



**Annual Report from the Committee of Senior
Officials**
The 2nd Year of the Council's Activity 1993-1994

Presented at the
Council of the Baltic Sea States
Ministerial Session, Tallinn, 24 – 25 May 1994

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Annual Report from the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials

**COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES
THIRD MINISTERIAL SESSION
TALLINN, MAY 24-25, 1994**

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

1. General

During the period of Estonia's chairmanship of the CBSS, 17 March 1993 to 25 May 1994, the Committee of Senior Officials has conducted its work according to the Council's directions outlined in the Copenhagen Declaration and in the Communiqué of the Helsinki Ministerial Session. The CSO has during its second year of operations continued and enlarged on its field of activity, with particular attention paid to regional economic cooperation, development of democratic institutions, nuclear and radiation safety and subregional cooperation.

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

The CSO held nine meetings during the Estonian chairmanship. Six of them took place in Tallinn, one in Pärnu, Estonia, one in Kaliningrad, Russia, and one in Kiel, Germany. Besides its regular meetings, the CSO held several joint sessions with the Working Group on Economic Cooperation and the Working Group on Democratic Institutions. (The list of meetings included as Annex I.)

For the meetings held outside Estonia, the host parties provided the necessary services in collaboration with the CBSS/CSO Chairmanship. The same pattern also applied to the meetings of the working groups.

2. Assistance to Democratic Institutions

(Report of the Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions with the Terms of Reference included as Annex II)

The Helsinki Ministerial Session obligated the CSO and the Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions to elaborate a mandate for a CBSS Commissioner on Human Rights and Minorities Questions. The principles of the Commissioner's mandate were worked out jointly by the CSO and the Working Group during a number of meetings. Because of the significance of this institution and the ministerial directives to avoid duplication with other similar institutions, extensive discussions were carried out, inter alia in consultation with the CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Max van der Stoep. The CSO adopted the terms of reference of a CBSS Commissioner on Human Rights and Minorities

Questions on 23 September 1993. The budget scheme for the CBSS Commissioner was adopted by the CSO at its meeting on 3 December 1993. The CSO adopted a revised terms of reference of a CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Including the Rights of Persons Belonging to Minorities on 18 May 1994. A search for candidates was conducted and resulted in the nomination, on a consensus basis of Dr. Ole Espersen from Denmark to be appointed to the post.

The CSO received communications from the Executive Committee of the National Congress of Karelians, Finns and Veps with the request to the CBSS Commissioner to review the situation of the Baltic-Finnish minorities in the Republic of Karelia of the Russian Federation.

The CSO decided to deliver those communications for the consideration of the CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Including the Rights of Persons Belonging to Minorities.

The CSO was kept informed of the deliberations of the Working Group via regular reporting.

The CSO approved the Report, Action Program and Guidelines for Seminars worked out by the Working Group and welcomed the assumption by Sweden of the chairmanship of the

Working Group for the 1994/95 intersessional period. The CSO also revised the Terms of

Reference of the Working Group.

The CSCI noted the importance of legal cooperation and welcomed the special Working Group meeting on assistance in legal reforms organized by Germany in Bonn, 7-8 October, 1993. It also acknowledged the G-24 initiative to organize on-site coordination groups on assistance to democratic institutions in cooperation with the G-24 member-states' diplomatic missions and other associated G-24 institutions and organizations.

3. Economic Cooperation

(Report of the Working Group on Economic Cooperation with the Terms of Reference included as Annex III)

The CSO adopted the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Economic Cooperation at its meeting in Pärnu on 17 June 1993. The Working Group's main task is to identify those fields of regional economic cooperation where the CBSS can play a "value-added" role either by mobilizing the necessary political will to foster concrete projects or by contributing to a better utilization of resources by assisting in the coordination of national and regional inputs.

Under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ardo Hansson, the Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister of Estonia, the WG held three meetings of its own and participated in two special joint sessions with the CSO.

The meeting of the Working Group on 27 October 1993 and the following joint session with the CSO, held in Kaliningrad in cooperation with the Kaliningrad Regional Administration, underlined the interest of the CBSS to focus on subregions and to study possibilities for their future development. In particular, the UNIDO project "Restructuring and Revitalizing the Kaliningrad Region" was considered and

debated.

In line with the conclusions of the Kaliningrad meeting, Finland hosted a special meeting on customs and border-crossing problems with the representatives of transport and customs authorities from the CBSS member-states in Helsinki on 4 November 1993. To avoid unnecessary delays on borders, patterns of internationally harmonized instructions and procedures were presented as remedies.

In order to give impetus to regional infrastructure development and initiate a dialogue with international financial institutions a joint session of the CSO and its Working Group was held in Tallinn on 2-3 December 1993 together with representatives of international financial institutions- the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank and the Nordic Investment Bank. The joint session resulted in an open and constructive discussion on political coordination necessary to foster the improvement of regional transport and energy infrastructures. The participants stressed the importance of coordinating national inputs to projects of regional significance and underlined the need for joint efforts to simplify border-crossing procedures, especially along the Via Baltica international trade route.

The Working Group meeting held in Kiel on 15-16 March 1994, on the invitation of the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA), summarized the first year of the Working Group activities and adopted guidelines for a program of future actions. The joint session of the CSO and the Working Group in Kiel discussed cooperation in promoting regional trade with the representatives of the BCCA. It was concluded that the "Memorandum on Lifting Trade Barriers in the Baltic Sea Region" worked out by the BCCA on the request of the CSO had been instrumental in encouraging remedial actions by the member-states.

