



**Annual Report from the Committee of Senior
Officials**
The 1st Year of the Council's Activity 1992-1993

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Annual Report from the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS, THE FIRST YEAR OF THE COUNCIL ACTIVITY

16 March 1993

1. General

In the Declaration adopted in Copenhagen on March 6, 1992, the Council charged a Committee of Senior Officials to consider ways of implementing the ideas included in that document, with particular attention to the issues of assistance to new democratic institutions and economic and technological assistance and cooperation.

In its capacity as CBSS Chairman, Finland has provided the CSO with administrative and secretarial services during the period in question.

The CSO held eight meetings between its constitution in late April 1992 and the end of February 1993. Six of them took place in Helsinki, one in Tallinn and one in St. Petersburg.

For the meetings held outside Finland, the host parties provided the necessary services in collaboration with the CBSS/CSO Chairmanship.

The same pattern also applied to the meetings of three ad hoc working groups established by the CSO - on "Assistance to new democratic institutions", on "Euro-faculty" and on "Nuclear and radiation safety". Moreover, a similar procedure was followed for three expert meetings, two of which were organized on the theme of economic and technological cooperation and one on energy and environment.

The Council has adopted an official logo, thanks to the efforts undertaken by Denmark.

2. Assistance to new democratic institutions

(Report of the working group with the WG terms of reference included as Annex I)

The terms of reference of the working group were agreed in Tallinn on May 21, 1992. In the course of its three successive meetings held in Riga, Warsaw and Moscow, the WG formulated a list of priority areas for assistance to new democratic institutions, including - with the goal of introducing the rule of law - establishment of legal and administrative structures, development of local democracy and self-government, promotion of a free press and media, human rights education and the creation of an information and cooperation network between institutions active in this field.

The working group also discussed a Russian proposal concerning the establishment of a Commissioner of the CBSS on Human Rights and National Minorities. The WG agreed that a

detailed analysis of that proposal was needed, in view of the appointment of the CSCE high Commissioner on National Minorities.

Poland organized a seminar on the national 'ombudsman' institution in December 1992 for representatives of the new democracies.

The CSO received reports from the WG after each of its three meetings. The CSO discussed issues raised in the WG, particularly the proposal by the Russian Federation to establish a Commissioner of the CBSS on Human Rights and National Minorities.

3. Economic and technical assistance and cooperation

The CSO convened two expert meetings - one in St. Petersburg and one in Helsinki - to facilitate development of a new regional perspective and to discuss and evaluate various approaches to cooperation in the region.

(The St. Petersburg meeting, October 27, 1992, included as background paper 1.)

As a regional body the CBSS should, according to the experts, act as a forum for discussion and exchange of information, monitor economic developments in the region, and promote concrete proposals in the interest of market-economy practices.

For the economies in transition, the experts stressed the importance of elaborating legal frameworks that will create favourable conditions for private enterprise and foreign direct investment. The Chambers of Commerce, among other economic agents, should be encouraged to supply appropriate know-how in management and trade skills to the business communities of the economies in transition.

The experts held that the CBSS should play a complementary and coordinative role on a multilateral level, contributing to a regional emphasis for further activities and initiatives.

In regard to concrete project schemes, much interest converged on the possibilities for infrastructure projects in the area, such as introducing telecommunications equipment and expanding existing techniques, building motorways and harbour facilities, and improving energy networks.

The CSO also acknowledged the contribution of the G-24 meeting on the three Baltic states Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania held in Riga on November 23-24, 1992, which the CSO Chairman attended.

4. Humanitarian matters and health

The CSO has discussed the complex problems in this field at its successive meetings. Combatting drug abuse and drug trafficking was acknowledged to be a matter of urgency. The CSO noted in this context that the first Baltic Sea meeting of regional and international drug experts was held in Turku, Finland, in June 1992. The resolution adopted at that meeting states that the CBSS has an important role to play in monitoring the flow of information on drug problems among the authorities concerned and in providing political backing for the combat against drugs.

In terms of follow-up steps to the meeting, the CSO took note of information from Estonia on a Nordic-Baltic meeting on drug problems, to be held in Tallinn on May 18-19, 1993.

The CSO has identified the problems of migration as another area of concern, and one that deserves special attention and cooperation.

The CSO received information on the food programmes being implemented by the G-24 and those carried out in Russia. The CSO registered with satisfaction the G-24 measures to monitor the food supply situation in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The CSO took due note in this connection, of the measures envisaged to assist Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in revitalizing their pharmaceutical industries.

