men hoped for was to see the Baltic Sea region prosper once again as in the days of the Hanseatic League and become, in the words of the Copenhagen Declaration, “a genuine democratic

community around the Baltic Sea”. Today eight Baltic Sea countries are EU members, two belong to the European Economic Area and Russia is linked to the EU in a variety of ways, in particular through a comprehensive modernization partnership. Baltic Sea cooperation has become an attractive model also for other regions. People living along the Danube, around the Black Sea or the Mediterranean see the Baltic Sea region as an impressive example of what regional cooperation can achieve.

Many new challenges lay ahead: modernization of the south-east Baltic Sea area with a particular focus on the Kaliningrad region, for example, protecting the Baltic Sea ecosystem, and energy cooperation. Our cooperation with the EU and other countries can be intensified to make further progress in these fields.

The Council of the Baltic Sea States has played a key role in encouraging close partnership and enhanced cooperation throughout the region. No other forum is placed better to foster cooperation among all Baltic Sea countries, strengthen the Baltic Sea region’s shared identity and increase people’s identification with the region and its common history and culture. It is a great pleasure for me to congratulate the Council of the Baltic Sea States on its achievements and to pledge our wholehearted support as it takes its work forward over the years ahead.





# Villy Søvndal, MP

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark since 2011

“

*The EU Baltic Sea Strategy represents a unique opportunity to create momentum in regional cooperation and to exploit its economic potential*

**Our organisation** has demonstrated an impressive evolution since early 1992, when far-sighted politicians launched it “to serve as an overall regional forum to focus on needs for intensified cooperation and coordination among the Baltic Sea States”.

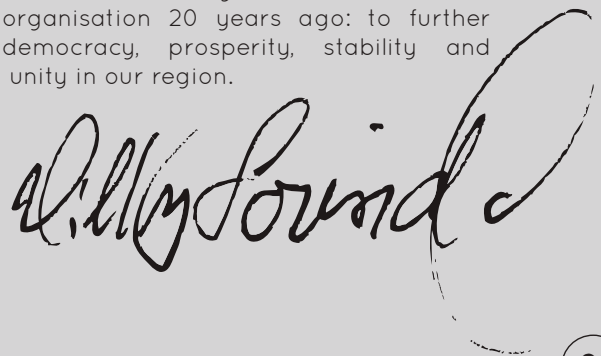
The Council of the Baltic Sea States has stood the test of time. Today, it offers a model of regional cooperation, which may serve other organisations as a source of inspiration. It has weathered the momentous political, economic and other changes that have swept our region during these two decades – to mention but one: the EU enlargement decided upon in Copenhagen in December 2002. And it has successfully managed to accommodate the recurrent need for adaptation to changing requirements and challenges: Whereas during the first years general matters of high political profile tended to top the agenda, today efforts have grown visibly in fields as diverse as fighting trafficking in human beings, protecting our vulnerable environment or looking after nuclear safety. However, political dialogue continues to take centre stage.

At the same time, a trend towards ever greater involvement in down-to-earth projects is visible, even if they sometimes seem to grow out of the limelight of public attention. Among them, a number of so-called EuroFaculty projects in the field of higher education may take pride of place.

Denmark, currently holding the EU Presidency, has a clear vision of how to cope with contemporary challenges.

The Danish Presidency aims to do its utmost to show that the EU is still capable and ready to take the decisions needed to move beyond the crisis and demonstrate the value and necessity of European cooperation. To achieve this, the Danish Presidency has focussed its program on Europe that is responsible, dynamic, green and safe. These basic priorities have also been reflected in the cross-border cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region, in such fields as civil security, environment and sustainable development. It is thus no coincidence that this established cooperation was instrumental in drafting and implementing the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. This Strategy represents a unique opportunity to create momentum in regional cooperation and to exploit its economic potential. After only two years of its implementation, in which it is gratifying to see the CBSS appearing as an actor, it is evident that the Strategy has served as a catalyst for closer cooperation in our region. Today, several CBSS Member States have been hit by an economic crisis, which is arguably the most severe for a generation, if not longer. In tackling this challenge, also the CBSS will have a role to play.

I trust the current and future CBSS Presidencies to chart a course of action with that in mind, whilst not losing sight of the overall, long-term objectives that the “founding fathers” set for the organisation 20 years ago: to further democracy, prosperity, stability and unity in our region.



## CHAIRS OF THE CBSS, 1992-2012



1992	1993	FINLAND Ministers of Foreign Affairs: Mr Paavo Matti Väyrynen & Mr Heikki Johannes Haavisto (from May 1993)
1993	1994	ESTONIA Ministers of Foreign Affairs Mr Trivimi Velliste & Mr Jüri Luik (from January 1994)
1994	1995	POLAND Ministers of Foreign Affairs: Mr Andrzej Olechowski & Mr Władysław Bartoszewski (from March 1995)
1995	1996	SWEDEN Minister of Foreign Affairs: Ms Lena Hjelm-Wallen
1996	1997	LATVIA Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr Valdis Birkavs
1997	1998	DENMARK Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr Niels Helveg Petersen
1998	1999	LITHUANIA Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr Algirdas Saudargas
1999	2000	NORWAY Ministers of Foreign Affairs: Mr Knut Vollebæk & Mr Tjørbjørn Jagland (from March 2000)
2000	2001	GERMANY Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs & Vice-Chancellor: Mr Joschka Fischer
2001	2002	RUSSIAN FEDERATION Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr Igor Ivanov
2002	2003	FINLAND Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr Erkki Tuomioja
2003	2004	ESTONIA Minister of Foreign Affairs: Ms Kristiina Ojuland
2004	2005	POLAND Ministers of Foreign Affairs: Mr Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz & Mr Adam Daniel Rotfeld (from January 2005)
2005	2006	ICELAND Ministers of Foreign Affairs: Mr Davíð Oddsson & Mr Geir H. Haarde (from September 2005)
2006	2007	SWEDEN Ministers of Foreign Affairs: Mr Jan Eliasson & Mr Carl Bildt (From October 2006)
2007	2008	LATVIA Ministers of Foreign Affairs: Mr Artis Pabriks & Mr Maris Riekstins (from November 2007)
2008	2009	DENMARK Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr Per Stig Møller
2009	2010	LITHUANIA Ministers of Foreign Affairs: Mr Vygaudas Usackas & Audronius Azubalis (from February 2010)
2010	2011	NORWAY Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr Jonas Gahr Støre
2011	2012	GERMANY Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr Guido Westerwelle

## CHAIRS OF THE CBSS' GOVERNING BODY, THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS, 1992-2012

1992	1993	FINLAND Ambassador Arto Tanner	
1993	1994	ESTONIA Ambassador Alar Olljum	
1994	1995	POLAND Ambassador-at-large Józef Węjacz	
1995	1996	SWEDEN Ambassador Ingemar Stjernberg	1st Baltic Sea States Summit, Visby, Sweden Göran Persson, Prime Minister
1996	1997	LATVIA Ambassador Jānis Rītenis	
1997	1998	DENMARK Ambassador Dan Nielsen	2nd Baltic Sea States Summit, Riga, Latvia Co-hosted by Poul Nyrup Rasmussen Hosted by Guntars Krasts, Prime Minister
1998	1999	LITHUANIA Ambassador Dalius Cekuolis	
1999	2000	NORWAY Ambassador Harald Neple	3rd Baltic Sea States Summit, Kolding, Denmark Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Prime Minister
2000	2001	GERMANY Ambassador Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth	
2001	2002	RUSSIAN FEDERATION Ambassador-at-large Alexey A. Obukhov	4th Baltic Sea States Summit, St. Petersburg, Russia Mikhail Kasyanov, Prime Minister
2002	2003	FINLAND Ambassador-at-large Tauno Pesola	
2003	2004	ESTONIA Ambassador-at-large Tiit Naber	5th Baltic Sea States Summit, Laulasmaa, Estonia Juhan Parts, Prime minister
2004	2005	POLAND Ambassador-at-large Józef Węjacz	
2005	2006	ICELAND Ambassador Kornelius Sigmundsson	6th Baltic Sea States Summit, Reykjavik, Iceland Halldór Ásgrímsson, Prime Minister
2006	2007	SWEDEN Ambassador Christer Persson	
2007	2008	LATVIA Ambassador Valdis Krastins	7th Baltic Sea States Summit, Riga, Latvia Ivars Godmanis, Prime Minister
2008	2009	DENMARK Ambassador Karsten Petersen	
2009	2010	LITHUANIA Ambassador Neris Germanas	8th Baltic Sea States Summit, Vilnius, Lithuania Andrius Kubilius, Prime Minister
2010	2011	NORWAY Ambassador Dag Briseid	
2011	2012	GERMANY Ambassador Gerhard Almer	





# Foundation



# Uffe Ellemann-Jensen

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark 1982-93

“

*We had to force people that might have ended up at each others throats to meet and discuss in a civilized and constructive way.*

# CBSS – born out of enthusiasm and anxiety

**Towards the end of 1991**, the political map of the Baltic Sea Region was finally approaching its new composition: After the peaceful regime change in Poland and the German unification, the three Baltic states finally regained their independence and the Soviet Union was in an advanced state of disintegration. The mood in the region was one of enthusiasm and optimism – but also anxiety because of the fragile nature of some of the new political structures.

My German colleague and friend Hans-Dietrich Genscher and I had been in close personal contact throughout the period of change. We represented the only two EC-countries in the Baltic Sea Region, and shared a vision and a wish to see our region returned to the strong position that had characterized much of its past history.

Two months after the failed “putch” in Moscow and the resulting independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, he invited me to a special meeting in Rostock. Here we met on October 22nd with the German and Danish envoys in the region to discuss what could be done to support a peaceful return to freedom and prosperity around the Baltic Sea that had so long been divided between East and West. Out of this meeting came the idea to create the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

We agreed that it was important to create a new political structure in which all states in the region should sit down together and discuss matters of mutual interest – building upon the old saying attributed to Churchill that “jaw-jaw is better than war-war”. Therefore it was important to have small as well as big states around the meeting table. And in order to keep a balance between Russia and the rest of us it was agreed that the German Federal Republic should be a member and not the German states bordering to the Baltic Sea.

When we left Rostock, we had also agreed that we should make a joint invitation to our colleagues in the region to a meeting in Copenhagen where we should discuss the idea.

This meeting was held as a “Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Baltic Sea States” in Copenhagen on March 5-6, 1992. And thanks to a formidable effort by the German and Danish officials it was possible to use this opportunity to formally establish the Council of Baltic Sea States with the issue of the “Copenhagen Declaration” setting down the goals and structures of the CBSS.

