



Foreign Minister of Estonia, Ms. Kristiina Ojuland and Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden, Ms. Carin Jämtin, cut a Baltic Sea-inspired birthday cake together with the Director of the CBSS Secretariat, Ambassador Hannu Halinen.

CBSS Secretariat marked its fifth anniversary

Since it was founded in 1992, the CBSS has gradually evolved from its original profile as a forum for discussing regional cooperation among foreign ministers to encompass virtually all sectors of intergovernmental activity. The CBSS has an ambition and a responsibility to act as a focal point for cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. The 3rd Baltic Sea States Summit in Kolding, Denmark in 2000 recommended that the CBSS should serve as an umbrella for all intergovernmental cooperation initiated by the group of 11 member states. Today, the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) monitors and facilitates the work of more than 20 CBSS structures and working bodies.

Secretariat in Stockholm. Increased regional cooperation and the need to support the CBSS Presidency, the CSO and other working bodies underpinned the Council's decision to establish a permanent secretariat in 1998. Sweden, as host country, provided the premises for the Secretariat on the island of Ströms-

borg, located in the centre of Stockholm. The late Swedish Foreign Minister, Ms. Anna Lindh, inaugurated the secretariat on 20 October 1998. At present, a total of 12 persons, representing a broad cross-section of the CBSS member-states, work at the Secretariat, which – in addition to a core group consisting of the Direc-

tor, his deputy and three senior advisers now also includes three specialised units for cooperation on: sustainable development (Baltic 21); energy (BASREC); children at risk (Children's unit). According to the secretariat's founding document, a review of its activities should be carried out after five years. In accordance

with a decision by the CSO, an independent consultancy is currently carrying out the review, whose conclusions and recommendations are due to be presented to the CBSS Presidency on 1 April 2004.

Fifth anniversary celebrations

The Director of the Secretariat, Ambassador Hannu Halinen, hosted a reception at Strömsborg on 20 October to mark the fifth anniversary of the official inauguration of the Secretariat. The Chairman of the Council, the Foreign Minister of Estonia, Ms. Kristiina Ojuland and the Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden, Ms. Carin Jämtin, other representatives of the host-country government as well as members of the Stockholm diplomatic corps and other invited guests attended this event – a total of over 50 persons participated. There was a performance of medieval-inspired music especially composed for the occasion by Mr. Veikko Kiiver and performed by the ensemble Scala Jacobi, followed by birthday-cake and champagne.

Later the same day, a lecture was given at the European Commission Representation in Sweden by Kristiina Ojuland to mark the fifth anniversary with the title: "Baltic Sea Region – Motor for European Development?" Approximately 80 persons attended the event which was followed by a reception hosted by the Head of the Representation, Mr. Hans Alldén.

The Baltic Sea Region – A Motor for European Development?

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LECTURE BY MS. KRISTIINA OJULAND,
FOREIGN MINISTER OF ESTONIA AND CHAIR OF CBSS

MS. OJULAND SPOKE on 20 October, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the CBSS Secretariat. The audience at the EC Representation in Sweden counted 80 persons. Ms. Ojuland began by expressing her gratitude for the work done by the Secretariat in co-ordinating and assisting in the work of the CBSS.

Economy and trade

She addressed the potential in the Baltic Sea region for sustainable development, which also could serve as a model for similar regions. Ms. Ojuland complemented Mr. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, for his efforts to promote the development of the region. Recapitulating the enormous changes that have taken place since CBSS was established, she referred to sections in the Copenhagen Declaration of 1992 that called for urgent food, medicine and fuel assistance to states in the region. Today it is no longer foreign aid, but economy and trade that dominate our political discourse, she said.

Institutional development

Pointing to the underlying causes for the positive developments in the region, Ms. Ojuland cited the American economist and Nobel Prize laureate Douglass Cecile North's claim that institutional development is crucial to a nation's ability to create social stability and welfare. A main guarantee of sustainable development lies in a



Following the fifth anniversary press conference, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Ms. Kristiina Ojuland, responded to questions from the media on the environment, EU enlargement and communicable diseases control.

commitment to the European traditions of democratic institutions, she said. Such institutions provide people with a stable and trustworthy setting for living their daily life, and promote economic and social progress.

Ms. Ojuland said the development of institutions in the new democracies in the early 1990s was crucial. It may not yet be perfect, but the CBSS institutional framework for a stable economic and social development is in place, much thanks to the "founding fathers" – Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and Hans Dietrich-Genscher.

