



**Annual Report from the Committee of Senior Officials
The 8th Year of the Council's Activity 1999-2000**

**Presented at
9th Ministerial Session of the
Council of the Baltic Sea States,
Bergen, 21-22 June 2000**

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Annual Report from the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) (1999-2000)

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The CSO has held 10 meetings during the Norwegian presidency in 5 different cities: Oslo, Stockholm, Tallinn, Brussels and Moscow. The meetings were chaired by Ambassador Harald Neple of Norway except the meeting in January 2000, which was chaired by deputy director general, Ms. Siri Sletner. A list of main topics addressed at each meeting is in attachment 2.

The CSO troika has held two meetings; in Oslo in August 1999 to co-ordinate the transition to Norwegian chairmanship and in Berlin in March 2000 to co-ordinate the transition to German chairmanship.

Baltic Sea States Summit, Kolding 12-13 April 2000

The CSO held 5 meetings in special session for preparation of the summit. The summit recommended a consolidation within the framework of the CBSS of all regional intergovernmental co-operation among the group of CBSS members. The summit also asked the CBSS to follow up on this and the previous summits.

Northern Dimension

The CSO and the working groups have on several occasions discussed the role of the CBSS in the Northern Dimension. The CSO meeting on 3 May was entirely dedicated to consultations on the Commission's draft action plan for the Northern Dimension. The EU Presidency participated in the consultations. The CSO offered the CBSS as a flexible partner in the further development and implementation of the action plan.

Regional and municipal co-operation, cross-border co-operation

The CSO has continued the practice of close contacts with the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation and the Union of the Baltic Cities, both of which have status as special participants. Their representatives have participated in meetings of the CSO and made proposals for closer co-operation with the CBSS. It was agreed that closer co-operation was called for also at the working group level.

The CSO has on several occasions discussed mechanisms for financing of sub-regional co-operation on the basis of a Danish proposal. An expert meeting on the proposal was held on 31 May.

Cross border co-operation was a central theme of the CSO meeting in February in Bruxelles. The CSO was informed about the various EU programmes in the region and discussed the desirability of better co-ordination of the three EU instruments (Phare, Tacis, Interreg). The special situation for Kaliningrad Oblast in light of the EU enlargement was considered. An updated list of projects carried out in Kaliningrad was prepared.

Civil Security

A work programme presented by Sweden was approved by the CSO in November 1999. A supplement was approved in January 2000. Sweden was requested to take the lead, in close co-operation with other member states, to further develop the co-operation among the various agencies active in this area. The CSO asked the Secretariat to update the document on Developments in the Field of Civil Security when warranted (Doc. No. CSO-01/00-01). A report from Sweden on activities in the field is enclosed, annex 5.

Strengthening of the EuroFaculty

Following the decision of the ministerial session in 1999 to strengthen the EuroFaculty, the CSO has held meetings with the chairman of the steering committee, Mr. Ilkka Turunen of the Finnish Ministry of Education, and the director of the EuroFaculty, Professor Arild Saether. At its meeting in May 2000, the CSO approved new statutes based on proposals from the steering committee.

The CSO has studied the possible problems related to the legal status of EuroFaculty.

The CSO has kept itself informed about the financial situation of the EuroFaculty in general and at the individual centres as well as problems related to Phare financing for the EuroFaculty

Re-establishment of the EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad

The CSO has in several meetings discussed the re-establishment of the EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad. At its meeting in November it asked the EuroFaculty steering committee and the CBSS Secretariat to examine the feasibility. In January it was decided to ask Ms. Gunvor Barnholt of the Danish Ministry of Education as representative of the EuroFaculty steering committee, with assistance of experts and the Secretariat, to make a proposal. At the meeting in March it was concluded that the project proposal had received strong general support. Denmark was appointed as lead country for the project. At the CSO meeting in May it was concluded that the basis was created for launching the project.

Democratic institutions and human rights

The CBSS Commissioner informed the CSO about his activities at the meeting in January. In addition, he has kept the CSO informed through written reports on specific issues. Reference is made to the annual report from the Commissioner.