5. Protection of the environment and energy

At its successive meetings, the CSO was briefed on the work of HELCOM. Upon its request, the CSO received current information on efforts to chart the locations and quantities of chemical weapons dumped in the Baltic Sea since the Second World War. The HELCOM set up a working group for this purpose on February 5, 1993.

The CSO welcomed the information on the 1992 Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea and the adoption of an ambitious, comprehensive programme for combating pollution in the area. The goal is to eliminate the hundred worst pollution problemspots over the next ten years, at an estimated cost of 15 billion ECU's.

The CSO further noted the suggestion made at the Expert

Meeting on Energy and Environment in Helsinki on December 3,

1992, that the CBSS parties should consider undertaking a comparative study on the management of energy matters in relation to environment aspects.

(Chairman's summary of the expert meeting on Energy and Environment, included as background paper 2.)

6. Nuclear and radiation safety

(an interim report, including the terms of reference of the working group, included as Annex II)

Following an initiative from the Swedish Foreign Minister, Baroness M. af Ugglas, and the Finnish Foreign Minister, Dr. P. Väyrynen, put forward by the latter at the CSO meeting in Helsinki on April 27, 1992, the CSO decided to undertake a study on both the civilian and the military aspects of nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea region.

A working group convened on August 7, 1992. Under the Chairmanship of Professor A. Vuorinen, head of the Finnish Institute of Radiation Protection, the WG held four more meetings. The WG adopted an interim report on the subject of nuclear and radiation safety, with recommendations for further measures and studies to sort out the risk elements involved. The CSO urged the WG on nuclear and radiation safety to pursue its work.

7. Cooperation in the fields of culture, education, tourism and information

7.1 "Euro-faculty"

(project description document, included as Annex III.)

On the basis of an initiative by Mr. H-D Genscher, the then German Foreign Minister, the CSO established a "Euro-Faculty" working group, which first convened in Brussels in June 1992.

On the basis of the working group report, the CSO decided, to recommend that the Council should establish a Euro-faculty with three departments - public and business administration, law and economics - in Riga. The universities of Hamburg, Helsinki, Kiel, Mainz, Münster, Oslo and Århus, the School of Economics of Stockholm and the Norwegian School of Management in Oslo will be engaged in the Euro-faculty project from the start.

Once established in Riga, the Euro-faculty will be a training facility for students and provide for upgrading of professors from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The universities of Tartu, Riga and Vilnius will be cooperating within the framework of the Euro-faculty in order to achieve an appropriate development of all three universities.

The Euro-faculty will also be open for cooperation with Polish universities, and the universities in St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad.

The Euro-Faculty project will be carried out within the framework of the EC "Tempus" scheme, with contributions from all interested CBSS parties.

7.2 Conference of the Ministers of Culture

The CSO noted that, In preparation for a Conference of the Ministers of Culture of the Baltic Sea states, to be held in Saltsjöbaden, Sweden on May 10-11, 1993, Poland arranged a high-level expert meeting in Gdansk on October 5-6, 1992.

It was pointed out that the results of the Conference in question will also serve as guidelines for the CSO's efforts in the field of cultural cooperation.

7.3 The CSO noted the decision to create a centre for writers and translators from the Baltic Sea states on the island of Gotland, Sweden.

7.4 Radio/TV cooperation

The CSO noted that cooperation between radio/TV networks in the Baltic Sea area had been initiated in Helsinki in June 1992, with eighteen companies attending.

The CSO was informed of the launching of the "Hansa-Media" Project, which will be producing a number of TV programmes focusing on the Baltic Sea area and coordinated by Finnish private sector.

8. Transport and communications

The CSO noted the follow-up activity to the first Conference of Ministers of Transport of the Baltic Sea states, held in Szczecin on March 17-18, 1992.

The CSO registered the advances made in the planning and practical preparation for important motorway projects in the region - such as the "Via Baltica", the feasibility study on which has now been technically completed.

The CSO expressed the hope that the existing bottlenecks to further progress on the "Via Baltica" be eliminated as quickly as possible.

The CSO welcomed the improvement of telecommunications in the area.

The CSO acknowledged the efforts of the "Baltic Ports Organization" to increase coordination in the building and exploitation of modern harbour facilities.

9. Regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea area

The CSO has considered means of enhancing and promoting cooperation among the sub-regions and cities of the Baltic Sea area. The CSO meeting in St. Petersburg on October 27-28, 1992, with high-level representatives of the City and the Leningrad Oblast, was largely devoted to issues of sub-regional cooperation.

The Chairman of the CSO participated in the Conference on the Baltic Regions of Russia, in Kaliningrad on September 4-5, 1992, and in the G-24 high-level meeting in Riga on November 23-24, 1992, which was considered useful.

