



## **Annual Report from the Committee of Senior Officials**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Year of the Council's Activity 1995-1996

Presented at the  
Council of the Baltic Sea States  
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# **Annual Report from the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials**

Fifth Ministerial Session, Kalmar 2-3 July 1996

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS, THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE COUNCIL ACTIVITY**

### **1. Introduction**

During the period of Sweden's chairmanship of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), 19 May 1995 - 3 July 1996, the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) conducted its work according to Council directions as outlined in the Copenhagen Declaration, and in the Communiqué of the Gdansk Ministerial Session. The CSO has endeavoured to strengthen co-operation within the CBSS framework, in particular with regard to cross-border activities, as well as on the issue of improving the coordination of Baltic Sea States activities, and the relations to the European Union.

Sweden handed over the CBSS Chairmanship to Latvia at the Fifth Ministerial Session on 3 July. Latvia, in turn, will be succeeded by Denmark for the 1997-98 term.

### **2. CSO Meetings**

The Swedish CSO Chairman visited his colleagues for consultations in the respective capitals during May-July, 1995.

During the Swedish chairmanship, the CSO held nine meetings, i e

\* 5-6 September (Stockholm)

\* 11-12 October (Stockholm). Reports from Working Groups.

\* 8 November (Västerås). Meeting in conjunction with the Third Baltic Sea States Subregional Conference. The CSO was welcomed by the Governor of the County of Västmanland. The spokesman of the BSSSC addressed the CSO.

\* 18-19 December (Stockholm). Partially joint meeting with the WGEC and representatives of EuroFaculty.

\* 31 January (Pskov, Russia). In part joint meeting with the WGEC. Reports from the three Working Groups and the CBSS Commissioner. The meeting was hosted by the Governor of the Pskov Oblast.

\* 5 March (Stockholm). Meeting in conjunction with the Negotiating Committee of the Visby Summit.

\* 10 April (Stockholm). Ibid.

\* 3A June (Stockholm). Reports from working groups; CBSS Commissioner budget.

\* 2 July (Kalmar).

Most CSO members participated in the Visby Summit Negotiating Committee meetings, starting with the one on February 12, 1996.

### **3. Co-operation with the CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, including the rights of Persons Belonging to Minorities<sup>1</sup> Prof. Ole Espersen.**

At the CSO January meeting, the Commissioner informed the CSO about his work based on his first annual report. The Head of the Commissioner's office informed the CSO about the 1996-97 budget at the CSO June meeting. The Commissioner met separately with the CBSS Chairman in Stockholm in April in order to inform himself of the preparations for the Visby Summit and his future role in this context.

The work on the Status Agreement for the CBSS Commissioner has been finalized for signature by CBSS Member States.

#### **4. Assistance to Democratic Institutions.**

The CSO received regular reports on the work of the Working Group. Its chairman, professor Krzysztof Drzewicki (Poland), reported to the CSO at its January meeting. The final report (Annex 1) of the working group and its action plan for 1996-97 was accepted by the CSO at its June meeting. The CSO noted that the working group has been able to include in its proceedings results from the CBSS Commissioner's work. It was agreed that Denmark would chair the Working Group during 1996/1997 (to be succeeded by Latvia in 1997/1998).

#### **5. Economic Co-operation.**

At the CSO-meeting in June the Chairman of the Working Group on Economic Cooperation, Mr Lars Mathlein informed the committee about the work during 1995/96 orally, as the working group had met only the same day to finalize the report. In that report, which was presented a few days later to the CSO Chairman (Annex 2), Mr Mathlein underlined i.a. the need for speeding up the work within the Trans-European Network (a feasibility study should be initiated in order to promote the Via Hanseatica project) and the major role that International Financial Institutions play in the field of economic development in the region.

The European Commission will chair the Working Group during 1996/97.

#### **6. Nuclear and Radiation Safety.**

The CSO heard a status report (Annex 3) of the Working Group at its January meeting. The report was followed up at the June meeting by the Swedish representative in the working group, Mr Lars Ekecrantz, who gave an oral report on the last meeting of the working group during 1995/96 on the basis of minutes of the meeting which was held on 27 March 1996 (Annex 4).