Not everybody was as enthusiastic. I remember an acidulous article in “The Economist” calling the new council “the

most superfluous internal organization yet established"... a statement that only demonstrated a lack of understanding the real raison-d'être behind the CBSS: We had to force people that might have ended up at each others throats to meet and discuss in a civilized and constructive way.

Well, they did! And over the years – as the organization was strengthened, and a permanent secretariat was established in Stockholm – a lot of substance was also added to what in the beginning was a rather loose structure. Today after 20 years of the CBSS, the political map of our region has developed in a positive direction: Most countries in the Region are members of the European Union – and when the EU's first regional strategy was adopted in 2009 it was a natural thing that is was for our Baltic Sea Region. This presents the political leaders of the region with many opportunities and challenges. There are still many divisions and obstacles to deal with in order to obtain the optimal results from joint efforts in the areas where stronger cooperation is needed: the environment, energy, transport, ICT, infrastructure etc. And it is still a challenge to convince each other that this cooperation is not a zero-sum-game.

Cooperation with Russia remains a special challenge – and here it is obvious that it was a wise decision 20 years ago to take the Federal Republic in as the German member of the CBSS: Because Germany is in a special position to strengthen the ties between Russia and the rest of us in a way that commands mutual respect and recognition of the

spirit of the new political map of Europe. The close cooperation between the present German CBSS and the incoming Russian CBSS Presidency is testimony of this fact.

So it is a good thing for our Region that Germany has taken over the leadership of the CBSS at this important anniversary – in which we learn from the past in order to deal with the future. We are "The Top of Europe"! And as we want to stay there we shall also be prepared to do the necessary work for a greater unity and prosperity in our Baltic Sea Region.







# Hans-Dietrich Genscher

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and Vice-Chancellor of Germany, 1974-1992

“

*The Baltic Sea peoples' shared experience of history over the years, over the decades and the centuries, has gradually become more and more of a catalyst for the development of Europe as well.*

**On 22 October 1991**, the Danish-German Ambassadors' Conference was held in Rostock – an international conference held in the east of the unified Germany one year after reunification. We were aware at the time of how historically significant both the substance and the location of our meeting were. We were also aware, at a more immediate level, that the Baltic Sea had again become a unifying element amongst us, the states on its coasts, after decades of forced division. The Baltic could be a region again! Seas are not divisions; they are connections. This is especially true of the Baltic Sea.

Looking back through European history, we are reminded that the countries on the Baltic Sea have always been bound together by a common destiny. Structures have changed, and the balance of power has changed. The states on the Baltic have seen their borders change. But the Baltic Sea peoples' shared experience of history over the years, over the decades and the centuries, has gradually become more and more of a catalyst for the development of Europe as well.

The Baltic Sea region had never before been as open and ready for cooperation as it is now. That attitude opens up tremendous opportunities and realms of possibility. The links and networks connecting the Baltic Sea states are many. We all have membership of the Council of Europe in common. Most of us are members of the European Union, and many are also part of the Western alliance, NATO. As part of the OSCE, all the states around the Baltic are working towards the great common goal of peace prevailing from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

Since the Wall came down and the CBSS was founded, the world has undergone some dramatic changes – for the better. The principle of working together in our regions has been establishing itself more and more strongly around the world. The Baltic Sea area displays exemplary levels of opportunity. The confidence conferred by regional cohesion and regional responsibility is a source of additional stability. When the CBSS Foreign Ministers meet in Plön on 5 February 2012, it will not be simply a meeting of the Foreign Ministers from around the Baltic Sea. Those who will meet there are representatives of an ever more cohesive Europe. The fact that EU member states have allied themselves within the CBSS with others which are not in the EU is a demonstration of the Baltic Sea states' openness and cooperative spirit. And that includes our great Eastern European neighbour Russia.

Twenty years of the CBSS means 20 years of policy in Europe fostering peace. It also means 20 years of being an example throughout the world. The Baltic is the region to watch!





*From left to right: Henning Christophersen, Paavo Väyrynen, Andrey Kozyrev, Hans Dietrich Genscher, Thorvald Stoltenberg, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Algirdas Saudargas, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, Lennart Meri, Margaretha af Ugglas, Janis Jurkans*





## HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES BETWEEN 1992-2012 \*



\* The graph presents indications of mandates served - broken down by year. The intention is to demonstrate transitions of government over time.

Name Surname - Head of Government  
 Name Surname - Foreign Minister  
 Name Surname\* - Acting Head of Government



2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

	Anders Fogh Rasmussen						Lars Løkke Rasmussen	Helle Thorning-Schmidt		
	Per Stig Møller						Lene Espersen	Villy Søvndal		
Siim Kallas	Juhan Parts					Andrus Ansip				
	Kristiina Ojuland		Jaak Jaeritat Rein Lang			Urmas Paet				
	Anneli Jäätteenmäki		Matti Vanhanen				Mari Kiviniemi	Jyrki Katainen		
				Ilkka Kanerva		Alexander Stubb		Erkki Tuomioja		
						Angela Merkel				
			Frank-Walter Steinmeier			Guido Westerwelle				
		Halldór Ásgrímsson		Geir Haarde		Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir				
		David Oddsson	Geir H. Haarde	Valgerður Sverrisdóttir		Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir		Óssur Skarphéðinsson		
Einars Repše	Indulis Emsis	Aigars Kalvītis			Ivars Godmanis		Valdis Dombrovskis			
Sandra Kalniete		Artis Pabriks			Māris Riekstiņš		Aivis Ronis	Girts Valdis Kristovskis		
Algirdas Brazauskas				Zigmantas Balčytis	Gediminas Kirkilas		Andrius Kubilius			
Antanas Valionis				Petras Vaitiekūnas	Vygaudas Ušackas		Rasa Juknevičienė	Audronius Ažubalis		
Leszek Miller		Marek Belka	Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz	Jarostaw Kaczyński		Donald Tusk				
Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz			Adam Daniel Rofield	Anna Fotyga		Radosław Sikorski				
Kjell Magne Bondevik						Jens Stoltenberg				
	Jan Petersen					Jonas Gahr Støre				
		Viktor Khristenko		Mikhail Fradkov	Viktor Zubkov			Vladimir Putin		
					Sergei Lavrov					
						Fredrik Reinfeldt				
	Jan O. Karlsson*	Laila Freivalds		Bo Ringholm	Corig Jämtin	Jan Eliasson	Carl Bildt			

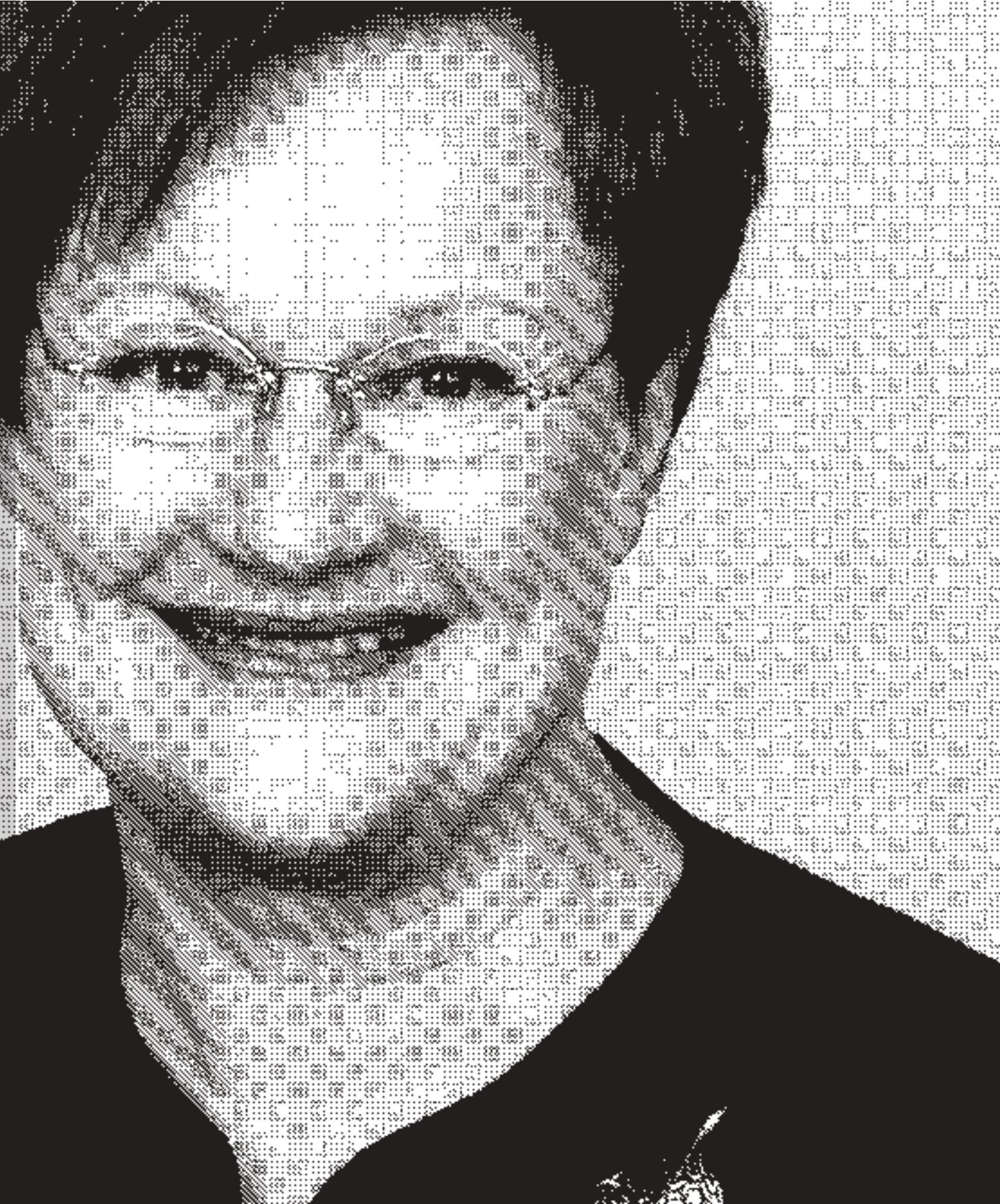
# Tarja Halonen

President of the Republic of Finland (2000-2012)  
and Minister for Foreign Affairs (1995-2000)

