

The Baltic Sea as the Development Engine of Europe

ADDRESS BY JUHAN PARTS, PRIME MINISTER OF ESTONIA, TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE BALTIC SEA SEVEN ISLANDS CO-OPERATION, KÄRDLA, 5 DECEMBER 2003

As the crow flies, the distance from Sörve peninsula to Gotland is as long as the distance separating the peninsula from Tallinn. When travelling by sea from Kuressaare, the closest capital is Riga, not Tallinn. When Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland accede to the European Union, the Baltic Sea will practically become an internal sea of the European Union. This is a historic moment. The Baltic Sea is like mortar that binds us, the Northern states of the EU, firmly together. Our Northern Mediterranean will be the new mare nostrum, and I am convinced that the Baltic Sea region has good prospects of becoming the fastest growing region in Europe.

The Baltic Sea in the role of Europe's development engine is not just a hope that we share with the other Baltic Sea nations. It is a challenge that the whole of Europe is looking forward for us to tackle. It is also a challenge to Estonia as the current chairman of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

How to tackle this challenge? Here, five major themes can be mapped for us to consider together before we proceed.

First, the European Union is first and foremost a political union of states on our conti-

nent, a union whose essence is defined by two words: "the Europe of regions". And the Baltic Sea region is no doubt one of the key regions of this Europe. To be brief: we have to face the task of linking our efforts to the Northern Dimension policy. The further development of that policy is one of the key issues of the Baltic Sea Region in the European context.

Second, we have an efficiently functioning international co-operation structure that is called the Council of the Baltic Sea States. This is the only political and organisational structure that, due to the countries that participate in its work, today has a real dimension reaching into the European Union – thus, it is an Euro-political structure that has functioning co-operation ties with Russia. When shaping the development of the Baltic Sea Region, this circumstance should by no means be underestimated.

Third, in today's globalising world, I would like to draw your attention to the so-called renewed North-European Partnership (EPINE) of the United States, which is a result of the Northern European initiative and a further development of the US-Baltic Charter, co-operation with the Nordic



Juhan Parts, Prime Minister of Estonia, congratulated Hiiumaa on the successful chairmanship of the Baltic Sea Seven Islands.

Photo: Seppo Ekelund, Info Öland

countries and the Baltic countries in 1+8 format. Even if the latter was announced quite recently, the continuous interest of the US in such issues as the security of our region, as well as regional social problems, and the strengthening of business contacts can only be received with the warmest welcome.

The fourth – and this is perhaps the most vitally important question when the Baltic Sea is concerned – is the environmental status of the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea is the environment, which all our countries, but especially all our is-

lands, who participate in the B-7 forums, are directly dependent on. Just as they are dependent on clean air and water. Therefore, the issues of the environmental safety of the Baltic Sea must never be considered secondary. And this is why examples of productive co-operation between countries in this field are especially important. The prohibition of the environmentally dangerous single-hull oil tankers is a good example. I would like to welcome the decision of the Internation-

The region's democracy advocate: Go local!

FAREWELL INTERVIEW WITH HELLE DEGN, CBSS COMMISSIONER ON DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

BALTINFO: As you approach the end of your mandate, BALTINFO would like to congratulate you on a job well done. Which experiences during your three years in office have made the strongest impression on you?

H.D.: Thank you. Let me highlight three things: Firstly, the citizens' dedication for change in the region, despite the hardships. Secondly, the determination by the executive branch of power to take the lead in this development. My concern, however, is the lack of dedication by the elected representatives to take their leadership responsibility and to express their visions for the region.

BALTINFO: You often provide sharp observations of the development of civil society in the BSR. How has the role of NGO's shifted over the past few years? In your view, how do NGO's gain the clout and financing they need in order to be strong and appreciated contributors to the democratic process?