The Chairman of the working group, professor Antti Vuorinen of Finland accepted to remain in the chair for 1996/97.

#### **7. Legal issues.**

The ad hoc working group of legal experts, chaired by Norway, has deliberated on the completion of

- a) the status agreement for EuroFaculty (un-finished) and
- b) the immunities and privileges of the CBSS Commissioner when travelling in CBSS member states other than Denmark.

The working group had also considered issues pertaining to the establishment of a permanent CBSS secretariat. The report of the working group was presented to the CSO at its June meeting.

#### **8. Relations with the European Union.**

EU-CBSS relations had been on the CSO agenda for the duration of the Swedish chairmanship. The CSO was therefore well informed about the work taking place

within the European Commission to prepare for the Commission's Baltic Sea Region Initiative, which was presented by the President of the Commission to the CBSS Heads of Government at the Visby Summit in May, 1996. The CSO had also an opportunity to give a certain input as regards the Initiative.

The Commission's chairmanship in 1996/97 of the Working Group on Economic Co-operation was assumed to enable the further strengthening of CBSS-EU relations.

### **9. Coordinative role of the CBSS.**

The CSO, through an ad hoc working group that held four meetings in 1996, carried out an in-depth investigation into the need and possibility of establishing a permanent secretariat for i.a. the coordination of future Baltic Sea States work. At the aforementioned Visby Summit, Heads of Government asked the Swedish Prime Minister to assure<sup>1</sup> for the time being, the coordination of Baltic Sea co-operation. At its meetings in April and June, the CSO has discussed which bodies should be entrusted with the various responsibilities which the Action Programmes for the Baltic Sea States Co-operation entail. The Chair presents in Annex 5 a working paper entitled "Overview of the Provisions of the Action Programmes and their Operative Consequences - A Checklist for Future Use of the CSO" as a starting point for continuous review.

### **10. The role of the CBSS in international fora.**

In her capacity as CBSS Chairman, the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Lena

Hjelm-Walle'n, participated in

- the Fourth Parliamentary Conference on Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Area at Rønne (Denmark) on 12-14 September, 1995;
  - the Third Baltic Sea States Subregional Conference at Västerås (Sweden) on 8 November 1995;
  - the OSCE Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Budapest in December 1995, to which the CSO Chairman had also been invited.
  - the Heads of Government Baltic Sea States Summit at Visby (Sweden) on 3A May, 1996.
- the Committee of Regions Conference "Progress in the Baltic Sea Region", Kalmar 1 July, 1996.

- The CBSS Chairman visited the President of the European Commission in Brussels on 20 November, 1995.

- On behalf of the CBSS Chairman, the CSO Chairman participated in the 125th anniversary of the Kiel Chamber of Commerce and Industry, January, 1996.

- Together with the Chairman of the Working Group on Economic Co-operation, the CSO Chairman visited the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in Istanbul, on March 1996

- The CSO Chairman was invited to the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Baltic Sea Partenariat 1996. He was represented by the Swedish Embassy in Warsaw.

- The CSO Chairman was also invited to the Annual Meeting of the Central European Initiative in Vienna and was represented by the Polish Troika Member.

At an invitation, the CSO Chairman was represented by the Swedish member of the Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions at the 51st Session of the

UN Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva.

### **11. EuroFaculty.**

The activities of EuroFaculty continued satisfactorily, despite the outstanding problem of its financing and the related issue of the contract of the Director. The Chairman of the Steering Committee as well as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of EuroFaculty reported to the CSO at its December meeting. An extraordinary meeting with the Executive Committee in January included members of the CSO. The question of financing the activities was temporarily solved.

EuroFaculty presented plans for an experimental programme in economics.

The extension to the University of Kaliningrad was high on the priority list of the CSO during the Swedish chairmanship. The initial programme in economics was confirmed during the CSO June meeting.

### **12. Maritime issues.**

\* An additional protocol to the Agreement between the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden regarding the m/s Estonia was signed at Stockholm on 23 April, 1996, and entered into force on the same day. By this Protocol, all States wishing to do so may accede to the Agreement on the protection of the wreck of the m/s Estonia signed at Tallinn on 23 February 1995.