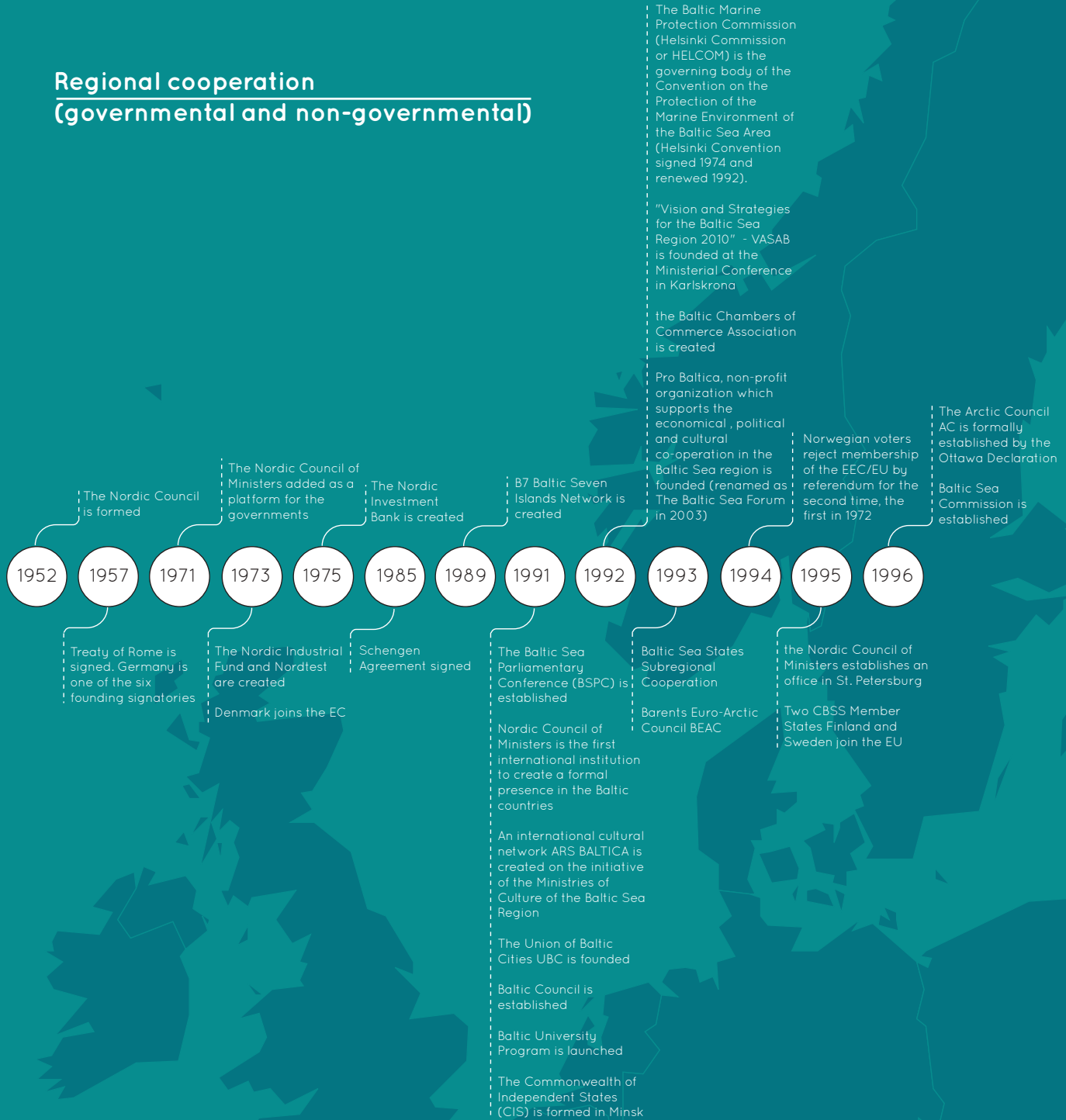
“

*“The CBSS has now entered its fourth year of activity. To create an increasingly efficient outlook for this regionally-based cooperation, we should more fully involve our Governments in the CBSS work. One way of tackling this question would be to convene a meeting of the Prime Ministers of the CBSS Member States and the President of the European Commission. A meeting at such a level could set goals and provide political backing for ventures of regional interest in longer-term perspective, enhancing by the same token mutual confidence and credibility in the Baltic Sea Region.”*

*Ms. Tarja Halonen speaking in her capacity at the time as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland at the 4th Council of the Baltic Sea States Ministerial Session, Gdansk, May 19th, 1995. The first Baltic Sea States Summit would be convened the following year in Visby, Gotland by the Swedish Prime Minister at the time Mr Göran Persson.*



## Regional cooperation (governmental and non-governmental)





European Union strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is launched by the European Commission

The Eastern Partnership was inaugurated in Prague on 7 May 2009. The first meeting of foreign ministers in the framework of the Eastern Partnership was held on 8 December 2009 in Brussels

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) was initially presented by the foreign minister of Poland with assistance from Sweden at the EU's General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels 2008

Estonia joins the Euro Zone 1 January  
Poland holds the EU Presidency from July to December  
Russia is accepted as a member of the WTO

A Nordic office is opened in Kaliningrad

The Northern Dimension is relaunched as an equal partnership between the EU, Russia, Iceland and Norway, not an EU policy towards its external partners

The EGNRS agreement was extended in scope to include airborne measurements by the Joint Declaration on the Exchange of a Radiation Monitoring Data

the activities of the Nordic Industrial Fund and Nordtest are merged into the Nordic Innovation Centre

ScanBalt is launched to combine the region's capabilities in a stronger network, creating a meta-region of life science clusters around the Region

Four CBSS Member States: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland join the EU

The First Baltic Sea NGO Forum takes place in Lübeck, Germany

The Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (EGNRS) agreement on the exchange of radiation monitoring data is signed obliging all the CBSS Member States to establish the necessary legal and administrative basis for improved exchange of radiological data between the parties in normal situations and in case of nuclear or radiological accidents or incidents

EU Northern Dimension policy is drawn up

the Baltic Sea Trade Union Network BASTUN is established

The Conference Women and Democracy at the Dawn of the New Millennium is held in Reykjavik, 1999 which was followed up in Vilnius in 2001, Tallinn in 2003 and St. Petersburg in 2005 by the Baltic Sea Women's Conference.



Baltic Development Forum is created on the initiative of former Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Uffe Ellemann-Jensen

President Putin signs a decree in May dividing Russia into seven federal districts replacing the previous structure of eighty-nine regions

BaltMet is launched by a number of capitals and large metropolitan areas from the Baltic Sea Region, to collaborate on efforts to increase innovation, strengthen and communicate regional profiles, and build critical infrastructure

Euro banknotes and coins are released in 12 EU Member States

Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Tallinn, Estonia, on 26 August 2002 decided to appoint a Nordic Baltic Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings

the Baltic countries become members, i.e. co-owners, of the Nordic investment Bank

Final version of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, developed by HELCOM, is adopted

Schengen area Land and sea borders (for the 10 member states that acceded to the EU in 2004) were phased out from the end of 2007 with airports following in spring 2008

Baltic Sea Action Summit is held in Helsinki

Negotiations of Icelandic accession to the EU formally begin

Denmark holds the EU Presidency from January to June

Poland and Ukraine host the EURO Championship in football

North-West Strategy of the Russian Federation is launched



# Helle Degn

Former Minister and CBSS Commissioner  
on Democratic Development (2000-2004)

“

*The Arab Spring with its insistent calls for renewal as well as popular uprisings against ossified, authoritarian regimes, make me think of the ferment that characterized Europe of the late eighties and early nineties*



**My office** as the CBSS Commissioner for Democratic Development was set up by all the 11 governments, to assist the member states of the Council of Baltic Sea States, in giving concrete expression to, and support for the commitments they had undertaken right from the establishment of the Council, to respect and advance the achievements of the CSCE, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, later renamed OSCE, notably in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1990 Paris Charter, in the fields of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the growth and consolidation of democratic institutions.

Taking due account of the fact that issues concerning the situation of national minorities still tortures the region in the 1990s, from the outset the Commissioner was given the mandate, which focused on the need to address and seek solutions to such issues in a respectful manner. Moreover, citizen rights and tolerance posed particularly difficult challenges, notably due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the ensuing need to find ways to work out how to transfer citizenship to the successor states, including some of our member states.

To develop and foster tolerance is a process which takes time – not only in our region – but all over Europe, left with so many scars after long years of violent history. Let me underline that tolerance building still continue to play an important role for the healing process also in our region. In keeping with intentions behind the setting-up of CBSS and of my office,

I saw it as my primary task to ensure a detailed investigation of, and coupled with an adequate follow-up, concerning the principal political institutions of the CBSS states within the context of wider European co-operation. My endeavours in that respect had two closely related aspects. On one hand, the task was in the 1990s, to avoid losing the active participation of our citizens in the process of building and consolidating pluralist democracy. On the other hand, it was to ensure that the institutions of our countries gained and retained their credibility in the eyes of our publics.

To this end, I strove to promote the follow-up of the Helsinki process, basing myself on the achievements of the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Union, so as to safeguard the inviolability of the human being, as well as to advance the “European” definition of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

At the same time I also promoted the growth and consolidation of accountability and transparency in the work of our democratic institutions. In that context I strove to promote and consolidate the effectiveness of governmental institutions of member states so as to depoliticize them and further clean government offices.

In more concrete terms, among other things I sought to promote the build-up and modernization of the ombudsman institutions of all the CBSS member states. My office also facilitated and sought to strengthen trust and co-operation among the ombudsmen. In this context I look back with pleasure to



“

*A CBSS initiative with lasting impact, the Euro-Faculty, which was set up to modernise the teaching in the social and legal sciences in Baltic universities. It started in Tartu, Riga and Vilnius. During my term of office, I had the opportunity to follow its implementation at the university in Kaliningrad, where it led to an important reform of the study of law. The Euro-Faculty idea is now being implemented in Pskov*

the active participation of the Russian ombudsman Sergei Kovalyov and his Nordic colleagues in these efforts. Moreover, the Commissioner's office produced many surveys – one of the most important ones issued in the course of my time dealt with pre-trial detention practices in all our member states.

And I'm sorry to say, that this subject even today still gives all of us reason to act and strive to achieve reform. Many of our citizens still lack the most basic rights and fundamental human rights – so in this area, there is still room for major improvements in more of the CBSS member states.

I also look back with pleasure to my co-operation with the state prosecutors of the member states, including the holding of several conferences on the practices, mandate and development of the office of the public state prosecutors.

Moreover, I remember that my office and I spent a lot of time and effort on three major conferences on good governance – and to analyse and write a book named: " Powers in transition" – which Commissioner Chris Patten commented as most relevant and timely. In this book we describe the constitutional changes taking place – from sovereign presidential rule to European parliamentarism. Major changes took place in the set-up of powers between the offices of the Presidents and the Governments and the Parliaments and in their relationship to the European institutions and cooperation. In this book we also describe how differently the parliamentary committees of the parliaments of the member states were organised in these years.