The environment

According to Ms. Ojuland, environment protection is the most important challenge in the region. Even though the CBSS is actively identifying solutions to the problems of the environment, and the member states make their efforts, the Baltic Sea is still one of the

most polluted maritime environments in the world. With regard to the region's growth forecast, problems with sewage treatment, agriculture and industrial pollution can threaten the vital economic and recreational value of the Baltic Sea states. Increased efforts must be made to remedy the damage made to the Baltic Sea. Ms. Ojuland called for all countries in the region to support the application to the International Maritime organisation to declare the Baltic Sea a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA).

Trafficking in human beings

Another important issue Ms. Ojuland stressed is trafficking in human beings. Trafficking is of serious global concern and international co-operation is vital, she said. Estonia, having the current chairmanship in the CBSS, and the Nordic and Baltic states, have made

the fight against trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, one of their priorities. A Nordic-Baltic Task Force Against Trafficking in Human Beings has been set up. Ms. Ojuland noted several initiatives in this area by the UN, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the EU and the CBSS, and encouraged further co-ordination.

EU enlargement

and relations with Russia Ms. Ojuland said the EU enlargement will boost cross-border co-operation between the new member states and the north-western region of Russia. EU representatives have repeatedly expressed that the enlargement will have beneficial impact on the relations with the EU and Russia. However, Russian officials have been much more reserved and even sceptical about the issue. Today, roughly 16 per cent of Russia's total trade turnover is with the acceding countries. Some of the existing bilateral agreements that Russia has with the incoming EU members will have to be annulled. Ms. Ojuland brought up the rational solution reached by Lithuania, Russia and the EU on the Russian transit traffic to and from Kaliningrad oblast as proof of the maturity and good will of all three parties. It is an encouraging sign for the future, she said.

The CBSS role

The CBSS will certainly be able to play an increasingly

positive role in the relations between Russia and the EU, in Ms. Ojuland's view. The membership of other CBSS countries in the EU helps facilitate procedures for regional cooperation and can expedite the implementation of new projects in a flexible manner. She stated her conviction that a further integration of Europe, including the Baltic Sea region, is advantageous not only to the present and acceding EU members, but also to their partners.

A full text of the lecture and additional photos from the fifth anniversary are at: www.cbss.st/documents/cbsspresidencies/12estonian/5anniversary

New colleagues at the Secretariat

Ms. Irina Ilchenko from Russia works for BASREC from 1 October until 19 December. She is a Chief Expert at the Ministry of Energy, the Department of Foreign Economic Relations. The Nordic Council of Ministers scholarship programme for energy experts is funding Ms. Ilchenko's contribution to BASREC. **Ms. Gesche Clausen** from Germany serves as intern from 1 October 2003–1 April 2004. She has an MSc in politics from the University of Edinburgh and is sponsored by the Carlo Schmid-Programme. **Ms. Hilde Engelen** from Belgium is an intern from 1 November until 20 December. She is a PhD student in political science at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva and is writing her thesis on the construction of a region in the Baltic Sea area.

The Baltic Sea Region in a Decisive Phase

REPORT FROM THE 5TH ANNUAL BALTIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM SUMMIT, 5–7 OCTOBER IN RIGA

BY DIRECTOR OF BALTIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM, OLE FRIJS-MADSEN



Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of Latvia, greeted BDF Chairman, Mr. Uffe Ellemann Jensen, in Riga. Dr. Vike-Freiberga said at the BDF summit that the EU enlargement will strengthen one of the largest single markets in the world, which soon will have 500 million consumers. In background: Director of the BDF Secretariat, Ole Frijs-Madsen.

THE BALTIC SEA REGION (BSR) is in a decisive phase of structural transition, as a fleet of four new members join the EU on 1 May 2004. While the future looks bright, challenges also remain. This was the main message from this year's BDF summit, where 450 decision makers from more than ten countries, major cities, the European Commission, EIB, CBSS, Nordic Council of Ministers etc. met for three days of intensive discussions, presentations and networking. The region's decision makers recommended the establishment of a "road map" for the region, in order to ensure a prosperous and innovative BSR. A first step must be an annual "State of the BSR Report" with clear indicators

of economic and social development.