The CSO has negotiated a revised mandate for the Commissioner on the basis of the work done in the Working Group for Democratic Institutions.

The CSO was kept informed about the development concerning Children at Risk and the establishment of a reference group under Norwegian chairmanship to be supported by the Swedish secretariat for children at risk.

CBSS structure and working methods

The CSO elaborated a document on a "Review of the Structure and Working Methods of the CBSS" based on a Norwegian proposal from October 1999. The Third Baltic Sea States Summit recommended that the suggestions in the document should be implemented by the CBSS. The working groups have undertaken a review of their working methods and their terms of reference. This process will continue under the German presidency.

Third party participation

At the CSO meeting in November, the Chairman concluded that the application from Italy for observer status would be answered favourably. CBSS has hereafter 5 observers: France, Italy, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States. All have participated in CSO meetings to present their activities in the region.

The status of special participant was granted in May to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) following a recommendation from the Working Group on Economic Co-operation. The CBSS has thereafter 4 special participants. During the Lithuanian presidency the status was granted to the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Co-operation (BSPC), the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation (BSSSC) and the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC).

Other intergovernmental fora for regional co-operation

The presidency, the CSO and the working groups have maintained contacts with other regional organisations, in particular the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC). The chairman of the CSO of the BEAC participated in the CSO meeting in February 2000. Closer contacts were established at the subregional level between the UBC, the BSSSC and the BEAC Regional Council

Working groups

The CSO has monitored the work of the three working groups. Annual reports from the groups are annexed.

CBSS secretariat

The budget for the Secretariat for 2000 was approved by the CSO in October 1999. A set of financial rules for the Secretariat was adopted in September 1999. The CSO took note of the 1999 financial accounts of the Secretariat in May 2000.

The CSO has approved the establishment of an energy unit within the CBSS Secretariat to support the energy co-operation. The unit is financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers and voluntary contributions. It is staffed by two energy specialists who started work on 3 April 2000.

The annual report from the Secretariat is annexed.

Contacts with special participants and other organisations

Representatives of the following have participated in CSO meetings:

- Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation, BSSSC
- Union of the Baltic Cities, UBC
- Baltic Sea Parliamentary Co-operation, BSPC
- Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association, BCCA
- Baltic Development Forum
- Stockholm Chamber of Commerce as organiser of Baltic Sea Business Summit
- Task Force on Organised Crime
- Group of Senior Energy Officials, GSEO
- Baltic 21

Meetings with other states:

Representatives of the following observer states have each participated in a CSO meeting: France, Italy, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

In addition the CSO has had one or more meetings with the following institutions forming part of the CBSS Structure:

- CBSS Commissioner
- EuroFaculty
- Baltic Business Advisory Council, BAC

Overview of CSO meetings during the Norwegian presidency

The CSO held 10 meetings during the Norwegian presidency 1999/2000 with the following main topics:

16-17 September in Oslo:

Presentation of the Norwegian work programme for the CBSS and follow up after the ministerial session. Work programmes of the working groups. Financial rules of the Secretariat. Strengthening of the EuroFaculty.

19-20 October in Stockholm:

Structure and working methods of the CBSS. Energy. Northern Dimension. EU Common Strategy on Russia. EuroFaculty. Budget of the Secretariat.

18-19 November in Tallinn:

Organisation of work on civil security. EuroFaculty (legal status, re-establishment in Kaliningrad, financial situation). Presentations by United States and Ukraine. Task Force on Organised Crime. Activities of BAC and BCCA. Preparation of ministerial meeting on trade and economic co-operation. Energy unit in the Secretariat. Northern Dimension. Observer status to Italy.

15-16 December in Oslo:

Danish proposal for a financing mechanism for sub-regional co-operation. Conference on local government and decentralised co-operation. Sub-regional and cross-border co-operation. Co-operation with Kaliningrad Oblast and other Russian regions. Northern Dimension. EuroFaculty.

19-20 January in Oslo

Energy unit in the Secretariat. Activities of the CBSS Commissioner. Children at Risk. Women and Democracy. EuroFaculty. Re-establishment of the EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad. Mandate of the CBSS Commissioner. Funding mechanism for sub-regional co-operation. Special session on preparation of the summit.

