



**Annual Report from the Committee of Senior
Officials**
The 3 Year of the Council's Activity 1994-1995

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Annual Report from the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS, THE THIRD YEAR OF THE COUNCIL ACTIVITY

1. Introduction

During the period of Poland's chairmanship of the CBSS, from May 25, 1994, to May 19, 1995, 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 Tallinn Ministerial Session. The CSO has continued to enlarge its field of activities, with particular emphasis on the strengthening of the role of CBSS, and broader coordination of regional activities taking place in the region. In the period 1994/1995 Baltic regional cooperation saw further significant development.

2. CSO meetings

The CSO held together ten meetings (regular, informal and special) during the Polish chairmanship:

- June 6, 1994 in Gdansk (informal meeting, on the occasion of the Europartenariat). The CSO had a meeting with the Voievode of Gdansk;
- September 12-13, in Warsaw. The CSO was welcomed by the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Iwo Byczewski, and were received by the Prime Minister, Mr. Waldemar Pawlak;
- October 18, in Travemünde (informal joint meeting with the Working Group on Economic Cooperation, on the occasion of the II Conference on Subregional Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region). The CSO was welcomed by the Mayor of Lübeck, and Minister Gerd Walter, on behalf of the government of Schleswig-Holstein;
- November 3-4, in Szczecin. The CSO was informed by the Voievode of Szczecin, Mr. Marek Ta_asiewicz, on the situation in the Voievodship and on its regional cooperation;
- December 16, in Warsaw (joint meeting with the Working Group on Economic Cooperation);
- January 26, 1995, in Novgorod, at the invitation of the authorities of Novgorod. The CSO was informed on the situation in the district and on its regional cooperation, and was received by the Governor of the district, Mr. Michail M. Prussak;
- March 15-16, in Elbl_g. The CSO was informed by the Voievode of Elbl_g, Mr. Marek Ta_asiewicz, on the situation in the Voievodship and on its regional cooperation;
- March 28, in Riga (special meeting devoted to the functioning of the Eurofaculty, with the Eurofaculty Steering Committee);
- April 26-27, in Warsaw;
- May 18, in Gdansk.

3. Cooperation with the CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, including the Rights of Persons belonging to Minorities, Mr. Ole Espersen

The CSO was informed twice by the Commissioner on progress in his work:

- in September, prior to taking his office,
- in January, after the first 4 months in office. During this meeting, the Commissioner informed about the structure of his office and its financial situation, about the issues that he has started to study, about his first official visit to Poland and travel plans (all countries were to be visited before the IV Ministerial session), that he has sent a letter to Minister A. Kozyrev, in which, among others, he offered his assistance in the matters of human rights in Chechnya, and finally - that so far he received very few complaints, but he attributed this to the fact, that very few people and institutions were aware of the existence of his office.

The Commissioner enjoyed full support for his activities from the CSO and cooperation in the preparation of his visits in member-states.

The Commissioner was asked to inform the EC Commission about all currently studied topics (in view of the increased work related to the III pillar).

The CSO, with the cooperation of an ad hoc convened group of legal experts, prepared an agreement on the legal status of the Commissioner, which was signed in Copenhagen on January 19, 1995 (due to prolonged internal procedures Estonia signed the agreement on February 2, while Russia is still in the process of internal consultations).

4. Assistance to Democratic Institutions

The CSO was kept informed of the deliberations of the Working Group via regular reporting. The CSO approved the Report of the WG, chaired by Mr. Nils Eliasson, and the suggestions worked out by the Working Group to cooperate with the CBSS Commissioner.

During the meeting in Novgorod, the CSO Chairman, Amb. Józef Wiejacz, referring to the numerous statements and declarations of the Member States, expressed concern with the development of the situation in Chechnya, and the hope that Russia will follow the road of democracy and principles of CBSS cooperation. The CSO was reassured by the representative of Russia, that Russia is very concerned with the situation in Chechnya, but at the moment there is no need to use the good offices of the Commissioner, though in the future are not excluded. He stressed, that there is no need for concern with the democratic process in Russia.

The CSO agreed, that during the period 1995/1996 the WG will be chaired by Poland.

5. Economic Cooperation

The CSO had two joint meetings with the WG on Economic Cooperation. During the meetings were discussed the action plan of the WG and fields of activity of the Council in the economic sphere. The CSO approved the Report of the WG, chaired by Mr. Pritt Kolbre.

The CSO continued to express large interest in the development of economic cooperation. The CSO discussed the issue of border crossings, cooperation with BCCA and promotion of various activities, promoting the development SME's, in the region (like Baltpartenariat), and progress on Via Baltica.

The CSO agreed, that during the period 1995/1996 the WG will be chaired by

Sweden.

