

## Where there is a Will there is a Way

ESTONIA REFLECTS ON AN EVENTFUL CBSS PRESIDENCY

Exclusive Baltinfo interview with Kristiina Ojuland, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia and outgoing Chair of the CBSS.

**Baltinfo:** In your speech to the 12<sup>th</sup> ministerial session of the CBSS at Pori on 11 June, you remarked that the Council would be facing new challenges this year in connection with the enlargement of the European Union. With the enlargement now a *fait accompli*, will the CBSS manage, in your opinion, to meet these challenges?

**Kristiina Ojuland:** I am confident that “where there is a will, there is a way”. We are really determined to further the interests of our peoples and businesses, we are sure that we will be successful in our endeavours and will be able to use the advantages provided by the enlargement for the promotion of the well-being of the whole Baltic Sea region.

I think that the developments we have seen during the past few months have shown clearly that there are no weighty negative effects of the enlargement. This is illustrated, for example, by the rational and well-functioning solution of the transit traffic to and from the Kaliningrad region. Those who were not so long ago predicting the emergence of new dividing lines, and no end to trouble and problems with borders in our region, have had to admit that they were seeing things in too dark colours. I am confident that quite soon we will be experiencing its positive impact on cooperation both at the inter-governmental and NGO levels.



On 1 July, Kristiina Ojuland, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, hands over the CBSS Chairmanship to Poland.

Photo: Piia Ruber

**Baltinfo:** At the Pori ministerial meeting, you presented the Estonian CBSS Presidency programme. Do you consider that the goals you set out to achieve during your Presidency have been met successfully? With hindsight, is there anything you would have done differently?

**Ojuland:** Looking back at the year of the Estonian Presidency I do not think that we should have done anything differently.

I would say that the long-term goals of the CBSS, such as enhancing democratic development and increasing competitiveness of the Baltic Sea region, cannot be achieved within a day or even a year. Estonia defined certain areas that would be of special priority during our presidency. I am convinced that most of the CBSS Member States have the same priorities. Moreover, the next Presidency – Poland – has indicated that the priority areas for the next year remain largely the same.

**Baltinfo:** The 5<sup>th</sup> CBSS Trade and Economy Ministerial meeting, held in Tallinn in mid-April, is seen as one of the major events of the Estonian Presidency. Are you satisfied with the results of the meeting?

**Ojuland:** The meeting of the ministers of trade and economy was a future-orientated event where the ministers analysed the prospects of economic cooperation in the region. Discussions provided interesting ideas on how the CBSS can contribute to regional development and build upon positive complementarities. It was, for instance, suggested that the CBSS should be the focal point for regional interests, and that it should contribute to relevant EU instruments and policies. The results of the ministerial meeting will be reflected in the agenda for economic cooperation in the CBSS and in the work of the WGEC.

**Baltinfo:** At Pori, you pledged to do your utmost to ensure, during the Estonian CBSS Presidency, progress on the issue of

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protecting the Baltic Sea marine environment from threats posed by the rapid increase in oil tanker traffic. Are you satisfied with the results to date?

**Ojuland:** Ensuring maritime safety is a long-term goal that requires efforts from all the countries in the Baltic Sea region. The Estonian chairmanship has done its best to ensure inclusion of the item at various international fora. I am very happy to note that this spring the IMO decided to designate a large part of the Baltic Sea as a Specially Sensitive Sea Area. Since last autumn single hull tankers carrying heavy grades of oil can no longer enter the ports of EU countries. Maritime safety is also an important issue on the agenda of the 5<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit on 21 June in Laulasmaa.

**Baltinfo:** You also indicated at Pori that stepping up the fight against trafficking in human beings was to be a priority for the Estonian Presidency. Do you feel that regional efforts to combat trafficking in human beings have been satisfactorily reinforced?

**Ojuland:** Trafficking in human beings, especially of women and children, is a serious and growing problem not only in our region. There are two main working bodies in the Baltic Sea region working on this issue. The Working Group on Children at Risk has adopted the Plan of Action on Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children, and National Contact Points to coordinate implementation of the plan have been nominated by the CBSS Member States.

A mapping of the scope and nature of trafficking in women in the Baltic Sea region has been initiated by the expert group under the Task Force on Organised Crime and this should be followed by operational work. However, increasing national as well as regional efforts are needed to combat these crimes. Activities should focus mainly on victim protection, legislative and preventive measures.

**Baltinfo:** The fourth annual Baltic Sea NGO Forum took place in Estonia in April this year. A progress report by the

BSPC Rapporteur Outi Ojala on NGO legislation in CBSS Member States was presented to the forum. Do you believe the CBSS and its Member States should do more to support NGO activities in the region?

**Ojuland:** The BSPC Rapporteur pointed out possible areas for improvement. According to the progress report the three issues of major concern for the NGOs are the financial situation of NGOs, the possibility of their involvement in the decision-making process and their access to information. The CBSS has increased its cooperation with NGOs. The CBSS Presidencies have supported the organising of all four NGO forums to date. The CBSS working bodies have discussed possibilities for the increased involvement of civil society in the regional intergovernmental cooperation. For example, the Working Group on Children at Risk is already cooperating with NGOs working on child support issues. Increased cooperation could facilitate NGOs' involvement in the decision-making process and their access to information.

**Baltinfo:** The office of the CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Development was closed in December 2003. Do you see other organisations, such as the Council of Europe, the OSCE or the UN becoming more active in our region as a result? Can and should the CBSS handle remaining issues on its own?

**Ojuland:** The Office of the Commissioner on Democratic Development performed invaluable work in the area of building up democratic institutions in the new democracies of our region. Both Commissioners – Helle Degn and her predecessor Ole Espersen – made great contributions to the development of our societies. The member countries decided to close the office as the societies in all the member countries of the CBSS have been recognised as market economies where democratic institutions are functioning reasonably well. And there are other organisations with their relevant mechanisms active in the areas where support is needed. Efforts to improve the situation

regarding democratic development are to be applied by both individual countries and international organisations, especially the Council of Europe, OSCE and the UN. Of course, relevant CBSS working groups should carry on their work.

