



# BALTINFO

The Official Newsletter of the Council of the Baltic Sea States

No 14 - September - 1998

CBSS Secretariat in action



**The CBSS Secretariat started its work in Strömsborg, Stockholm, in August in offices provided by the Swedish government. The new secretariat will be staffed by seven people from the member states. At the outset the secretariat has three employees.**

The head of the secretariat is Jacek Starosciak who was the first freely elected mayor of Gdansk. Next he served as foreign policy advisor for president Lech Walesa and until recently he was Polish consul-general in London.

As Senior Advisor has been appointed the Danish diplomat, Lars Gronbjerg, who has previously served in Tallinn and Moscow. Secretary is Claire Nyström who comes from the Swedish ministry of foreign affairs.

The purpose of the secretariat is to give practical support to the chairmen of the ministerial meetings, the Senior Officials Committee and the working groups. The secretariat will provide continuity in the work of the CBSS and it will aim to become a focal point for information about co-operation in the Baltic Sea region.

The secretariat will continue the production of the Baltinfo newsletter which was started by the Swedish prime minister's Baltic Sea Advisory Group. The newsletter will aim at being useful for all who are interested in co-operation in the region. In particular the newsletter must be forward looking and give information about trends in regional co-operation and about upcoming events.

We encourage individuals and organisations to send information about their cooperation activities to the Secretariat. See our address below.

Conference on the fight against  
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children  
Tallinn 3-4 September 1998

The aim of the conference was to raise awareness of the issue and build networks for co-operation between decision makers. Needs were identified for cooperation between lawmakers, police, social services, health institutions and schools. Sweden and Norway will follow up on the results of the conference.

The chairperson of the Swedish UNICEF Committee, Mrs. Lisbet Palme, said: "I am very glad that this conference took place. Each day we get indications on the importance of co-

operation on this issue. The well organised conference in Tallinn gives us hope that the regional co-operation will continue in order to improve children's every day life".

CBSS Parliamentary Conference in Lübeck

The 7th Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region took place in Lübeck, 7-8 September. Focus this year was on the enlargement of the European Union and cooperation with Russia. The conference called for a joint initiative with the CBSS and other organisations to actively present the interests of the region to the EU institutions. The Finnish initiative on the "Northern Dimension" of the EU was supported by many speakers. The resolution underlines the need for common strategies to ensure that neither social groups nor regions are excluded from economic progress.

The state minister in the German foreign ministry, Dr. Werner Hoyer, said that the EU and the CBSS should consider how to adjust the instruments available for support to Russia in the current situation.

It was decided to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of the CBSS cooperation.

Lithuanian Presidency underlines continuity

## Interview

**Ambassador Dalius Cekuolis of Lithuania is the new chairman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials (CSO). He will be the key person for promotion of CBSS cooperation during the coming year when Lithuania holds the chairmanship.**



**Ambassador Cekuolis, we welcome you as new chairman. Please present yourself.**

"From January 1991, I was in Copenhagen representing Lithuania in the Baltic Information Office. Later I became Lithuania's ambassador to Denmark, Norway and Iceland and I participated in the negotiations which led to the establishment of the CBSS in 1992. Since November 1994, I have been Lithuania's ambassador to Brussels accredited to the three Benelux countries, Western European Union and NATO. I returned to Vilnius in August this year to lead the unit in the foreign ministry which is responsible for the Lithuanian CBSS-chairmanship."

**How do you see the future role of the CBSS?**

"Our region is in a process of dynamic change. The enlargement of the EU and the reforms in the applicant countries and in Russia create a demand for the kind of co-ordination and co-operation taking place in the CBSS aiming at overall harmonisation of the development of the Baltic Sea Region.

The relations between the CBSS and the European Union is of particular interest in almost all areas of our regional co-operation. This relationship is changing as new members are negotiating and becoming members of the EU. Much thought must be given to this changing relationship. One important consideration will be the Finnish initiative on the "Northern Dimension" of the EU. I expect this will occupy a significant point on our agenda in the coming year.

The CBSS has proven its efficiency as an instrument for regional co-operation. It provides "value added" not only in specific sectors of co-operation but in general for stability and confidence building among the Baltic neighbours. This is the historical perspective in our co-operation."

**What are the specific aims of the Lithuanian presidency?**

"Firstly, I would mention the principle of continuity. We will continue the work in the core areas of our cooperation such as assistance to democratic institutions and human rights, economic integration and trade, civil security, education and nuclear safety. The Baltic Sea summits and the CBSS ministerial meetings have produced important documents providing directions and action programmes for the CBSS. We must follow up on these.

Secondly, many of the programs are now being transformed into specific projects. Implementation requires continued monitoring. It is important to find ways to better use the potential of the CBSS for practical action.

Thirdly, Lithuania supports the active participation of Russia in the CBSS and would like to encourage ever better practical co-operation with St. Petersburg, Leningrad and Kaliningrad regions in the CBSS framework. CBSS must make its contribution to overcome the present crisis in Russia.

Finally, we would like to encourage pragmatic and flexible development of CBSS as an organisation in order for it to deal with new tasks and broaden its scope of action. A high degree of co-ordination between CBSS and its institutions, sub-regional structures and other organisations is needed. I hope that the newly established CBSS secretariat in Stockholm can make a contribution in this regard."

**Good grounds for optimism for CBSS?**

"Definitely. Let me just mention a few recent examples of the development of our cooperation. The trade ministers of the CBSS met in Vilnius in July and produced a set of concrete recommendations aimed at improving the business environment, especially for small and medium sized enterprises. A conference on prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children took place in Tallinn in September. A conference on civil security took place in Visby also in September. These meetings have expanded the scope of issues being dealt with by the CBSS. They have defined new specific tasks."

*Edited and published by the CBSS Secretariat • Jacek Starosciak, Director • Serguei o. Sokolov, Senior Advisor*

**Useful CBSS addresses**

Chairman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)  
Ambassador Dalius Cekuolis, Ministry for Foreign Affairs,  
J. Tumo-Vaizganto 2, LT-2600 Vilnius, Lithuania  
Tel +370 2 31 27 09 • Fax +370 2 62 07 52 E-mail [cbss@urm.lt](mailto:cbss@urm.lt)

**CBSS Secretariat:**

Strömsborg, P.O.Box 2010, 103 11 Stockholm, Sweden  
Tel +46 8 440 19 32 Fax +46 8 440 19 44  
E-mail [cbss@cbss.se](mailto:cbss@cbss.se) • Internet [www.baltinfo.org](http://www.baltinfo.org)