6. Nuclear and radiation safety

The CSO was informed regularly by the WG on Nuclear and Radiation Safety on cooperation and progress in this field. The CSO approved the Report of the WG, chaired by Prof. Antti Vuorinen.

The CSO agreed, that during the period 1995/1996 the WG will continue to be chaired by Finland.

7. Eurofaculty

During the meeting in December the CSO was informed by the Director of Eurofaculty, Mr. T. Miljan, on problems related to the functioning of the Eurofaculty, and supported the idea of organizing a joint meeting with the Steering Committee, in Latvia.

In March, the CSO had a joint meeting with the Steering Committee, during which:

- the SC presented a document on the strategy of development of the Eurofaculty. The elaboration of this document was considered very important by the CSO,
- information was exchanged, and a document was presented, on the present state of activities of the Eurofaculty in Riga, Tartu and Vilnius,
- the representatives of the donor-countries in the Steering Committee reassured about their continued financial support of the project at the present level. The expansion of the project to Kaliningrad will not be possible without new financial contributions,
- the representative of Norway presented information on the results of the experts meeting in Oslo, on the agreement on the status of the Eurofaculty. The CSO expressed its hope, that it will be possible to sign the agreement in 1995. Further meetings of the experts are necessary.

The CSO and the Steering Committee were unanimous, that contacts between them should be closer.

The CSO wished the newly elected Chairman, Prof. Nikolaj Petersen (Denmark), success in their work.

8. Relations with the European Union

During the third year, the CSO developed further relations with the EU. Orientations for a Union Approach towards the Baltic Sea region were distributed to the CSO. The CBSS "Troika" (Estonia, Poland and Sweden) had an informal meeting with the EU presidency and the EC Commission on February 21 in Brussels. During the meeting were discussed areas of common interest and broader engagement of the EU programs in the Baltic Sea region.

9. Coordinative role of the CBSS

In view of the expanding cooperation in the Baltic Sea region, several organizations and institutions have put forward proposals aimed at strengthening of the role of the CBSS. The Council, in particular, took note of the "Report from the Nordic working group concerning strengthening of Baltic cooperation", and during the meeting in December accepted the proposals contained in the report aimed at strengthening of the CBSS, also with respect to international organizations.

The CBSS "Troika" mechanism has been further developed, leading to more efficient decision-making and continued leadership of CBSS.

Important events were held under the auspices of the CBSS:

- meeting of sea ports and maritime economy experts in Naantali, November 14-15, 1994,
- seminar on Legal Regulations and Law Drafting in Helsinki, February 15-16, 1995,
- meeting of energy experts, Tallinn, March 14, 1995,
- workshop on networks and communication in the Baltic Sea area,

The CSO expressed support to the initiative of Finland to hold the first meeting of ministers in charge of economic/industrial questions of CBSS parties, including the European Commission Commissar in question, projected to take place in Sept./Oct. 1995. A letter of invitation was sent by the Finnish Minister of Trade and Industry to his Colleagues in the Baltic Sea region.

The CSO expressed its support to the Baltpartenariat initiative, promoting contacts between small and medium sized companies in the region, of which the first event will be held in Poland in 1996, and accepted the organization of this event under CBSS auspices.

The CSO served as a forum for exchange of information on major ongoing activities in the Baltic Sea region, such as:

- the Conference on Theft and Smuggling of Cultural Objects in the Baltic Sea region (November 22-23, 1994),
- the 9th meeting of the Organizational Committee of Ars Baltica (Gdansk 8-9, 1994)
- the Baltic Sea conference on Combatting Organized Crime (March 23-24, 1995)
- the concept of the Euroregion "Pomerania",
- on cooperation between the Baltic islands (including the project Eurohouse on Saaremaa).

10. The role of CBSS on international fora

The CSO Chairman participated, on behalf of the CBSS, in the OSCE review conference in Budapest (October 21, 1994), and in the meetings on the Stability Pact. His statements and presentation of cooperation in CBSS were fully endorsed by the CSO.

The CSO Chairman also participated on behalf of the CBSS, in the Ministerial Session of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (Athens, April 12-14, 1995).

11. Maritime issues

11.1. Following the tragedy of the ferry "Estonia", during the meeting in November the CSO took up the issue of sea navigation safety. The CSO was acquainted, by Polish experts, with the existing related legal agreements. The CSO was of the opinion, that any new initiatives in this respect should be taken within the framework of the IMO, and recommended to strengthen cooperation between representatives of the CBSS Member States in the IMO, in order to launch new initiatives in that Organization.

The CSO received a letter from the Baltic Tourism Organization, in which special concern was expressed for the need to strengthen navigation safety. The CSO considered this issue as topical and forwarded it to the competent authorities in each country, with a request to examine the proposals.