The CSO noted as an example of regional cooperation the work on a document intended to draw up "Visions and strategies for the Baltic Sea Region 2010" launched at a meeting of Ministers at Karlskrona, Sweden on August 21, 1992.

The CSO will continue its efforts to promote cooperation among sub-regions in the Baltic Sea area.

10. The parliamentary dimension of cooperation

The CSO noted its increasing contacts and exchange of information with parliamentary bodies in the area, in line with the will expressed by the participants in the Second Conference of Baltic Sea parliamentary representatives, held in Oslo on April 24-25, 1992.

The CSO welcomed the invitation to the CBSS Chairman to attend the Third Conference of Baltic Sea parliamentary representatives in Poland on June 3-5, 1993. The main themes will be "Euroregions - a review of accomplishments and plans" and "Cooperation on environment, protection in the Baltic region

11. Contacts with other multilateral bodies

The following attended CBSS/CSO meetings as experts/invited guests:

Mr. Fleming Otzen, Mr. Ulf Ehlin / Helsinki Commission

(Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission)

Mr. Mark Tomlinson / European Bank for Reconstruction and

Development, Helsinki Bureau

Mr. Arvo Ukleika / Baltic Cooperation Council

Mr. Anatoly Sobchak I Mayor of St. Petersburg

Mr. Alexander Belyakov / Governor of the Leningrad Oblast

Prof. Wojciech Suchorzewski / Warsaw University on Technology

The Polish CSO representative informed the CSO on matters concerning the Central European Initiative. The CSO was kept informed on developments pertaining to the new cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region established in Kirkenes, Norway on January 11, 1993 by the Norwegian CSO representative.

12. Ideas for promoting future CBSS/CSO work

The CSO will consider, at an early date, its further structural development, with a view to respond more fully to new challenges arising from the continual expansion of Baltic Sea regional cooperation. The CSO will attach special Importance to the enhancement of information exchange and contacts with the mass-media in the region.

ANNEX I

Report of the working group on 'Assistance to new democratic institutions (CBSS/II/2/Annex I)

ANNEX II

Interim report of the working group on 'Nuclear and radiation safety (CBSS/II/2/Annex I)

ANNEX III

Project description of the "Euro-faculty"
(CBSS/II/2/Annex III)

Background paper 1:

A summary of the Economic meeting in St. Petersburg, October 27, 1992 (CBSS/II/2/INF.1)

Background paper 2:

A summary by the Chairman of the Expert Meeting on Environment and Energy in Helsinki, December 3, 1992 (CBSS/II/2/INF.2)

Report of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NUCLEAR AND RADIATION SAFETY

Presented to the CSO on 7 May 1993

1. The Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety was set up by a decision of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of Baltic Sea States on April 27, 1992.
2. The terms of reference of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety were adopted by the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States at its meeting on September 7-8, 1992 (Annex I).
3. The Working Group met four times in Helsinki (August 7-9, 1992, October 26-27/92, December 15/92, January 21-22/93) under the chairmanship of Professor Antti VUORINEN, Director General of the Finnish Centre for Radiation and Nuclear Safety.

The chairman of the Working Group has regularly informed the Committee of Senior Officials about the progress of its work. The discussions of the Committee of Senior Officials on nuclear and radiation safety have been reported back to the Working Group.

4. The tasks of the Working Group were agreed in the mandate as follows: to collect information about nuclear facilities and waste storage's in the Baltic Sea Region, to identify the sources

***) Since the last meeting of WG Russia has provided additional technical information about nuclear facilities judged matters of concern in this report and proposed changes in the wording were consensus was not reached at the meeting. The additional views are discussed at the next WG meeting in Moscow April 27, 1993.**

ANNEXES

I [Terms of Reference](#)

II Significant Regional Transboundary Nuclear and Radiation Risks

III Agreed Definitions

IV List of Regional Agreements on Radiation and Nuclear Safety

of radioactivity which pose a potential risk in the Baltic Sea Region, to identify those nuclear and radiological potential risks that require immediate concerted action to reduce the risks, to take stock of and monitor various projects aimed at enhancing nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea Region and to prepare relevant recommendations and suggest and develop

initiatives accordingly.

The Working Group agreed that in view of the ongoing extensive bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of nuclear power plant safety that the Working Group would not duplicate efforts under way in other fora, particular attention should be paid to other sources, both civil and military, with potential nuclear and radiation risk to the Baltic Sea Region.

