

June 29 2022

Final recommendations from the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum

Background

The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum was organised as a back-to-back event by the Swedish delegation to the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), the BSPC and the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)/Baltic Sea Youth Platform to promote dialogue between young people of the region and policy makers.

In preparation for the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum 2022, the 60 invited youth participants - representing all 10 member states of the CBSS - were asked to prepare a recommendation that they would like the BSPC to give to the governments in the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and the EU.

After the draft recommendations had been submitted by the participants, they were edited into fewer recommendations focusing on common themes, while attempting to cover as many subjects as possible from the original recommendations.

During the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum 2022 event, held in a hybrid format on June 11 -12, four roundtable discussions were organised on different topics: Forest, wetlands and biodiversity; Innovation; Resilient cities; and Sea and coastline resilience. Each group was asked to discuss and agree on two recommendations they wished to present. The recommendations were finalised and agreed upon by 16 youth representatives, present in Stockholm*.

In all, the Forum decided on eight recommendations addressed to the BSPC Working Group on Climate Change and Biodiversity.

Forest, wetlands and biodiversity

1. Commit to protecting biodiversity and increasing carbon sequestration with common and national policies for:
 - a) conservation of forests, wetlands and natural rivers;
 - b) forestry free from clear cutting;
 - c) restoration of forests, natural moors and secure floodplains.

2. Develop and adopt regional strategies to deal with transboundary emergencies caused by climate change and pollution, including forest fires, eutrophication and spread of pathogens. The strategies should

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include research into the causes of such emergencies, cooperation between rescue services and common monitoring programmes that indicate the risks of such emergencies occurring.

Innovation

3. Fulfil the Paris Agreement by phasing out fossil fuels and investing more in renewable energy sources.
4. Support businesses in their transition to circular practices by harmonising national legislation, based on scientific research.

Resilient cities

5. Act for better, greener, cheaper and healthier transport across the region by investing in public transport for people who live in remote areas of the city, restricting car traffic in order to create car-free zones, and developing cities to support more biking and public bikes.
6. Resilient cities should be diverse cities where everyone, including children, young people and other minorities, participates in decision making regarding city matters. For example, these groups should be able to design the green areas of the city.

Sea and coastline resilience

7. We call upon recognisable, legally binding quotas for fishing in the Baltic Sea Region with diversification for species and which include regulations on fishing nets or other methods. All action should be based on respected, up-to-date research.
8. We call upon the introduction and strengthening of measures against pollution of the Baltic Sea, for example by:
 - a) regulating and reducing single-use plastics and pesticides;
 - b) investing in ways to make shipping greener;
 - c) removing ammunition and military remains from the sea;
 - d) preventing agricultural waste from being dumped in our waters; and
 - e) introducing a uniform bottle-deposit system for the whole Baltic Sea Region.

***The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum 2022 invited 60 invited youth participants - representing all 10 member states of the CBSS. Below are those who attended the 31st Annual Conference in Stockholm and the organisations they represented.**

Johannes-Emmanuel Allas, Violetta Borovskikh Massala, Sandra Butoyi, Emma Louisa Döhler, Axel Eriksson, Simona Jakaitė, Julius Janulevičius, Nikola Kleinberga, Maciej Kudra-Bartkowiak, Katri Leppälaakso, Draumey Ósk Ómarsdóttir, Sayed Amine Sayedi, Andreas Schoop, Antonio Gade Wilhelmsen Serri, Karolina Siekierka, Vilhelmiina Vierjoki

Baltic Sea Youth Platform - Advocacy Working Group, BSSSC, Finnish National Youth Council Allianssi, Jugend Spricht, Landesjugendring Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Landesjugendring Schleswig-Holstein, Landsrådet for Norges barne- og ungdomsorganisasjoner, Lithuanian Youth Council (LijOT), LSU - Sveriges ungdomsorganisasjoner, Nordic Youth Biodiversity Network (NYBN), NUVA Ry -The Union of Local Youth Councils in Finland, Polish Forum of Young Diplomats, ReGeneration2030, Tallinn Youth Council, Ungdommens fylkesråd I Viken