\* The CSO was continuously informed about the development of the International Maritime organization Agreement on Security at Sea of Ro-Ro Ferries.

### **13. Cross-Border Co-operation.**

Under the auspices of the CBSS and with financial support from the Swedish Government and the EU, the Baltic institute at Karlskrona, in co-operation with the Swedish Institute of International Affairs and the Swedish Institute, organised a seminar on cross-border co-operation on 27-28 March 1996. The CSO was informed by several participants of the success of the seminar and the expressed wish for a rapid follow-up.

### **14. Conference of Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation.**

The Third BSSSC Conference was held at Västerås (Sweden) on 8-9 November, 1995. The results of the successful conference, including the workshops on

- 1) Planning and Visions 2010
- 2) Transport and
- 3) Trade/Industry/Education

were presented to the CSO at its December meeting by the BSSSC Speaker. The fourth

BSSSC Conference will be held in the city of Vaasa, Finland, on 17-18 October 1996.

### **15. Other events**

Several events took place during Swedish chairmanship within the framework of the CBSS co-operation.

The Baltic Sea States Summit took place at Visby on 3-4 May.

A Meeting of Experts on Communicable Diseases Legislation was held in

Gothenburg on 26-27 March 1996 (cf below). The CSO was subsequently informed about the importance of the meeting including a wish for further initiatives in the field of health and social affairs.

Other events included

Ministers of Industry and Economic Co-operation Meeting in Helsinki, August 1995

Ministers of Culture Meeting in Tallinn on 10-12 September, 1995

Conference on Combating International Crime in Norway 1 November 1995 and Finland, May 1996

The Second Mare Balticum Conference, Gdansk

Union of Baltic Cities: III General Conference, 8-9 December 1995

### **16. Contacts with regional bodies and organizations.**

In line with the coordinative role of the CBSS, the CSO invited representatives of the following bodies and organizations to present their activities during the Swedish chairmanship:

- Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area/Nordic Council of Ministers

Baltic Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA)

- Helsinki Commission on Environmental Protection (HELCOM) Union of Baltic Cities (UBC)

- Baltic Tourism Cooperation (BTC)

- Baltic Ports Organization (BPO)

- VASAB 2010

- Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Conference (BSSSC) Baltic Institute in Karlskrona, Sweden

- Baltic Institute in Tampere, Finland

### **17. The CSO Secretariat**

The Swedish CBSS Chair has provided CBSS Members and the CSO with documentative, administrative and coordinating services during the chairmanship. These functions would be continued by the next Chair.

### **18. CBSS Troika.**

The informal coordination of the CBSS activities was carried out by the so-called "Troika" (at present Poland, Sweden and Latvia), enabling better information exchange and more effective decision-making.

The "Troika" met in Stockholm on 4 September, in Västerås on 9 November 1995, in Stockholm on 3 June 1996, as well as in Kalmar on 1 July 1996. All meetings took

place in conjunction with ordinary CSO meetings. The "Troika" kept in touch regularly between CSO meetings on an informal yet constructive basis.

**19. Information.**

The Swedish Chair provided a new "list of initiatives", in the shape of the book entitled

"Actors around the Baltic Sea".

The Polish CBSS Member kindly continued publishing "The Baltic Newsletter".

Regular information was received on the activities of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council as well as the Central European Initiative.

# Report of the Working Group on Economic Co-operation

## COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES WG on Economic Co-operation

### REPORT TO CBSS/CSO

#### I. ACTION PLAN FOR 1996/1997

The Working Group suggest that the following documents constitute the basis for the future work.

I) Action Programme, "**Economic Integration and Prosperity - A Programme for Sustainable Development**", proposed by the Baltic Sea States Summit Negotiating Committee, Visby 2 May 1996.

II) "**The Baltic Sea Region Initiative**", proposed by the European Commission, Visby 2 May 1996.

III) Different reports and analysis from the business sector e.g. "**The Stockholm Declaration on Growth and Development in the Baltic Sea Region**", signed by business leaders at the Baltic Sea Business Summit, Stockholm 24-25 April 1996 and "**Annual Report 1995**" Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association.

#### In the short term perspective:

It is important to maintain flexibility and to make it possible for the entering chairmanship of the CSO and the WG to express their ambitions.