5. As a first step the Working Group agreed to collect data provided by each Member State on potential radiation risks in the region. The Working Group agreed finally in its meeting on January 21-22, 1993 on the definitions to be used in determining the criteria of desired data. Definitions of areal scope were discussed at length and in great detail. The Working Group did not succeed in finding a mutually agreed definition of the "Baltic Sea Area" when it comes to potential ecological effects of nuclear and radiological risks.

The Working Group has compiled initial information given by Member States about sources of interest relevant to the mandate of the Group. For many of these sources more precise and updated information is available upon request from the competent authorities and public records such as NEA and IAEA documentation, but there is a specific need for additional information on others.

The Working Group has agreed to revise and supplement at a later stage the initial information provided (Annex II) on significant regional transboundary nuclear and radiation risks on the basis of the agreed definitions (Annex III), as far as essential additional information is provided.

6. The Working Group took note of various international and bilateral cooperation projects to enhance and improve the safety of the Ignalina, Sosnovyi Bor and Kola NPP's and other bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects to assess nuclear waste dumping and storage related environmental damages.

7. The Working Group also took note of the existing regional and bilateral specific agreements between and amongst Member States and the EC. A list of these agreements is attached to this report (Annex IV).

8. The Working Group agreed on the following specific recommendations, addressed to the Committee of Senior Officials, on actions that could be taken by the Baltic Sea States either individually or collectively.

8.1.- The Working Group recommends., that all Baltic Sea Region States support the unconditional indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty (NPT) and conclude full-scope INFCIRC 153 type safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

8.2.- The Working Group recommends, that support be given to strengthening the independent regulatory authorities of especially Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian

Federation including support in the development of legislative instruments relating to nuclear and radiation safety.

8.3.- The Working Group recommends, that all Baltic Sea States accede fully to all relevant international instruments conventions. For those which are not yet members, membership in the IAEA should be completed as soon as possible.*)

*) The relevant
international instruments in the field of nuclear and radiation safety are the" ... Conventions on...

- Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (IAEA / INFCIRC / 335)
- Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (IAEA / INFCIRC / 336)
- Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (IAEA / INFCIRC / 274 /Rev. 1)
- Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (IAEA / Legal Series No. 4)
- Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy (IAEA / INFCIRC / 402)
- Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (HELCOM agreement)
- Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping Wastes and Other Matter (IAEA / INFCIRC / 205).

8.4.- The Working Group recommends, that all Baltic Sea States support the swift conclusion of the on-going negotiations on an international nuclear safety convention in the framework of the IAEA.

8.5.- The Working Group recommends that a Baltic Sea States Regional Arrangement with participation of the European Community should be concluded, covering:

8.5.1. An Early Notification Mechanism:

- as a regional extended implementation of the Convention on Early Notification (Art 9 of the Convention)
- and including other events than those mentioned in Art 1 of the Convention on Early Notification (covering civil and military facilities as well as "radioactive clouds")
- and a possibility for direct additional exchange of information

8.5.2. Regular exchange of information and operational experiences concerning sources of potential radiological risks to the Baltic Sea Region, covering:

- compilation of (and descriptive data about) relevant nuclear facilities and activities (Annex to the Baltic Sea States Regional Arrangement)
- information about planned nuclear facilities or activities which might be of interest to the Baltic Sea states (amendments to the above mentioned Annex)
- periodical information of operational experience including radioactive releases
- early information about events equal or greater than 2 in the scale INES *)

8.6.- The Working Group recommends, that the Baltic Sea States prepare specific regional Arrangements for mutual assistance in the case of nuclear or radiological emergencies.

8.7.- The Working Group recommends, that the Baltic Sea States and the EC nominate as future Parties of the Baltic Sea States Regional Arrangement one or more responsible organizations to facilitate fulfilling of the responsibilities that the Agreement assigns to the parties and the continued sharing of relevant information amongst the members of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

***) The International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) is a tool used by the IAEA to assess the seriousness in incidents affecting nuclear installations and thus to standardize and facilitate reporting on nuclear accidents. The scale varies from zero - no safety significance - to seven - major accident.**

8.8.- The Working Group recommends, that a Coordinating Group of competent authorities and an information sharing network be set up to coordinate radiological environmental monitoring with participation of all Member States, the EC and outreach as considered appropriate to Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

8.9.

-The Working Group recommends, that further cooperation on nuclear safety and radiation protection-related problems initiated at the request of a Member be encouraged by the Council.

9. The Working Group has noted that not enough information has been made available to evaluate the safety status of the naval training reactors and waste storage's at the Russian naval base in Paldiski on the Pakri peninsula in Estonia.

The Working Group has also noted that several Baltic Sea States and the Commission of the European Communities have expressed their readiness to assist in solving the problems related to the decommissioning and cleaning up of the Paldiski site. The Working Group encourages further cooperation between the relevant parties.