**Baltinfo:** The Estonian CBSS Presidency will be crowned on 21 June at Laulasmaa by the 5<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit meeting of heads of government and the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of CBSS Ministers' Deputies. What do you expect will be the main outcomes from these events?

**Ojuland:** The Baltic Sea States Summits have always been meant to give an overall political vision of the possible developments in the Baltic Sea region. At their 5<sup>th</sup> Summit, the heads of government will discuss the future opportunities for regional cooperation and the role of the CBSS after the 2004 EU enlargement, and give a new impetus to our cooperation.

The heads of government will address a number of central issues of regional cooperation, such as economic cooperation and infrastructure, maritime safety and other environmental issues as well as combating organised crime and communicable diseases.

Since the ministers of foreign affairs decided at their last meeting in Pori not to meet in 2004, they delegate the right to take necessary organisational decisions to their deputies.

**Baltinfo:** Have you any "words of wisdom" that you wish to say to your Polish counterpart, who is set to take over from you as Chair of the CBSS from 1 July?

**Ojuland:** According to the old *lagom* tradition of the Vikings, the warriors let a horn or a big beaker go round and round, and each had to decide how much to drink out of it. If one took too little, the others would have looked at him with contempt; if one took too much, the others would have been left without any drink at all. Centuries later we find ourselves united in modern *lagom* – sharing the beaker among all nations in the Baltic Sea region with mutual respect, responsibility and understanding.

# EU Enlargement Expected to Have Positive Impact on Kaliningrad

EXCLUSIVE BALTINFO INTERVIEW WITH VLADIMIR G. EGOROV,  
HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION/GOVERNOR OF KALININGRAD OBLAST



Vladimir Egorov is administrator of Kaliningrad Oblast, the Russian exclave that was an important topic at the 4<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit in St. Petersburg in 2002.

**Baltinfo:** In many ways, Kaliningrad Oblast's particular geographical location represents a special case both in the Russian Federation and vis-à-vis the states in the Baltic Sea region. The Kaliningrad area numbers roughly one million inhabitants of whom about 400,000 live in the city of Kaliningrad. Given the EU enlargement, do you expect improved conditions for cross-border cooperation and increased economic links with the surrounding new EU Member States? Will the Oblast adjust its external relations policy towards partners in the Baltic Sea area?

**Vladimir G. Egorov:** Without doubt, the EU enlargement will affect in a positive way the development of economic ties of the Oblast with European partners. This is tied to a consistent implementation of the

arrangements between Russia and the EU on the Kaliningrad topic. At present, 2/3 of the overall economic activities of the Oblast are linked to EU members. We expect that the integration of the Kaliningrad Region into the Baltic Sea area of the EU economic space will increase. As the result of the enlargement we have a common border with the EU. However, the changes of the political status of the border should not affect our friendly relations with the Baltic Sea neighbours. We welcome further steps to develop our relationship. At the same time, I would like to emphasise that the Kaliningrad Oblast is a specific Russian region, though enjoying full rights. And our economic development is fully dependant on appropriate economic ties with the "Greater Russia". At present, our closest neighbours, Lithuania and Poland, have understood our concerns in this regard. One example is the visa regime that was set up last year with Lithuania and Poland, which turned out to be testing for the local population. Thanks to measures including the preparation of new agreements on mutual travels and the strengthening of infrastructure and staff in consular units, the transition to the visa regime was quite smooth. It also made it possible to introduce a simplified procedure for issuing Lithuanian and Polish visas to the local people, thereby minimising possible social implications of this problem. Against the background of this experience I am hopeful that we will be able to avoid new "dividing lines" in the region.

**Baltinfo:** As you know, the "Kaliningrad" topic has been on the CBSS agenda since 1993. The CBSS EuroFaculty project at Kaliningrad University was launched in 2000, and last December it was prolonged for three more years. We might also mention the Ministerial session in Svetlogorsk in March 2002, celebrating the 10th an-

niversary of CBSS, and there have been several CSO meetings held in Kaliningrad on various occasions (1993, 1999 and 2002). CSO officials and Secretariat staff have also visited the Oblast, and CBSS publications have addressed Kaliningrad topics. Taking into account the current political changes in the region, what, in your opinion, could and should the CBSS focus on to improve regional cooperation, especially, between the EU and EEA members and the Russian North-West regions?

**Egorov:** First of all, the potential of the CBSS to implement specific multilateral or bilateral projects has not been fully used. The illustrative example is the CBSS EuroFaculty Project, which is being implemented in the Kaliningrad State University by a group of Western universities with support from the Regional Authorities and funding provided by Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden. The results of the Project are highly appreciated not only by the Regional Authorities and the local community, but also by the Russian Ministry of Education. The added value of the project to contribute to the ongoing education reform in Russia was stressed at our April meeting with the Expert Group on the EuroFaculty Project and representatives from the Russian Ministry of Education. In our opinion, the EuroFaculty Project is an example of a tangible contribution by the CBSS member-states to spreading international educational standards to the Baltic Sea countries, inter alia by creating an efficient funding facility which differs markedly from the EU financing machinery. The positive experience of the EuroFaculty funding scheme could be used for implementing other priority fields of CBSS cooperation too. In this connection, we assume that the idea

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of setting up a financial facility for sub-regional cooperation would still be of value.

**Baltinfo:** The Kaliningrad Region is a member of some of the CBSS-related sub-state organisations, such as the Baltic Sea States Subregional cooperation, Union of the Baltic Cities (Kaliningrad and Baltijsk) and Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (Kaliningrad Chamber of Commerce and Industry). In your view, to what extent will the changes in the European environment affect the level of interaction of Kaliningrad Region with different organisations and structures in the Baltic Sea region?