Finally, I recall with great pleasure my co-operation with leading representatives of member states. Notably, I remember my close and confident collaboration with the then Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov as contacts taking place in the CBSS, in the Council of Europe and the OSCE with their respective tasks. And it is with great pleasure that I remember the window of opportunities then existing as to further developing Russian democratic structures. The same goes for my meetings for example with the present Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Kozak and with the former Chairman of the Russian State Duma, Mr. Seleznev. Moreover I recall my co-operation with a couple of Nordic colleagues, notably the former President of the Swedish Riksdagen, Birgitta Dahl, the present Finnish President Ms. Tarja Halonen and her predecessor, President Martti Ahtisaari.

The personalities that I have just mentioned all made a dedicated contribution to the process of transition taking place at the time. This only to mention a few personalities – many others could as well be named in all respect and thankfulness.

For obvious reasons, as a woman, I paid particular attention to gender equality. I endeavoured to promote the full and effective participation of women on all levels of society, including all the leading posts of the setup of our member states. In the same vein, I did my utmost to fight international trafficking in women and girls. In this context my office collected information from all CBSS states, on the legal status of women, including the legal rights and status of trafficked women. In the process of producing this





# Prof. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga

Former President of the Republic of Latvia (1999-2007)

“

*At the moment, the Baltic Sea Region is made up of a checkerboard of nations at different stages of development. I believe that ultimately, we must work together to fashion a more integrated region all around the Baltic seaboard, a region comprised of nations closely comparable in status, all of them closely compatible in their mode of governance and tempo of development*

Address at the 5th Stockholm Conference on Baltic Sea Region Security and Cooperation, October 19, 2000



# 10 YEARS OF THE COURT OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES TEN STEPS TO EACH OTHER

 Svetlogorsk

Hamburg - 2001

Bergen - 2000

Palanga - 1999

Nyborg - 1998

Riga - 1997

Kalmar - 1996

Warsaw - 1995

Tallinn - 1994

Helsinki





# UNCIL TATES: OTHER

orsk - 2002  
2001



5-6 March 2002  
Svetlogorsk

Klingrad Coast, R





# Strategies for Sustainable --- and Innovative Future



# Dalia Grybauskaitė

President of the Republic of Lithuania

“

*I have no doubt that even small, but meaningful, projects and initiatives can create as much value as the big ones.*

**Twenty years ago**, when the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Germany and Denmark Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Uffe Ellemann-Jensen launched the project of regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea region, it was easy to be sceptical. But the Council of Baltic Sea States, which now embraces eleven countries as member states, ten countries as observers, and the European Commission, turned out to be a success, resulting in wide ranging intensive cooperation and engagement of people across the region.

European Union first recognized the importance of closer cooperation between the Nordic, Baltic countries and Russia more than a decade ago, and the first Commission Communication to foster this cooperation was produced in 1998. Ten years later, in acknowledgement of the special value that the Baltic Sea regional cooperation has generated over these years for the region and way beyond its geographic boundaries, in 2009 EU launched its first ever macro-regional strategy, aimed not only at the more intense integration and development of the Baltic Sea region, but also at making this regional approach a model for the other regions to find inspiration in.

I am convinced that the future of the Baltic Sea region is founded on a faster and deeper integration. In the Declaration "A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020" adopted at the Baltic Sea States Summit in Vilnius, 2010, leaders of the Baltic Sea States agreed on a set of guidelines to promote prosperity, innovation and competitiveness of our region. It seems we have all elements to succeed: political will, popular support and appropriate institutions

and financial mechanisms to implement what was agreed upon.

In this view, the priorities for Lithuania are the following:

First, enhance regional market, especially in the energy sector, by strict and comprehensive implementation of anti-monopolistic legislation and abolishing regulations that harm competition. Electricity bridges from Lithuania to Sweden and Poland as well as from Estonia to Finland, development of regional power generation capacities will attract investment, substantially increase its competitiveness by creating an alternative for the energy supply, and promote the use of renewable energy.

Second, nurture an entrepreneurial climate by eliminating restrictions to establishment and expansion of small-to-medium size businesses; improve labor force competencies through education and on-the-job training systems. Maintaining and supporting a partnership network that involves businesses, researchers and non-governmental organizations will transform the region into a vibrant knowledge and innovation-based community. The Baltic Sea Action Plan is a perfect example of joint commitment by public, private and NGOs sectors to solve the outstanding problems together. That's the path we should continue pursuing.

Third, treat environmental protection as a priority. It is only by complying very precisely with international environmental requirements that we will earn the confidence of our partners and investors with and help ensure public

support and sustainability of any of the projects that we have undertaken.

Lithuania's lasting commitment to the cause is not least demonstrated by the successful launching of a UN resolution concerning the chemical munitions at sea last December, as well as the Lithuanian-Russian initiative, agreed upon in Helsinki in February 2010, to promote regional disaster-response related cooperation. I have no doubt that even small, but meaningful, projects and initiatives can create as much value as the big ones.

Thus, the upcoming meeting of the Heads of Governments of Baltic Sea States in Germany offers us with a good opportunity to take stock of the progress achieved in implementing the guidelines set at the Vilnius meeting, but also reaffirm our commitment to deliver on the long-term vision of the prosperous, innovative and competitive Baltic Sea Region that we all share.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. P. ...', written in a cursive style.

## **Vilnius Declaration**

### **A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020**

The Heads of Government and other high-level representatives of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden and the President of the European Commission gathered in Vilnius on 1-2 June 2010 for the 8th Baltic Sea States Summit.

The Summit stated its conviction that the Baltic Sea Region, on the basis of

- respect for democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law,
- active civil societies,
- increasingly integrated and interdependent economies,
- developed social dialogue and social cohesion,

has the potential to become one of the most prosperous, innovative and competitive regions in the world, using the strengths of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and other existing Baltic Sea regional cooperation frameworks.

The Summit made a strong political commitment to turn into reality the following Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020:

The Region has a well-balanced inter-governmental structure for political dialogue and practical cooperation.

The Baltic Sea is regaining its ecological health, with its littoral States playing a leading and exemplary role in dealing with the environmental challenges.

Marked progress has been achieved in fostering investment-friendly economies and innovation driven production.

Using the potential of public-private partnerships and driven by a common understanding, the public sector and the business community take a shared responsibility for sustainable development.

Regional economic growth benefits from an integrated maritime policy and well-interconnected transport networks.

All countries in the Region enjoy the results of integrated energy markets, improved energy efficiency and extended use of clean and renewable energy.

The people of the Region benefit from positive dynamics of socio-economic development, ensuring good public health and social well-being.

The countries of the Region are effectively reducing unemployment, social exclusion and inequality in the labour market.

The Region benefits from advanced regional networks built on active application of information technologies.

The people of the Region are experiencing a steady progress in combating terrorism, in enhancing the protection and resilience of critical infrastructure and in fighting organized crime, especially trafficking in human beings, including children, and in illegal drugs.

A strong regional identity is emerging, fostered by research, education, culture, and the common heritage of the region.

The Region benefits from promotion of tolerance and extended people-to-people contacts.





# Multi-level Governance --- and Regional Cohesion



# Prof. Danuta Hübner

Chair, Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament

“

*The Baltic Region, thanks to its differentiations, is a laboratory case for testing multi-level governance.*

**Baltic Sea Region** has a potential of becoming a standard-bearer for innovation and a leader for cooperation in Europe within the framework of a multi-level governance. I am happy that this attitude is reflected in the Baltic Sea Strategy, a macro-regional approach that addresses in comprehensive way the challenges and the possible venues of regional cooperation.

Especially when applied in growth-oriented regions, it is quite clear to me that Europe has actually the most fantastic, innovation-oriented and – what is important – easy to reproduce in other parts of the world model of governance.

Multi-level model of government and decision-making is a European innovation of first order. It has been tried and tested in a multi-cultural condition. As such it can become a point of reference for other continents.

It is based on traits that are present in all cultures: a people's desire of full participation in public life and having a say in their own affairs. This desire is similar in Europe, in India, in the Arab world, in China and in Russia.

Properly working multi-level system of governance is in a sense a measure of excellence of the day to day performance of the democratic procedure. The more citizens are motivated to be involved at various levels of public activity, the more robust is our democracy.

I would venture to say that multi-level governance model is the most suited way of organizational behavior to the “flat world” in which we live. This is the world in which the growth of number of citizen-led communication platforms

for exchange of good practices is a modern embodiment of the old idea of subsidiarity.

Europe's strength in the decades to come will be the growing empowerment of the regions as the next step in the development of democracy. But it cannot mean closing regions off from the wider world. They can thrive and survive only as elements of “deep networking” of world-wide exchange of knowledge, capital, information and ideas.

The Baltic Region, thanks to its differentiations, is a laboratory case for testing multi-level governance. Existing disparities of wealth but at the same time exceptional expertise in information and knowledge-based industries is something that characterizes the region. Heterogeneity can breed problems, but it also can be source of dynamism in growth. The key is finding the strategy for development based on complementarity of particular strengths. Important challenge is to distribute more widely the skills and resources needed for establishing the region as a model of smart specialization.

Baltic states area is but one example of the fact that multilevel governance is a necessary instrument in global facilitating of not only economic growth but also political and cultural participation as well as universal emancipation. Multilevel governance is certainly one of the Europe's best export products, a most valuable capital that Europe can freely share with the rest of the world.



# Valentina Pivnenko

Chairman of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference  
Deputy of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

“

*North-West Russia, for instance, is home to over 13 million people and innumerable enterprises, and has great potential to contribute substantially to the further growth and strength of the Region*

**The Baltic Sea Region** has undergone a remarkable, profound and ultimately positive development over the past 20 years. What was once a region charged with potential confrontations and divided by forbidding barriers has evolved into a region of peace, democracy, good-neighborliness, and cooperation. Social, economic and technological advances have brought along major, and sometimes unforeseen, positive changes to all the countries of the Region, raising their actual and prospective level of interdependence. Consequently, further progress will be achieved only if all the countries work even more closely together and make sure that no-one is sidestepped.