11.2. During the meeting in November the CSO was acquainted with the activities of the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission, and with the project of the Baltic Fisheries Cooperation Committee. Full support was expressed to the activities of these bodies.

11.3. Under the auspices of the Council was held a meeting of sea ports and maritime economy experts in Naantali, November 14-15, 1994, while a follow-up Conference on Prospects and Perspectives for the Development of Maritime Transport in the Baltic Sea Region, was prepared by Denmark for May 22-23, 1995 in Copenhagen.

The CSO appreciated the outcome of the meeting in Naantali, endorsed the conclusions and expressed its conviction, that continual interest will be paid to cooperation in the field of ports development and maritime economy.

12. Conference on Subregional Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

The subregional cooperation saw a significant development since the I conference, held in Stavanger in October 1993. The second conference, which was held in Travemünde, on October 17-19, 1994, was marked by significant decisions aiming at the consolidation of this sphere of cooperation. The CSO and the WG on EC were invited to the conference.

Following the results of the conference, the CSO accepted the proposals of the Speaker of the Subregional Conference:

- the activities of the Conference will be held under the CBSS umbrella,
- the Speaker of the Conference, or his representative, will be invited to the works of the CBSS, on an ad hoc basis,
- the CBSS in its activities will take into consideration the conclusions from the Subregional Conference.

The CSO welcomed the participation of the representative of the Speaker in the works of the WG on Economic Cooperation.

13. Iceland's membership

During the meeting in March a consensus was reached on Iceland's membership in CBSS. It was agreed, that Iceland's case is exceptional, and will not serve as an precedence. The CSO recommends to the Ministerial Session to accept Iceland as a member of the CBSS.

14. Contacts with regional bodies and organizations

As an expression of the increased coordinative role of CBSS, the Council initiated or broadened its contacts with several regional organizations and discussed areas and ways of cooperation with them.

14.1. BALTIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ASSOCIATION

During the meeting in December, the President of BCCA, Mr. W.R. Janzen informed the CSO on BCCA's activities. The CSO confirmed its continual interest in maintaining close contacts with BCCA.

BCCA presented to the CSO a research project "On potentials for long term development and policy options in the Baltic Sea region". The CSO agreed, that it will inform interested national institutes and research centers about this project.

14.2. HELSINKI COMMISSION

During the meeting in November the CSO was informed by the Executive Secretary of HELCOM, Mr. U. Ehlin on various aspects of cooperation in the field of environment protection in the Baltic Sea region. The information was supplemented by statements from representatives of the Polish Ministry of Environment Protection

and the Ecofund.

The CSO recognized, that it is necessary to speed up the ratification of the Second Convention on Environmental Protection, and to support other activities, which would be in line with HELCOM's program. The CSO invited the competent authorities to study the possibility of utilizing the ecoconversion mechanism to enhance environment protection projects on activities in the region.

14.3. VASAB 2010

Following the III Conference of Ministers for Spatial Planning, which was held in Tallinn, on December 7-8, 1994, the CSO was informed by the head of the VASAB 2010 Secretariat, Mr. B. Lowendahl, on the results of the meeting. The CSO has given its support to the works of VASAB 2010 and its continuation as a part of overall strategy of the CBSS. Certain critical observations have been presented for consideration by the experts in future editions of the report.

The CSO Chairman participated in the works of the newly established Committee for Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea region, which in 1995 is chaired by Poland.

14.4. UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

During the meeting in March, the CSO was informed by the Secretary of the Union of Baltic Cities, Mr. Pawe__aboklicki, on the activities of UBC and on possible areas of cooperation with CBSS. The CSO expressed its appreciation and support for the activities of UBC.

14.5. BALTIC TOURISM COOPERATION

During the meeting in March, the CSO was informed by the Secretary General of BTC, Mr. Arne Ellefors, on cooperation in the field of tourism in the Baltic Sea region. The CSO expressed its interest in the activities of BTC, which form an integral component of the Baltic cooperation, and considered it important to study ways of supporting the BTC's activities.

14.6. TRANS BALTIC NETWORK

During the meeting in March, the CSO was informed by the representative of TBN (a NGO), Mr. Alan Frisk, on the activities of TBN. The CSO expressed its appreciation and continued interest in the activities, and encouraged TBN to continue its interest in CBSS.

14.7. BALTIC UNIVERSITY

During the meeting in March, the CSO was informed by the representative of Gdansk University, Prof. Mieczyslaw Nurek, on cooperation between the University and the Baltic University in Uppsala.