8-9 February in Brussels:

EU policies and programmes in the region. Funding mechanism for sub-regional co-operation. Kaliningrad. Sub-regional and municipal co-operation. Activities of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. Mandate of the CBSS Commissioner. Special session for preparation of the summit.

22-23 March in Oslo:

Working methods of the working groups and review of the mandates. Preparation of next CBSS ministerial session. EuroFaculty (strengthening, re-establishment in Kaliningrad). Presentation by observer states, France and United Kingdom. Fund for cross-border co-operation. Children at Risk. Baltic Development Forum. Special session for preparation of the summit.

6 April in Oslo

Special session for preparation of the summit.

3 May in Oslo:

Northern Dimension action plan.

10-11 May in Moscow:

Preparation of the ministerial session. EuroFaculty (strengthening, re-establishment in Kaliningrad). Civil security. Mandate of the CBSS Commissioner. Follow up after the Baltic Sea States Summits.

7-8 June in Oslo

Preparation of the ministerial session. Observer state Italy. Civil Security. EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad. Funding mechanism for sub-regional co-operation. Ad hoc group on IT. German presidency programme.

Annual Report from Working Group on Economic Co-operation

July 1999 - June 2000

I. Introduction.

During the working period July 1999-June 2000 the Working Group followed the priorities for the Norwegian chairmanship on 'expanding economic co-operation'. Based on these guidelines the work of the Group focused on the support of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), the reduction of barriers to trade and investment and the preparation of the Meeting of Ministers for Trade and Economic Co-operation in Bergen on 7-8 February 2000.

In order to follow-up on practical results, a survey on the progress on implementation of the recommendations in the *'Memorandum on Conditions for Growth and Development in the Baltic Sea Region'* was finalized.

Co-operation with the Business Advisory Council (BAC), the Baltic Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA) the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) and the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was continued and intensified.

II. List of meetings

During the period July 1999 - June 2000 the Working Group on Economic Co-operation (WGEC) held six meetings. All meetings were chaired by Norway.

- 1.) Oslo, September 14-15. In its first meeting the WGEC discussed the Survey on Business recommendations, Barriers to Investment, Northern Dimension, Fight against Corruption, the development of an SME Information system, Business Incubators and Trade Legislation.
- 2.) Stockholm, October 8. This meeting was entirely dedicated to preparation of the meeting of ministers for Trade and Economic Co-operation in Bergen in February 2000. (Practical issues, format and topics of the ministerial meeting).
- 3.) Helsinki, November 25-26. On November 25 the Group had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Economic Co-operation of the BEAC. The meeting elaborated on the role of regional councils in the implementation of Northern Dimension and the investment climate in Russia. On November 26 the WGEC had its regular meeting, focussing on preparation of the draft Action Plan for the ministerial meeting in Bergen.
- 4.) Oslo, January 13-14. The meeting dealt with a BAC paper on 'Financial markets in the Baltic sea region', the work of the Task Force on Certification, the structure and working methods of the CBSS and the final preparation of the ministerial meeting in Bergen. The Secretariat presented the Survey on implementation of recommendations from the above Memorandum.

- 5.) Berlin, March 20-21. The meeting elaborated the follow-up of the Action Plan from the ministerial meeting in Bergen: Information System for SMEs, Fight against corruption and task Force on Conformity assessment and protection of intellectual property rights. The Group discussed with representatives from the OECD further common activities and finalised a discussion paper on the working methods of the WGEC.
- 6.) Oslo, May 3-4. The meeting focused on the follow up of the Bergen Action Plan. The Annual Report to the CSO was discussed and adopted. The Group discussed again the further co-operation with the OECD. The Group also discussed a project proposal by the BTC on Tourism and the next year's activities of the Working Group under German presidency.

III. Follow-up and initiatives.

Priority was given to the preparation of the conference of Ministers for Trade and Economic Co-operation. One 'special Working Group meeting' in October was entirely devoted to this subject. The conference was held on 7-8 February 2000 in Bergen. The ministers adopted an Action Plan that provides guidelines for the future work of the Working Group on economic co-operation. The Action Plan also includes a provision for a progress report by June 2001.