**Egorov:** The Regional Administration sees Kaliningrad Oblast as part of the ongoing integration process in the Baltic Sea region. It is obvious that this goal is reachable, based on the interaction of the Regional Authorities with both the CBSS structures and the sub-regional organisations. As a regional authority, we support and encourage local authorities, NGOs and different kinds of organisations in the Oblast to participate in the Baltic Sea cooperation network. The practice of holding events of different Baltic Sea forums and organisations in the Kaliningrad Oblast is very positive. The intention is to organise the Baltic Development Forum summit in Kaliningrad in 2005. We are also considering a proposal to host a subsequent Baltic Economic Forum.

**Baltinfo:** It has not escaped our attention that the overall economic and social conditions in Kaliningrad Region have improved considerably over the two past years. It is no secret that most of the CBSS Member States (in addition to Russia) have a special interest in being engaged in the economic development of the Oblast and in improving its business and investment climate. The CBSS Working Group on Economic Cooperation has been discussing the possibility of establishing a Business Support Group for Kaliningrad – an issue which is not yet concluded. Do you support in general the possible creation of such a Business Support Group, and in what way, and by which means, do you think it could con-

tribute to the development of the Kaliningrad Region?

**Egorov:** One of the important goals the Administration pursues in a follow-up of the Federal Strategy on Socio-Economic Development of the Oblast is the creation of a necessary business infrastructure in the Kaliningrad Oblast together with moulding a competitive model of economic development. Those goals are hardly reachable unless entrepreneurship and investment conditions in the Oblast are duly improved. A lot of work has been done in this field, and we have widely borrowed relevant experience from our EU neighbours. For example, Danish experts were assisting us in working out a “Concept of the Agricultural Development in the Kaliningrad Oblast”. This concept fits perfectly into the Federal Strategy on Socio-Economic Development of the Oblast, and we will use it as a platform for developing co-ordinated actions with our foreign partners. At the same time, we assume that multilateral support for the Concept, including support from CBSS, would significantly raise the efficacy of our efforts. As to a Business Support Group for Kaliningrad (BSG), this idea needs more time to develop. At this stage, it is still unclear how such an entity could contribute to improving business and investment conditions in the Oblast. Such an idea should attract support from the Baltic Sea business community as well. In our view, a BSG could contribute to creating a correct perception in the Baltic Sea countries of the policy the Russian Federal and Regional Authorities are implementing in the socio-economic development of the Kaliningrad Oblast. Many foreign politicians and businessmen, after visiting Kaliningrad, have been astonished by the difference between the positive developments taking place in Kaliningrad and the misjudgements made about the Oblast in their national media.

**Baltinfo:** “Kaliningrad” is a theme that recurs throughout the Northern Dimension Action Plan 2004–06. In the NDAP it is assumed that the Northern Dimension activities are important in allowing Kaliningrad to take full advantage of the

“The positive experience of the EuroFaculty funding scheme could be used for implementing other priority fields of CBSS cooperation, too. /.../ the idea of setting up a financial facility for sub-regional cooperation would still be of value.”

opportunities created by the EU enlargement. How do you assess the effectiveness of the EU Northern Dimension policy towards the Kaliningrad Oblast and the Russian North-West regions as a whole? Do you see areas where additional partnerships, besides the ND Environmental Partnership and the ND Partnership on Public Health and Social Well-being, could be established in the region to promote cooperation with Russia?

**Egorov:** We are fully satisfied with the place “Kaliningrad Oblast” occupies in the NDAP II. This policy can be considered a common endeavour of the Regional Administration, the CBSS and the European Commission. Unfortunately, however, the implementation of the NDAP in regard to the Kaliningrad Region is not sufficient. The majority of the ND projects were either implemented before the Action Plan was set up, or were not a priority for the Kaliningrad Region. We are hopeful that the establishment of partnerships within the framework of the ND policy will continue, and that Russian participants and institutions will be actively involved. At present, the Russian Federation and the European Investment Bank, which is a member of the ND Environmental partnership, are working out a joint Programme for cooperation. The document envisages the earmarking of funding not only for ecological projects, but for the development of infrastructure and the energy sector of Kaliningrad Oblast as well.

**Baltinfo:** The Kaliningrad Region enjoys the status of a Special Economic Zone of the Russian Federation, aimed at providing legal protection by the State for investments and business activities. This status, as far as we understand, is very much connected to the Federal Programme for the Development of the Kaliningrad Region until 2010. Do you think the Kaliningrad Region would benefit if the vision of the Baltic Sea region as a "Joint Investment Area", suggested by the Heads of Government in 2002, came true? Can the Kaliningrad Region, as a Special Economic Zone, be considered as one of the elements of the Joint Investment Area concept?

**Egorov:** The Administration, with support from the Russian Government, is doing its utmost to open the Oblast as wide as possible for cooperation with foreign partners and investments. As you are aware, such a fundamental approach was provided for in the Federal Strategy on Socio-Economic Development of Kaliningrad Oblast until 2010. Last year the influx of investment increased significantly (by 70 % compared with 2002). It now amounts to 15 billion roubles, 18 % of which represents foreign investment (amounting to 56.2 million USD in 2003). The most prominent investors from the Baltic Sea region are Germany, Lithuania and Poland. Currently, the Regional Administration and the Federal Authorities are working together on a new version of the law on "The Special Economic Zone in Kaliningrad Region", taking into account both the state of affairs in the economy and the intention of Russia to join the WTO. Our goal is to use this law to attract investors to the Region, to widen the economic potential of the Oblast, as well as to create additional incentives for economic activities. I believe that the aforementioned measures fully correspond with the spirit of the "Joint Investment Area" concept. The Special Economic Zone of the Kaliningrad Oblast could, in turn, be considered a Russian contribution to the "Joint Investment Area".