14.8. PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

Following the parliamentary conference in Warsaw, on May 5-5, 1994, the CSO discussed the resolution passed by conference. Contact was established with the Nordic Council and the Inter-Parliamentary Group, and during the meeting in April, a representative from the Secretariat of the Nordic Council informed the CSO about the preparations for the Parliamentary Conference in Bornholm (September 11-13, 1995). During the meeting were discussed ways of promoting cooperation between the two bodies.

15. The Secretariat

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

However, in view of the increased interest in the development of the activities of the Council, especially suggestions for increased coordinative role in the region, several members of the Council have raised the possibility of transforming CBSS from a regional undertaking into an international organization with legal capacity and a permanent secretariat.

16. The Baltic Newsletter

As an expression of the CSO's commitment to improve the flow of information on the ongoing activities and events in the Baltic Sea region, the Chairman decided to issue The Baltic Newsletter. During the period of Poland's chairmanship 5 numbers were issued, and a special one for the IV Ministerial Session. Currently the Newsletter is distributed in each country, through the respective CSO members, to all persons and institutions involved in the Baltic cooperation. It also serves as an information material during various meetings and conferences, and for journalists.

17. Other issues

The CSO discussed the Russian proposal to increase cultural cooperation in the region, based on a cultural convention, but in view of the good progress of cooperation with the Ars Baltica, it didn't consider the issue topical.

The CSO was regularly informed by the member states on progress in cooperation in the Council of the Barents Sea Region and in the Central European Initiative.

The CSO accepted with gratitude the preparation of a statistical bulletin on the Baltic Sea countries by the Polish Central Statistical Office.

Report of the Working Group on Democratic Institutions

CBSS./CSO Working Group
on Assistance to New Democratic
Institutions
Third meeting
Warsaw, 9-10 February 1993

Report to the Council of the Baltic Sea States of the CBSS/CSO Working Group on Assistance to New Democratic Institutions

1. The CBSS/CSO Working Group on Assistance to New Democratic Institutions was established by the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials on 21 May 1992. The CSO decided on the terms of reference of the Working Group (see annex).
2. The Working Group met three times: in Moscow - 22 July 1992, Riga - 5 November 1992' and Warsaw - 9 and 10 February 1993. It concentrated on the elaboration of its program of work and examination of the proposal to establish a commissioner for human rights and protection of national minorities.
3. In the light of its terms of reference the Working Group decided to identify areas, where action would be needed. Delegations circulated proposals, comments and information on on-going and projected activities. On the basis the Working Group conducted a review of already existing- projects and institutions in the' field of assistance to new democratic institutions in the Baltic sea region with a view to elaborating a list of priority areas for cooperation. It considered that it should play an initiating and catalytic role and should not, as a rule be involved in the direct execution of projects.
4. The delegation of the Russian Federation presented draft terms of reference for a Commissioner of the Council of the Baltic sea states for Human Rights and National Minorities It was decided to keep the proposal on the agenda of the Working Group. It was agreed that a detailed analysis of that proposal was needed taking into account the appointment of the CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, as well as relevant missions and other activities of international organizations and institutions in this field.
5. Poland organized a study visit to the Office of the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection for the experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation, financed by the Host country.
6. The Working Group established contacts with the CSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. At the meeting with the Director and the Staff of the CSCE

Office various forms of cooperation were discussed. The Working Group decided to provide the CSCE Office with regular information on its activities.

7. The visit to the Office of the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection (Ombudsman) in Warsaw established a practice of acquainting the Working Group with the work of democratic institutions in member States. It was decided that such visits should be organized in the future each time the Working Group holds its meeting.

The CBSS/CSO Working Group on Assistance to New Democratic Institutions concluded the following:

A. The Working Group reaffirms that only democracy and the rule of law can guarantee individual freedom, respect for human rights, including for persons belonging to national minorities, and socio-economic development. It stresses the necessity to adhere to the goals and principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, in particular those contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Document 1992: the Challenges of Change. In addition it will be guided in its activities by provisions of other relevant CSCE documents, in particular of the Concluding Document of the Copenhagen and Moscow Meetings the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE.

The Working Group considers that the establishment and development of democratic institutions in all States of the area have a vital role for the development of democracy and strengthening of the stability in the Baltic Sea area, as well as in Europe. It will work extensively to promote, support and develop democratic institutions in the area.

The Working Group emphasizes that direct participation of the people in society is a necessary element for the functioning of all democratic institutions and should be encouraged at all levels: in basic civic education; in the media; within civil movements; in political parties; in labour relations; in the professions, most notably in the legal field, in public administration and within the police and the armed forces.

The Working Group considers assistance to establish and develop democratic institutions as a priority area of cooperation within the framework of the Council of the Baltic sea States. In fostering cooperation and promoting concrete projects and programmes the Working Group will - to the extent possible - cooperate with other European institutions and organizations, notably with the Council of Europe and the CSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The Working Group will pay due attention that its activities are complementary to the work of those institutions and organizations.