The Summit dealt with themes related to a variety of sectors and issues, which are all key to making the region prosper in the years ahead. SME's in the EU's extended single market, human resource management in the companies of the region, private-public partnership on health, biotech and life sciences, transport infrastructure development, clever use of information and communication technology, Kaliningrad after EU-enlargement, financial perspectives for the region etc.

Amidst the increasingly close co-operation between the ten Baltic Sea countries, a note of caution was also flagged at the Summit. EU-

enlargement will effectively enhance possibilities for its 25 members. Russia, however, remains outside the EU, and high level Russian government members as well as other delegates warned about the risk of *de facto* isolating Russia. Both Russia and the EU will have to adapt to this new situation and make constructive arrangements to stimulate cooperation, growth and prosperity.

BDF will continue its efforts to identify the key challenges for the BSR. The Riga summit clearly stressed the need for a regional road map in which politicians lay out the appropriate framework conditions for the new global frontrunner right at our doorstep. National, regional and local authorities need to focus more on a coherent strategy for the BSR and thus regional development.

In preparation of next year's 6th annual BDF summit, a number of round tables and seminars will take place. Underlining the commitment of Hamburg to integration and co-operating with the Baltic Sea countries, the First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg invited the summit participants to Hamburg for the 6th annual BDF summit. It will be held on 12–14 September 2004, and BDF looks forward to seeing you in Hamburg.

Cities as proactive business partners

UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES' VII GENERAL CONFERENCE
16–19 OCTOBER, KLAIPEDA, LITHUANIA

DEBATES DURING “The Baltic Sea Wave – Business Development in the New Europe” focused on opportunities and challenges related to the EU enlargement. The CBSS CSO Chairman, Mr. Tiit Naber, said we must allow our citizens to live in a free, clean and prosperous environment. He commended UBC for being an Agenda 21 partner in the Baltic Sea region (BSR). Mr. Per Bødker Andersen, UBC President, said the Baltic wave of business development is raising the region’s economic level – and he believed all of Europe benefits from it. Foreign Minister of Lithuania, Mr. Antanas Valionis, complemented the cities for dealing with such a broad array of crucial issues, including that of disabled people.

Responsibilities of cities
Presenters encouraged municipalities to promote entrepreneurship. Modern business requires authorities to spend time and carry out activities with companies and other partners. Municipalities have to ensure economic vigilance and keep up with new trends.



Ms. Ieva Malceniņa, Chief Officer on Foreign Matters from Cesis, expressed her appreciation for the UBC Environmental Award on behalf of the city. On her left is Ms. Ruta Ly-senkaite, interpreter. In the background, from left: Mr. Janis Rozenbergs, Head of the Planning Department of Cesis, Mr. Carl Nielsen of the Award Committee, and Mr. Per Bødker Andersen, President of UBC and Mayor of Kolding.

UBC Environmental Award

THIS YEAR the UBC Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award went to Cesis in Latvia. The prize encourages member cities to develop administration and services in innovative ways for the benefit of the whole community. The prize is 5.000 Euro and it was awarded for the third time.

Cities should create pleasant living conditions for business employees. People commute from one city to another in order to work; business networks do not stop at municipal borders. Neighbouring cities have to form networks instead of competing with each other.

Partnerships
Discussions focused on the need to form partnerships that could include various actors: universities, chambers of commerce, business organisations, neighbour communities, municipalities and enterprises. They can be formed around various projects and can facili-

tate cities’ access to EU structural funds.

Agenda 21

Action Programme

The conference adopted the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004–2009 – A Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Sea Cities. The urban population in the BSR is around 50 million and the cities are a critical factor for sustainability. The programme promotes concrete ac-

tion in five areas: good governance and sustainable urban management; sustainable use of energy and resources; good living environment and nature protection; sustainable economy and transport, and social integration and health. A six-year programme with the budget of 8–10 million euros seeks to mobilise UBC networks in building partnerships and synergy with other actors. The UBC Secretariat continues in Gdansk (Poland). In 2005, the VIII UBC General Conference will take place in Turku (Finland).

A full text of Mr. Tiit Naber’s presentation is at: www.cbss.st/documents/cbsspresidencies/12estonian

UBC’s standing commissions deal with issues such as business co-operation, transport, urban planning, culture, education, environment, health and social affairs, information society, tourism and sport. Three networks address gender equality, youth and EU coordination.