The CSO received an Inventory of regional ports, including a survey of port investment plans, compiled by Finland. The Working Group was charged with securing an appropriate follow-up in the matter.

4. Nuclear and radiation safety

(Report of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety with the Terms of Reference included as Annex IV)

Under the Chairmanship of Professor Antti Vuorinen, Director of the Finnish Centre for

Radiation and Nuclear Safety, the Working Group held four meetings. Three meetings were

held in Estonia and one in Russia. Sweden chaired a special meeting on Emergency Preparedness and Early Warning, held in Stockholm on 14 June 1993.

The Working Group coordinated the following matters: questions related to the monitoring and control of the nuclear and radiation hot-spots in the Baltic Sea region, such as the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant; accession of member-states to international conventions, in particular the Safety Convention; the decommissioning process of the Paldiski nuclear facility. In the latter area notable progress was achieved which resulted in a joint Swedish-Estonian-Russian initiative to form an

international expert reference group to assist in the decommissioning of the Paldiski reactors.

The Working Group adopted a report on the subject of nuclear and radiation safety, with recommendations for further measures and studies to identify the risk elements involved. The CSO urged the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety to continue its work and agreed with the proposal of the Working Group to considerably enlarge the scope of activities of the Working Group.

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

5.1. The EuroFaculty.

(The report of the EuroFaculty is included as Annex V)

The official opening of the EuroFaculty took place in Riga on 28 September 1993. The CSO maintained sustained contacts with the Director of EuroFaculty, Professor Toivo Mljan. The CSO expressed with satisfaction the progress made in starting new programs for students at the University of Latvia, at Tartu University and at Vilnius University. The CSO noted with interest upgrading courses for the teaching staff of the universities concerned.

The CSO discussed ways and means of improving the conditions for the EuroFaculty and overcoming problems which have arisen.

The CSO noted the importance of:

- a) the extension of funding for 1994/95, taking into account the capital investments needed for infrastructure improvement;
- b) the extension of the EuroFaculty to Kaliningrad in cooperation with the University of Kaliningrad.

5.2. Conference of the Ministers of Culture

The CSO attached importance to the promotion of cultural cooperation in the region. The CSO was informed about the results of the First Conference of the Ministers of Culture of the Baltic Sea States hosted by Sweden and the establishment of a Centre for Writers and Translators in Visby.

5.3. Tourism Cooperation in the Baltic Sea area

The CSO discussed the prospects of regional tourism in connection with the promotion of the Via Baltica route in its meeting at Pärnu, Estonia, on 17-18 June 1993. Mr. Bengt Pihlström, Chairman of the Baltic Tourism Cooperation, gave an overview of the problems and perspectives of tourism around the Baltic Sea. It was stressed that the simplification of the border-crossing procedures, in particular along the Via Baltica, is of vital importance to the marketing of the Baltic Region as a promising tourist attraction.

5.4. The "CBSS Monitor"

The CBSS Coordination Centre in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia initiated, in cooperation with the Tallinn-based journal "The Baltic Review", publication of the

Council's newsletter, the "CBSS Monitor" to provide information about the Council's activities and cooperation in the Baltic Sea region in general. The "CBSS Monitor" was financed jointly by the members. Altogether 2 regular issues of the "CBSS Monitor" and one special issue of the "CBSS Monitor" were published. The latter is the first brochure-type publication presenting relevant information and facts about the Council.

5.5. Baltic Sea Joint Information Network

In the Chairman's action program presented in May 1993 it was envisaged to create a CBSS Working Group on a Baltic Sea Joint Information Network which would have the task to compile an overview of the activities of various Baltic Sea subsystems, (institutionalized control over fishing quotas, systems for safeguarding sea borders and guaranteeing safe navigation, etc.), and make proposals for a joint information network to improve the efficiency and professionalism of these subsystems. This idea was developed in cooperation with the Baltic Fisheries Cooperation Committee (BAFICO), the Estonian Ministry of Interior and other interested institutions. The CSO considered it premature to establish a working group on a joint information network, but the matter received a thorough discussion and remains on the agenda. In the meantime, related initiatives have taken place, including the high-level Baltic Sea Conference on Combatting Organized Crime, hosted by Sweden in Borgholm on 6-7 December 1993.

6. Humanitarian matters and health

The CSO discussed the progress made in combatting drug abuse and drug trafficking and controlling illegal migration in the Baltic Sea region. It welcomed the two conferences on Uncontrolled Migration Over the Baltic Sea organized by Sweden (the first took place on 26-27 April 1993 and the second on 25-26 January 1994), and followed with interest the activities of the two working groups established. The CSO noted the conference on "Migration Trends, Social Change and Cooperation in the Baltic Sea region", held in Finland on 27-28 April 1993, as a relevant initiative. It was also noted that Finland will host the successive meeting of the Conference on Uncontrolled Migration. The CSO was informed about regional cooperation in combatting drug abuse and drug trafficking by Mr. Jarkko Eskola, Chairman of the Nordic Committee on Narcotic Drugs. It was stressed that in order to get relevant PHARE assistance, the recipient countries have to prioritize programs on the combatting of drug abuse. Norway informed the CSO about the activities of the Pompidou-group.