The Working Group continued the discussion and work on administrative barriers to investment. Based on an earlier study by Dr Hirvensalo, the Helsinki School of Economics presented a feasibility study on: 'Norms, Institutions and Business Culture around the Baltic Sea region'. Finland acts as the lead country for next steps in direction of a comprehensive study on this issue. Also the BAC gave input on this particular issue and prepared a paper on 'The Financial markets in the Baltic Sea region'. A CBSS/OECD conference on 'Investment conditions in the Russian North/West' was held in St. Petersburg in September 1999.

The Group dealt intensively with the protection of intellectual property rights. The objective is to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of intellectual property rights. A seminar was organized in Sweden in May this year. After the seminar an ad hoc task force will be established to deal with topics such as the implementation of adequate intellectual property rights legislation and enforcement.

With regard to conformity in standards and certification requirements the Working Group is supporting the development of conformity assessment procedures covering the fields of metrology, testing, certification, accreditation and market surveillance in the Baltic Sea region. A joint CBSS/BEAC task force on 'Conformity Assessment between the Baltic Sea States' was established. The task force met twice and presented a first work program.

A report with the title: 'International Trade Legislation in the Baltic Region' was published in December 1999. The report was based on a seminar on trade legislation named "International Trade in the 2000s" which was held on April 19-20 1999 in Stockholm. The seminar was organized by Sweden.

The Working Group continued its support for the BCCA project on border crossing. The objective that the clearance time for border crossings should be less than 2 hours by the end of 2001 is seen as an important step to improve the situation for trade. In this context

the Working Group supported the Conference of Customs Officials in Gdansk in September 1999 and invited them to take the required measures in order to reach the objective.

The Working Group continued their efforts to support Small and Medium Sized Enterprises(SME's). Based on the decision of the Ministers of Trade and Economy at their meeting in July 1998, the development of a regional internet based information network continued. A model was presented at the conference of Ministers for Trade and Economic Co-operation in Bergen. The project has now reached phase II and it is envisioned to have an operational system established by the end of this year.

The Working Group discussed the initiative of the EU Baltic Sea Partenariat to be held in Riga in 2001. The EU Baltic Sea Partenariat is a joint project of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Sweden and Germany. It is also supported by the BCCA and the Swedish National Board for Industrial and Technical Development. The purpose of the Partenariat is to promote the networking and cross-border co-operation for SMEs in the Baltic Sea region.

The Working Group has had an ongoing discussion on the EU Northern Dimension and the role of the CBSS. Based on the background paper prepared by the Secretariat the Group continued and followed up on the intensive discussion. In light of the upcoming 'Action Plan for the Northern Dimension in the external and cross-border policies of the European Union 2000-2003' the Working Group will continue to deal with the issue and is ready to play an active role towards the implementation of the Action Plan in fields of relevance to the Group.

During the last year the Working Group finalized the 'Survey on Implementation of the recommendations from the Baltic Sea Business Summit'. Based on a decision by the Working Group from December 1998 a survey on the recommendations in the '*Memorandum on Conditions for Growth and Development in the Baltic Sea Region*' was conducted. The Secretariat presented the results in the final survey in January 2000.

The Group had a long and intensive discussion on the structure and working methods of the CBSS. Based on written comments from the delegations, the Secretariat prepared a paper on 'Revision of Structure and working methods of the CBSS-WGEC'. The Group presented the results to the CSO.

The Group extended the co-operation of the CBSS with the OECD concerning the fight against bribery and corruption. The co-operation with the Anti-corruption network of the OECD is continued. The Latvian delegation serves as a liaison officer to the OECD and reports on latest developments. A joint workshop on 'Private Sectors Role in Fostering Integrity in the Baltic Sea Region' was held in Riga in November 1999. The Group is in the process of discussing a project proposal for a 'Baltic Integrity Program' in co-operation between the CBSS and the OECD.

The Group continued its support for and work on sustainable tourism in the region. A project proposal on 'Baltic Sea Image' by the Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC) is under consideration.

