



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Estonian Deputy Secretary General; Mr Meelis Münt opens the 3rd Forum on Climate Change Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region, 29 – 30 May 2013 in Tallinn, Estonia**

Today, 29 May 2013, the Estonian Deputy Secretary General for Environment; Mr Meelis Münt opened the 3rd Policy Forum on Climate Change Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region “Time to Baltadapt” at Radisson Blu Hotel Olümpia in Tallinn, Estonia.

For two days, 29 – 30 May 2013, the meeting works and discusses on the strategy and action plan to adaptation of climate change in the Baltic Sea Region. This strategy will give an overall framework for climate change adaptation to as well Scandinavian as Baltic countries.

In his opening speech, Deputy Director General Münt stressed that there would not be any other choice but to take adaptation measures to deal with the unavoidable climate impacts and their economic, environmental and social costs: “It is wiser and cheaper to act early, plan well and prioritize adaptation actions than to pay the price of not adapting”.

Within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, EUSBSR, adopted in 2009, all countries within the region agreed on the necessity to develop a climate change adaptation strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Europe’s first so called macro-region. This kind of strategy is also well in line with the recently adopted EU Strategy on the adaptation to climate change, launched on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in Brussels.

Estonia will (in cooperation with Norwegian partners) develop its national strategy and measures for adapting to a changing climate until the year 2016.

Mr Münt concluded that the Baltic Sea Region-wide climate change adaptation strategy and action plan, would be a source of inspiration in the development or revision of the Baltic Sea countries adaptation





strategies: “This macro-regional strategy also provides the political framework to strengthen transnational cooperation and information sharing in the climate change field”.

An international partnership of eleven main actors on climate change adaptation from a majority of Baltic Sea Region countries, called Baltadapt, [www.baltadapt.eu](http://www.baltadapt.eu) is currently well on its way to develop this adaptation strategy and action plan. The Forum on Climate Change Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region is the working platform for the drafting process of these documents.

The Forum involves high level policy makers from different relevant national ministries from the Baltic and Scandinavian countries, representatives of the European Commission, international and regional organizations as well as research institutions, sub-regional and city networks and NGOs.

The third Policy Forum is the final in a series of events that took place in April 2012 in Berlin, Germany and December 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden.

The final proposal on the climate change adaptation strategy and integrated action plan will be launched on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in Riga, Latvia.

Please, visit <http://www.cbss.org/environment-and-sustainability/events> and [www.baltadapt.eu](http://www.baltadapt.eu) for more information!

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