7. Subregional cooperation in the Baltic Sea area

At the CSO meeting held in Tallinn on 6-7 May 1993 the CSO discussed the proposal by the Russian Federation to establish a CBSS Regional Council. Norway undertook to organize a Subregional Meeting for the Baltic Sea States in Stavanger on 7-8 October 1993. The CSO welcomed the follow-up to the Stavanger meeting in Travemünde in October 1994

The promotion of subregional cooperation and assistance to subregions was one of the major topics on the CSO agenda during the Estonian chairmanship. The meetings held in Pärnu, Kaliningrad and Kiel provided tangible results in the form of exchange of information. The Kaliningrad region was particularly active in contacting the CSO and presenting concrete projects for consideration by the CBSS. Extensive discussions were conducted by the CSO, together with the representatives of UNIDO and the Kaliningrad regional authorities, on the proposed UNIDO project on "Revitalizing and Restructuring the Kaliningrad Region".

8. Contacts with other multilateral bodies

The CBSS CSO expanded and deepened substantially its contacts with other organizations and multilateral bodies.

In the field of economic and technical cooperation high-level working relations were developed with the international financial institutions which participated in a special joint session of the CSO and its Working Group on Economic Cooperation. The CSO welcomed the appointment of contact persons at: the World Bank, Mr. Claude Blanch I; the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Mr. George Krivicky; the European Investment Bank, Ms. Grammatiki Tsingou; and the Nordic Investment Bank, Mr. Ulf Hindström.

The CSO instituted a dialogue with the Baltic Sea Conference of Ministers of Transport which resulted in better coordination of the Via Baltica project. The Chairman of the CSO, Ambassador Alar Olljum, represented the CBSS in the Second Conference of the Ministers of Transport, held in Kaliningrad 24-25 February 1994.

The CSO was also in close contact with the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association, the Pro Baltica Forum, the Union of the Baltic Cities, BAFICO and UNIDO.

The Polish delegation kept the CSO continuously informed about the activities of the Central

European Initiative. The then- Chairman of the CBSS, Mr. Trivimi Velliste, represented the

Council as a special guest at the CEI Prime Ministers Conference in Budapest held on 16-17 July, 1993. Norway kept the CSO informed about the initiatives of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. The CSO also had substantial discussions on European Integration and the development of the European Union.

The CSO welcomed also the coordinating activities of the G-24 relevant to the Baltic Sea region, in particular in the areas of democratic institution building, energy and transport.

9. Perspectives for further improving the functioning of the CBSS/CSO

9.1. CBSS "Troika"

The informal coordination of the CBSS activities by the "Troika" (i.e. Finland, Estonia and Poland during the 1993-94 intersessional period), was a significant development,

enabling better information exchange and more efficient decision-making. The CBSS "Troika" helps ensure continuity in the Council's leadership and improved organization of the Council's work.

The CSO noted that rapid development of the Council's network of contacts and the enlargement of the Council's engagement in various cooperation schemes underlines the need for the Chairman to continue collecting information about related international events and keeping the CSO informed about such activities.

9.2. Permanent Journal.

The CSO viewed as successful the trial project of publishing a CBSS newsletter and decided to keep aim of on its agenda the question of establishing a permanent journal of the CBSS with the stimulating regional cooperation and providing information about the Council's activities.

9.3. Political consultations.

Poland introduced the idea of holding political consultations on matters of common interest to the CBSS members in order to develop a regional approach on questions of key regional and global significance. In this context the CSO noted the Polish proposal to strengthen regional identity by introducing regular coordination between the embassies of the members in order to share information and consult on political questions.

ANNEX I TO THE CSO REPORT MEETINGS OF THE CSO 1993/1994

1. May 6-7, 1993, Tallinn

2. June 17-18, 1993, Pärnu

3. September 23-24, 1993, Tallinn

Joint Sessions with the Working Group on Economic Cooperation and the Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions

4. October 28-29, 1993, Kaliningrad

Joint Session with Kaliningrad regional authorities and the Working Group on Economic Cooperation

5. December 2-3, 1993, Tallinn

Special Joint Session with the representatives of the International Financial Institutions and the Working Group on Economic Cooperation

6. January 20-21, 1994, Tallinn

7. March 15-16, 1994, Kiel

Joint Session with the Working Group on Economic Cooperation and with the representatives of the BCCA and Schleswing-Holstein authorities.

8. April 20-22, 1994, Tallinn

Joint Session with the Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions

Report of the Working Group on Economic Co-operation

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES
THIRD MINISTERIAL SESSION
TALLINN, MAY 24-25, 1994

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

The Working Group on Economic Cooperation was established and its Terms of Reference was approved by the CSO in June 1993. Estonia assumed the Chairmanship of the Working Group for the period of its Chairmanship of the CBSS.

The Working Group held 3 regular meetings:

1. Tallinn, September 22-23, 1993;
2. Kaliningrad, October 27-28, 1993,
3. Kiel, March 15-16, 1994.

It also held a special meeting on border crossings and customs procedures in Helsinki on November 4, 1993, which included the active participation of customs and transport officials from all member states and the European Commission. As its main initial task, the Working Group prepared the special joint session between the CBSS CSO and the representatives of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in Tallinn, December 2-3, 1993.

The meeting in Tallinn September 22-23 1993, identified the long-term task of the WG to act as a.

1. Clearing-house for regional infrastructure development conceptions;
2. Forum for exchange of information about economic cooperation among the member countries;
3. Forum for mobilizing political support for projects which are identified as of regional importance and which fall under its mandate.