A large number of collaborative organizations and institutions have proliferated, embodying and fostering joint endeavours for the benefit of the Region and its citizens: Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), Baltic Sea States Sub-regional co-operation (BSSSC), Baltic Development Forum (BDF), Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) – to name a few. The track record of cooperation so far is indeed satisfactory, yet there is still a long road to travel before we can talk about the Baltic Sea Region as a fully cohesive region. In my opinion, an open and all-embracing political dialogue is an inherent component of the overall development of the Region. The BSPC, for instance, with Russian Chairmanship in 2011-2012, gathers parliamentarians from altogether 27 parliaments and parliamentary organizations around the Baltic Sea. BSPC constitutes an important

platform for a candid political debate, which is a prerequisite for the pursuit of pragmatic approaches and compromises to complex issues. Hence, BSPC contributes to a transparent, democratic and rewarding political process, as well as to practical solutions, in the Baltic Sea Region.

The future path of the Region holds numerous opportunities and potentials, but also challenges: environmental threats, economic disparities, imbalances in social welfare, pockets of poor health and social well-being, infrastructural deficiencies. To realize the potentials of the Region and continue to benefit from its opportunities, we must improve our joint abilities to manage the strains brought on by development. The perhaps pivotal task for the Region at present is to find a sustainable balance between future economic growth and ecological care. So how can we proceed from here?

To begin with, I think it is of decisive importance to acknowledge that there is a multitude of potentials to be harvested from a more integrated Region, both internally and externally. A stronger cooperation in the fields of economy, energy, infrastructure and many others, and the promotion of a common labour market with fair conditions for industry and labour, will strengthen the Region's competitiveness in a wider European and also global scale. North-West Russia, for instance, is home to over 13 million people and innumerable enterprises, and has great potential to contribute substantially to the further growth and strength of the Region.

Cooperation on health and social welfare issues will doubtless reinforce social well-being throughout the Region, which is a basic precondition for an inclusive democracy and economic growth; cooperation on education and research helps boosting the intellectual excellence of the whole Region; fighting crime and corruption makes the Region a safer home for its citizens. Frequent personal encounters and tourism promotes an understanding of the common cultural heritage and nurtures a sense of togetherness. Therefore, it is necessary to facilitate mobility within the Region as much as possible and to tear down administrative and physical hurdles, such as visa restrictions, for an unimpeded movement of people and enterprises. This is especially pertinent in border regions with a coherent economic-geographic character which may even share family ties. The facilitation of visa procedures between Norway and Russia for citizens of the Barents Region – so-called Pomor visas and the Agreement on the facilitation of mutual travel by residents of border territories – enhance people-to-people contacts and trade in that region. Similar arrangements have proven successful in border regions straddling Russia and Finland, and recently Russia and Poland signed an agreement to facilitate travel between Kaliningrad and its adjacent Polish territories.

Moreover, we must recognize that challenges, as well as opportunities, transcend borders. Therefore, it is imperative to apply a cross-border perspective in our dealings with them. This does not by any means contradict or serve as a replacement for national strategies

and action plans. It would, however, be advantageous from an overall regional point of view if national plans were more explicitly attuned to comprehensive regional concerns and considerations.

It is fundamentally important to realize that all major stakeholders in the Region must be on board in order to tackle the challenges of the Region. No credible cure to any of the Region's ailments can be found if some stakeholders are left outside the decision-making, resource-mobilizing and implementing processes. The EU- and non-EU- countries of the Region must be able to cooperate on an equal footing. The further development of the Baltic Sea Region must become the common course. From this perspective, it might also be prudent to consider possible modes for the gradual involvement of stakeholders in the immediate vicinity of the Baltic Sea Region which can contribute to the solution of the common problems.

I am also of the opinion that a successful management of the challenges of the Region requires an innovative mode of regional governance. Governance here refers to a flexible and pragmatic pattern of interaction for information exchange and cooperation between stakeholders, which can contribute to clarity and an overview over activities and resources, and boost their individual and collective impact - in accordance with the venerable formula that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Such a structure or pattern must also be transparent and allow for the inclusion of those ultimately affected by development: the citizens.

A basic tenet of enhanced cooperation in the Region, and thus cohesion, is therefore to encourage the evolution of a deliberate division of labour between stakeholders, aiming at strengthening their comparative advantages and, by synergies, their combined capacity to manage the challenges of the Region. A modest, but hopefully inspiring, example is the close collaboration between CBSS and BSPC, in which we are attempting to synchronize our political priorities with those of the CBSS. A case in point is the close and mutually beneficial cooperation between the CBSS and BSPC working bodies e.g. on Trafficking in Human Beings, on Maritime Policy, and on Green Economy. Another such guiding example is the interaction between the CBSS, BSSSC and BSPC working groups on Integrated Maritime Policy, resulting in a Joint Event in connection with the European Maritime Day in 2011, and moving on from there. In a similar fashion, there should be a connection and complementarity between the priorities of the North West Russia Strategy and other overall policies of the Region.

Against this background, I see the concept of multi-level governance as constructive. It implies an interaction between stakeholders on a vertical axis – national, regional, local, and civic. It should also be supplemented by a horizontal dimension, one which embraces multi-sectoral governance in order to integrate various policy sectors into a holistic approach. Challenges are not only transcending territorial borders; they are also spilling over sectoral boundaries. Such a view is intrinsic to the macro-regional concept, as well as to the

strategies of Integrated Maritime Policy and Marine Spatial Planning. What is called for, I would argue, is therefore a multi-dimensional mode of governance in the Region. Commendable efforts have already been launched to support such patterns of interaction and the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum is one of them.

They are serving as a kind of Town Hall Meetings, where citizens, experts and decision-makers can congregate and exchange opinions and ideas. Perhaps they should also be complemented with a more condensed working meeting format, a sort of a recurrent Round Table of Chairmen of the organizations in the Region, in order to pursue hands-on discussions on how to complement each other's competencies, promote a division of labour, and synchronize agendas and priorities.

At the end of the day, though, we should always keep in mind that cooperation, in whatever format, ultimately will deserve its credibility both from the sense of participation that citizens experience during its design and its implementation, and from its ability to deliver tangible and positive effects in people's everyday life.

2007









# Resilience and Inclusion

---

## in times of austerity



# Siim Kallas

Former Prime Minister of Estonia, European Commissioner for Transport

“

*It is not only a time when we should 'pull together', but when we should also be reminding ourselves where one of our greatest strengths lies: the ability to show resilience in the face of adversity.*

**If one word** could sum up the character of the Baltic Region over the past two decades, I believe that it would be transition. For the Baltic Sea States that I know best, the dramatic changes undergone by their societies, economies and cultures during this period have caused an impact that reaches well beyond the region. These transformations, this transition into a completely new era, have affected Europe itself.

To take my own country: since Estonia regained its independence in 1991, Estonia has evolved into a true free-market democracy. It became a member of NATO and the European Union. Its GDP has increased almost eight times from the early 1990s – and it has also joined the euro zone. Estonia's economy is highly rated by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. All this has taken place over an impressively short period of time.

One aspect which is often forgotten about Estonia's transition, and the similar transitions experienced by its neighbours at the same time, is the region's mutual support, solidarity and inclusiveness, the overwhelming belief in the future, that were so important to make it all happen. This shows the value and importance of working together as partners in a region. It was a change that was made together, and so the success story is the story of our success.

The new era was also marked by the establishment of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in 1992. It was one of the first opportunities for all the Baltic countries to start working together on common goals for the benefit of the

whole region, and the Council continues to carry out a very useful function today. But it has not all been 'plain sailing'.

Two decades ago, the strength of those countries which witnessed the most fundamental and rapid changes – my own included – was demonstrated in their ability to adapt, and to bounce back from adversity. That ability, I believe, emanated from an undercurrent of resilience first learnt at a time when the geopolitical circumstances were very different.

Since then, resilience and stoicism have been invaluable qualities that have helped us cope with today's financial crisis. We are living at a time of fiscal belt-tightening and budget austerity drives across Europe.

This is not only a time when we should 'pull together', but when we should also be reminding ourselves where one of our greatest strengths lies: the ability to show resilience in the face of adversity. Not merely on an individual or national basis, but to repeat the mutual support and solidarity that were so successful and necessary in the Baltic region all those years ago.

As Europeans, we still have many common goals to reach, and many challenges to overcome.

One of the priorities of my current role as vice-president of the European Commission in charge of transport is to oversee building of a strong and comprehensive network to bring all Europeans closer together. In transport policy, we are working hard to complete

the EU's internal market by focusing on the "three I's" – infrastructure, innovation and investment – to increase efficiency and the mobility of people and business.

As the foundation of any country's economy and heart of the supply chain, transport drives economic growth and creates employment by enabling the movement of people, goods and services. Networks are, after all, the arteries of trade. But transport represents much more than that. It is also a development strategy that links together our remoter regions, cities and towns and facilitates access to a huge, and at times physically distant, market: the unified trading space of Europe's 500 million consumers.

For the Baltic states, given their geographical location on the edge of Europe, nothing could be more important – both politically and economically. Countries on the geographical periphery always benefit from better links to the centre.

One of the primary tasks we have while building Europe's wider transport network is to fill in the missing links that are hindering the development of a seamless supply chain to benefit all Europeans – people and business – by linking them across a vast geographical area. This is especially necessary in the case of periphery countries like the Baltic Sea states, to prevent an increasingly interconnected Western Europe leaving behind a more sparsely populated Eastern Europe. A good example of this kind of project is Rail Baltic, an important transport corridor which, when built, will bring all the major cities along its route into closer collaboration as well as boost

trade for the whole Baltic region. It will benefit a wide swathe of Europe as well, because Rail Baltic will link the three Baltic States, Finland and Poland into the planned Adriatic Corridor which stretches down through central Europe as far as Venice.

At a time when we are all fighting to turn the corner out of the economic gloom, we must be as inclusive as we can. We need to 'think European' – because, after all, we are all Europeans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shabb", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.



# BALTIC FACTS AND FIGURES

Reykjavik  
119,106

The Baltic Sea covers 415,266 square kilometres, while its catchment area - at 1.7 million km<sup>2</sup> - extends over an area about four times as large as the sea itself.

[www.helcom.fi](http://www.helcom.fi)

About 85 million people live in the Baltic drainage basin, 15 million within 10 km of the coast and 29 million within 50 km of the coast. Around 22 million live in population centres of over 250,000. 90% of these are concentrated in the 10 km band around the coast. Of the nations containing all or part of the basin, Poland includes 45% of the 85 million, Russia 12%, Sweden 10% and the others less than 6% each.