For more information about Kaliningrad, see:  
[http://gov.kaliningrad.ru/en\\_intro.php3](http://gov.kaliningrad.ru/en_intro.php3)

## ИНТЕРВЬЮ с Главой Администрации/Губернатором Калининградской Области, Владимиром Григорьевичем Егоровым

**Вопрос 1:** В силу своего специфического географического расположения, Калининградская Область во многих аспектах представляет особый интерес, как для Российской Федерации, так и для государств Балтийского региона. Калининградскую Область населяет около одного миллиона человек, 400 тыс. из которых проживает в областном центре. Очевидно, что Областная Администрация делает все от нее зависящее с тем, чтобы обеспечить благоприятную политическую и социально-экономическую среду вокруг Области, включая облегченное перемещение через границу людей, товаров, обеспечение энергетической безопасности и защиту окружающей среды. **Предполагаете ли Вы, что расширение Евросоюза улучшит условия для наращивания приграничного сотрудничества и, в особенности, развития экономических связей с соседствующими членами ЕС? Имеется ли необходимость в соответствующей корректировке приоритетов во взаимоотношениях Области с партнерами по Балтийскому морю?**

**Ответ:** Расширение ЕС, при условии последовательного выполнения договоренностей между Россией и Евросоюзом по калининградской проблематике, несомненно, положительно повлияет на развитие экономических связей области с европейскими партнерами. Уже сейчас 2/3 экономики региона завязано на страны Евросоюза. Мы ожидаем, что интеграция Калининградской области в экономическое пространство Балтийской части Европейского Союза будет возрастать. Расширение Евросоюза привело к тому, что у нас теперь одна граница - с ЕС. Но изменение политического статуса границы не должно повлиять на наши дружеские отношения с соседями по Балтийскому морю. Мы приветствуем дальнейшие шаги по развитию нашего сотрудничества. Вместе с тем,

хотел бы еще раз отметить, что Калининградская область - особый, но полноправный регион России. И наше экономическое развитие зависит, прежде всего, от экономических связей с "большой Россией". До сих пор при решении проблем наши непосредственные соседи - Литва и Польша, принимали во внимание наши озабоченности. Приведу только один пример. Серьезным испытанием для жителей области в прошлом году стал переход на визовый режим с сопредельными Польшей и Литвой. Благодаря заблаговременным мерам - подготовка новых соглашений о взаимных поездках, усиление инфраструктуры и штатов консульских учреждений - удалось осуществить такой переход безболезненно. При этом был обеспечен льготный порядок выдачи виз для поездок в Литву и Польшу, что в значительной степени сняло социальную остроту вопроса. Надеюсь, что накопленный нами потенциал сотрудничества позволит избежать возникновения "новых разделительных линий".

**Вопрос 2:** Как Вам известно, "Калининградская" проблематика находится на повестке дня СГБМ с 1993 года. Например, с 2000 года в Калининградском Университете действует проект СГБМ "Еврофакультет", который в декабре 2003 года продлен еще на три года. В марте 2002 года в Светлогорске состоялась 10-ая юбилейная встреча Министров иностранных дел стран-участниц СГБМ. Также следует упомянуть три встречи Комитета старших должностных лиц СГБМ, проходивших в Калининграде в связи с различными мероприятиями (1993, 1999 и 2002), целый ряд визитов в Область, осуществленных отечественными членами КСДЛ и Секретариатом, а также изданных за последние годы

ряд публикаций посвященных  
Области, включая интервью с Главой  
Администрации. **С учетом  
происходящих в регионе  
политических изменений, что, по-  
вашему мнению, СГБМ может и  
должен сделать для того, чтобы  
усилить  
региональное сотрудничество, в  
особенности, между странами ЕС,  
ЕЭЗ и российским Северо-  
западом?**

**Ответ:** Прежде всего, потенциал  
СГБМ в реализации конкретных  
проектов многостороннего или  
двустороннего сотрудничества еще  
далеко не исчерпан. Яркий пример -  
проект "Еврофакультет", который  
осуществляется на базе КГУ  
консорциумом западных  
университетов в рамках СГБМ при  
поддержке региональной власти и  
финансовой помощи со стороны  
Германии, Швеции, Дании, Норвегии,  
Литвы, Польши и Финляндии.  
Результаты проекта получили  
высокую оценку не только  
региональных властей и местной  
общественности, но и Министерства  
образования Российской Федерации.  
Значение "Еврофакультета" в свете  
проводимой в России реформы  
образования подчеркивалось на  
нашей встрече с экспертной группой  
проекта, возглавляемой М. Матцом и  
представителями Министерства  
образования Российской Федерации, в  
апреле 2004. Проект "Еврофакультет"  
- это, на наш взгляд, пример  
конкретного вклада государств -  
членов СГБМ в распространение  
международных стандартов в области  
обучения на страны Балтики путем  
создания эффективного и  
принципиально отличного от  
программ ЕС механизма  
финансирования. Позитивный опыт  
механизма финансирования проекта  
"Еврофакультет" в Калининградской  
области мог бы быть применен в  
других приоритетных областях  
сотрудничества в рамках СГБМ. В  
этой связи, на наш взгляд, вопрос  
учреждения фонда поддержки  
субрегионального развития не  
потерял своей актуальности.

**Вопрос 3:** Калининградская Область  
является членом ряда  
субрегиональных организаций,  
осуществляющих свою деятельность  
под "зонтиком" СГБМ, например  
таких, как Организация  
субрегионального сотрудничества  
государств Балтийского моря, Союз



Students at the Sailors' School on the masts of the ship  
"Krusenstern" as it returns to its native port Kaliningrad after a  
trip around the world. "Krusenstern" was built in Bremerhafen in  
1926 but it is still one of the fastest sail ships in the world.