The Working Group noted that in order to fulfil the aforementioned tasks, the WG has to:

- a) identify projects of regional importance which fall under its mandate, the implementation of which would bring concrete regional benefits and which are well-grounded by already existing feasibility studies;
- b) identify the problems related to regional infrastructure and economic development which can best be addressed by the Council and in the solution of which, the "value added" by the Council can be the greatest;
- c) initiate meetings of relevant authorities and experts in order to clarify the nature of problems related to regional economic and infrastructure development;

At its meeting in Kaliningrad. October 27-28.1993. the Working Group was familiarized with the economic developments of the Kaliningrad region. It had an extensive discussion of transport and energy infrastructure projects to be presented to the IFIs in the December 2-3 meeting with the IFIs. The Working Group identified the Via Baltica road project, including its side project the Via Hanseatica, as one main project of regional importance. Energy infrastructure projects were also identified as a possibly longer-term area of fruitful cooperation. Issues concerning ports, airports and other projects were decided to be addressed more systematically at a later stage in the Working Group's work.

The special meeting on border crossings and customs procedures in Helsinki on November 4, 1993, discussed the problems of delays at border crossings in the region as a whole, and on the Via Baltica and Via Hanseatica in particular. It also examined the possibilities for coordination between transport and customs authorities so as to increase the efficiency of border points.

Three different sets of problems were identified:

- 1)** "software" issues: exchange of information, standardized control procedures, closer cooperation between the responsible authorities, etc.;
- 2)** "hardware" issues: material infrastructure of border-crossings, out-dated technology, etc.;
- 3)** political issues: international commitment to resolve the border problems, necessary bilateral agreements, etc.

The Working Group noted the input to solving the software problems by the PHAAE regional and bilateral programs (10 MECU had been earmarked for cooperation in this area over the next 3 years). TACIS was mentioned in this context. The special meeting called upon the Council to issue a clear statement of commitment of member-states to solving the identified problems.

The December 2-3. 1993 joint session of the CSO, the WG and the representatives of the World Bank, the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank and the Nordic Investment Bank was the first official meeting between the Council as the body which seeks to define regional priorities of infrastructure development and economic cooperation, and the IFIs as institutions equipped to assess the technical and economic viability of given projects and to provide some or all of the required financing.

The meeting covered the following general themes:

- a)** Presentation by the representatives of the IFIs on the past experience with financing projects of a regional nature and the implications of accumulated experiences on the future strategies of the IFIs in the Baltic Sea region.
- b)** Presentation by the CSO members of potential priority areas of infrastructure development in the Baltic Sea region and discussion of the CBSS involvement in the promotion and implementation of concrete projects.
- c)** Presentation by the IFIs of the possible financial mechanisms for funding regional projects.
- d)** Presentation by CSO members of concrete projects especially in the areas of transport and energy infrastructure, and
- e)** Discussion of directions for future cooperation between the CBSS and the IFIs.

The meeting produced a wealth of information and put in place channels for regular liaison between the Council and the represented IFIs. It has also spurred a greater focus on the regional dimension of the concrete projects discussed, especially the Via Baltica and Via Hanseatica motorways.

The third regular meeting of the WG took place in Kiel, on March 15-16 1994 in conjunction with the Hansa Business Days, and at the invitation of the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA). This meeting gave an opportunity to follow up on the results of other meetings of regional importance and to review progress in the priority areas of infrastructure development. It provided several occasions to develop closer links with the business community of the region, as represented by the BCCA. Finally, it was the occasion to prepare the Report of the Working Group to be presented at the CBSS III Ministerial Session.

In addition to the output of formal WG meetings, Finland undertook an inventory of regional ports in the Baltic Sea area which includes data on ports and their handling capacities, as well as preliminary figures on port investment plans. This survey lays the groundwork for possible greater future attention by the WG to the issue of port development.

Report of the Working Group on Democratic Institutions

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES THIRD MINISTERIAL SESSION TALLINN, 24-25 MAY 1994

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ASSISTANCE TO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

1. Since the Second Ministerial Session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States on 16-17 March 1993, in Helsinki, the Working group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions held six meetings.

At a meeting on 27-28 May, 1993, in Tallinn, the Working Group discussed national institutions for the protection of human rights in the member states and also met with the representatives of relevant Estonian public authorities and institutions. The May meeting of the Working Group gave particular attention to drafting terms of reference for a CBSS Commissioner on Human Rights and Minorities Questions.

On 23 September 1993, in Tallinn, the Working Group finalized the draft terms of reference for a Commissioner. The draft text was presented to the Committee of Senior Officials at its meeting on 23-24 September, 1993. On 20 April 1994, in Tallinn, the Working Group participated in an extraordinary joint session with the CSO to revise the draft terms of reference for a CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Including the Rights of Persons Belonging to Minorities.

On 7-8 October, 1993, in Bonn, the Working group held a meeting on legal cooperation. It concluded, i.a., that legal cooperation is especially needed in the fields of constitutional law, commercial and private law and the creation of a public law framework. The conclusions of the Bonn meeting are attached as Annex I.

At meetings on 3-4 February and 7-8 March, 1994, in Stockholm, the Working Group discussed its future work and agreed to initiate a new program of action which is attached as Annex II.

2. In the discussion of its future work the Working Group agreed that, for the time being, priority should be given to the two first tasks under its terms of reference (1/ "to study and report on obstacles to the development of democratic institutions in the new democracies¹¹ and 2/to make recommendations on ways to contribute to the further development of democratic institutions in the new democracies").

a) With regard to the first task the Working Group believes that it is primarily, although not exclusively, for members in need of assistance to identify the areas of need and to bring the question before the Working Group.