[www.baltic.com](http://www.baltic.com)

Oslo  
611,491

Stockholm  
843,139

Copenhagen  
502,204

Malmö  
290,078

Gdynia  
255,600

Kiel  
250,000

Rostock  
212,700

Lübeck  
216,100

Szczecin  
413,600

Gdańsk  
462,700

CITY  
POPULATION



Oulu  
130,000

Turku  
175,000

Espoo  
254,400

Helsinki  
579,016

Tallinn  
401,774

St. Petersburg  
4,700,000

Riga  
709,000

Klaipėda  
194,400

Kaliningrad  
400,000

Around 2,000 sizeable ships are normally at sea at any time in the Baltic, including large oil tankers, ships carrying dangerous and potentially polluting cargoes, and many large passenger ferries. The Baltic Sea has some of the busiest shipping routes in the world

[www.helcom.fi](http://www.helcom.fi)

The average depth of the whole Baltic Sea is around 50 metres. The deepest waters are in the Landsort Deep in the Baltic Proper, where depths of 459 metres have been recorded.

[www.helcom.fi](http://www.helcom.fi)

2007



2003



2008





1996



2010



2008



2011



### DENMARK

	1992	2002	2012
↑	5,162	5,368	5,557
✳	906.595	1,372.737	1,906.208
⚡	2,091	2,402	2,2
♂	10,055	4,777	4,364
↔	1	2,01	2,41
↓	1,7	1,73	1,74

1

### ICELAND

	1992	2002	2012
↑	0,262	0,288	0,329
✳	n/a	816.450	1,746.700
⚡	3,732	4,840	4,506
♂	3,048	2,5	5,966
↔	-2	-2,27	0,53
↓	2,2	1,99	1,98

5

### FINLAND

	1992	2002	2012
↑	5,055	5,206	5,427
✳	83,038	143.646	202.128
⚡	2,866	2,010	1,997
♂	11,725	9,075	7,588
↔	NEGL	0,62	0,62
↓	1,7	1,7	1,73

3

### LITHUANIA

	1992	2002	2012
↑	n/a	3,469	3,253
✳	n/a	52,070	112.538
⚡	n/a	0,344	2,562
♂	n/a	13,764	14
↔	4	0,15	-0,72
↓	2,1	1,4	1,25

7

### ESTONIA

	1992	2002	2012
↑	n/a	1,361	1,334
✳	n/a	7,776	16,929
⚡	n/a	3,563	3,500
♂	n/a	10,25	11,496
↔	3	-0,73	-3,31
↓	2,3	1,24	1,44

2

### LATVIA

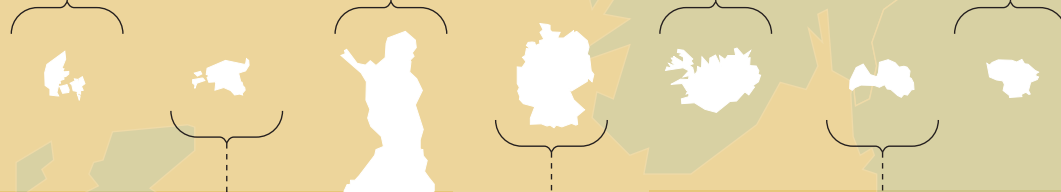
	1992	2002	2012
↑	2,677	2,346	2,235
✳	1,143	5,758	14,247
⚡	n/a	1,955	2,288
♂	3,178	12,084	14,457
↔	4	-1,23	-2,33
↓	2,1	1,18	1,32

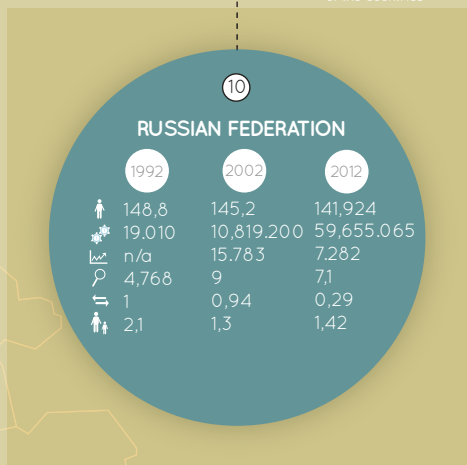
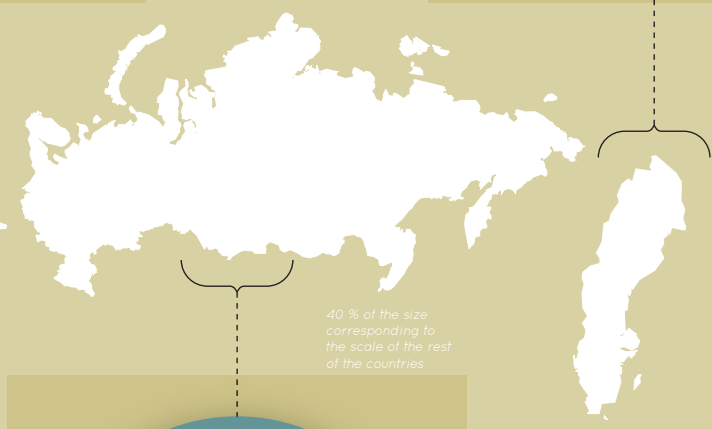
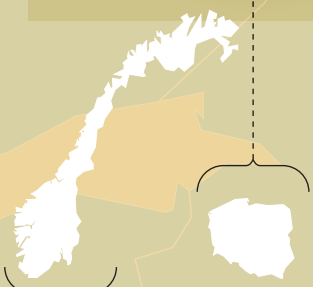
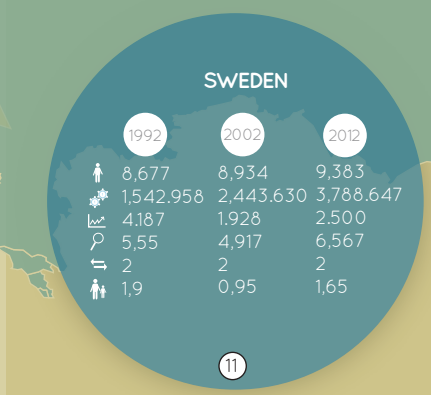
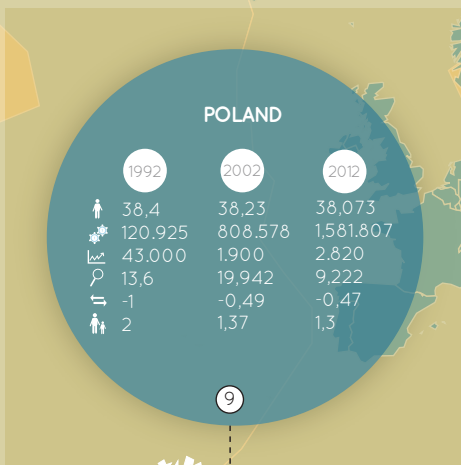
6

### GERMANY

	1992	2002	2012
↑	80,407	82,31	81,277
✳	1,648.400	2,132.200	2,626.754
⚡	5,046	1,355	1,300
♂	6,575	8,7	6,151
↔	5	3,99	0,54
↓	1,4	1,39	1,41

4





- Population / mln
- GDP / national currency, current prices, billions
- Inflation Rate / % average consumer rates
- Unemployment Rate / % of total labor force
- Net migration rate migrants/1,000 population
- Fertility rate children/woman

source: CIA World Factbook 1992, 2002, 2011

source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, September 2011



# The Machine Room



# Jan Lundin

Director General of the CBSS Secretariat

“

*This region has achieved great things during the last twenty years. Still, there is no reason to be complacent.*



*He took them out to the Baltic, through that wonderful labyrinth of islands and water.*

*And those that met on board, and were carried by the same hull for a few hours, or a few days, how well did they get to know each other?*

*Talking in misspelled English, understanding and misunderstanding, but very little conscious lying.*

*How well did they get to know each other?*

These lines by Nobel Prize laureate Tomas Tranströmer, in “Baltics” (1974) describing his grandfathers life as a pilot in the Stockholm archipelago to me catches the “implementing level” of Baltic Sea regional cooperation. Our region **is** wonderful, and so far I have experienced no conscious lying. As to the English, it may at times still be misspelled, but when I compare the skills I encounter in this language today with when I travelled 20 years ago in e.g. Poland, Russia and Lithuania, the improvement is striking. The same obviously goes for the travelling experience. Arriving with a train ferry from Swedish Trelleborg at East German Sassnitz before the fall of the iron curtain was not a pleasant experience. Today, the north German ferry harbours just want you to proceed onto the Autobahns as soon as possible, rather than to subject travelers to thorough searches.

Even more important for the CBSS Secretariat, however, is the inexpensive and extensive air travel network available to business travelers in the Baltic Sea region of today. This goes not only for

the capitals; I was struck by the ease with which one can now reach Gdansk from Stockholm daily. Gdansk is regaining its historical prominence in the region, and its role in the coming European Football Championship will hopefully open the eyes of tourists in addition to business travelers for what this historical business hub has to offer.

The CBSS Secretariat, founded in 1998, is constantly developing. Today, we are 20 people recruited from the entire region and situated - courtesy by the Swedish Government - in lovely premises in the Old Town of Stockholm. The constant challenge is to balance support to the Council and the high-level meetings with a project-oriented approach, implementing concrete activities in line with CBSS priorities. The project orientation is chiefly pursued by CBSS “brands” such as the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development (Baltic 21), the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) and the CBSS Expert Group on Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC).

The CBSS through the Secretariat participates actively in relevant parts of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, e.g. civil security cooperation and sustainable development. I dare say the Strategy has improved transparency and awareness of our regional cooperation thanks to its system of yearly stakeholder conferences and priority area coordinators. Through the CBSS, Russian participation can be organized in areas where there is a mutual benefit for both the EU and the Russian Federation.

The CBSS Secretariat hopes to be similarly useful in support of Baltic Sea related elements of the recently enacted Russian Strategy for the Development of North Western Federal District.


In a similar vein, The 7 June CBSS Oslo Ministerial declaration “tasked the Committee of Senior Officials to set up and start implementing a program of modernization of the South Eastern Baltic Sea area with special focus on the Kaliningrad region and its neighbourhood, and to report to the 9th Baltic Sea States Summit in 2012 as well as to the 17th Ministerial Session of the CBSS to be held in 2013.” This – modernization through (sub)regional cooperation – represents a new and inclusive way of working for the CBSS. The South Eastern Baltic Area faces many challenges when trying to converge economically with more affluent parts of the Baltic Sea Region.

The CBSS wishes to address these challenges through what this organisation stands for – regional cooperation. It wants to bring attention to what this part of the Baltic Sea region has to offer, and to support its efforts to modernize and interact with other parts of the region. It will build on what has already been achieved and on recent developments such as the signing of a Polish-Russian cross-border travel agreement 14 December 2011.