CBSS Commissioner on democratic development closes office

AT THEIR 12th MEETING in June, the CBSS Foreign Ministers decided not to extend the CBSS Commissioner’s mandate beyond 2003. This concludes nine years of an independent Commissioner’s role in the Baltic Sea region. The final report of the Commissioner will be presented to the CBSS Committee of

Senior Officials meeting in Stockholm on 11–12 December. Commissioner Helle Degn and her staff will close the office on 19 December.

The Chairman of the Council, Estonian Foreign Minister Kristiina Ojuland, has on several occasions expressed her appreciation for the efforts and tangible results

of the CBSS Commissioner’s Office. Ms. Ojuland has stressed that the CBSS will remain committed to safeguarding the democratic process through its structures, and through partnerships with the relevant Pan-European institutions. She has pointed to the many regional networks, including the Baltic Sea Parlia-

mentary Conference (BSPC) and the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) that address transparency in the public sphere and other crucial principles of democracy.

Baltinfo will provide information on the Commissioner’s final report in its January issue.

Raising the regional profile in an new EU

BALTIC SEA STATES SUBREGIONAL CO-OPERATION XI ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
23–25 OCTOBER, ST. PETERSBURG

THE CONFERENCE “Bridging the Future, EU Northern Dimension – a challenge for regions of the Baltic Sea” also addressed the EU Wider Europe/New Neighbours initiatives, and cooperation with Northwest Russia.

Chairman of the CBSS CSO, Mr. Tiit Naber, said the CBSS coordinates common regional positions on the EU’s Northern Dimension. According to Mr. Brunon Synak, the BSSSC Chairman, it would be a serious task for the regions to overcome the gap between the old and new EU members, as well as preventing the creation of new dividing lines between Russia and other new neighbours. The Baltic Sea region (BSR) should be seen as one economic entity no matter what political membership its countries have, in Mr. Synak’s view.

Northern Dimension

The implementation of the Northern Dimension Action Plan (NDAP) will require a deeper commitment from all actors, said representative of the EC, Ms. Katarina Borgh-Rahm. The New Neighbours initiative and the ND aim to counteract new dividing lines in Europe and encourage the regions to benefit from the EU enlargement, she said. 165 million Euros are earmarked for the BSR in the upcoming years for the New Neighbours initiative. Programmes aim to enhance economic development, improve the environment, fight organised crime, develop public health and cross-border cooperation, including border management.



Vice-Governor of St. Petersburg and Chief of the Committee of External Affairs, Mr. Alexander V. Prohorenko, welcomed participants to the BSSSC Conference.

Photo: Karolina Gnacinska

Russian views

More and more partners from the BSR and the EU Commission have engaged in projects with St. Petersburg, Leningrad, Novgorod and Pskov Oblasts. Russian delegates view the ND as a potentially important tool for regional development, which however, they view as lacking appropriate funding and a viable institutional framework. ND poli-

cies towards Russia should focus on an integrated development of Northwest Russia as a whole, rather than stimulating production and export of Russian raw resources, according to Russian representatives.

Russian challenges

Participants brought up problems that prevent Russian regions from raising their profile in the regional cooperation.

They include: poor coordination between regions and the federal level of government; insufficient coordination and networking between regions and their administrations; insufficient access to updated information; lack of information in the Russian language on how to apply for project funding, and limited financial possibilities.

The Conference Declaration outlined regional political scenarios in connection with the EU enlargement, as well as priority tasks to be addressed by the forum of Subregional Cooperation. The final Resolution from the Conference will be available in January 2004. The XII Annual Conference will take place 21–23 October 2004 in Malmö, Sweden.

The full text of CBSS CSO Chairman Tiit Naber’s presentation to the BSSSC is at: www.cbss.st/documents/cbsspresidencies/12estonian

Theme set for IV Baltic Sea NGO Forum in Pärnu, Estonia, 16-17 April



The Estonian NGO Roundtable hosted the 1st International Preparatory Committee in Tallinn on 26 October. From left: Project Coordinator of the NGO forum, Ms. Anneli Uus; Head of the national organising committee, Mr. Helmut Hallemaa and Mr. Agu Laius, Director of Jaan Tõnisson Institute.