IV. Co-operation with other fora and international organizations.

The Baltic Business Advisory Council (BAC)

During the year the Group benefited from the increased involvement of the BAC in the discussions on relevant issues. This co-operation was stimulating for the development of recommendations and activities on economic co-operation. Since the only task is to serve the CBSS bodies, the dialogue with and input from the BAC could get even more intensified in the future.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The co-operation with the OECD has developed further. The CBSS bodies endorsed the support for the above joint conferences on 'Investment conditions in the Russian North/West' in September 1999 and 'Private Sectors Role in Fostering Integrity in the Baltic Sea Region' in Riga November 1999. Further co-operation, with joint activities under the OECD 'Baltic Program' particularly the program 'Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development' (FEED) is under discussion. The WGEC has also an established permanent contact with the OECD on the subject of fight against corruption. In light of past experience and in order to achieve continued input from the OECD the Group recommends to accept the OECD as a special participant to the CBSS.

The Barents Euro Arctic Council (BEAC)

The WGEC had a joint meeting with the WGEC of the BEAC. The Groups decided on stronger future co-operation. The Groups agreed that the chairman of the CBSS-WGEC shall participate once a year in a meeting of the Barents WGEC and vice versa. Additional invitations are optional. Once a year a joint BEAC/CBSS WGEC meeting shall be held. Additionally a regular exchange of information, i.e. the working plan of the chairmanship and other important documents will take place.

Discussed and adopted by the WGEC meeting on 4 May 2000.

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES
Annex 2

1st May 2000

**Annual report from Working Group on Assistance to
Democratic Institutions**

**DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN
RIGHTS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION**

Report of the WGDI for the activity period of 1999-2000

I. Introduction

Member countries of the CBSS are members of the OSCE and the Council of Europe, and adhere to the principles and provisions of these organisations. They agree that democracy is a political system, which is most conducive to individual freedom, respect for human rights and sustainable socio-economic development. They recognise that a well-functioning democracy depends on continuous promotion of democratic values and principles, as well as on proliferation and strengthening of democratic institutions.

CBSS Member States agree to carry on with their common efforts aimed at developing and supporting democratic institutions in the region. For this purpose they maintain the *Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions* within the framework of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

Since the establishment of the CBSS, multilateral co-operation in the field of democratic institutions and human rights in Europe has undergone considerable changes and adopted new forms. This has obviously had an impact on the activities of the WGDI.

Against this background, and acting in close co-ordination with the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), the CBSS Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions:

- Studied and made recommendations on ways to support and promote further development of democratic institutions in the Baltic Sea region, i.a. by way of
 - Sharing information and positive experience in relevant fields, particularly with respect to the rule of law, transparency in administration practices and local democracy;

- Launching and overseeing concrete projects in the field of development of democratic institutions, including technical assistance, good administration, local self-government and good lawmaking;
 - Promoting people-to-people contacts and cross-border exchanges in the region.
- Ensured the necessary political and organisational support in the preparation of relevant conferences, round tables and seminars;
 - Maintained close contact and co-operation with the office of the CBSS Commissioner and monitors the implementation of his surveys and recommendations.

The Working Group dedicated itself to quite practical work. It planned and organised seminars and round table discussions on democratic institutions and human rights, arranged study visits and evaluated the results of its activities.

II. WGDI agenda and activities during the Russian Chairmanship in 1999-2000

Four regular meetings of the Group were held. The main topics handled and/or followed up by the WGDI during this period included

- EuroFaculty development: due to the complex and occasionally political nature of the problems involved, this topic has subsequently been taken up by the CSO. This also includes the issue of re-establishment of EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad.
- Co-operation between the WGDI and the CBSS Commissioner within the framework of the existing mandates of the Working Group and of the CBSS Commissioner. Discussions were held on ways to promote co-operation with the Commissioner, i.a. through closer co-ordination of plans of activities. The WGDI discussed ways of assisting the Commissioner in identifying structures/officials/contact persons in the Member States, dealing with democratic institution-building or human rights issues and keeping him up to date with any administrative or personal changes which may occur therein. The WGDI kept itself duly informed about the contents and conclusions of the Commissioner's surveys, and specified its role in ensuring adequate dissemination of the Commissioner's official documents among relevant structures and authorities in their respective countries. The Working Group also discussed and endorsed the initiative of the CBSS Commissioner to hold a series of mini-seminars on good lawmaking and kept itself informed about its progress.
- Implementation of the CBSS Commissioner's Surveys and Recommendations. The WGDI continued with the existing