H.D.: There was a remarkable transition of the NGOs, which were previously seen as illegal or neglected organisations, towards the NGOs identifying themselves as "the opposition". In the last few years, we have witnessed the beginning of a process of these organisations to be defined as an active resource

bank of the society. Let me refer to, as an example, the responses in my survey "Trafficking in Women", in which governments entrust the NGOs the important role of ensuring shelters and victim protection and how to reintegrate these women into their country of origin. I have tried to remind governments that nation building is costly and time consuming, but it is definitely worth it. Just take a look around us in the most troubled regions of Europe, the Caucasus or Iraq.

BALTINFO: In your final report, you outline issues including elections, anti-corruption efforts,

civil society, local self-government, national minorities and justice and prison reforms. What are in your opinion the most eye-opening findings of the report?

H.D.: The battle to defeat corruption and economic crime is crucial, because these phenomena easily undermine democracy by fostering a lack of confidence in the democratic way of governing a society. Corruption and economic crime also prevent many, not least foreign, investments from going local, which is one of my greatest concerns. At the same time, there is the slow pace of building up a feeling of regional identity; a problem that was re-

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al Maritime Organisation from yesterday to speed up the prohibition of single-hull tankers by five years. This is a big step forward in the protection of the Baltic Sea.

And fifth – which is perhaps closest to the theme of my address today – I would like to refer to the Lisbon process of the European Union. The aim of the process is, by the year 2010, to shape the European Union into the most competitive and knowledge-intensive economic space in the world by enhancing economic growth, environment-friendly entrepreneurship and social welfare. It is this process that will help us to achieve our goals fastest. The countries around the Baltic Sea are ahead of some other EU countries in several fields already today.

This is the general background. Let us now be more

specific and take a look at the figures describing the Baltic Sea Region. In recent years, our region has had the fastest economic growth rate in Europe. The region of St. Petersburg area is the fastest developing in Russia after Moscow. Even today, the Baltic Sea region is one of the innovation centres of the European Union; in the field of information technology, it has good prospects for becoming Europe's research centre. This is true also about other new technologies, such as biotechnology and gene technology. The present EU members and the acceding countries in of the Baltic Sea region – Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, and Estonia – continue to be on the top of the global list when competitiveness figures are concerned.

Thus, we have to admit that our potential is adequate.

Whether we will be able to make full use of it, and to develop the Baltic Sea region into the most competitive region of the EU, will depend on two circumstances. First, on how the acceding countries will be able to use the support coming from the EU structural funds, and second, on how regional co-operation will develop within the region – including co-operation with north-western Russia and Kaliningrad, and the rest of the Baltic Sea region.

Let us begin with the first of the two abovementioned issues. If we are to face the truth, it has to be admitted that figures related to living standards and enterprising activity are considerably lower east of the Baltic Sea when compared to the neighbours on the western

shore. Entrepreneurship rate in Estonia measured in the number of small and medium-sized enterprises per 1000 inhabitants is still 4 times lower than the respective figure in Germany. Yet I refuse to believe that Estonians are 4 times less industrious than Germans. This depends on development support that the state can offer to entrepreneurs, and it is here that we should take a closer look at the opportunities that the EU has to offer.

The tenacity that the people of Hiiumaa and Saaremaa have shown in utilising the EU funds currently available in Estonia leaves nothing to be desired. But observe that the future opportunities will be dozens of times greater! In order to make use of those resources in an efficient and purposeful way, the development goals and priorities on long-



Helle Degn's last public appearance in her capacity as CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Development was in Vilnius on 2 December. Ms. Degn addressed a seminar on free media organised by the CBSS Working Group on Democratic Institutions.

flected in my project "Know Your Neighbours".

BALTINFO: Surely there has been solid democratic development in the region since CBSS was created in 1992. In which areas do you believe work remains to be done, and what type of remedial action do you recommend?

H.D.: The next step clearly is to develop local democracy and administration to be updated to European standards.

BALTINFO: Following the closure of your office at the end of 2003, which actors will be most suited to analyse and in a practical way help ensure a positive democratic development in the BSR?