As examples of important tasks for the future the WG would like to mention;

1. The need for speeding up **border crossing** and **customs procedures**. In this context it is important to **establish a focal point** for monitoring problems and progress in this field.

2. The need for speed up the work within the Trans-European Networks. Means should be examined for improving the **Via Hanseatica** (St Petersburg-Tallinn-Riga-Kaliningrad-Gdansk).

3. Improvement of the co-operation in the field of **energy**.

4. **Land reform**, including land registration, registration of ownership rights and the development of digital maps.

5. The Working Group would also like to emphasize the important role which the **International Financial Institutions** play in the development of the Baltic Sea region.

## II. ACTIVITY REPORT 1995/96

### Meetings

During the Swedish chairmanship the Working Group held six meetings of which three in Stockholm, one in Pskov (The Russian Federation), one in Tampere (Finland) and one in Västerås (Sweden).

### Representation

The Working Group Members participated in The Third Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation Conference at Västerås on 8 -9 November 1995 and The Baltic Sea Hansa Business Days at Tampere on 27-28 March 1996.

The WG chairman visited together with the chairman of the CSO the Secretariat of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on 20-22 March 1996 in Istanbul.

### Seminars

Sweden arranged two seminars:

- Expert meeting on **Trade related legislation**, 7-8 September (Stockholm).
- **Land reform**, 17-18 June (Stockholm).

### Invited representatives

Ms Agneta Bigrell, Assistant director. Swedish Board of Customs.  
( September 1995)

Mr Wolf-Rudiger Janzen, President. Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association  
(December 1995)

Mr Jim Widmark, Director General, Adviser to the Swedish Government  
(December 1995)

Mr Per Schmidt, Secretary General, The Baltic Sea Ports Organization  
(December 1995)

Mr Arne Mogren, Coordinator European Regulatory Affairs, Vattenfall AB  
(January 1996)

Mr Axel Martens, Secretary General, Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association  
(March 1996)

# Report of the Working Group on Democratic Institutions

## REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ASSISTANCE TO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Since the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the CBSS in Gdansk, on 18-19 May 1995, the Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions held five Meetings under the chairmanship of Poland which followed that of Sweden:

**1. At its 13th meeting in Warsaw on 30 June 1995** the Working Group discussed implementation of the Programme of Action and its future work

The Working Group assessed a state of preparations to a seminar on "Status and Functioning of Non-governmental organisations" to be held in Tallinn, on 8-10 September 1995 as well as to a seminar on "Combatting Negative Social Consequences during the Transition Period to a Market Economy" to be held in Vilnius on 20-23 November 1995.

The Working Group decided to accept a proposal by Poland to host a seminar on freedom of the press and media.

As far as its future work is concerned, the Working Group held a preliminary discussion on practical modalities for implementation of the decision by the Fourth CBSS Ministerial Council in Gdansk to the effect that "The Working Group shall include in their proceedings the results of the Commissioner's work" (Para. 12 in fine of the Communiqué). An idea of inviting the Commissioner was accepted

Following an emerging pattern of the Working Group to familiarise itself with the operation of selected arrangements for democracy in the host country, a meeting with the Polish Ombudsman was organised. The Ombudsman informed the participants of his mandate and problems he faced in his seven years' work for the promotion and protection of human rights

**2. At its 14th meeting in Warsaw on 28 September 1995** the Working Group discussed implementation of the Programme of Action and its future work

The Working Group assessed a seminar on "Status and Functioning of Non-governmental organisations" which was held in Tallin, on 8-10 September 1995. While having positively assessed the Seminar, the Group pointed out that in the future the participants should be given more time for a discussion in working groups. A concern was expressed about little or no participation in the seminar by Government delegates from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Russia

The Working Group assessed also a state of preparations to a seminar on "Combatting Negative Social Consequences during the Transition Period to a Market Economy" to be held in Vilnius on 20-23 November 1995. With a view to its better preparation the Working Group accepted a suggestion by Lithuania to postpone the

seminar until February 1996. With regard to a seminar on freedom of the press and media a detailed substantive proposal of Poland for its programme was discussed and accepted

The Group continued a discussion on the ways of including in its proceedings the results of the work by the CBSS Commissioner. In anticipation of its next meeting to which the Commissioner was invited, the Working Group exchanged views about specific topics for discussion on issues of common concern.