tradition of including Commissioner's surveys and recommendations as separate topics on the Group agenda. It was understood that the Working Group was hardly fit to enforce the implementation of the Commissioner's recommendations at the national level. Instead, the WGDI focused on bringing the political spotlight to issues and areas where the progress of implementation has been slow or insufficient. In addition, the Group proved to be helpful in arranging for joint co-operative action or assistance, with the aim of accelerating the implementation process in the Member States.

- Seminar on Good Administration in the Baltic Sea Region. The WGDI provided intellectual and organisational input to the initiative launched by Finland and endorsed by the Group during its previous activity period. Organised by the Finnish Ministries of Justice and of Foreign Affairs and the University of Helsinki, this important event was held in Helsinki on 10-11 January 2000, with representatives of 10 CBSS Member States taking part. A comprehensive report from the seminar was prepared and circulated soon afterwards.
- The rights of the Child in the Baltic Sea region. This topic was the main theme of one of the meetings of the Working Group. National experts in Children's issues from the Member States were invited to take part in the discussion and provided an invaluable contribution to the Group's work. The WGDI examined the follow-up to earlier Conferences against commercial sexual exploitation of Children and discussed practical avenues of co-operation on Children at Risk in the Baltic Sea region. A special presentation was made on the progress of implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Russian Federation. It was agreed that national presentations delivered at the meeting would be used in the IT network on Children at Risk developed by Sweden and Norway. The WGDI welcomed the Swedish initiative to host an ad hoc meeting on Children at Risk. The meeting was held in Stockholm on 16-17 March 2000. It elaborated suggestions regarding priorities for future initiatives in the field of Children at Risk, drawing on the experience gained in the Member States.
- Structure and working methods of the WGDI. Acting upon instructions from the CSO, the Group undertook a thorough review of its Terms of Reference adopted in 1992, its structure and working methods. A set of Guidelines on Working Methods and Structure of the WGDI was agreed upon and forwarded to the CSO. In particular, these recommendations included specifying the role of the WGDI vis-à-vis expert work, long- as well as short-term planning, bringing the number of meeting to an optimal level and preserving continuity of personal representation in the Working Group. The WGDI also noted that its existing Terms of Reference were outdated in some respects and recommended the CSO to look into the matter.

- Round table: Rights of Minorities in the Baltic Sea Region. The initiative was launched by the Russian Chairmanship. The idea of the organisers was to invite lawmakers, executives and academics directly involved in handling these issues for a practical and open exchange of views, information and positive experience. The main themes of the Round Table were discussed and endorsed by the WGDI. It was convened in Moscow on 30-31 March 2000, hosted by the Russian MFA. Participants - MPs, CBSS Commissioner, high-ranking experts from the Member States - left with a clearer understanding of the present situation and the development trends therein, enriched by practical information about possible solutions to problems, which are common for all Baltic Sea countries. The presentations and other documents from the Round Table were collected and published in printed form and on the CBSS Website for subsequent use as reference materials.
- The mandate of the CBSS Commissioner. The WGDI was directly involved in the drafting of the Commissioner's mandate in 1992-1994, and its revision in 1997. Following the decision adopted by the 8th CBSS Ministerial session in Palanga in 1999, and further specific instructions from the CSO, the Working Group engaged itself in a process of thorough negotiation and drafting of the revised mandate for the period beyond 1st October 2000. The outcome of these discussions was forwarded to the CSO for further deliberation and action.
- Study visits. Building on the useful tradition established by previous WGDI Chairmanships, the Russian Chairmanship arranged a number of study visits to top-level legislative, executive and Human Rights officials in Moscow. Members of the Working Group had the opportunity to meet and hold discussions with the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the State Duma, Plenipotentiary on Human Rights in the Russian Federation and Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Affairs of the Russian Federation (in charge of Children's issues).