Photo: Igor Zarembo

Балтийских городов (Калининград  
и Балтийск), а также Ассоциация  
торговых палат Балтийского моря  
(Калининградская Палата торговли  
и индустрии). **В какой степени,  
по-вашему, наступающие в  
регионе перемены затронут  
уровень взаимодействия  
Калининградской Области с  
организациями и структурами  
региона Балтийского моря?**

**Ответ:** Администрация области  
заинтересована в том, чтобы  
Калининградская область  
развивалась с учетом  
происходящих в регионе  
Балтийского моря интеграционных  
процессов. Очевидно, что важную  
роль в достижении этой цели  
должно играть взаимодействие  
региональной власти как со  
структурами СГБМ, так и  
субрегиональными организациями,  
осуществляющими свою  
деятельность под его "зонтиком".  
Как институт региональной власти  
мы всячески поддерживаем и  
поощряем участие местных органов  
власти, неправительственных  
организаций, а также различных  
институтов и организаций области  
в балтийской сети сотрудничества.  
Хорошо зарекомендовало себя  
проведение международных  
форумов различных структур и  
институтов балтийского  
сотрудничества на территории  
Калининградской области. Есть  
идеи о проведении в Калининграде  
в 2005 году Саммита Балтийского

форума развития. Также  
рассматриваем в настоящее время  
предложение об организации у нас  
очередного Балтийского  
экономического форума.

**Вопрос 4:** Нам известно, что общая  
экономическая и социальная  
обстановка в Калининградской  
Области заметно улучшилась за  
последние два года. Не является  
секретом желание многих участников  
СГБМ (помимо России)  
активизировать свое участие в  
экономическом развитии Области и  
совершенствования там условий для  
предпринимательства и инвестиций. В  
повестке дня Рабочей группы СГБМ  
по экономическому сотрудничеству  
стоит вопрос об учреждении Группы  
поддержки развитию бизнеса в/для  
Калининградской Области, который  
пока не получил окончательного  
решения. **Поддерживаете ли Вы в  
целом идею создания подобной  
Группы в поддержку бизнеса, и  
каким образом и средствами она  
могла бы содействовать развитию  
Калининградской Области?**

**Ответ:** Одна из основных целей  
нашей Администрации, заложенной в  
Стратегии социально-экономического  
развития Области, это создание  
необходимой деловой  
инфраструктуры в Калининградской  
области, формирование  
конкурентной модели ее  
экономического развития. Достижение  
этих целей невозможно без  
совершенствования условий для

предпринимательства и инвестиций в Калининградской области. Многие уже делается, причем широко используется опыт соседей, стран Евросоюза. Так, при участии датских специалистов разработана "Концепция развития сельского хозяйства в Калининградской области". Концепция реально соотносится с Программой социально-экономического развития Области, и мы будем ее использовать как платформу для планирования согласованных действий с нашими зарубежными партнерами. Вместе с тем, мы полагаем, что эффективность этой работы будет выше, если Концепция получит поддержку на многостороннем уровне, например, в рамках СГБМ. Что касается идеи создания Группы поддержки развития бизнеса в Калининградской области, то она требует дополнительной проработки. Пока отсутствует ясное представление о том, каким образом такой орган мог бы содействовать совершенствованию условий для предпринимательства и инвестиций в области. Идея также должна получить поддержку как в региональном бизнес сообществе, так и в балтийских деловых кругах. На наш взгляд, Группа могла бы внести свой вклад в процесс формирования правильного и объективного понимания в странах Балтийского региона политики, проводимой российскими федеральными и региональными властями по дальнейшему социально-экономическому развитию Калининградской области. После приезда в Калининград, многие политики и бизнесмены откровенно признавали, что удивлены, насколько разительно отличается в положительную сторону реальная жизнь в регионе от того, о чем они читали в своей прессе.

**Вопрос 5:** Во Втором плане действий по Северному Измерению на 2004-06 "Калининград" обозначен как "перекрестная" тема. Как говорить в тексте самого Плана, мероприятия по Северному Измерению (СИ) важны, в плане содействия Калининградской Области в полной мере воспользоваться открывающимися возможностями в связи с расширением Евросоюза. Как Вы в целом могли бы оценить эффективность политики ЕС Северное Измерение в отношении российских Северо-западных регионов? По вашему, в каких еще

областях сотрудничества возможно создание дополнительных "партнерств" для развития сотрудничества с Россией, помимо существующих Партнерств СИ по экологии и Общественного здравоохранения и социального благополучия?

**Ответ:** Конечно, мы удовлетворены тем, что во Втором плане действий по "Северному Измерению" Калининградской области отводится видное место. Это можно назвать результатом совместной работы администрации области, СГБМ и Европейской Комиссии. К сожалению, эффективность реализации Плана действий в отношении Калининградской области пока незначительна. Большинство проектов, записанных в актив "Северного измерения", были либо реализованы до принятия нового Плана, либо не являлись приоритетными для Калининградской области. Надеемся, что процесс формирования "Партнерств" в рамках данной инициативы будет продолжаться, в том числе при активном участии соответствующих российских институтов. В настоящее время разрабатывается программа сотрудничества Российской Федерации с Европейским инвестиционным банком, который является членом "экологического партнерства". Она предусматривает привлечение средств на реализацию проектов не только в области экологии, но также на развитие транспортной инфраструктуры и энергетики Калининградской области.

**Вопрос 6:** Калининградская Область пользуется статусом Особой экономической зоны Российской Федерации, которая, в частности, предполагает создание условий для правовой защиты со стороны государства инвестиций и предпринимательской деятельности. Этот статус Области, как мы понимаем, тесно связан с реализацией Федеральной Программы развития Калининградской Области до 2010 года. Полагаете ли Вы, что Калининградская Область сможет воспользоваться преимуществами, если на

практике будет воплощено видение Балтийского региона как "Совместная инвестиционная зона" – концепция, предложенная Главами Правительств в 2002 году? Смогла бы тогда Калининградская область, как Особая экономическая зона, рассматриваться в качестве одного из элементов "Совместной инвестиционной зоны"?