Entitled “Challenges for Baltic Sea Civil Society in a Changing Europe,” the forum will gather 250 participants from all countries in the Baltic Sea region and Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The international preparatory committee has tentatively identified seven work-

shops: 1. cooperation between NGOs, the public and private sector; 2. environmental protection; 3. civil security; 4. EU enlargement and social inclusion; 5. regional and local policy; 6. integration of ethnic minorities, and 7. employment. The CBSS Committee of Se-

nior Officials will hold a meeting in conjunction with the NGO forum, to lend support to civil society and enhance communication between the NGO community and government representatives.

Website of the forum: www.ngonet.ee/forum

Signing of the BASREC testing ground agreement for climate change

BY JANIS FOLKMANIS, HEAD OF THE ENERGY UNIT AT THE CBSS SECRETARIAT AND LIINA MENDEL, BASREC IN TALLINN



ON THE INVITATION of the Swedish Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, the ministers of the Baltic Sea region countries met for the signing ceremony of the Testing Ground Agreement (TGA) for application of the Kyoto Flexible Mechanisms to energy projects in the Baltic Sea region. This event took place in conjunction with Nordic min-

isterial meetings on energy and industry.

BASREC objective

Six signatures out of eleven were needed for the agreement to come into force. Seven countries – Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden signed in Gothenburg. Estonia and Latvia announced their intention to

sign by the end of the year. Finland was designated as the Depository of the Agreement.

The signature has brought to fruit a long negotiating period, since October 1999, when the regional ministers and the European Commission meeting in Helsinki created the Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation (BASREC), and set the creation of the Testing Ground as one of

the priority objectives. The Swedish minister and ministries have played a key role and acted as a motor, as chair of the BASREC climate change group, to achieve this objective.

The Kyoto Protocol

All Baltic Sea states signed and ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in



Working in partnership, from the Prison Health Workshop. Alexei Borbik from the Central Research Institute, Moscow; Lars Møller, WHO, Copenhagen; Erik Sâheim, Ministry of Justice, Oslo; Hannu Pøso, Ministry of Justice, Helsinki; Harald Siem, Task Force secretariat, Oslo and Knud Christensen, chair, Task Force Prison Health Group, Copenhagen

The Future of the Task Force on Communicable Disease Control in the Baltic Sea Region

BY DR. HARALD SIEM, HEAD OF THE TASK FORCE SECRETARIAT, OSLO

IT IS OBVIOUS that that the establishment of the new Northern Dimension health partnership will have consequences for the future major health collaborations in the region. They include the Barents Health Programme and the Task Force on Communicable Disease Control in the Baltic Sea Region (TF-CDC). Having been initiated at the Summit in Kolding in 2000, the TF-CDC has a mandate limited to four years. This means that a final report will be prepared for the next Summit, to be held in Estonia on 28-29 June 2004.

In many ways, the Northern Dimension partnership has been built on the experiences of the TF-CDC. It is a true partnership, rather than a new intergovernmental organisation. The details will be hammered out in the months to come, but elements like the committee of senior representatives, expert groups and common database might well in part be established in the existing structures. The members of the Task Force will consider alternative ways of avoiding duplications, and yet keep the networks going, and in particular many of the small

projects. It remains to be seen if the new partnership will initiate projects of its own, or limit its activities to information and co-ordination. Some of the programme groups under the

Task Force have clearly stated that they would like to continue the collaboration, and the challenge is to provide the optimal organisational support for these.

The Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being was established in Oslo on 27 October 2003. This is the most important international public health and social policy initiative in our region ever, according to the Norwegian Ministers of Health and of Social Affairs, Mr. Dagfinn Høybråten and Ms. Ingerd Schou. A partnership is established between Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain and Sweden. The European Commission, WHO, the CBSS and other organisations joined the partnership. It aims to better co-ordinate the many ongoing and planned efforts in Northern Europe. Sweden assumed the chair of the partnership for the initial two years.

1992, and from 1998 the Kyoto Protocol which most of them have ratified. The Kyoto Protocol provides a practical international framework and targets to reduce emissions in order to combat climate change. The protocol requires 5.2% reduction in greenhouse gases (GHG) below the 1990 levels during the period from 2008–2012. The three market-based flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol (emissions trading, Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism) will allow industrialised countries to meet their targets through trading emission allowances between themselves and gain credits for emission-curbing projects abroad.

Testing Ground Agreement

The multilateral Testing Ground Agreement in the Baltic Sea Region is an early start towards the commitment period of 2008–2012 in the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, and could act as a role model for other regions. It aims at stimulating climate investment projects with the Baltic Sea Region in the energy sector. It will also give the participating countries time for promoting capacity building and prepare for emissions mitigation.