H.D.: The elected fora have to "catch the train", the executive branch is already to be found in the driver's cab – the loco-

motive. The lack of democratic legitimacy in the CBSS-cooperation is scaring me and has to be remedied quickly, particularly by elected representatives engaging much more actively in the political process. Another requirement for the region's democratic development could be a closer cooperation between CBSS and the Council of Europe, the OSCE and all organisations where Russia is included as an equal partner. The CBSS region could be one of the most prosperous regions in the world, this is and has been a vision driving my dedication to work as the CBSS Commissioner, which has been a great honour and pleasure. Let me take this opportunity to thank all my cooperation partners and wish for a prosperous future for the citizens of the CBSS region.

term plane have to be set down clearly by Hiiumaa and Saaremaa already today. Of course, all municipalities have equal freedom to apply for financing, but yet it is clear that larger projects, prepared on professional level, will also have greater chances to succeed. I mean projects created in co-operation between municipalities and covering – why not? — the whole county. Both enterprises and municipalities have to make considerable efforts here, and settle for more efficient co-operation.

And I mean co-operation covering the whole of the Baltic Sea, not limited to one country. Hence the necessity to develop wider regional co-operation. We should avoid developments that would make the waters of the Baltic Sea an insurmountable barrier between us and prevent co-operation with regions that will remain outside the

EU. First and foremost, I mean the regions of Russia bordering on the Baltic Sea.

The co-operation on the coasts of Baltic Sea should rest on three pillars: exchange of knowledge and transfer of best practices, environmental issues and protection of common interests on EU level.

In the framework of the Lisbon process, nearly every country has made detailed plans for domestic working programmes. Estonian Success 2014 concentrates all those activities that the Government wishes to carry out in order to enhance Estonia's competitiveness, and regional co-operation plays a very important role there. Open co-operation enables all of us to learn not only from our neighbours' mistakes but also from their success, to exchange knowledge and transfer and apply the best practices.

Sustainable economy as a

goal of the Lisbon process means that in the course of regional co-operation, we shall not only develop industry and enhance competitiveness, but also consider environmental issues, trying together to look for solutions. Environmental issues can be addressed on several levels, all interconnected: the Baltic Sea level, the national level (e.g. the development of environmental technology in co-operation with enterprises), and the regional level. And only when working together and linking those levels to each other shall we be able to come to satisfactory results.

As the third aspect of our co-operation, I mentioned representing the interests of the Baltic Sea jointly on the EU level. I am very glad that the organisers of this meeting today set an example to us all. The Baltic Sea Seven Islands has from 1996 had a joint mission

to Brussels, which has been successful in promoting the interests of the islands and explaining the priorities of the Baltic Sea to our partners. We should learn from their experience and I invite everyone, especially the entrepreneurs on our islands, to do so.

Thus, the Baltic Sea co-operation is not just an empty phrase. It has not been so in the past, and shall not be so in the future. It is our key to success. Only with a co-operation that is closer, more substantial and more energetic on national, regional, municipal and enterprise level can we make full use of the advantages of our region.

The Baltic Sea is the central axis of the economy of Northern Europe. Whether our region will be able to direct the economic developments also in the rest of Europe and in the whole world, depends on our ability to co-operate.

Surveying NGO Legislation in the Region

INTERVIEW WITH OUTI OJALA, MEMBER OF THE FINNISH PARLIAMENT AND BALTIC SEA PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE (BSPC) RAPPORTEUR ON LEGISLATION RELATED TO NGOS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION (BSR)



Outi Ojala, Member of the Finnish Parliament and a devoted Baltic Sea regionalist, seeks to enhance the role of NGOs through her region-wide study on NGO legislation.

BALTINFO: Congratulations on your appointment as Rapporteur on Legislation Related to NGOs in the BSR. Why do you wish to study this matter?

OA: It is a big challenge to strengthen civil society and develop cooperation among NGOs around the BSR. NGO cooperation is the third dimension in the ongoing regional networking endeavours. Cooperation among governments and parliaments is established. These institutions need support from NGOs in ensuring people's participation in every aspect of political, social and economic life.

BALTINFO: What type of NGO experience do you have?

