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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR THE

## **Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum 2021 – Decisionmakers of today meet region builders of tomorrow**

How do we secure a democratically and environmentally sustainable future in the Baltic Sea region?

### **What and why?**

- ◆ Hybrid meeting for young people and members of parliament from the Baltic Sea region
- ◆ Discussions and seminars on how to secure a democratically and environmentally sustainable future
- ◆ Sharing of ideas – vital for renewing and innovating policymaking
- ◆ Promoting youth participation and perspective – through input and insight

Sweden currently holds the presidency of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), which is a forum for political dialogue between members of national and regional parliaments from the Baltic Sea region, with the purpose of raising awareness and opinion on issues of importance for the region and supporting various initiatives that promote a sustainable environmental, social and economic development in the region. As part of its presidency, Sweden will be hosting the 30th annual conference of the BSPC on 29–31 August 2021.

The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum of 2021 will take place in connection to the annual conference of the BSPC, in an effort to promote dialogue between young people of the region and policymakers. The purpose is

also to capture valuable input from the young generation, which is of great importance in our common endeavour to build back our region – better, greener and stronger – after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Youth Forum will include a seminar, a panel discussion and a roundtable discussion on how to secure a democratically and environmentally sustainable future, and the outcome of the Youth Forum will be presented at the BSPC annual conference. The Youth Forum will be centred around themes that also are high on the BSPC agenda – democracy, climate change and biodiversity – providing an opportunity for input into the BSPC's future work, and especially into the work of the working group on climate change and biodiversity.

### **What's in it for me?**

An opportunity to:

- ◆ give your input to policymakers on how to secure a democratically and environmentally sustainable future;
- ◆ acquire a greater knowledge of the issues at hand;
- ◆ gain an insight into international parliamentary cooperation;
- ◆ share knowledge and experiences with others;
- ◆ network.

## Who can apply?

You can apply if you are:

- ◆ between 16–30 years old on the date of the Youth Forum;
- ◆ based in one of the countries of the Baltic Sea region (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden); and
- ◆ interested in climate change, biodiversity and/or democracy and the Baltic Sea region.

## When, where and how much?

- ◆ Saturday, 28 August 2021
- ◆ Digital or in the Swedish Parliament, Stockholm

50–60 young representatives will be selected to participate. The Youth Forum will be held in a hybrid format where, if possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the participants will be invited to participate at the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm. A digital pre-meeting, where you will be able to meet the other participants and prepare for the Youth Forum, will be held in June. Participation is free of charge.

## Apply by 12 noon (CET), 9 May

Fill in the [application form](#). In the selection of the final participants, the goal is to create a diverse and innovative group. Diversity as regards to geography, age, gender, background, fields of interest as well as in the ways in which the candidates are engaged in the issues at hand will be taken in to account. The selected applicants will be notified on 18 May.

## ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

### *The Swedish delegation to the BSPC*

Hosts of the Youth Forum. Consists of five members of the Swedish Parliament. Holds the presidency of the BSPC August 2020–August 2021. Learn more about the delegation and its presidency [here](#).

### *Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)*

A forum for cooperation, commitment and competence in political dialogue of parliaments, governments and civil society in the Baltic Sea Region. Aims at raising awareness and opinion on issues of current political interest and relevance for the Baltic Sea Region. The BSPC gathers parliamentarians from 11 national parliaments, 11 regional parliaments and 5 parliamentary organizations from: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, Bremen, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Hamburg, Kaliningrad, Karelia Leningrad, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, St. Petersburg, Schleswig-Holstein and the Åland Islands. Learn more [here](#).

### *Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) / Baltic Sea Youth Platform*

An intergovernmental political forum for regional cooperation. Consisting of 11 Member States and the European Union, it supports a regional perspective on global challenges. Learn more [here](#). The Baltic Sea Youth Platform is a political platform fostering intergenerational dialogue and meaningful youth participation in decision-making in the Baltic Sea Region. Learn more [here](#).

### *Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden*

Responsible for Sweden's foreign, development cooperation and trade policy and a member of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. Young peoples' engagement in institutions and decision-making processes in the Baltic Sea region is important. It gives valuable impetus to our common efforts to build back better from the COVID pandemic to reach a greener, safer, more resilient and gender equal Baltic Sea region. The results from the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum will be a valuable contribution to the current discussion on youth engagement in the Council of the Baltic Sea States. Learn more [here](#).