The Working Group also is looking forward to the appointment of the first CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Including the Rights of

Persons Belonging to Minorities.

In full respect of the Commissioner's independence, the Working Group declares itself open to enter with him into a wide-ranging dialogue on questions related to the Working Group's work.

b) With regard to the second task under its terms of reference the Working Group proposes to develop, on a continuing basis, the program of action that has been initiated.

Thus far the program corresponds well with the priority areas for cooperation established in the first report of the Working Group. Nevertheless the Working Group sees a need to retain the flexibility and an open mind in considering the type of activities that may fall under the heading of democratic institution building.

For the holding of seminars, which is one of several possible measures under the program, the Working group has agreed on a set of guidelines in order to ensure efficiency. The guidelines for seminars are attached as Annex III.

The Working Group has noted with satisfaction the active interest of G-24 in democratic institution building in the Baltic Sea region and will consider the possibilities for cooperation and coordination with the G-24. The Working Group intends to keep itself informed of other programs and activities as well in this field.

c) In addition to the work outlined above, in general the Working Group will strive to function as a forum for exchange of information, ideas and contacts, including the role of intermediary, when appropriate, between those institutions and non-governmental organizations of member countries which are active in the field of democratic institution building.

3. The Working Group recommends that its terms of reference be amended as follows:

a) The word "New" is deleted from its name, which should henceforth be "Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions".

b) The words "new democracies", wherever they occur in the text, are replaced by "countries in transition".

c) The task "to study the proposal to establish a Commissioner... etc.", being completed, is deleted in its entirety.

d) The five final lines of the terms of reference are replaced by: "The Working Group will report to the Council of the Baltic Sea States in due time before each ministerial session."

Bonn, October 8, 1993

**Bonn-Meeting on Legal Cooperation of the CBSS Working Group
on Assistance to new Democratic Institutions**

Conclusions

Legal cooperation, be it through efforts to harmonize laws of different countries, be it through legal assistance to the reform-oriented countries is vital for the economic and political development of the Baltic Sea region. The intense cooperation already existing in this field is to be highly welcomed.

Although need for legal cooperation may arise in all fields of law, it is and will be especially needed in the fields of constitutional law, commercial and private law and the creation of a public-law framework. In all these fields a comprehensive approach covering not only the drafting of new laws but also training of those who administer the law as well as the development of the system of justice is needed.

A crucial aim of legal cooperation among the CBSS member states is to ensure that the reform-oriented countries will be able to develop their own coherent legal systems. Taking into account the high number of potential donors as well as of government departments and parliaments being in need of legal cooperation, high emphasis should be placed on improving transparency and coordination without creating new bureaucracies or formalistic mechanisms.

To this end, the Working Group asks the CSO to examine a German proposal according to which diplomatic missions of the CBSS members should be called upon to hold, on a regular basis, informal meetings at working level in order to exchange information about proposed, planned, running and completed projects in the field of legal cooperation. The participants of such meetings which should be held, as a rule, in the reform-oriented member states of the CBSS would be the embassies of the CBSS members including the delegation of the European Commission as well as the competent authority of the host country.

The member states undertake to communicate their comments on this proposal to the Estonian chairmanship until the end of November 1993.

March-8, 1994

**CBSS Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions
program of action**

The Working Group held two meetings, on 3-4 February and on 7-8 March, 1994, for the purpose of drawing up a longterm program of action. Taking into consideration its terms of reference as well as the priority areas of cooperation established by its first report of February, 1993, the Working Group based its work on a present-day

assessment of areas in need of assistance.

The measures agreed upon are intended as an initial program of action. As a general guideline the Working Group will strive to avoid isolated arrangements and to ensure that action initiated is followed up by further measures.

I. The Working Group agreed on the following:

1. Legal reform

Seminar on legal regulation and law drafting.
Host: Finland.

A two-day seminar, to be held in January 1995, covering the following issues:

- 1) various phases of the law-drafting process and current problems,
- 2) law-technical issues and legal language,
- 3) law-drafting and Parliament.

Purpose: to specify problem areas and needs in legal regulation and law-drafting and to recommend further measures corresponding to those needs.

2. Local democracy and self-government

Seminar on local government and on relations between local and central government. Host: Sweden. To be held in early Summer or early Fall, 1994.

Purpose: to specify problem areas and needs and to recommend further measures corresponding to those needs.

3. Non-governmental organizations

Seminar on the status and functioning of non-governmental organizations.
Host: to be decided.

Several delegations agreed to investigate the possibilities of an arrangement in common.

Purpose: to examine the legal, fiscal and administrative environment required to ensure the independence of non-governmental organizations and their freedom of action as an essential element of a democratic society.

4. Means to counter negative social phenomena

Seminar on the means to counter negative social phenomena.
Host: to be decided.

Purpose: Economic hardships and social instability accompanying the process of transformation may give rise to social phenomena which endanger the democratic development. The seminar is a first-step effort to define problem areas and possible

counter-measures.

5. Integration into society

Study visit on the experience of integrating parts of the population into society.
Host: Sweden.

Purpose: To become acquainted with the Swedish experience of integration.
Meetings with, for example, the Ministry of Culture, the Swedish Immigration Board, Stockholm's Council for Immigration and the Office of the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination.