B. The Working Group proposes to establish the following priority areas for cooperation in the field of assistance to new democratic institutions:

a/ exchange of information and experiences on the functioning of democratic institutions; assistance in establishing new democratic institutions;

b/ establishment of legal and administrative structures, including legislation in the field of public and private law, setting up of constitutional jurisdiction as well as creation of an independent system of justice and administration;

c/ development of local democracy and self-government;

d/ promotion of free press and media;

e/ human rights education; assistance in adaptation to and implementation of international standards and norms on human rights and the rule of law, including in relation to persons belonging to national minorities, refugees and migrants

f/ creation of an information and cooperation network of institutions and research programmes and projects in the field of transition to democracy and development of democratic institutions.

C. The Working Group will initiate and support concrete programmes and projects by national and international institutions and organizations, inter alia, in the form of technical assistance, counselling, organization of conferences, seminars, study tours, fellowships, lectures and orientation courses. It will cooperate with the PHARE and TACIS programme, the Danish Democracy Fund and the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation.

It will use the opportunities provided by various educational and research projects initiated by such institutions as: the Euro-Faculty, the Swedish Institute of International Relations, the Abo Akademi (Finland) courses on Human Rights, the Nordic-Baltic research project. "The Baltic States in Transition towards Democracy", with the University of Aarhus-5-(Denmark) as a coordinator, the Danish-Latvian and the Estonian-Finnish local self-government cooperation programmes, the Norwegian Trade Union Centre for Social Science and Research (FAFO) research projects on the living conditions in the Baltic Sea area.

D. The next meeting of the Working Group should be held in Tallin not later than by the end of July 1993 (date to be announced). This meeting will concentrate on legal cooperation.

Report of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES (CBSS) COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS (CSO) WORKING GROUP ON NUCLEAR AND RADIATION SAFETY (WG)

To be presented at the CSO-meeting in Novgorod Jan 26th 1995

STATUS REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Antti Vuorinen

The previous report of the chairman was given during the meeting in Tallinn eight months ago. Since then the WG has held a meeting in Gdansk on Nov. 3rd 1994, with a total number of 16 participants. The agenda at the Gdansk-meeting consisted among other things of the following items:

HELCOM/EC/MORS information was delivered to the Gdansk meeting because of a HELCOM-meeting organized in Helsinki in June 1994. A decision was made to exchange protocols between the HELCOM/EC/MORS and CBSS/CSO/WG meetings.

The Reference Group for the Baltic Sea Emergency Monitoring Integrated System and Early Warning reported on their meeting in Stockholm in June 1994. The co-operation is advancing in a favourable way. Efforts are under way to develop the Baltic States monitoring system into an integrated part of the Baltic Sea States monitoring network. Together with all this, several task groups are working with special areas such as policy questions, exchange of information, and early warning monitoring systems.

The Paldiski International Expert Reference Group (PIERG) reported on the dismantling of the Paldiski reactors. The spent fuel elements have been timely and safely transported to Russia. Experts staying now in the Paldiski site will continue to dismantle the constructions and remove military components with special value from there. This will go on until the end of September 1995 where after the responsibility for further dismantling and restoring lies on the Estonians. The treatment of radioactive waste waters has been started as a first practical project by a Finnish funding company Imatran Voima Oy.

The WG has also given attention to the development of the radiation and nuclear safety in the Baltic States. Training and assistance are considered as effective and practical ways to advance in the safety culture. The recent radiation incidents in Estonia clearly demonstrate the need for an effective legislation on radiation protection and also for effective enforcement organizations. Remarkable advancements are expected in the Baltic States and in Russia in this area during this year.

Safety aspects around Ignalina and Sosnovyi Bor NPPs have both raised discussion in the WG. Storing large quantities of both medium and low level radioactive waste and spent fuel in the Sosnovyi Bor area marks a potential health hazard. Development of facilities and

practices is needed there. Dismantling of the Salaspils' research reactor and management of spent fuel raises new problems for Latvian authorities, too.

The Barents Sea activity levels have been reported to the Working Group. The programme was started up by the Russians, Norwegians and the Finns.

Continuation of the activities of the WG has been discussed during the Gdansk meeting where certain topics were selected for acquiring further information and for extended discussion. These topics were accepted as:

- current situation in the shut-down of Greifswald NPP (Germany)
- unification of transport regulations in the CBSS countries (general)
- information on problems of Russian Navy radioactive wastes in Kaliningrad and Kola regions, as well as lighthouses with radioactive energy sources in Kaliningrad region (Russia)
- information on the safety problems in Sosnovyi Bor and on waste storage in the region (Russia)
- problems connected with "black market" of nuclear and radioactive materials in the region (Germany)
- progress report on monitoring network (all countries)
- progress report on Sillamäe (Estonia)
- information on possible forms of assistance from EU.