The Working Group devoted also a part of its meeting to discussing extensive information by Sweden on preparations to a meeting of the Baltic Prime Ministers in Visby in 1996. The Group expressed its wish to be regularly informed about further stages of work on a draft Visby declaration and to be involved in the consultation process.

**3. At its 15th meeting in Warsaw on 15 December 1995** the Working Group discussed implementation of the Programme of Action and its future work.

The Working Group was presented a report by Lithuania on preparations to a seminar on "Combatting Negative Social Consequences during the Transition Period to a Market Economy" to be held in Vilnius on 22-23 February 1996. Further organisational aspects of a seminar on freedom of the press and media were presented by Poland and the Group accepted its postponement until April 1996.

As far as the future Programme of Action is concerned, Estonia submitted a proposal concerning different forms of possible follow-up to the seminar on status and functioning of non-governmental organisations which was held in Tallinn in September 1995. The Working Group found the whole proposal a valuable idea and wished to be informed on its implementation

The Group was also informed by Sweden about results of further consultation on draft Visby declaration. With a view of its further involvement in preparations to the Visby meeting of Prime Ministers, the Working Group decided to fix a date of its next meeting so as to have an opportunity to contribute to the consultation process of the provisions of a declaration concerning a democratic pillar of the CBSS.

Upon an invitation of the Working Group its meeting was attended by the CBSS Commissioner. Exchange of views that followed a brief presentation by the Commissioner was very valuable and useful. Discussion concentrated on various problems of surveys prepared or under preparation by the Commissioner in co-operation with the Governments. There was an agreement as to the need of further feedback and co-ordination of activities between the two bodies, while bearing in mind their distinct mandates. For instance it was accepted that there is a need for harmonisation of topics proposed for seminars with those problems which are covered by surveys of the Commissioner. A part of discussion was devoted to individual complaints procedure. In this respect, a proposal was submitted to organise, with the help of the Commissioner, a training for civil servants dealing in their respective ministries with complaints under international supervisory procedures

for human rights.

**4. At its 16th meeting in Warsaw on 12 March 1996** the Working Group discussed implementation of the Programme of Action and its future work.

The Working Group was presented a further report by Lithuania on the state of preparations to a seminar on "Combatting Negative Social Consequences during the Transition Period to a Market Economy" to be held in Vilnius after a change of a date, on 7-8 May 1996.

Further organisational aspects of a seminar on freedom of the press and media were presented by Poland and the Group accepted its postponement until late spring 1996.

The Group was also informed by Sweden about the results of further consultation on the draft Visby declaration. With a view of its further involvement in preparations to the Visby meeting of Prime Ministers, the Working Group decided to fix a date of its next meeting so as to have an opportunity to contribute to the consultation process the provisions of a declaration concerning a democratic pillar of the CBSS.

As far as the future Programme of Action is concerned, the Group had a preliminary exchange of views on its content and several conceptual as well as concrete proposals were made. Having in mind the forthcoming Kalmar Ministerial Meeting the Group decided to finalise its discussion and drafting proposals for the future Programme of Action at its next meeting in May.

**5. At its 17th meeting in Warsaw on 24 May 1996** the Working Group discussed implementation of the Programme of Action and its future work.

The Chairman informed the Group on the written report submitted by Estonia on the Follow-up meeting to the seminar "Status and Functioning of Non-Governmental Organisations" which was held in Tallin on 15-16 March 1996. The Working Group was presented written and oral information by Lithuania about the seminar on "Combatting Negative Social Consequences during the Transition Period to a Market Economy" which took place in Vilnius on 7-8 May 1996. The Group expressed its wish to have the reports presented at the seminar and its conclusions distributed as widely as possible among all the Baltic governments and their social partners. The Working Group was also presented information on further preparations to a seminar on freedom of the press and media, which were presented by the delegate of the Polish Information Agency - the organiser of the seminar. After an extensive discussion the Group decided to postpone the seminar and fixed its date for 6-8 September 1996 in order to ensure the proper preparation of reports and other indispensable arrangements.