II: The working Group took note of the following planned activities which correspond to needs that were defined:

1. Conference on Commissioner (ombudsman) to be held in the Fall of 1994
Host: Poland.

2. journalism and democracy. A three-week course for journalists from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Poland. Host: Sweden.

The course will be held in November-December, 1994, arranged by FOJO, the Institute for Further Education of journalists, at Kalmar University College. Twenty participants.

3. Denmark's offer to contribute to the establishment of Human rights Centres in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Poland, made in March 1993, within the CBSS framework¹ remains valid.

March 8, 1994

Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions: Guidelines for seminars

Under its terms of reference, the Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions shall, i.a., "make recommendations on ways to contribute to the further development of democratic institutions ..."

In order to fulfil that purpose, the Working Group proposes to establish a long-term program of seminars. The Working Group further proposes the following guidelines

for the seminars under the program

1. General

In cooperation with the Working Group, the CBSS members will organize and host the seminars on a rotational basis. Exceptions to the rotation may be decided by the Working Group if called for by considerations of efficiency in the treatment of a particular topic.

2. Contents of seminars

Seminars should be part of longterm projects and address a topic in which there is a documented need for assistance in one or more of the member countries.

Care should be taken to avoid duplication with Council of Europe, ODIHR or other similar programs.

3. Direction of seminars

Well in advance of each seminar, member countries will produce and send to the host country a national study on the topic to be discussed. The host country will distribute the studies to all participants prior to the seminars¹

Each seminar will produce a report¹ the main purpose of which will be:

a/ to define existing problems, their character and causes and

b/ to propose solutions to those problems Participants to seminars should be persons with a working experience as well as a practical and problem-solving orientation with regard to the topic to be discussed.

4. Follow-up

The seminars will report to the Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions. On the basis of those reports the Working Group will discuss the need for further action.

Report of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

**COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES
THIRD MINISTERIAL SESSION
TALLINN, MAY 24-25, 1994**

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NUCLEAR AND RADIATION SAFETY

- 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 the Baltic Sea States on 27 April 1992. The Working Group was assigned the task to pay particular attention to facilities and other sources, both civil and military, with potential nuclear and radiation risks to the Baltic Sea Region. The initial fixed term mandate of the Working Group was modified and extended by the II Ministerial Session of the CBSS in Helsinki on 16-17 March 1993. The first report of the WG was presented to the CSO on 7 May 1993.
- 2.** The Working Group (WG) continued its work at meetings held in Mescherino on 20 April 1993, in Lohusalu on 9-10 September 1993, and in Tallinn on 10-11 February 1994 on 15 April 1994
- 3.** The Chairman of the Working Group Professor Antti Vuorinen has regularly informed the CSO about the progress of its work. The discussions and decisions of the CSO concerning nuclear and radiation safety were reported back to the WG.
- 4.** The WG continued updating information on significant regional transboundary nuclear and radiation risks, paying particular attention to the Paldiski reactors, the nuclear facilities at the Sosnovyi Bor site, the Ignalina NPP and other various radioactive facilities, e.g. lighthouses equipped with radioactive power supplies.
- 5.** The WG was informed about the results of the international meeting of experts from the Baltic Sea States held in Stockholm on 14 June 1993, on the "Emergency Monitoring and Early Warning System". The WG endorsed the activities enhancing communications between relevant bodies responsible for monitoring and early warning of nuclear and radiological emergencies in the Baltic Sea States and for the development of communication networks serving the above mentioned purpose. These activities will be followed up by a new meeting in June 1994 in Stockholm.
- 6.** The question of the Paldiski nuclear facility received constant attention at the WG meetings, resulting in notable progress made in this issue. The WG visited the Paldiski reactor site and one of its reactors 9 September 1993, and adopted a

Statement (Annex 1) in connection with this occasion. At its meeting on 10-11 February 1994, the WG adopted a "Progress Report and Recommendations of the Working Group to the CBSS CSO on the Decommissioning of the Paldiski Training Reactor Facilities" (Annex 2), regarding the defuelling timetable, related safety problems and prospects on the application of joint actions. The WG supported the idea and approved the results of an international meeting of specialists convened in Stockholm on 25-27 January 1994 for discussion of technical problems of decommissioning of the Paldiski reactors.

The WG supported the proposal to set up an International Reference Group of specialists to produce recommendations for solving the technical, legal and safety questions of decommissioning work in Paldiski. The WG welcomed the special meeting on 10-11 May 1994, in Stockholm with the task to establish the International Reference Group and to adopt its Mandate.

7. While discussing the special case of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (NPP), the WG

identified the following areas for enhancement of safety.

- existence of an effective legal system;
- existence of an independent and effective regulatory and control system;
- existence of valid cooperation agreements between the NPP and the designer, constructor, regulator and other RBMK operators;
- valid data on current situation and future plans of safety improvement of the NPP.

8. The WG discussed the information made available by the Latvian representative about the

Salaspils experimental reactor and the relevant associated issues, such as

- legal system;
- availability of qualified personnel;
- management of spent fuel and operational radioactive wastes;
- decommissioning of the facility (if so decided);
- economic problems.

9. The WG took note of the fact that the safety of RBMK reactors is being taken care of at the international level by other fora and will not deal with this matter in order to avoid duplication.

10. The WG received information from the Russian representatives about the existing test reactors and future plans to develop reactors in the Sosnovy Bor NPP area. The WG took note that besides the Sosnovy Bor and Gatchina reactors no other nuclear facilities exist in the St.Petersburg area, which might create nuclear and radiation safety concerns.