OA: I have been on the Board of the Organisation for the

Mentally Disabled in Finland since 1993. I am Vice-President of the Council of the Finland-Russia Society and Vice-President of the Committee for the Finnish Commission for European Security (STETE), and I am a member of the Organisation of Health Professionals, a trade union. I've been a member of the Finland-Nicaragua Association since 1984.

BALTINFO: Why did BSPC decide to appoint a Rapporteur on Legislation Related to NGOs in the BSR?

OA: After the EU enlargement the importance of the BSR will be raised. There will be more possibilities for the development of economic and cultural cooperation. Parliamentarians

The Enhanced Partnership in Northern Europe (e-PINE)

INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT HILTON, NORDIC BALTIC REGIONAL COORDINATOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BALTINFO welcomes the opportunity to discuss e-PINE with you during your participation at the December 2003 CSO meeting in Stockholm. Please outline briefly the origin of the Northern Europe Initiative (NEI) and why it has been updated and renamed the Enhanced Partnership in Northern Europe (e-PINE).

R.H.: The Northern Europe Initiative that was launched in 1997 had three overall goals: the integration of the Baltic States into a regional network of cooperative programs with their neighbours; the integration of northwest Russia into the same cooperative regional network; and stronger U.S. relations with and increased re-

gional cooperation among the Nordic states, Poland, Germany, and the European Union. Roughly \$30 million have been spent to achieve these goals since the program's inception.

Given the tremendous progress made in the region over the last decade, and in particular, the invitations to Latvia,



Robert Hilton, U.S. Nordic Baltic Regional Coordinator, addressed the December CSO meeting in Stockholm.

believe a survey on NGO legislation in the region is necessary to find similarities and differences in the work conditions for NGOs, and to formulate recommendations based on the findings.

BALTINFO: What are in your opinion the main challenges of NGOs in the region?

OA: It is a challenge to support the NGOs that lack financial possibilities and access to information. It is also a big challenge to establish a strong network among the NGOs in the region. The lobbying role of NGOs needs to be strengthened.

BALTINFO: How will the report be of help to NGOs?

OA: It will be a strong tool; not

only for NGOs, but it will also show governments the important role NGOs can play, and the needs of NGOs. NGOs will have the opportunity to comment on the legal situation in their country.

BALTINFO: When mapping experiences of NGOs in your study, how will you navigate among the many organisations? How will you conduct the study in practical terms?

OA: The richness of NGOs is that they are so different. It will be impossible to ensure input from every organisation. In the study, I will try to seek comments from a cross-section of NGOs in each country on how they experience the legal framework and cooperation possibilities with the authori-

ties on for instance law-making. I will visit most countries in the region, seek information from governments on legislation related to NGOs and hold a round-table discussion with NGOs only. The first visit will be to Latvia in January, and on 30 January I will attend the 2nd International Preparatory Committee meeting on the IV Baltic Sea NGO Forum in Pärnu. Several other visits

are planned for March and April. I will present a progress report to the NGO Forum in Pärnu on 16-17 April, while the final report will be given to the 13th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Bergen, Norway on 29-31 August 2004. I look very much forward to this task.



Sophie Levasseur, a lawyer from France, serves as Advisor to Ms. Ojala in her capacity as BSPC Rapporteur on Legislation Related to NGOs in the Baltic Sea Region. Funding for Ms. Levasseur is provided by the City of Turku as a follow-up to an initiative made at the III Baltic Sea NGO Forum, while office space is provided at the CBSS Secretariat.

Estonia and Lithuania to join NATO and the EU, the U.S. has revised its existing policy. We launched the Enhanced Partnership in Northern Europe, or e-PINE, in the fall of 2003. E-PINE is the logical continuation of our involvement in the region over the past 15 years. It reflects our belief that we share with the Baltic Sea countries a set of basic values and objectives that we can advance in a cooperative fashion.

What are the main goals of e-PINE?

R.H.: We believe the issues we face can be broken down into three broad areas: political security; healthy societies; and

vibrant economies. The U.S. is ready to address these areas within the region and with neighbouring states that have not yet achieved economic and political stability and success. To facilitate this cooperation we have created a consultative mechanism that we view as a complement to our commitment to the CBSS, other regional groups, and our excellent bilateral relations with the countries of northern Europe.