The WG has scheduled its next meeting for the spring of 1995, before the next CSO-meeting if possible. The preference country was Lithuania with a request of excursing the Ignalina plant and receiving the status report from there.

Minutes from the Meeting on 27 March 1996 of the CBSS/CSO Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

The Working Group met in Stockholm on 27 March 1996. The meeting was hosted by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The Agenda of the meeting and List of Participants are annexed.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The chairman, Professor Vuorinen, opened the Meeting. The Minutes from the November 1995-meeting had already been commented on in writing and their final version distributed to the Working Group. The Fourth Report of the Working Group to the CBSS Committee of

Senior Officials at its Meeting in Pskov on January 30 - 31 1996 had also been distributed to the Working Group. Lithuania wanted to amend the Fourth Report slightly as to the statement on the amount of nuclear waste in Lithuania, which is considerable due to the Ignalina nuclear power plant.

The Working Group noted that Iceland now is a member of the Council of Baltic Sea States. The question was raised whether there were any plans to expand the membership of the Council further. Mr Söderberg from the Baltic Sea States Summit Secretariat replied that as far as he knew the Council had decided to keep its membership fixed after the accession of Iceland. Belarus had been mentioned earlier as a possible new member of the Council, but there did not seem to be any accession plans for the moment.

2. Baltic Sea States Summit Visby 3-4 May 1996)

At its November Meeting the Working Group had been informed by Mr Jan Söderberg, of the BSSS-secretariat, of the "History" of the Visby Summit. Now he told the Working Group of later developments in the preparations for the Summit with particular emphasis on the Visby Charter Text on "Energy: Supply and Safety". The Charter text had been discussed at several bilateral meetings with all Baltic Sea States. After that a Negotiating Committee had been established, which was going to hold its fourth meeting on April 10 and 11. The aim was to reach agreement on preferably the whole Charter text, but at least 70 % of it at that meeting. If not, a final meeting was foreseen immediately prior to the Summit itself.

The text of the Charter was becoming quite substantial. Emphasis was laid on the follow-up, with an increased responsibility accorded to the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

The Chairman assumed that most of the Working Group's members had already had occasion to comment on the text through the established channels.

Mr Breest, Germany, wondered whether the Working Group should also take a look at the preambular part of the Charter, which also addresses Nuclear energy. The answer was that this would be premature, since the preambular part will be discussed at a much later stage.

The Working Group then proceeded to discuss the draft text of Chapter 2.5 "Energy: Supply and Safety". The Lithuanian delegation had serious problems with one sentence in the paragraphs on nuclear energy, finding it too harsh: ("Reactors that are less safe should be assessed with a view to their closure at the earliest possible date"). The Lithuanian view, including a redraft of the sentence, was outlined in a paper presented to the Working Group. Russia supported Lithuania. After discussing the matter the Working Group redrafted the paragraph and arrived at a text that was acceptable to all delegations on an ad referendum basis. The Russian delegate made it clear that he participated at the meeting as an observer only. (The revised text is annexed.)

The Group decided to convey the revised text to the Visby Summit Secretariat.

3. Progress Reports on

a) Sllamäe

Mr Putnik, Estonia, reported that a decision to sell the Sillamäe plant had been taken which made future planning a bit easier than before. This decision was however a fairly recent one, so there had not yet been much development since the report made at the November WG meeting. Responsibility for the Sillamäe tailings might be allocated to the ALARA company, created to take care of the Paldiski facility. In ALARA's view this would be a somewhat heavy task.

Mr Snihs, Sweden, on the other hand felt that it would be efficient to give ALARA the responsibility for Sillamäe as a first step towards creating an agency in Estonia responsible for all kinds of radioactive waste. He and Mr Mustonen of Finland informed the Working Group about the joint Estonian-Finnish-Norwegian-Swedish project at Sillamäe and the measures suggested by the project. The privatization discussions in Estonia had delayed recent activities.

With reference to a report on Sillamäe written by consultants from Studsvik in Sweden and published in proceedings of an IAEA-seminar recently, stating that there had as yet not been any leakages from the Dam into the Gulf of Finland, Mr Breest, Germany, proposed that the Working Group should make a statement on Sillamäe, saying that it does no longer constitute a serious risk to the Baltic Sea Area.

In this context Ms Hellström, Sweden, made a comment as to the Working Group's mandate which is to consider problems constituting a serious risk to the entire Baltic Sea Area and make recommendations thereon. Over the four years of its existence, however, the work of the Group has broadened into practical considerations of all kinds of nuclear and radiation problems in the area. It was doubtful whether there was any need for the Group to pronounce itself on Sillamäe giving it an "all clear".