**Ответ:** Администрация при поддержке Правительства Российской Федерации делает все, чтобы максимально открыть область для сотрудничества и для зарубежных инвестиций. Как известно, этот принципиальный подход нашел свое отражение в Стратегии социально-экономического развития Калининградской области на период до 2010 года. В прошлом году произошел существенный рост притока инвестиций (по сравнению с 2002 годом - в 1,7 раза). Они составляют 15 млрд. рублей. В том числе иностранных инвестиций на 18% (их объем в 2003 году составил 56,2 млн. долларов). Среди стран Балтийского региона лидирующие позиции по количеству инвестиций в экономику региона занимают Германия, Польша, Литва. С учетом сегодняшних экономических реалий, а также курса России на вступление в ВТО, Администрация области совместно с федеральным Центром работает над новой редакцией закона "Об особой экономической зоне в Калининградской области". Наша цель заключается в том, чтобы с его помощью обеспечить более активный приход в регион инвесторов, расширить экономические возможности области, ввести в действие дополнительные стимулы для развития экономической активности. Думаю, что эти меры, полностью отвечают духу концепции "Совместная инвестиционная зона". А Особая экономическая зона Калининградской области, в свою очередь, могла бы стать вкладом российской стороны в ее дальнейшую реализацию.



Svetlana Vasilyeva, literature teacher in a Chernyakhovsk school, with her pupils at the Internet Centre of the Kaliningrad Region. The Centre organises distant skill upgrading of teachers and is a source of new PC technologies also for the pupils.

Photo: Igor Zarembo

READY FOR TAKE-OFF:

## The New Northern *e*-Dimension Action Plan 2005–06

THE INITIATIVE FOR a Northern *e*-Dimension Action Plan (NeDAP) was taken by the CBSS Heads of Government when they met in Kolding (Denmark) in April 2000 and called for “... *initiatives with the aim to develop and strengthen the Baltic Sea region’s already leading position in the IT sector...*”.

The NeDAP for 2002–04 was adopted at the meeting of the CBSS Information Society Ministers in September 2001, and was built upon the EU Northern Dimension plan, *e*-Europe and *e*-Europe +, as well as some of the national and regional *e*-initiatives. Its main goal was to strengthen the Baltic Sea region’s position in the information society and to offer a platform and a tool for accelerating the devel-

opment of the Information Society in the Northern Dimension region. Not least, it was aimed at establishing closer cooperation with one of the EU’s closest neighbours, the Russian Federation. The implementation of NeDAP was carried out through seven *action lines* with corresponding working groups and co-ordinated by a steering group: the Senior Officials on Information Society (the SOIS).

Three projects (*e*-Skills, *e*-Karelia and *e*-Indicators) were financed by the EU TACIS Programme in 2002, and with two projects in 2003: High-Speed Research Networks and Interconnection and *e*-Skills, phase II. In addition, a number of studies and short-term projects have been carried out (among others a feasibility

study on High Speed Research Networks and Interconnection, and *e*-Skills/Russian ICT graduates).

The Heads of Government aim to take a decision on the prolongation of the NeDAP for two more years (2005–06) at the 5<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit to be held on 21 June 2004 in Laulasmaa (Estonia). The new *e*-Action Plan will play an important role in the context of the enlarged EU, and will be synchronised with the Northern Dimension Action Plan 2004–06, the *e*-Europe 2005 Action Plan, and will take the European Neighbourhood Policy into account.

The NeDAP will remain a framework for continuous dialogue on priorities for cooperation in the field of Information

## Baltic Sea Calendar 2004

### JUNE

18 – 19 Turku, Finland  
Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA) annual meeting

20 Laulasmaa, Estonia  
Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meeting in Special Session

21 Laulasmaa, Estonia  
5<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit

21 Laulasmaa, Estonia  
CBSS Ministers' Deputies meeting

### JULY

27 June – 4 July, Druskininkai, Lithuania  
SHIP International Summer Academy: The Baltic Sea Region in the New Europe

30 June – 1 July, Gothenburg, Sweden  
Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) Standing Committee meeting.

5 – 11 Jurmala, Latvia  
4<sup>th</sup> Youth Summer School: Cooperation of Russia and the Baltic Sea States

