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Joint Statement from the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Maritime Economy (EGSME) Meeting, held on-line 28th of May 2020

Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, members of the Expert Group on Sustainable Maritime Economy (EGSME) under the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) convened digitally on 28 May 2020 to discuss the topic of the Danish Chairmanship of the Group, namely land-based power generation for vessels in the Baltic Sea Region.

The EGSME members discussed the importance of land-based power generation as a powerful tool to transition the cruise tourism sector and, potentially, ferries and short sea shipping vessels in the Baltic Sea Region to a less polluting business model, safeguarding the global climate from carbon emissions, and our oceans from further acidification.

The members of EGSME recognize that land-based power generation has a role in the future of shipping in the Baltic Sea Region. Whilst still in its infancy, land-based power generation holds great potential to reduce carbon emission in urban environments and can further cement the Baltic Sea Region as a model region for sustainable ocean tourism.

With several land-based power generation projects already completed and more on the way, the Baltic Sea States are taking decisive steps to create a prosperous and climate friendly region.

Foreign Ministers from the Baltic Sea States and high-level representatives from the CBSS also discussed the topic at their meeting on 19 May 2020, where they endorsed regional initiatives in line with the 2030 Agenda to promote sustainable development, address climate change and protect the marine environment.