Mr Snihs pointed out that even if the Estonian-Nordic project group has established that leakage does not present any immediate problems today, the situation in the long run is by no means clear. Erosion from the sea may undermine the wall of the deposit and cause radioactive activity to contaminate the Gulf of Finland. Besides the waste deposit itself does not conform to acceptable international standards.

Mr Putnik's view was that Sillamäe is also related to the various codes prohibiting dumping into the Sea. It could not be left without action. The problem with the project group's findings of no immediate danger is that Estonian politicians now believe that there is no need for action. This is not correct.

The Working Group noted with satisfaction the Estonian-Nordic assessments made so far on the Sillamäe deposit, stating that no serious leakages had been observed at the moment.

The Working Group further noticed that the long-term effects were by no means clear and that further national and international efforts were necessary to prevent future negative effects, including the risk for contamination of the Gulf of Finland.

b) Paldiski

Mr Putnik of the Estonian ALARA-company and Mr Snihs, chairman of PIERG (Paldiski

International Expert Reference Group) informed the Working Group about the latest developments concerning the Paldiski reactors. These have been sealed in a sarcophagus for the time being - total decommissioning being too expensive. Considerations now focus in particular on future storage and waste treatment, the possible establishment of a final waste depository for Estonia, perhaps at the Paldiski site and detailed dismantling plans for those buildings which are not needed.

About 14 international projects have been initiated; some of which are already finished.

The next meeting of PIERG will be held in Tallinn on April 23 - 25 1996.

c) Waste management

The Group was informed about the follow-up to the International Seminar on nuclear waste in the Russian Federation (IAEA, Vienna, May 1996). The Contact Expert Group which met in Stockholm in September 1995 had been formally established at a meeting in Moscow on March 13 15 :L996. There had been forty-one participants at the meeting from twelve countries, three international organisations and the European Commission. Six countries had joined the Contact Expert Group at the meeting. The operative decision was to establish a Contact Group secretariat at the IAEA headquarters.

The Working Group also heard reports from the Estonian, German, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish representatives. Questions were put to the Russian representative about developments for the planned Novaja Zemlja waste deposit. He informed the Working Group that an environment impact assessment was discussed for the moment and also that financing of the large deposit was a problem.

The Working Group concluded that a spectrum of different waste problems of varying dimensions exist in all Baltic Sea countries. International co-operation is needed to find practical solutions. Waste management will remain an important item on the Working Group's agenda.

d) Gamma Monitoring Network in the Baltic Sea Area

Mr Snihs informed the Working Group that the Expert Group on Emergency Monitoring System and Early Warning at its latest meeting had discussed practical cooperation projects and had established two (so far) subgroups for this purpose

1) Monitoring Strategies and Policies

(co-ordinator Mr Åke Persson, Swedish Radiation Protection Institute)

2) Communication and Computer System

(co-ordinator Mr Björn Thorlaksen, Danish Emergency Management Agency).

Mr Thorlaksen mentioned that the next meeting of his group will take place on 14 - 15 May. He also pointed out that he had a practical problem to find out which ministry/agency in Russia was responsible for the monitoring network. It transpired that other countries had met with similar problems "reflecting the fact that Russia is a very large country". The Russian

representative promised to take the message back to Moscow.

Having heard these reports **the Working Group** noted that the agreement concluded between the Nordic countries on Exchange of Gamma Monitoring Data on a regular basis was in operation since February 1996.

Other Baltic Sea States were invited to join as soon as the technical and administrative prerequisites were in place. In the Group's view it was important that all Baltic Sea States, including Russia, as soon as possible provide information about which authorities are responsible for gamma monitoring in the respective countries.

The general **conclusion** is that the monitoring network is an important issue which needs to be further developed.

e) Implementation of national nuclear safety and radiation protection legislation

Mr Putnik of Estonia informed the Working Group about the ongoing work on a new Radiation protection legislation which has proved complicated. Nevertheless a bill would hopefully be put to parliament before the summer recess.

Mr Breest of Germany mentioned plans of establishing a joint German-French pressurized reactor, which might call for a new ordinance, since German and French nuclear legislation differ a great deal.

In Latvia the final version of a new legislation for licensing, based on the nuclear safety legislation, had been sent to the Cabinet for approval. Before summer a draft of new Basic Safety regulations would be finalized and sent to the Cabinet.

Furthermore Mr Salmins told the Working Group about plans to improve the regulatory administration. These duties were now divided between the ministries of environment and welfare. The plans were to create one new joint regulatory body in Latvia but it would take time and need a new legislation.