### AUGUST

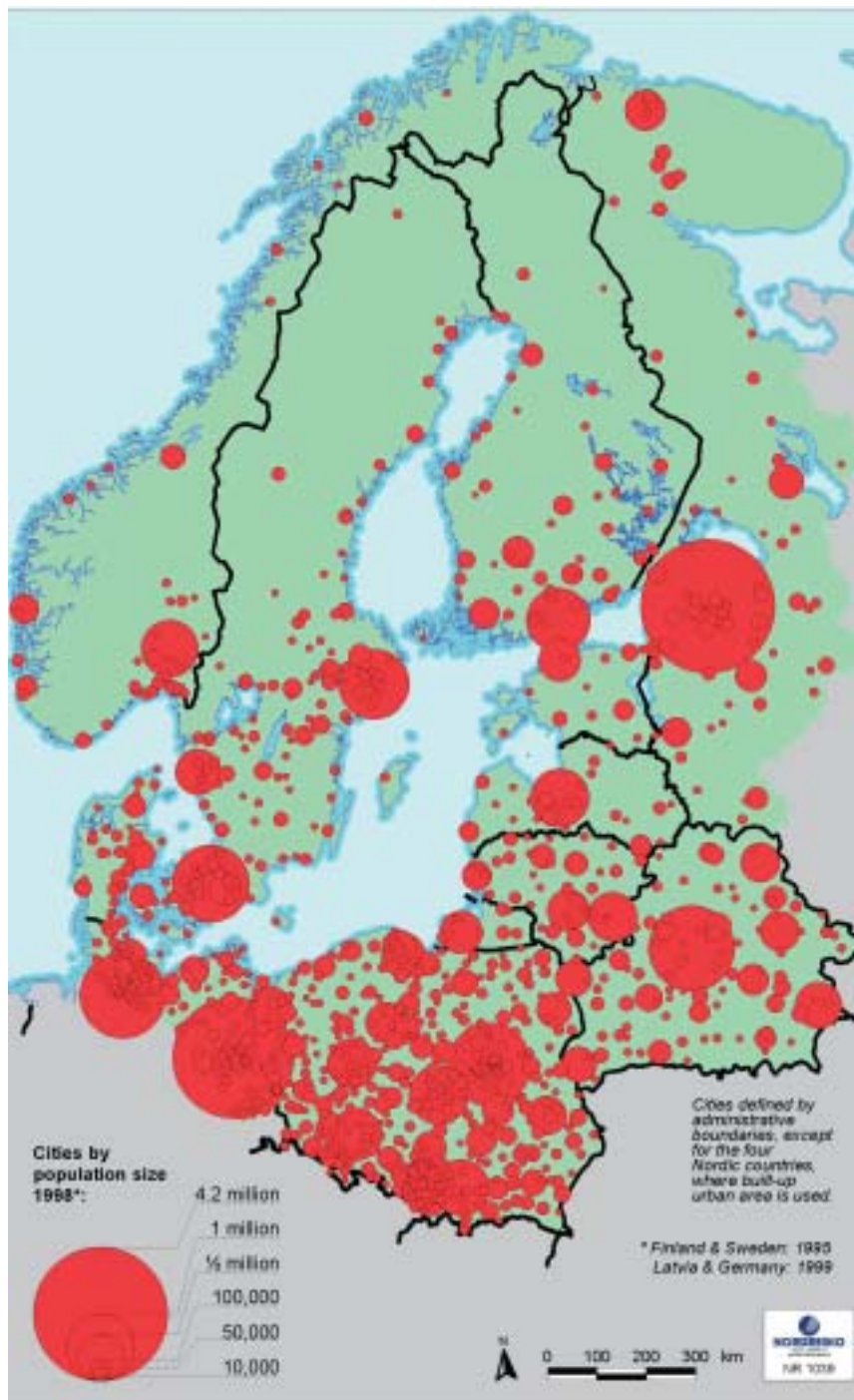
25 – 26 Turku, Finland  
3<sup>rd</sup> ScanBalt Forum

29 – 31 Bergen, Norway  
13<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

Society. The approach will be horizontal, aiming to add value by facilitating cross-border cooperation on concrete activities. The main objectives of NeDAP 2005–2006 are as follows:

- To accelerate the Northern Dimension region's development of the Information Society
- To ensure closer cooperation between the countries involved, taking into account the need for improved cooperation between the EU and Russia
- To improve the environment for ICT initiatives and investments.

The SOIS group will continue its staffing and supervising activities under the NeDAP; however some changes are envisaged with regard to the number and profiles of the action lines. The intention is to continuously evaluate the Action Plan to find optimal ways of continuing cooperation between the participating countries in the ICT area, also beyond 2006.



One of the CBSS Special Participants, the Union of the Baltic Cities, has a network of over 100 cities from 10 Baltic Sea region countries. Read about the organisation's activities at [www.ubc.net](http://www.ubc.net).

Map: Nordregio

## EUROBALTIC Programme

This CBSS programme in civil protection has created a website: <http://eurobaltic.srv.se/>. EUROBALTIC runs from 2003–05 with funding from the EU/Interreg IIIB and CBSS countries. This autumn, EUROBALTIC events include a seminar on a Coordinated 112 Alarm System Seminar in Saarisälkä, Finland; a seminar on Regionalisation of Rescue Services in Porvoo, Finland and a seminar on Floods Threats to Cultural Heritage in Arboga, Sweden. On 15–17 September in Vilnius, Lithuania, EUROBALTIC will report on its achievements to the III Meeting of Directors-General of Civil Protection.

# BSR Parliamentarians Speak out on Sustainable Development

PREVIEW OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> BALTIC SEA REGION PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, 29-31 AUGUST, BERGEN, NORWAY

MEMBERS OF BOTH national and regional parliaments will attend the conference, which is a major meeting place and discussion forum for parliamentarians in the region.

The programme will focus on three main issues:

*Environmental challenges in the region:* Speakers will outline the problems of the Baltic Sea stemming from pollution and eutrophication from agriculture and fisheries.

*Public Health and Social Wellbeing:* Participants can expect a status report and debate on the Northern Dimension Partnership on Public Health and Social Wellbeing.

*Civil Society:* The BSPC has nominated a Rapporteur on legislation on NGOs in the region, who will present her report to the conference. A representative of the IV Baltic Sea NGO Forum will report on the course of events at Pärnu, Estonia, in April 2004.

In addition, the BSPC will discuss its own future on the basis of the resolution from the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference in Oulu 2003, when the Standing Committee was asked “to strengthen the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference as the parliamentary dimension of the CBSS”. Following this resolution, a number of initiatives have been taken with the aim of institutionalising the BSPC and allowing its Standing Committee to work on issues of importance also between the annual conferences.

According to tradition, the annual conference receives a status report from the CBSS. Mr Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Foreign Minister of Poland, will take over as Chairman of the CBSS from 1 July and will give the CBSS report.

Since the Oulu conference, the EU enlargement has caused political changes in Northern Europe. Eight of the 11 Baltic Sea region countries are now EU members, and two of these countries are close-



Gennady Khripel (in front), Member of the Russian Council of Federation, and Andrey Orgolaynen, Member of the State Duma, participated in the 26 April meeting of the BSPC Standing Committee in Oslo. Behind stands Nadezda Dakhova, Consultant at the Council of Federation.

ly connected to the EU through the EEA agreement. The BSPC builds bridges between Russian parliaments and parliamentarians and their counterparts in the

## Finland to Take Over as Chair

THE TASK FORCE on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region met in Oslo on 24 and 25 May for its biannual meeting. This meeting was also a preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Meeting on 14 and 15 June 2004 in Copenhagen as well as for contributions from the Task Force to the 5<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit on 21 June 2004 in Laulusmaa.