The Group was also informed by Sweden about the results of the Summit of the Baltic Prime Ministers on 2-3 May 1996 and particularly of the draft provisions of the Action Programmes for the Baltic Sea States Co-operation envisaged to be adopted by the

Fifth Ministerial Session in Kalmar. The Group decided to take account of the momentum generated by the Visby Summit in its further discussion on the Programme of Action on a democratic pillar of the CBSS.

Following an established practice of arranging exchange of views with national institutions active in the field of promotion of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, the Polish Chairmanship invited the representatives of the Helsinki Committee in Poland to present at the meeting their experience in promoting democratisation process and reinforcing the rule of law in Poland, including their perception of impediments in the process at issue. Both a presentation of their activities by the delegates of the Helsinki Committee in Poland and a subsequent discussion proved a profound interest of the Group in a pluralistic approach to further debates and promotion of the arrangements for developing civic society in the Baltic region.

As far as the future Programme of Action is concerned, the Group continued its earlier discussion on the draft programme and several conceptual as well as concrete proposals were made. An effort was made in particular to adjust the future of Programme of Actions to recommendations for the Kalmar Ministerial Meeting. In this context, the Group found with appreciation a very active and conceptual attitude by the delegate of Denmark who is to take over the Chairmanship of the Working Group. The results of the debate, upon which consensus of the Group was achieved, with regard to the Programme of Action are reflected in final conclusions of the present report

## **6. Conclusions of the Report and Proposal for the Future Programme of Action**

**(1)** Under its terms of reference the Working Group has continued to deal with the issues of further development of democratic institutions in the Baltic Sea states, with particular attention to the countries in transition. Taking account of its mandate to study and report on obstacles to development of democratic institutions as well as to make recommendations on ways to contribute to further democratisation process, the Working Group deals both with organisational and substantive matters. Such an approach needs to be continued and strengthened. The Group will further strive towards a role as catalyst and try to facilitate activities which fall under its mandate.

**(2)** As mandated by the Gdansk Ministerial Session of the CBSS, the Working Group established contacts and arranged the very first exchange of views with the CBSS Commissioner to achieve better coordination in implementation of their distinct mandate. In its further action to that end the Working Group will work towards establishing a regular pattern of contacts with the Commissioner in order to work out a more profound feedback between the two bodies. In this respect the Group felt that the Commissioner might draw the conclusions of the seminars sponsored by the Group in his selection of further themes for surveys and for his follow-up activities. On its part, the Group will seek to become more operative on the issues and problems elaborated and obstacles identified by the Commissioner in his surveys. The fact that the forthcoming meetings of the Working Group will be held in Copenhagen may facilitate future contacts between the Group and the

Commissioner.

**(3)** The Working Group reached a consensus on the desire to organising a seminar on the complaints procedure under different international arrangements, including those wider the mandate of the Commissioner, the European Convention on Human Rights and other international instruments. The Group took account in this respect of a commendable fact that all the states of the CBSS, after admission of Russia, are members of the Council of Europe. In expectation of ratification of the European Convention on Human Rights by Latvia and Russia in the near future, the Working Group has thus expressed its support for an idea of convening a seminar for governmental officials dealing, or going to deal, with the procedural and substantive modalities of complaints procedures.

**(4)** The Working Group has accumulated a valuable experience in the field of exchange of views with national institutions for the promotion of pluralist democracy, the rule of law and human rights by arranging parts of its meetings for discussions with the Polish Ombudsman and the Helsinki Committee in Poland. The Group found particular usefulness of this method of its operation and commends its further continuation. Several members of the Group pointed out however that a special emphasis should be made to have more meetings arranged with representatives of non-governmental organisation as well as that a regular exchange of views should take place on progress on constitutional and other reforms undertaken in the field of strengthening of the rule of law and human -as in the Baltic region.

**(5)** The Working Group has been largely preoccupied with discussing the proposal preparations and results of the Baltic seminars on specific issues This activity has proved to be successful due to a selection of topical issues for a further improvement in the democratic process (e.g. local democracy, non-governmental organisations, negative social consequences during the transition period to a market economy, and freedom of the press and media). In this context, the Group would suggest that fixture seminars follow a well established model of the OSCE seminars to draft extensive conclusions and recommendations of substantive and procedural nature for policy-making by the governments concerned, so as to have generated an operational feedback on strengthening the democratic - in the Baltic Sea States region.