We have in the past observed that our most fruitful cooperation with the CBSS has taken place within the various subgroupings. That has continued to be the case over the past year. Areas where the U.S. is

active include the Task force on Organised Crime, The Task Force on Communicable Disease Control and Eurofaculty.

In the mission statement, building on successful multilateral engagement is given as a first guiding principle of e-PINE. It is stated that the U.S. will seek to work with regional bodies in carrying out policies and development programs. In which areas do you see potential for fruitful cooperation between CBSS and the United States through e-PINE?

R.H.: We recently established communication between the U.S. Department of Energy and the Working Group on

Nuclear and Radiation Safety. Some of our anti-trafficking initiatives support the objectives of the Working Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk. We enjoyed a visit with Commissioner Helle Degn in Washington in November and want to learn more about the Working Group on Democratic Institutions. All these offer new opportunities for us to work together with the CBSS states.

Link to ePINE:
<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rt/epine/>

Cultural gains celebrated

THE 6TH CONFERENCE OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES MINISTERS OF CULTURE
IN ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, 1–3 DECEMBER 2003

MIKHAIL SHVYDKOJ, Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, opened the conference at the Marble Palace of the State Russian Museum. Debates during the Conference focused on cultural preservation and new challenges for cultural co-operation in the Baltic Region. Delegations believed that cultural cooperation in the Baltic Sea region should be coordinated with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO, the Nordic Council of Ministers and other international organisations, against the backdrop of the Northern Dimension Action Plan.

Ars Baltica informed that it has organised 21 cultural events over the past two years, such as multilateral work-



Seven Ministers of Culture and delegations from all CBSS countries attended the meeting at the Marble Palace in St. Petersburg.

shops, festivals, exhibitions, concerts and an Ars Baltica Forum in Visby, Gotland. Conference participants communicated with Pskov municipality via a “telebridge” which also conveyed preservation of monuments, such as the Pskov monastery.

Valery Gergiev, Russian Conductor, and Michael Ty-

dén, Head of the Swedish Radio, Berwaldhallen, presented the Baltic Sea Festival concept. A first such Festival took place in Stockholm in August 2003, and there is a keen interest to follow its success by establishing a Baltic Sea Music Network. Several delegations expressed support for the initiative and ministers took note of

the idea of possibly organising the next Baltic Sea Festival under the patronage of the Conference of the Ministers of Culture.

The delegations adopted the Conference Declaration and decided to hold the 7th Conference of the Ministers of Culture in Norway in 2005. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany) will be hosting the preparatory meeting. The Chairmanship of the Monitoring Group on Heritage Cooperation will be continued by Germany, while Lithuania takes over the Chairmanship of the Ars Baltica Organising Committee.

Link to the Declaration:
<http://www.cbss.st/documents/fieldofcooperation/culture/>

National Contact Points Network in Place

FIRST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS, 2–3 DECEMBER
IN STOCKHOLM. ORGANISED BY THE WORKING GROUP FOR
COOPERATION ON CHILDREN AT RISK, WGCC.

NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS from the Baltic Sea States and from Belarus and Ukraine met in Stockholm to exchange information on the issue of unaccompanied and trafficked children. They discussed good practices, how to improve regional contacts, and further steps to be taken in the cooperation.