III. Outlook for the future

The promotion of respect for democracy, the rule of law and human rights is an important task of the Council of the Baltic Sea States at the onset of the new millennium. The institutions of the CBSS are not alone responsible for this task in the Baltic Sea region, but work in co-operation with other international organisations to achieve this goal, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort.

Scope of future activities:

In the years ahead the Working Group should focus its activities on a selected number of key issues emanating from its Terms of Reference.

Arranging seminars and workshops on good lawmaking and efficient administration is a way of enhancing the transparency of legislation and promoting human rights awareness. These efforts should primarily be targeted at national- and sub-regional-level parliamentarians, providing training in human rights and state-of-the-art legislative practices. The initiative of the CBSS Commissioner to hold a series of mini-seminars on good lawmaking is particularly relevant in this respect.

The goal of spreading the positive experience of good lawmaking and administration throughout the region could also be furthered by following up on an earlier WGDI proposal to study the feasibility of establishing a forum for legal co-operation between the Member States of the CBSS.

Another area for possible action is encouraging the Member States to introduce general procedures for military spokesmen as a focal point for the conscripts' grievances regarding their conditions in the armed forces and/or the extension of ombudsmen or other independent complaints-handling bodies to meet these needs.

Possible future fields for co-operation could also include compilation of scientific material, arranging seminars, etc. on the topic of the general preventive effect of various forms of punishment.

Co-operation with the CBSS Commissioner on relevant issues of democratic institutions is needed to facilitate the implementation of his advice and to promote the proliferation of good law-making and good administration practices.

Children's issues are a major topic for all Member States. The WGDI should look into ways of promoting a closer exchange of experiences between experts responsible for Children's issues, including the use of IT means. The already initiated work on children's ombudsmen is of importance and needs to continue, particularly in view of the decisions adopted at the Baltic Sea States Summit in Kolding. The WGDI should look into ways of ensuring co-ordination of future co-operation on Children's issues. Also relevant in this context is the CBSS Commissioner's survey concerning violence in media.

Other important areas for co-operation within the framework of the WGDI include Civil Security matters, promotion of cross-border co-operation, local self-government and parliamentary interaction.

Structure and working methods:

Issues pertaining to the scope of activity of the WGDI include a technical level and a policy level. The policy level should be dealt with by the WGDI. The technical level, including the elaboration and implementation of projects, should be handled by experts within the framework of ad hoc groups, which may be established by the WGDI with a focused mandate of specified duration. Ad hoc expert groups shall report their findings, conclusions and advice to the WGDI.

The role of the WGDI vis-à-vis the activity of the ad hoc expert groups is threefold:

- supervision and direction
- providing assistance by way of disseminating information, recruiting the right experts, etc.
- drawing policy recommendations from the expert work and forwarding them to the CSO.

Strengthening of democratic institutions in the Member States, promotion of the rule of law and ensuring respect for human rights requires a continuous and co-ordinated effort. The CBSS WGDI has the potential to be an important and efficient tool in advancing these ultimate objectives.

Annual report of the Working Group of Nuclear and Radiation Safety

**Council of the Baltic Sea States
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Nuclear and Radiation Safety**

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Chairman's report to the Committee of Senior Officials

1. Summary

During the Norwegian presidency of the CBSS the WG concentrated on regular exchange of radiation monitoring data between the Member States. The intergovernmental agreement for data exchange was drawn up and forwarded to the CSO for approval. Topics to be included in the action plan of the Group were identified. The IAEA informed the Group about the development of illicit trafficking of nuclear or radioactive materials, especially in Europe. The WG has participated in development of Action Plan of the Northern Dimension and discussed about its possible role in implementation of the Action Plan.

2. Working methods of the WG

The WG have had two meetings during the Norwegian presidency of the Council. The first one was held in Oslo (September 1999) and the other in Tallinn (February 2000). The Group has discussed about the frequency of meetings and concluded that the present practice, i.e. two meetings per year, is adequate. Some delegations have had financial problems to participate even in two meetings per year.