A first step has been employing, thanks to support by the current German CBSS Presidency, locally a project coordinator on site in Kaliningrad, and cooperating closely with the Office of the Nor-

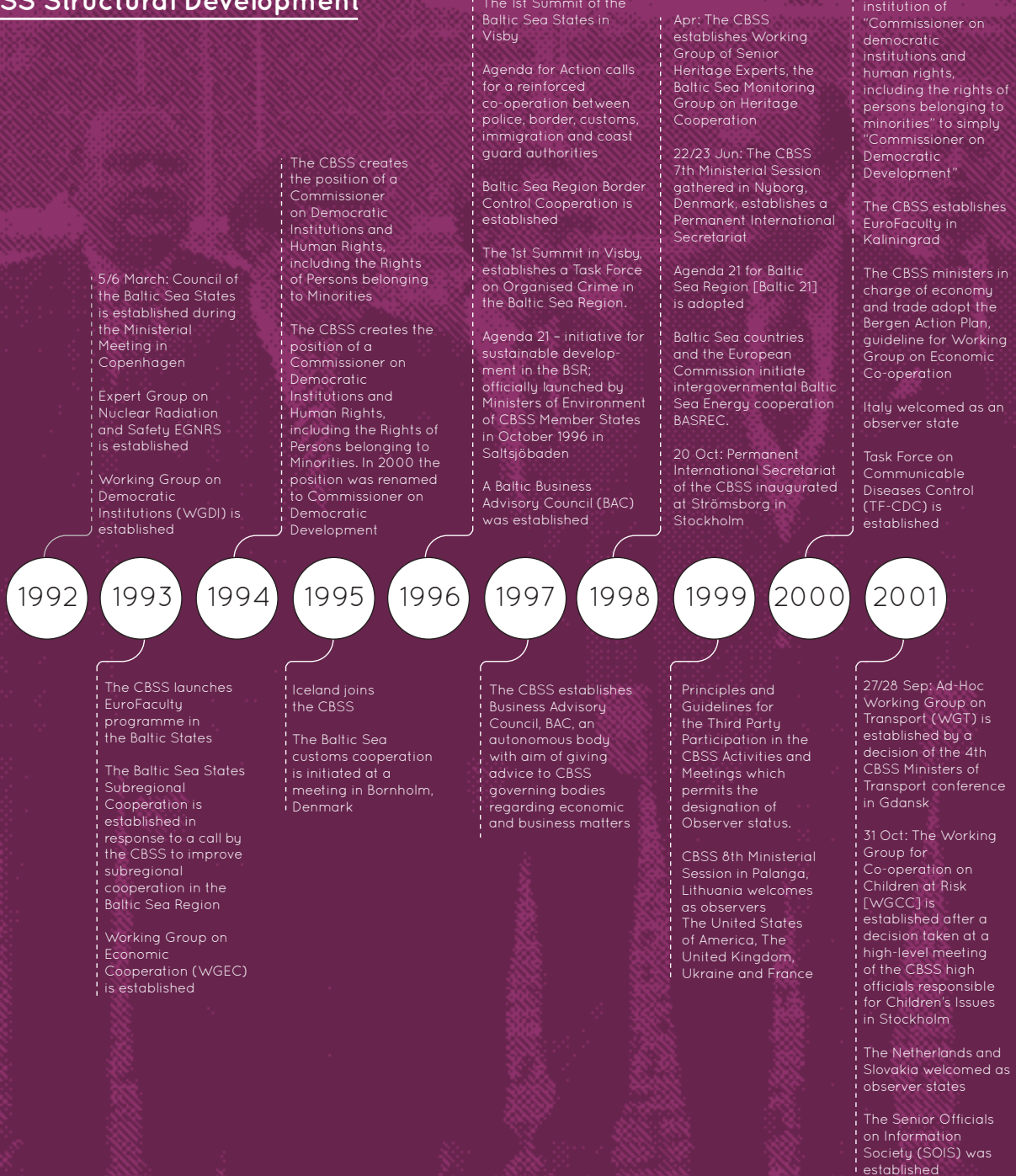
dic Council of Ministers on this. The culmination of the Partnership would be a Conference at the end of the two-year period, at which existing and future regional cooperation efforts at modernization would be highlighted.

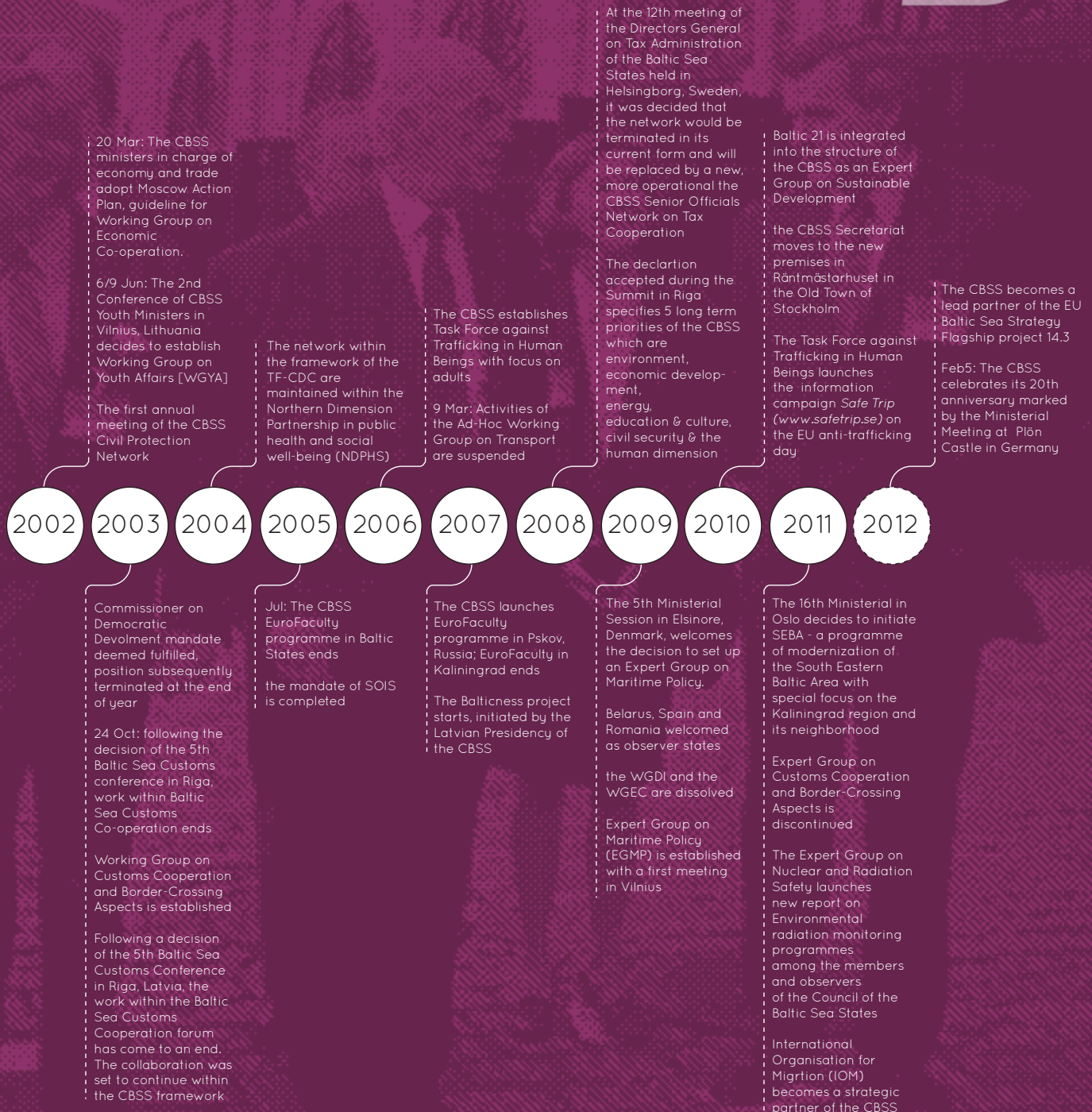
We believe cooperation can be expanded in sectors such as tourism, youth exchange, university cooperation and more. This region has achieved great things during the last twenty years. Still, there is no reason to be complacent. The divide in living standards in the region is still too large. From reading history books, my sense is that we still have some way to go before we are back at the level of visa freedom and regional interaction prevalent 100 years ago, at a time when the word “Baltic” in the Swedish language actually referred to the entire region, and not to the three Baltic States. When this semantic shift has been re-established, and when “Baltic Sea Food” is just as common a term as “Nordic Food” or “Nordic Design” complacency may be called for, but not before....