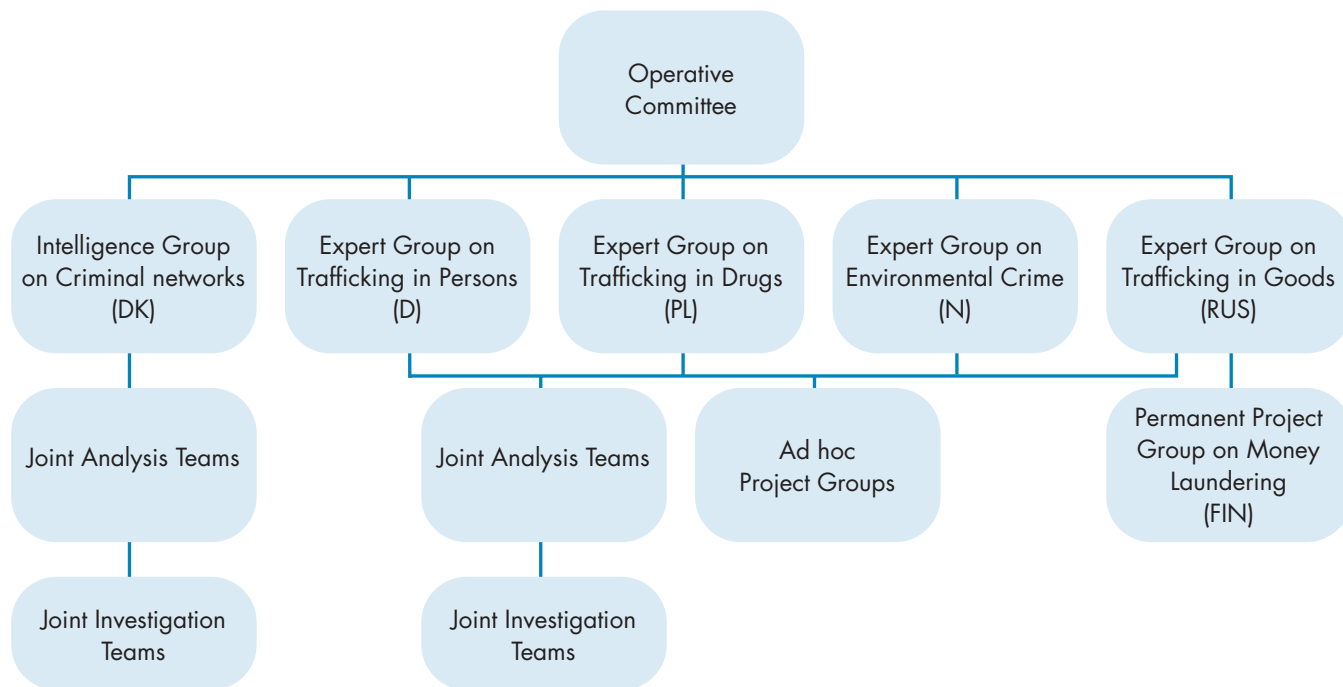
The initiative aims at estab-

lishing sustainable contact channels in order to enhance the protection, rehabilitation and preventive measures regarding unaccompanied and trafficked children in the Baltic Sea region. This has been an issue on the CBSS political agenda since the 4th Baltic Sea States Summit in St. Petersburg in June 2002.

At a conference in Stockholm

in February 2003, government officials from the CBSS member states, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine decided to ask the CBSS Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk (WGCC) to formulate a Plan of Action regarding these children.

Further information on the recommendations is available on <http://childcentre.baltinfo.org>.



Task Force on Organised Crime Charts Future Course

The Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region convened in Copenhagen on 4 December 2003. The only subject on the agenda was the future Task Force Co-operation.

The background for this meeting was that the mandate of the Task Force expires on 31 December 2004, and that the Task Force shall develop suggestions concerning prolongation of the mandate of the

Task Force as well as future co-operation structures within the Task Force Co-operation. These suggestions shall be presented to the Baltic Sea Ministers of Justice and Interior at a meeting 16–17 June 2004 in Copenhagen as well as to the Heads of Government at the Fifth Baltic Sea States Summit on 21 June 2004 in Tallinn.

At its meeting in Copenhagen the Task Force decided to recommend that the Task Force mandate be prolonged for another four year period.

The Task Force shall continue to focus on combating organised crime within the Baltic Sea Region, and it is recommended that the Task Force be the focal point for activities within this area.

The chairmanship of the Task Force should be held for a two-year period with the possibility of prolongation. At present, the Task Force recommends that the Secretariat would be organised by the country holding the chairmanship.

In preparation for its meeting on 4 December 2003 the Task Force had asked the Operative Committee to assess future co-operation structures in regard to operative co-operation. Below an organigramme showing the future set-up for operative co-operation can be found.