11. The WG exchanged and discussed information provided by member states on development of the regulatory process for nuclear and radiation safety, accession to IAEA Conventions and Agreements on nuclear and radiation safety (Annex 3). It stressed the importance of development in these areas and noted that significant progress has taken place in the Baltic Sea States.

12. The WG recommended the Baltic Sea States to accede at an early date to the Nuclear Safety Convention, which is expected to be opened for accession later in 1994

13. The WG exchanged, discussed and compiled the information concerning the process of development of bilateral information exchange agreements (Annex 4) and relevant systems of monitoring networks.

14. The WG has been continuously informed about progress concerning cooperation between

member states in the area of radiation safety, in particular with respect to:

- setting up the legal framework;

- strengthening and upgrading the responsible authorities, including equipment with technical

means and emergency preparedness systems;

- development of radioactive waste management strategies.

The WG emphasized the importance of cooperation on the Sillamäe nuclear waste facility and on a radiation warning network.

15. The WG took note of the statement of the Russian delegation about the absence of Navy vessels with nuclear propulsion as well as nuclear icebreakers in the Baltic Sea area.

16. The problem of lighthouses with radioactive power sources is no longer recognized as a serious radiation safety concern after replacing the power supplies with ecologically safe sources, thanks to the assistance of Denmark.

17. The Report and the Action Plan for 1994/95 (Annex 5) were approved by the WG at its meeting on 15 April 1994.

Statement on the visit of the WG to the Paldiski Training Center on the Pakri Peninsula in Estonia on 9 September 1993

The Working Group carried out a detailed visit to one of the two training reactors in Paldiski (the 70 MW(th) one) and obtained additional information concerning in particular the reactor's safe shut-down condition.

The examination of the upper part of the reactor confirmed information previously received that the movement of control rods is prevented by electrical and mechanical means. The visit to the control room confirmed that key safety parameters (such as fuel and water temperature¹ boron concentration¹ water chemistry control, etc.) are properly recorded and their values correspond to safe shut-down conditions. On this basis, and assuming that similar conditions are also kept in the second reactor, the group concluded that the reactors do not represent at present any significant safety risk.

The Working Group was given the opportunity to view from the outside the buildings used to treat and store liquid waste and store solid waste. Because of the limited information available and the uncertainties concerning the quality of the storage facilities, the activity of the waste, the quality of the storage tanks, the arrangements inside the storage facilities, etc. the Working Group was unable to make a technical evaluation of the waste storage facilities. Until the Working Group is able to examine the radioactive waste storage facilities in more detail it cannot make a comprehensive statement concerning the storage arrangements.

The Working Group took note of the information provided by Russia the management of the Paldiski facilities) concerning plans for removal of the reactor fuel and radioactive wastes and the dismantling of the Paldiski installations. The Working Group expects that the competent Russian and Estonian authorities will carry out these activities under conditions that will assure the protection of the operating personnel, the population and the environment and requests the parties to report regularly to the Working Group about them.

PROGRESS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP TO THE CBSS CSO ON THE DECOMMISSIONING OF THE PALDISM TRAINING REACTOR FACILITIES.

1. The WG was informed on progress in negotiations and actual decommissioning work at the Paldiski facilities by the representatives of the Russian Federation and Estonia.
2. The WG understood that the defuelling process of the two reactors is making good progress. No specific problems in defuelling are anticipated. The WG expects that the spent nuclear fuel from both reactors will be removed to the Russian Federation by the end of summer 1994.
3. The WG was informed of the serious future challenges faced nationwide by the Russian Federation in improving nuclear and radiological waste management and arranging decontamination work. The WG was, however, informed by the representatives of the Russian Federation, that questions relating to the decommissioning of the Paldiski facilities can be dealt with separately and do not envisage constraints for the decommissioning works and successful dismantlement of the Paldiski reactors, especially if supporting international financing can be organized.
4. The WG understands that the best alternative for dismantling is the "Green Field", i.e. total dismantlement. The WG also considers that the "Green Field" alternative is both possible and feasible, and is foreseen to be realistic in a general time frame of three to four years.
5. The WG considers that the "Green Field" alternative can be realized with minimal delay if international participation can be successfully provided for.

6. The WG considers that special attention in future negotiations between the Russian Federation and Estonia should be given to legal questions, such as division of responsibilities and liability.

7. The WG understands that the establishment of a technical international reference group as a review team for the decommissioning effort would be useful in assisting both parties in carrying out their responsibilities. The WG supports the establishment of such a reference group.

8. The WG supports the continuation of technical discussions on initiatives of international participation in the decommissioning works, i.e. talks on participation, for example, in transports, container-use, and treatment of wastes.

9. The WG considers that in case the "Green Field" alternative is not possible to be achieved in the reasonable time frame, adequate management of waste could also be handled through the alternative of storage of conditioned wastes originating from the Paldiski facilities on site, provided that this is feasible and it does not pose a potential radiological danger to the Baltic Sea Region.

General Headquarters of the Russian Navy
April 16, 1993

**THE REPORT
OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RF
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
ON THE
RADIATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY AT THE MEETING OF THE WORKING
GROUP**

(April 20, 1993, Moscow)

In connection with Annex 3 of the draft report of the Working Group on the Radiation and Nuclear Safety I hereby provide the appropriate information on Paldiski training reactors.