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



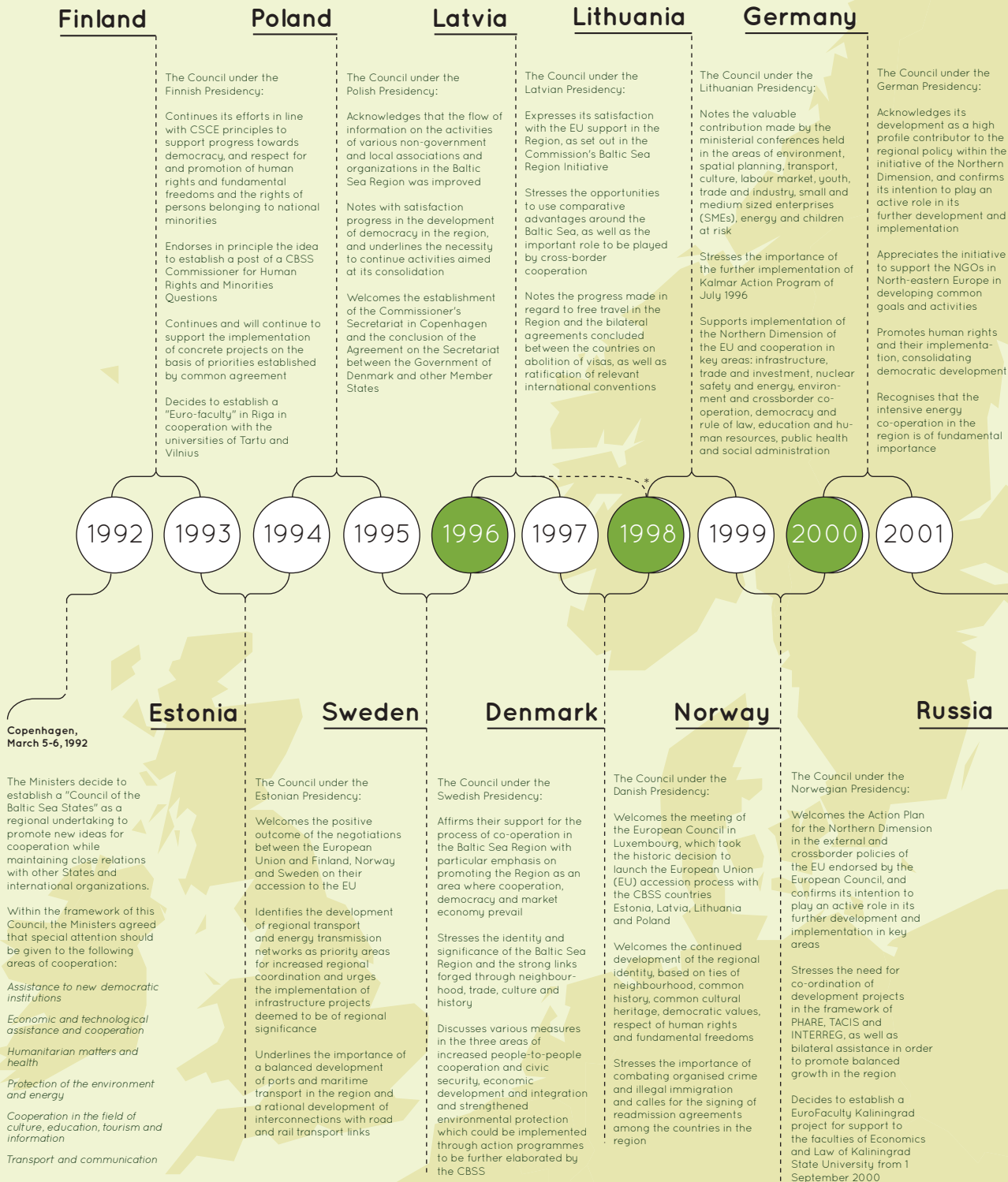
# CBSS Structural Development





# SUMMITS AND COUNCIL MINISTERIAL SESSIONS

This graph illustrates and lists important conclusions, decisions and reforms taken under the presidencies rotating on an annual basis. For the full reference, please consult the declarations and documents on [www.cbss.org/Summits-and-Council-Ministerials](http://www.cbss.org/Summits-and-Council-Ministerials)



\* Baltic Sea States Summit hosted in Riga, 22-23 January 1998



MINISTERIAL SESSION



SUMMIT



SUMMIT & MINISTERIAL SESSION



## Finland

The Council under the Finnish Presidency:

Acknowledges that cooperation within the CBSS should continue to be based on demands and clear priorities. All CBSS structures and working bodies will adapt and optimise their activities in the context of the forthcoming enlargement of the EU

Welcomes the elaboration of a new action plan for the Northern Dimension for the period of 2004-06

Notes that the Finnish Presidency hosted a series of high-level Northern Dimension Forums on the following subjects: Social Protection and Health (in Joensuu); Information and Communication Technologies (in Pori); the Labour Market (in Helsinki)

## Poland

The Council under the Polish Presidency:

Emphasises the need of the further strengthening of civil society and enhancing mutual knowledge and interaction between the citizens in the CBSS area

Indicates the need of the EU-Russia dialogue, especially by enriching it with regional, subregional and local elements of cooperation

Acknowledges that the accession of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to the European Union has brought new opportunities and challenges to regional cooperation in many areas.

## Sweden

The Council under the Swedish Presidency:

Confirms its desire to increase cooperation in the BSR in all fields considered relevant to enhancing the competitiveness of the region including education, civil security, sustainable development and the environment

Decides to reform the CBSS, on the basis of agreed priorities, with the aim of revitalising and making the organisation, including the Secretariat, better equipped to focus on priority actions

## Denmark

The Council under the Danish Presidency:

Reaffirms the Declaration on the Reform of the CBSS adopted in Riga 2008

Endorses the Terms of Reference of the CBSS and of its Secretariat

Enhances the project orientation

Decides to set up an Expert Group on Maritime Policy

Accepts the request by Baltic 21 to integrate into the CBSS as an Expert Group

Continues the pursuit of Long-term Priorities

## Norway

The Council under the Norwegian Presidency:

Reaffirms the core role of the CBSS as a forum for all multilateral intergovernmental cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

Takes effective measures to make Council more visible and action-oriented

Focuses on Maritime Policy and Human Trafficking as the priorities of the presidency

Welcomes an initiative to modernize the South Eastern Baltic Sea area with special focus on the Kaliningrad region

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

## Estonia

The Council under the Russian Presidency:

Acknowledges that the pending EU enlargement will open new prospects for EU-Russia relations but at the same time may create new problems, including in the sphere of trade, economic cooperation and human contacts

Welcomes the intention of the EU and Russia to continue discussions on these matters

Emphasises the objective of creating a EU-Russia Common European Economic Space. Existing opportunities should be used to the full with the aim of reaching a high degree of economic integration.

## Iceland

The Council under the Estonian Presidency:

Expects that the enlargement of the EU will create new opportunities for deepening regional cooperation among the Baltic Sea states and all partners involved in enhancing the prosperity of the Baltic Sea Region

Welcomes the results of the EU-Russia Summit in Moscow on 21 May 2004 and express their conviction that joint activities by the enlarged EU, other members of the European Economic Area, and the Russian Federation will enhance political stability and economic dynamism around the Baltic Sea

Emphasises the need to improve business conditions in the region, both jointly and individually, in order to increase trade and investment

## Latvia

The Council under the Icelandic Presidency:

Welcomes the first-time participation in the Summit of the President of the Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), and looks forward to valuable cooperation and the exchange of information between the BSPC and the CBSS

Welcomes and encourages the increased cooperation between the CBSS, the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), together with the European Union

Welcomes the development of co-operation between public and private actors, such as the Baltic Development Forum (BDF), promoting a stronger, more competitive and visible Baltic Sea Region

## Lithuania

The Council under the Latvian Presidency:

Endorses the Declaration on the reform of the CBSS in order to better facilitate project identification, fund raising and project management

Specifies 5 long term priorities of the CBSS which are environment, economic development, energy, education & culture, civil security & the human dimension

Refers to the significance of the Northern Dimension Policy Framework and the Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region under preparation in the European Union

## Germany

The Council under the Lithuanian Presidency

accepts the declaration entitled "A vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020" and states its conviction that the Baltic Sea Region, on the basis of

-respect for democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law,

-active civil societies, -increasingly integrated and interdependent economies,

-developed social dialogue and social cohesion

has the potential to become one of the most prosperous, innovative and competitive regions in the world, using the strengths of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and other existing Baltic Sea regional cooperation frameworks.

The Council under the German Presidency

is committed to the decisions of the 2008 Baltic Sea States Summit in Riga on the reform of the Council and of the 2010 Baltic Sea States Summit in Vilnius on "Vision 2020 for the Baltic Sea Region"

Endeavours to further develop the ability of the CBSS and its Secretariat to design and implement concrete projects.

Pursues coherent framework for cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Aims at using the CBSS potential in implementing the EUSBSR

Focuses on the development of the Kaliningrad region and the South Eastern Baltic Area.

Promotes public-private partnerships and develops incentives for the development of the Baltic Sea Region and private investments within

# Andris Piebalgs

Former European Commissioner for Energy,  
currently European Commissioner for Development

“

*The Baltic Sea region is unique in Europe for its history and geography. Equally, it has a model of political collaboration which is the envy of many. And, importantly, people in this region have a lot of innovative and forward-looking ideas. If we work together effectively to tackle the energy security challenges – bringing down energy demand, investing in diverse and sustainable supplies and building up international alliances – then we will be dealing with the climate threat as well. Climate policies and energy security are two sides of the same coin. Both will take us closer to a more secure and sustainable energy economy*

*Mr. Andris Piebalgs, representing the European Commission, at the Baltic Sea Region Business Forum, Plenary Session on Energy Security, 3-4 June, parallel to the 7th Baltic Sea States Summit, Riga Latvia*





# Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir

Former Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Iceland

“

*Trafficking in human being is an appalling crime that reveals the utter contempt of those who engage in such activities towards human dignity and wellbeing. We must make every effort of rooting out this terrible practice.” Better policing will certainly play an important part in the fight against trafficking in human beings. But we must take further steps and also tackle the economic and social roots of this problem, which include gender inequalities and poverty that prevail in some parts of this region. I am convinced that it is in this field the work of the CBSS can accomplish the most in improving the lives of those living in the Baltic Sea Region*

*Ms Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir speaking at the CBSS 14th Ministerial Session in Malmö on 13 June 2007*



# Jens Stoltenberg

Prime Minister of Norway

“

*The Council of the Baltic Sea States is an important forum for many reasons; one reason is that it creates a forum where EU Members can cooperate with Iceland, Russia and my own country Norway as non EU members in this region . Norway will make Maritime Policy a key priority.*

*Maritime transport constitutes a large part of the trade in the BSR. It represents 15% of roads cargo traffic and is expected to increase - at any given times there are 2000 ships in the Baltic Sea and by 2017 we expect that the transport of containers and cargo will be tripled and the oil transport will be increased by 40 %. Sea transport and shipping sources are closely link to both energy and environment and therefore it underlies the importance of addressing Maritime Policy. Shipping is important for the future economic development of the region. We will use the Council's Expert Group on Maritime Policy group to take new initiatives related to shipping and Maritime Policy*

*Mr. Jens Stoltenberg speaking at the 8th Baltic Sea States Summit in Vilnius, 2010, highlighting one priority of Norway during their forthcoming CBSS Presidency 2010-2011, which would utilize the recently established CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy*





2012



DEUTSCHE PRÄSIDENTSCHAFT  
2011 - 2012





 DEUTSCHE  
PRÄSIDENTSCHAFT  
2011 - 2012











The year 2012 marks 20 years of co-operation in a new political environment in the Baltic Sea Region. The forms of cooperation are steadily evolving, together with the CBSS.

The Council Conclusions on the review of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region adopted in November 2011 encouraged Member States, under integration with multilateral structures and third party cooperation, to seek synergy effects with the Council of the Baltic Sea States, in order to serve as a cooperation platform and to involve relevant partners, in particular the Russian Federation.

On January 1st 2012 the North-West Russia Socio-Economic Development Strategy was launched in the Russian Federation. The CBSS hopes to add value here as well.



[www.cbss.org](http://www.cbss.org)  
[www.twitter.com/  
CBSSsecretariat](https://twitter.com/CBSSsecretariat)

P.O. Box 2010  
103 11 Stockholm  
Slussplan 9  
SWEDEN  
t: +46 8 440 19 20  
f: +46 8 440 19 44  
e: [cbss@cbss.org](mailto:cbss@cbss.org)