The representative of the Russian Federation in the Working Group has stated that the reactors and waste storages at Paldiski do not represent a risk to the general public or the environment and they do not require immediate concerted action initiated or supported by the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

But in view of the concerns on the Paldiski site expressed by a number of Representatives in the Working Group and the absence of adequate information on its safety status the rest of the Working Group agreed that Paldiski should be presently considered a special concern requiring concerted action.

10. Possible further actions for the Working Group are dependent on compiling into a standardized form the information provided by Member States on nuclear and radiation risks in the Baltic Sea Region and on further information to be provided by the Russian Federation on specific concerns of the Member States and the EC on issues mentioned in the last chapter

of this report.

11. The Working Group took note of the EC Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) and Pologne et Hongrie Assistance pour Reconstruction Economique (PHARE) assistance funds which are available for Russia and the Baltic Sea States for the fulfilment of objectives and projects initiated within the Commission for Baltic Sea States cooperation, provided that the competent authorities of these countries clearly prioritize the use of these funds for such purposes.

The Working Group also took note of funds available in a number of bilateral cooperation programmes set up by Member States in the field of nuclear and radiation safety.

12. As a specific list of additional concerns the majority of the Working Group agreed on identifying the following potential radiation sources.

- Reported additional training reactors close to the site of Sosnovyi Bor near St. Petersburg.
- Former Soviet Union radioactive lighthouses on or adjacent to the Baltic Sea on the Russian, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian coastline.
- Possible nuclear installations or facilities in the naval base area of Kaliningrad.
- Other publicly alleged unidentified and non-public military nuclear installations in the Baltic Sea area.
- The Sillamae uranium mill tailings in Estonia.
- Nuclear powered vessels, including submarines.

13. Nuclear Weapon States have repeatedly stated that no vessels carrying tactical nuclear weapons patrol on the Baltic Sea.

7 September, 1992

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES, COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

ANNEX I

Terms of Reference

Para 1

Nuclear and radiation safety, i.e. technical safety of installations, radiation protection and radioactive waste management, both civil and military, have been widely identified as an immediate concern for the Baltic Sea region.

The countries of the Baltic Sea region, therefore, are vitally interested in exchanging the necessary information about and rapidly improving the nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea region. Coordination and planning of cooperation projects in the field of nuclear and radiation safety is needed so that funding priorities can be more clearly identified. The countries agree to help each other to solve imminent problems on the subject of nuclear and radiation safety. To this end, the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States has decided to establish a Working Group.

Para 2

The Working Group shall take into account relevant decisions and measures taken by the IAEA, Helcom and in other fora, in particular:

- the conclusions on enhancement of nuclear and radiation safety contained in the Final Act of the CSCE Follow-up Meeting held in Helsinki in July 1992;
- the decisions on assistance in nuclear and radiation safety taken by the Group of 7 at their Munich Summit and subsequently by the Group of 24 in July 1992;
- the multilateral and bilateral programmes on nuclear and radiation safety of Soviet-design or other nuclear installations, which have been identified as needing improvement.

Para 3

With regard to the extensive international cooperation that has been established in the area of nuclear power plant safety the Working Group shall pay particular attention to other installations and activities, both civil and military, with potential nuclear and radiation risk.

The Working Group shall identify those sources of radioactive materials which impose a potential risk for dangerous transboundary effects or major environmental effects locally in the Baltic Sea region and prepare relevant recommendations accordingly.

Para 4

To that end the Working Group should:

- a)** collect information about nuclear facilities and nuclear waste storages in the Baltic Sea region.. This task should be performed in cooperation with other relevant international activities and organizations, such as the Group of 7, Group of 24, the Helsinki Commission (Helcom), and the IAEA;
- b)** identify among the nuclear installations and nuclear facilities, as mentioned in para 3, those which require immediate concerted action to reduce the risks to the general public and to the environment;
- c)** take stock of and monitor various projects - national, bilateral, regional and multilateral - aimed at enhancing nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea region;

d) suggest and develop initiatives and make recommendations towards the enhancing of nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea region.

Para 5

The Working Group will establish its own working schedule and agenda, within the scope of its terms of reference. The Working Group will be chaired by a representative of the country holding the chairmanship of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. Each member state and the European Commission have the right to nominate two experts to the Working Group.

Para 6

The host country will bear all costs in connection with holding the meetings. Participants will carry the expenses relating to their travel and stay.

Para 7

The Working Group will submit its final report to the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States by the end of 1992 in order to facilitate a thorough discussion of this matter at the next meeting of the Council.