In Lithuania efforts to send a final draft of a new Nuclear Energy Act to parliament had failed. The problem was that the division of responsibility between ministries and agencies/authorities had not yet been sorted out. However, the opinion was that this legislation would be finalized during 1996.

In Poland the nuclear and radiation protection legislation was being reviewed and harmonized with the recently revised Basic Safety Standards of the European Union.

There were no changes in the Norwegian legislation.

In Russia legislation concerning Use of Atomic Energy and Radiation Protection of the Population had been adopted by the parliament.

Sweden distributed a translation into English of its recently revised legislations on Nuclear safety and protection against radiation. Revision work on the legislation for environment impact statements concerning future waste installations was also underway.

After this review **the Working Group** stressed the importance of the existence in all

countries of a valid legislation which very clearly defines the key elements of internationally recognized safety fundamentals and recommendations. This is particularly important for countries operating nuclear reactors. Equally important is the existence of effective independent regulatory agencies.

4. Emergency planning exercises in the Baltic Sea Area

The Working Group was informed about the INEX 2 exercise to take place in Finland in April/May 1997. The Baltic Sea States are taking part in the preparation of that exercise. It will be preceded by the first INEX 2 exercise on a regional basis in Switzerland in November 1996. Similar exercises are planned in Canada in November 1997 and possibly also in Hungary in 1997 or 1998.

The Working Group felt that the Baltic Sea States should participate in the emergency planning exercises to the extent possible. The Group also underlined the importance of a thorough preparation of these exercises for them to be useful.

5. Changes in relation to international agreements and conventions

At its November-meeting the Working Group decided to update the information available on this subject. A preliminary compilation had been distributed before the meeting. It was obvious that further work was needed. It was agreed that all states should provide information in writing to the Secretariat (Mr Ekecrantz of Sweden) before the end of April. It was furthermore agreed that columns should be added to the matrix with information about NPT and the Vienna Convention (Nuclear liability). The Working Group further decided not to include information about agreements on a sub-governmental level (for instance between government agencies in two countries). It was noted that the Nuclear Safety Convention had been ratified by Denmark, Finland, Norway, Lithuania and Sweden and that Germany expected to have finalized its ratification procedures in the near future.

6. Plans for the future of the Working Group

In its minutes from the November 1995 meeting the Working Group listed a number of subjects for its continuous consideration. In addition the following matters were mentioned.

Russia's plans to build the next generation reactors (640 VVER or 800 RBMK) at Sosnovyj Bor.

Plans for upgrading and power increase in reactors in Finland and Sweden.

Decommissioning activities in particular for research reactors.

7. Other activities

Mr Courades of the European Commission distributed a G 24. data bank compilation of ongoing projects in the field of nuclear and radiation protection assistance.

Mr Mustonen, Finland, informed the Working Group about a regional IAEA course on marine environment, to take place in Helsinki in September 1996.

Environmental mapping

Finland and Estonia informed the Working Group on their co-operation in environmental mapping of radioactive sources in Estonia. For reasons of cost effectiveness airborne radiological surveys were used. Airborne surveys had proved to be too costly and not effective as to discovering unknown radiation sources.

In Latvia however airborne surveys were carried out, in co-operation with Denmark. The opinion was that it was not very costly and had shown itself to be useful in Latvia, where conditions are very different from those of Estonia.

Finland informed the Working Group about exercises in aerial mapping systems carried out in Finland during the summer of 1995. Chernobyl-contaminated areas had been mapped and the participants came from Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom in addition to Finland. A full report will be released soon. These exercises will continue as European concerted actions.

Legislation

The Russian representative informed the Working Group that all Russian legislation approved by the Parliament is available on CD-ROM, from a private company called Garant, at the Scientific Park in Moscow. Mr Pankratov offered to provide the address to all interested members of the Working Group.

Latvia was of the view that the Internet Newsgroup System probably also was very useful to get information of radiation protection legislations.

8 Next Meeting

Latvia informed the Working Group that it would assume responsibility of the Council of the Baltic Sea States as from May this year. Next meeting of the Working Group thus will take place in Latvia. Date and further modalities remain to be considered.

Draft Charter of Visby

Suggested revision of para. 4 or the chapter 2.5

Energy: Supply and Safety, or the CBSS/CSO Working-group on Nuclear and Radiation.

27 March 1996

Nuclear safety is of vital importance to the Baltic Sea Region. Bilateral and multilateral programmes are focusing on the strengthening of safety regulatory regimes, as well as the operational and immediate improvements to the technical safety of reactors, particularly those at Ignalina, Sosnovyi Bor and Kola. Less safe reactors that can not be upgraded to an internationally accepted safety level should be assessed with a view of their closure at the earliest possible date.