



15th Conference of the Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States in Stockholm 15-16 February 2012

CONCLUSIONS

At the invitation of the Swedish Prosecutor General, the Prosecutor Generals and other representatives of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation and Sweden convened from 15 February until 16 February 2012 at Lidingö, Stockholm, Sweden.

They discussed cross border co-operation in criminal cases and the future of the Conferences of Prosecutors General in the Baltic Sea States.

The meeting of the Prosecutors General:

1. Recalled the conclusions of the previous meeting in Helsinki, Finland, in 2010.
2. Emphasized the great importance of the co-operation between prosecutors in the Baltic Sea region.
3. Discussed on how to intensify prosecutor contribution to the work of the Baltic Sea Task Force (BSTF) and its Operative Committee (OPC) and expressed the need of enhancing the awareness among national prosecution authorities in the Baltic Sea States of the OPC and the possibility to use this forum to render more effective regional cross-border cooperation. The Prosecutors General reflected on the possibility for the state hosting the next meeting of Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States to invite their OPC Coordinator.
4. Emphasized the usefulness of Joint Investigation Teams (JIT:s) and underlined the advantages to use this tool when appropriate in counties where national legislation permit or allows it.

5. Stressed the benefits of using the resources of Eurojust, as well as Interpol and Europol, whenever possible.
6. Expressed gratitude to Finland for the valuable work of finalizing a template for video conference requests. The template has been distributed and is to be used whenever appropriate.
7. Decided on a model for the future Conferences of the Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States, stipulating that;
 - The levels of participants at the meetings should, if possible, be Prosecutors General or their deputies. Depending on the agenda, delegations may be extended with national experts.
 - The meetings should address operative issues relevant to the Baltic Sea region, as well as other strategic and management issues with relevance for the Prosecutors General.
 - The order for hosting the meetings will be;
 1. Denmark
 2. Russia
 3. Estonia
 4. Finland
 5. Germany
 6. Latvia
 7. Lithuania
 8. Norway
 9. Poland
 10. Sweden
 - The Conferences of Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States are to be arranged every second year. The frequency of the meeting should be evaluated continuously. If deemed necessary, ad hoc meetings will be possible to arrange.
 - A secretariat for the meetings of the Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea states is *not* necessary at this moment. The oncoming hosting country (hosting the next meeting) should be responsible for practical arrangements and administrative issues.
 - The Prosecutors General meetings must be thoroughly prepared. Preparatory meetings will be useful. The need for preparatory meetings will be decided by the oncoming hosting state, as well as which states should be invited to such a meeting.
 - Regarding the agenda for the Prosecutors General meetings, all states should be able to suggest topics/agenda items, but the hosting states is responsible for finalizing the agenda.

8. Decided that each state shall appoint one contact points for the co-operation between the Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States. The group of contact points should assist in the preparation of the Conferences and other issues decided by the Prosecutors General.
9. Expressed the usefulness of striving for a synchronized view of the Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States on issues or positions in other international forums or meetings.
10. Identified a number of possible ideas and suggested topics suitable for further discussions during future conferences. These are mentioned in the minutes from the meeting.
11. Took note of the efforts of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and underlined the importance of maintaining close co-operation between CBSS and the Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States.
12. Took note of the work of the Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime (ENPRO) and decided that ENPRO will continue its work under the German chairmanship.
13. Stated that all countries in the Baltic Sea region are affected by cross-border serial criminality and that this criminality is sometimes only combated at the local level, without identifying and fighting the core structures of the serial criminality.
14. Expressed the need to tackle more efficiently serial crimes by fighting the factual crimes where they occur, as well as the planning and structures, regardless of county of origin. In this context the resources of organizations as Eurojust, Interpol and Europol as well as the forum provided by the OPC must not be forgotten, in order to improve judicial co-operation and to speed up law enforcement.
15. Emphasized the importance of not only combating serial crimes as such, but also using all possibilities to recover the proceeds of crime and recovering assets and property from crime, not forgetting the need to protect the interests of injured parties.
16. Resolved that the 16th meeting of the Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States will be hosted by Denmark.
