

Mandate of CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development -- Baltic 21

Mission

To continue to actively contribute towards advancing sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region by coordinating goals and activities, and by serving as a forum for cooperation across borders and between stakeholders, as well as support the long-term priorities of the Council.

Expert Group

The Baltic 21 activities shall be implemented by a CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 (hereby after referred to as the Expert Group) including governmental and non-governmental experts, as appropriate. The Expert Group shall report to the Council through its Committee of Senior Officials. The time-frame for the work of the Expert Group is for five years, 2010 to 2015.

Principal Functions

In order to achieve the overall mission, the Expert Group shall perform the following principal functions:

- Support the Council in its long-term priorities and new project enhanced approach by providing a forum for continued policy development and dialogue among Governments and stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region on sustainable development and strengthening practical project development and implementation, as well as raising awareness and increased visibility to this end;
- Fostering synergies on sustainable development among relevant CBSS expert groups, BASREC, VASAB, NCM, HELCOM, the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy and EU Sustainable Development Strategy, and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development;

Strategic Areas of Cooperation

Future key strategic areas of cooperation for the Expert Group are the following:

- Climate change
- Sustainable urban and rural development
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Innovation and education for sustainable development

Organisational Matters

The Expert Group shall work on the basis of a multi-year programme of work, drafted by the Expert Group, drawing on the principal functions and strategic areas of cooperation identified above.

The Chairperson of the Expert Group shall rotate following the established patterns of the Presidency of the Council.

The member hosting meetings of the Expert Group bears the costs connected with the meeting, unless otherwise decided. Participants in the meetings cover their travel and accommodation expenses.

The Expert Group shall meet at least twice a year. Each meeting shall have policy and practical project implementation dialogue and be hosted by its members.

The Expert Group may decide, as appropriate, to convene ad hoc working groups of limited duration for further policy and project development.

The Expert Group's activities shall be serviced by the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

Funding for the functioning of the Secretariat shall be provided from the regular budget of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and extra budgetary resources provided by interested donors, particularly for project oriented activities.

Language

The working language for the Expert Group is English.