Testing Ground Facility

In order to give the Testing Ground a financial basis, in June 2002 the Nordic Council of Ministers for Energy made a decision to establish the Testing Ground Facility (TGF), with Nordic contribution to the fund amounting to 10 million euros. Sweden's share of it is 40%, i.e. 4 million euros, allocated by Swedish Energy Agency. Together with the establishment of the testing ground, the fund would create new energy investments aimed at emissions reductions tackling climate change.

Following the TGA signing ceremony, the BASREC senior officials' (GSEO) meeting was held on 30 September–1 October. The BASREC work plan, working group members and chairmen were agreed for the period until 2005. The next GSEO meeting will take place on 15–16 December in Riga.

A Northern Dimension perspective on culture



ARS BALTICA ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEETING,
ST. PETERSBURG, 20–21 OCTOBER 2003

INVITED BY the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the City of St. Petersburg, the committee met in one of the recently restored blue pavilions of the former Smolny convent. The group was welcomed by Mr. Stanislav Eremey, Director of the Russian Language and Culture Department of the State University and Mr Vladimir Churov, Vice-Chair of the Committee of International Relations of St. Petersburg. They referred to the city's 300th anniversary this year its historical and future importance in the Baltic Sea context.

Ars Baltica projects 2003–2004

On the agenda were the reports from 21 ongoing Ars Baltica projects during 2003–2004. Using the opportunity that the meeting was held in St. Petersburg, the project leaders of two Russian Ars Baltica initiatives, the Baltic Photo School and the Dance Link, presented their creative and educational activities. Another project is SEAS, which is based on cooperation with artists in the region but also has connections to Balkan countries. The touring 3rd Ars Baltica Triennial on Photographic Art is well known for its high quality. So is the Baltic Rococo – Faiences round the Baltic Sea, which is touring from Kiel to Stockholm, Tallinn and Copenhagen. It is the result of many years of research cooperation between museums. The Ars Baltica logo was also given to the Romani Writers Congress to be held in Finland next summer, to support the cultural diversity in the Baltic Sea region.

The future of Ars Baltica

The committee discussed how Ars Baltica could serve as a model for multilateral cultural cooperation in terms of European and Northern Dimension projects. Ms. Barbara Garnier from the University of Caen presented a paper on the issue. The networking function has become more apparent and important, as stated in the Northern Dimension Action Plan II concerning the need for: "Promotion of multilateral cooperation and dialogue on cultural projects around the Baltic



Tureen made in 1765 at the faience factory Marieberg in Stockholm with a dolphin on top of the lid.

Photo: Mats Landin, © Nordiska museet

Sea through the Ars Baltica network". Important aspects are: 1. The cultural diversity in the region; 2. Connecting culture to other sectors of society, and 3. Focusing more on culture with regard to children and youth activities.

New Ars Baltica secretariat

An important Ars Baltica resource is the joint secretariat. It is a visible centre for information that pools experiences from many projects and persons. This capacity has developed considerably during the last four years when the Estonian Ministry of Culture has hosted the secretariat. From 2004–2006, the secretariat will be located at the Baltic Sea Culture Centre in Gdansk, thanks to the support of Mr. Waldemar Dabrowski, the Polish Minister of Culture. The secretariat will receive financial support from the Pomeranian region and the Ars Baltica members.

The Ars Baltica organising committee was invited to hold its next meetings in Salzau/Kiel in April and in Gdansk during autumn 2004. A report about the Ars Baltica activities in 2002–2003 will be presented to the sixth conference of the CBSS Ministers of Culture in St. Petersburg on 1–3 December.

Gudrun Vahlquist
Chair of Ars Baltica

A full report is at www.ars-baltica.net

CBSS Looking Ahead

Dear Readers, let me reiterate what I said at the 5th Anniversary of the CBSS Permanent Secretariat in Strömsborg on 20 October:

“Minister Ojuland, Minister Jäntin, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish you all warmly welcome to Strömsborg, where we are all literally surrounded by Östersjö, Läänemeri, Itämeri, Ostsee – or to put it simply: the Baltic Sea. The story of the Baltic Sea began over 11 years ago in Copenhagen. The story of the Permanent International Secretariat began – not five years ago – but already in 1996, when Prime Minister Persson invited us to Sweden, to Stockholm and to Strömsborg.