<http://www.balticseatastask-force.dk/>

New Intern at the Secretariat

Christiane Kasack, a political science graduate student of the University of Hamburg, serves as intern at the Secretariat in January and February. During her internship, Ms. Kasack is studying the parliamentary dimension of Baltic Sea co-operation.

Conference on energy financing

BASREC together with the Nordic Council of Ministers will organise a conference on energy financing in the Northern Dimension, from 16–18 March in St Petersburg. More information can be obtained from Dins Merirands or Janis Folkmanis at the BASREC Secretariat.
dins.merirands@cbss.st

On Culture and Information

The year 2004 is a year of opportunities and challenges for the CBSS. A general view appears to be that the original mission of the CBSS, as envisaged in 1992, is to a large extent completed. Another view shared by the CBSS family is that a new redefined mission needs to be formulated. In order to do that, one has to know what the organisation is about today. The CBSS in 2004 is far from what it was when founded, or even when the Secretariat was established in 1998. As an example; in addition to the original three permanent working groups we are dealing with some twenty working bodies and related structures today. Already for this reason the findings of the consultant review to be published later this spring are highly relevant for renewing our work respectively. And of course, the Baltic Sea States Summit in Tallinn in June 2004 will give us guidance for years to come.

We are experiencing exciting times in cultural cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. In December 2003 the CBSS Ministers of Culture met in St. Petersburg. Their successful Conference adopted an important Declaration, which gives reason to an effective follow-up in a number of issues. Among them is the idea of a Baltic Sea Music Festival, gathering the impressive music heritage exist-

ing throughout our region. The commitment of maestros such as Valery Gergiev and Esa-Pekka Salonen to this project gives a clear signal of the significance of the event. The aim is to launch the project in Stockholm in August this year.

I am happy to note that both the Ars Baltica Organising Committee and the Baltic Sea Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage have now fresh new leaderships. Both Gudrun Vahlquist from Ars Baltica and Christina von Arbin from the Monitoring Group deserve our thanks for the excellent work they have done. When the chairmanship moves now to Lithuania (Ars Baltica) and Germany (Heritage Cooperation), we wish these fresh forces the best of luck in continuing to promote the cultural cooperation in and around the Baltic Sea!

Another major change of the New Year is the closing of the Commissioner's Office in Copenhagen. I would add my voice to the large number of those praising Ms. Helle Degn for her immensely valuable work. The CBSS and its structures will continue to work in the field on human rights, democracy and rule of law.

The previous number of Baltinfo included some changes in the outlook and presentation, and



Hannu Halinen

more changes have been made in this issue. There is more to come! A new feature is to receive our newsletter fully in electronic form. Please let us know which do you prefer: the traditional paper copy by mail or the quicker electronic Baltinfo (with references to full statements, reports etc, as appropriate). – And regarding information: by now you should have seen our new Brochure “Council of the Baltic Sea States – Innovative Cooperation for a Dynamic Region”. The Brochure aims at giving an overview on what CBSS is doing in the Baltic Sea Region today. Furthermore, if you follow our website www.cbss.st regularly, you have seen many improvements. The work, however, is ongoing to make the newsletter more interesting and informative to our readers.

Happy and Prosperous 2004 to all!

Baltic Sea Calendar

FEBRUARY 2004

2–3 Rovaniemi, Finland
Cross-border cooperation between Finland and Russia, seminar.

5–6 Brussels, Belgium
Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meeting.

9–10 Helsinki, Finland
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) European Conference on the Role of Baltic Local Authorities in Responding to Major Oil Spills.

11–12 Kalmar, Sweden
Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) Network on youth issues, meeting.

19–21 Skövde, Sweden
BSR INTERREG III B Eurobaltic Civil Protection Project; Workshop on Safe Community – Safe Industry.

26–27 Helsinki, Finland
Baltic Sea Region – Focus Area for European Logistics Networks, seminar.

26–27 Helsingør, DENMARK
Task Force on Organised Crime (TF-OC) Operative Committee meeting.



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