The Chairman of the Operative Committee gave a briefing and an update on operative cooperation following implementation of the new operative structure which has been presented previously in BALTINFO. The Chairman's report is available on the Task Force website.

At the Ministerial Meeting on 6–7 May 2002 in Lübeck and at the Fourth Baltic Sea States Summit on 10 June 2002 in St. Petersburg, the Task Force was requested to consider the future of the Task Force cooperation, since the mandate of the Task Force expires on 31 December 2004. This question has been the subject of thorough deliberations at

several Task Force meetings. Based on these deliberations the Task Force

- recommends that the mandate of the Task Force is prolonged for another four-year period;
- proposes that the present base of the Task Force with the Heads of Government is retained;
- takes note of the German position on transferring the political responsibility of the Heads of Government to the Ministers responsible for police cooperation;
- encourages retaining a political governing body made up of personal representatives of the Heads of Government;
- supports retaining the present structure with a secretariat provided by the country holding the chairmanship;
- proposes that all Member States bear their own costs incurred in connection with the work of the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea region.

This means that the Task Force is of the opinion that there is a need for con-

tinuation of a law enforcement cooperation forum within the Baltic Sea Region, which can deal with problems concerning organised crime specific to this region – partly as a regional cooperation forum within the European Union. In this context the Task Force has placed special emphasis on the existing cooperation relations with Russian law enforcement authorities, which function well. Moreover it should be noted that the Task Force agrees that the present informal cooperation structures, which during the past eight years have proved valuable, should be retained.

The Task Force has also noted with acclamation that Finland has taken up the challenge of chairing the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea region provided that the Heads of Government at the Summit agree that there is a need for prolongation of the mandate.

The conclusions from the meeting are available on the website: [www.balticseatastaskforce.dk](http://www.balticseatastaskforce.dk)

region. The BSPC offers a platform for debating issues that are of key significance to the Northern Dimension and of importance to parliamentarians in the region.

Invitations to the annual conference have been sent to all national and regional parliaments in the region and to about 30 observer organisations.

For further information, please visit the BSPC website: <http://bspc.net/>

Jan Petersen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, outlined his country's priorities in the Baltic Sea region at the BSPC Standing Committee meeting in Oslo on 26 April. To his right is Kent Olsson, MP of Sweden and Chairman of the Standing Committee.



# Regional Cooperation Sets the Agenda

As an intergovernmental forum the CBSS handles economic cooperation, investments and infrastructure; cross-border cooperation and regional development; the environment and maritime safety; and it works to strengthen civil society and civil security. Without doubt, in the future the CBSS needs to become even more flexible, dynamic and innovative, to respond promptly to new demands. Adaptation is the name of the game. While – according to the mandate given by the Heads of Government in Kolding in 2000 – the CBSS is encompassing all intergovernmental activities of the group of the CBSS countries in the Baltic Sea region, it is increasing its cooperation with the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Arctic Council. Together we are identifying and enhancing the implementation of specific priorities and projects.

The Northern Dimension (ND) vision, as described in the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan, maintains that the ND “is today a visible demonstration of effective regional cooperation, contributing to the overall welfare of the European Union and neighbouring areas. – The Northern Dimension provides a common framework for the promotion of policy dialogue and concrete cooperation”. The Northern Dimension is a EU initiative, a part of the EU external policy, with the European Commission in the lead. The Action Plan stresses the active participation of all national, regional and local stakeholders, as well as the business community and civil society in general. Furthermore, the Action Plan states unequivocally that the strength of the Northern Dimension will lie in the combined impact of the activities of all part-

ners, including EU Member States and partner countries, international and regional financial institutions and bodies and the private sector.

The CBSS has heeded the call already in the preparation phase of the Second Action Plan. The Action Plan reflects in large part the views of the CBSS, as conveyed to the Commission in the framework of a concerted contribution, displaying the positions of CBSS working bodies and structures. The CBSS retains its role in the follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Action Plan, as well. In this regard, the CBSS will deliver another coordinated contribution of the views around the Baltic Sea to the EU in autumn 2004.

Several issues that the EU is considering are of high importance for the Baltic Sea region – such as the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), a new financing instrument (European Neighbourhood Instrument ENI), joint action plans with Russia, security strategy etc. On ENP, the European Commission has tabled a strategy paper, together with country-specific action plans, in May 2004. ENI will be applied within the next budget period that starts in 2007, as a part of the new EU external relations concept. Neighbourhood issues, an integral part of EU external activities, will inevitably also open new avenues for Baltic Sea cooperation. The key question is how to utilise the new opportunities in a systematic and consistent manner. The Baltic Sea is not the Mediterranean; the Northern Dimension is not the Barcelona Process. The Baltic Sea states need to act in a determined and innovative manner in the EU to build up, promote and implement cooperation programmes and



Hannu Halinen, Director of the CBSS Secretariat

projects in northern Europe. This is not only for the sake of the region, but it is also in line with the national interests of these countries.

Heads of Governments of the CBSS countries convening at the 5<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit in Laulasmaa, Estonia, on 21 June 2004 are expected to take a fresh look at Baltic Sea cooperation, explore a new vision for the years ahead and set benchmarks that will help this vision become a reality. In Laulasmaa, Estonia will hand over the Presidency of the CBSS to Poland. The Estonian Presidency covered an exceptional period of events, which showed that in many ways the original CBSS mission has been accomplished. Under Estonia's leadership the stage has been set for the next mission. Now the great challenge for the Polish Presidency is to launch a new mission, give it substance and guide it forward.

Thank you Estonia! Welcome Poland!



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