**(6)** The Working Group is accumulating experience and will gradually seek to move towards making specific suggestions on substantive issues and conclusions for a domestic feedback (e.g. like those of the OSCE);

**(7)** The Working Group will explore the possibilities of promoting proposals submitted by some CBSS states to other international fora as well as their domestic implementation and dissemination (e.g. a successful example is a co-ordination and co-sponsorship of draft Declaration on Minimum Humanitarian Standards as promoted in the United Nations and the OSCE).

**(8)** The Working Group has also expressed its position especially in regard to items 1.1.1.5 and 1.6 of the draft Action Programmes for the Baltic Sea States Co-operation. The Group is of the firm opinion that it may contribute to the achievement

of these objectives by its direct or indirect action, if mandated to do so by the CSO and the Ministerial Session.

Warsaw, 30 May 1996.

# Report of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

Council of the Baltic Sea States  
Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

## Fourth Report of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

1. The Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (WG) was set up by a decision of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) of the Council of the *Baltic* Sea States (CBSS) 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 risk to the Baltic Sea region.

The first report of the WG was presented to the CSO on 7 May 1993. The second report was presented to the CSO on 18-19 May 1994 and to the Council during its Third Ministerial Session held in Tallinn on 24-25 May 1994. The third report was presented in Gdansk 18-19 May 1995. Since then the WG, under the chairmanship of Professor Antti Vuorinen, Director General of the Finnish Centre for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (STUK), has held one meeting; in Stockholm on 7th of November 1995. The meeting was followed by technical visit to Forsmark SFR on 8th of November. During the last year the secretarial functions of the WG have been taken care of Ms. Elisabeth Hellström, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

2. The Working Group was presented with information on the Baltic Sea State Summit to be held in Visby 3-4 May 1996. The working Group found that its recommendations from 1993 were by and large still relevant and considered the following elements of special current interest and also to have relevance for a possible inclusion in a Visby Declaration on nuclear safety:
  - Nuclear safety in the Baltic Sea region is of common interest to all Baltic Sea States.
  - Internationally agreed safety levels should be followed in all Baltic Sea States.
  - There is a common interest to develop monitoring networks to measure radiation levels in all Baltic Sea States.
  - Baltic Sea States have a common interest in the development of an international convention on radioactive waste covering all kinds of nuclear waste. The principles of the convention should be followed by all Baltic Sea States.
  - Traffic beyond Baltic Sea States' borders of dangerous materials should be discovered and effectively prevented.
  - The importance of adherence to all relevant international conventions and agreements and internationally agreed recommendations should be underlined.

3. At Stockholm meeting under special review was the management of radioactive waste and gamma monitoring network on Baltic Sea area. In countries like Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania the amount of waste is not very large. However, problems arise with management of spent and fresh fuel, long living alfa sources and some other highly active materials such as used control rods.

In Russian Federation there are large amounts of radioactive waste not adequately, stored, also in Baltic Sea area. Practical measures to improve the situations proceed slowly. WG may facilitate the exchange of information in this issue. As a result of cooperation there is established a gamma monitoring network covering rather well Baltic Sea area. Further development of this network is going on. WG may effectively facilitate exchange of information also in this issue.

Communication of abnormal radiation situations, illicit trafficking, unification of transport regulations and participation of BSS in international agreements and conventions were also discussed.

4. The WG agreed on a preliminary basis to draw up a list of subjects which merit continued attention by the WG. In order to decide on priorities the list should be sent out for further consideration before next meeting of the WG. So far the following subjects are on the list:
  - Continued monitoring of projects and development in Sillamäe
  - Continued monitoring of developments in Paldiski
  - Waste management developments
  - Developments in waste depositories
  - Continued follow up of expert group on emergency monitoring system and early warning
  - Exchange of monitoring system data/automatic measuring systems
  - Emergency planning exercises
  - Follow up on nuclear safety and radiation protection legislations
5. The WG decided to hold the next meeting on March 27, 1996.