But what did happen exactly five years ago was the inauguration of the Secretariat right here where we stand – and here in Strömsborg we have two manifestations of that event: the old map of the Baltic Sea region given to the Secretariat as a present from the Swedish Government by Foreign Minister Anna Lindh (There is her signature on the back side of the map, together with the one of Lithuania’s Foreign Minister Saudargas, who at that time was the CBSS Chairman – as well as a picture of the two ministers on this occasion).

Let me express our profound gratitude to the Government of Sweden for the unyielding support to the Coun-

cil and the Secretariat during the last five years! All of us having worked here at Strömsborg have learned well how deep a commitment Sweden has to the Baltic Sea region.

But the Baltic Sea development and cooperation cannot be successful without commitment and participation by all countries around the sea. The CBSS, with 11 member countries and the EU Commission, is a tangible expression of that support. Without the support of all members, observers, working groups and special participants as well as other regional bodies, parliamentarians and non-governmental organisations, our task to build up a truly comprehensive Baltic Sea network would be doomed to fail.

My deepest thanks to our member governments through the CBSS Chairman, Minister Kristiina Ojuland, and to our governing body CSO through its Chairman, Ambassador Tiit Naber, for sharing your vision on the Baltic Sea region with us and for trusting us in helping to make it a reality!

And finally, my very special thanks to all my colleagues at the secretariat for the hard work, professionalism and friendship!”

It can be argued – as many do – that the original mission of the CBSS is completed. But all along the past 11 years new ideas, new re-



Hannu Halinen

quests, new tasks have been presented to us. Adjustment to respond to these new challenges is needed. Sharing the vision and trust to make it a reality is key.

What is at stake is the role of regional organisations in integrating Europe; no less than the future of regions and regionalism. For the CBSS it is, of course, the task of our member governments, and the EU Commission, to consider this issue. But interestingly, when the permanent secretariat was established, already then our founding fathers were wise enough to decide to conduct a review of our activities after a five-year period. The review by an experienced outside consultant has just commenced. Its findings will be available to coincide with the EU enlargement next spring. Undoubtedly, the CBSS will get guidance for a further strengthened contribution for the Baltic Sea region.

With this number of Baltinfo the main responsibility to

Baltic Sea Calendar

DECEMBER

4 Copenhagen, Denmark
Task Force on Organised Crime meeting

4 Hiiumaa, Estonia
Baltic Sea Seven Islands Cooperation Network Annual Conference

8 Copenhagen, Denmark
Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (WGNRS) meeting on stabilisation of data exchange

9–10 Stockholm, Sweden
1st meeting of the Committee of Senior Representatives of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Public Health and Social Well-being

11–12 Stockholm, Sweden
Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meeting

11–13 Szczecin, Poland
Baltic Sea Area Conference

15–16 Riga, Latvia
Group of Senior Energy Officials (BASREC-GSEO) meeting

15–17 Tartu, Estonia
CBSS Children at Risk researcher meeting on young persons’ experiences and attitudes towards commercial sex and sexual abuse of children

JANUARY 2004

15–16 Pedase, Estonia
Working Group on Economic Cooperation (WGEC) meeting

30–31 Pärnu, Estonia
IV Baltic Sea NGO Forum 2nd international preparatory committee meeting

put together the CBSS newsletter will change from Alar Olljum to Gry Tina Tinde. Alar has done an extraordinary job to make Baltinfo a more informative and substantial newsletter. He deserves our full gratitude for it. Tina, with her enthusiasm and professionalism, is all set to further develop the newsletter.

All of us at Strömsborg wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2004!



USEFUL CBSS ADDRESSES

Chairman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials (CSO): Mr. Tiit Naber, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Islandi plats 1, EE-0100 Tallinn, Estonia • Tel +372 6 317231 • Fax +372 6 317199 • e-mail: tiit.naber@mfa.ee
CBSS Secretariat: Strömsborg, P.O. Box 2010, 103 11 Stockholm, Sweden • Tel +46 8 440 19 20 • Fax +46 8 440 19 44
• E-mail cbss@cbss.st • Internet <http://www.cbss.st>

The newsletter is edited by the CBSS Secretariat • Ambassador Hannu Halinen, Director • Gry Tina Tinde, Senior Advisor