On the List of the potential risk sources

The two training reactors.

The three nuclear waste storages:

1) The solid waste storage (SWS)

2) The liquid waste storage (LWS)

3) The reservoirs for chemical decontamination SWS- for average radiation level
LWS- for average radiation level

Buoys and lighthouses - more than 3000 curies.

On the information necessary for the identification of priorities on the list of the potential risk sources

Reactor types: water-water-type reactors on thermal neutrons.

Dates:

- Construction - December, 1967, 1982
- First criticality - 10.04.68, 10.02.83
- Commissioned - 22.04.68, 10.02.83

Security measures: Each installation is shielded off from environment by means of the three radiation barriers supplied with autonomous filter-ventilation systems. The latter are designed to localize contamination in all kinds of emergency situations.

Places of wastes and spent fuel storage:

There is no spent fuel on Pakri peninsula. The radioactive wastes of three levels of contamination (i.e. High, Average and Low) are stored in the surface-type storages situated in the technological zones.

Dates of construction: 1970, 1978

Geological structures: Silurian Limestone, 2-4 m Grit with clay

Capacities: SW-storage - 567,25 m³ (currently contains 30 m³ of wastes)

The disused mine storage currently contains 144 m³ of the nuclear wastes, the capacity whereof is 168 m³.

The list of radioactive materials and the responsibility:

All the relevant documentation for the whole amount of contaminated equipment and radioactive wastes in the storage, have been prepared.

Normal and potential releases:

The ventilation and air purification systems allow to provide for the normal radiation background releases even during planned accidents. There are no solid, gas, or liquid releases from the technological zone. There have been no accidental releases for the whole period of operation.

The storage capacities according to the agreed responsibility: 10000 curies.

The entire responsibility for the potential risk is imposed the RF Department of Defence, the representative thereof the head of military institution # 56190.

Russia is -the member state of the Non-Proliferation Agreement. The procedure of utilizing and storing of the collected information related to the nuclear reactor design peculiarities is not defined yet. Therefore part of the parameters concerning the training reactors cannot be here specified.

On the problems requiring joint concentration of effort

According to the RF Department of Defence the joint effort should be concentrated on economic assistance at the stage of equipment and nuclear wastes transportation as well as the rehabilitation of the territory.

The training facilities in the city of Paldiski have now been standing idle for more than three years.

The measures to eliminate the risk of transition of the above reactors to the critical stage even through the intentional efforts, have now been taken.

Deputy Head of the General Military Navy Headquarters
V. Lyashenko (Vice-Admiral)

ACTION PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NUCLEAR AND RADIATION SAFETY FOR 1994/95

- 1. Review of the progress of dismantling of the Paldiski reactors and monitoring of current nuclear and radiation safety situation in Paldiski, Ignalina and Sosnovyi Bor. Adoption of recommendations for joint actions to enhance nuclear and radiation safety at these facilities.**
2. Review and facilitation of development of internal lawmaking and regulatory processes related to nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea States. Exchange of experience and recommendations.
3. Updating and compilation of information on nuclear facilities.
4. Discussion of perspective joint actions for enhancement of nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea region, including engineering support and financial consequences of these actions.

5. Plans, procedures and facilities for handling and disposal of radioactive waste in the member states will be given increased attention in order to identify problems, that are relevant, of interest and concern for other member states, to discuss these problems including engineering support and financial consequences.

6. To follow, support and inform about running cooperation projects in nuclear and radiation safety in order to coordinate, avoid overlapping and identify' new areas for cooperation.

7. Surveillance and, as necessary, planning of joint actions to suppress the black market in nuclear and radioactive material and the strengthening of border controls to achieve this target.

8. Discussion of ideas to solve radioactive waste disposal problems by using former Soviet military storage facilities for nuclear and radioactive material, including waste, in the Baltic states.

9. Encouraging accession of all CBSS member states to the International Nuclear Safety Convention at an early date after its conclusion and encourage CBSS Member States which are not yet party to the Vienna Convention on Third Party Liability to adhere to this Convention.

10. Fostering of assistance to funds-channelling from the TACIS and PHARE program resources to projects recommended by the WG for enhancing nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea region.

Mandate for the Steering Committee of the Euro-Faculty (1993-1994)

ANNEX 5 OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CSO (1993-1994)

Draft Mandate for the Steering Committee of the Euro-faculty

The Steering Committee shall consist of two representatives from each of the donor countries in the Euro-faculty: one representing the universities and one representing the national governments. The EC Commission, the EC TEMPUS Office and the contractor(s) of TEMPUS projects shall also be represented on the Committee.

The coordinators of the four academic working groups shall be invited to attend meetings of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee has a Chairman and a Vice-chairman who are selected among the academic representatives on the Steering Committee on a rotation principle. They are chosen for a period of 2 years. If the Chairman is chosen from a Western country it is given that the Vice-chairman is chosen from one of the three Baltic States and vice versa.

The Steering Committee shall meet at least once a year.

The Steering Committee has the Power to change its mandate.

The Steering Committee has the overall responsibility for the activities carried out by the Euro-faculty.

In particular the Steering Committee shall decide upon:

1. The structure of the Euro-faculty in all the three Baltic States
 - the academic coordination structure
 - the administrative structure.
2. The legal status of the Euro-faculty.
3. The academic activities carried out by the Euro-faculty.
4. The addition of new partners to the project.
5. The budget of the Euro-faculty.
6. Major investments made on behalf of the Euro-faculty.