To this extent, the chairmanship of the WG has not been changed in connection with change of the presidency of the Council. The Group has had two chairmen (Dr. Antti Vuorinen and Dr. Raimo Mustonen). The chairmanship has not been a full-time duty. In 1997 it was decided that the Group will change a chairman in three-year periods in order to ensure the continuity and to enable sufficient circulation. In February 2000, the issue was discussed again and the conclusion was that one-year period is too short and the Group would like to have a chairman being committed with the task for a longer time. However, the issue has again to

be taken into consideration when revising the Terms of Reference and after seeing how the Action Plan on Northern Dimension will affect the activities of the WG. A new chairman should be selected at the next meeting of the Group.

The WG received the CSO's request to make proposals for revision of its Terms of Reference. The discussion has been started and the delegations are requested to make proposals by the end of April. Implementation of Action Plan of the Northern Dimension might have impacts also on ToR of the Group, and this have to be taken into account when revising the ToR.

The WG has identified the topics of its own action plan. The Group will monitor these topics in the near future:

1. Exchange of radiological data
 - technical establishment of the data exchange system before the turn of millennium
 - to agree on provisional arrangements
 - to prepare the intergovernmental agreement
2. Regional agreement on assistance
 - supplementing of the IAEA Convention for the Baltic Sea States
 - preparations to be done by Norway
3. Radiological pollution of the Baltic Sea
 - to acquire a general view of the situation (HELCOM/MORS)
 - actions to be taken after the next meeting
4. Illicit trafficking
 - review of the situation by IAEA
 - co-operation with IAEA
 - actions to be taken by WGNRS
5. National Reports
 - brief reports on national activities in every meeting of WGNRS
 - act as the main form of general information exchange between the Member States
6. Northern Dimension
 - to concretise the role of WGNRS in the issue
 - to find the most effective way of co-operation
 - further discussion after the Helsinki Conference in November 1999

Principles of participation of observers in meetings of working groups were established by the CSO. The WGNRS had the first observers in its meeting in Tallinn (UK and Ukraine).

3. Activities during the last year

The WG from its own part finalised the proposal for intergovernmental agreement on regular exchange of radiation monitoring data and forwarded it to the CSO for further actions.

Technical arrangements for data exchange have been finalised. Today all the Member States have readiness to start the data exchange. The system is based

on national data FTP-servers where data is available and on a protocol of usernames and passwords to get access to these servers. Description and technical details of the system are in Annex 1.

Overview on the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials was given to the WG by IAEA. The IAEA has established a program 'Security of Material' in order to assist member states through training, expert assistance, equipment and exchange of information, in the protection of nuclear and other radioactive materials against unauthorized (criminal) activities and to provide them with the knowledge and tools for detecting and responding to incidents of trafficking should they occur. The incidents are stored in the IT database developed in 1993 and completed in 1995. So far 60 states participate in the database program and most confirmed incidents on illicit trafficking occurred in Europe. To the understanding of the IAEA, this is largely a 'supplier-driven' market and not 'demand driven'. It was agreed to maintain contacts between the IAEA and the WG.

At the Tallinn meeting, the WG had a possibility to receive latest information about the remediation project on radioactive tailings pond in Sillamäe in Estonia. The project was started to design and implement remediation activities at the site. The project will be funded and by the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) and the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB). The total cost of the project will be 20 M€ and construction works will take some six years.

The WG received information about recent activities in the Member States. Updating the radiation and nuclear safety legislation is going on in several countries. All Member States have implemented or are implementing the changes in their radiation protection regulations to achieve compliance with the new Euratom Directive on radiation protection. Also the countries being candidates EU are revising their legislation according to the new directive.

4. Possible role in the Northern Dimension

The WG has discussed about the Action Plan of ND and a possible role of the CBSS and the WGNRS in implementation of the Action Plan. It has been noted in all documents on ND that nuclear and radiation safety in the Region needs more attention. Co-operation in this field is very intensive and positive results have been achieved during the past ten years. Now the question has arisen, how well all these different activities are co-ordinated. The Foreign Minister's Conference on 11-12 November 1999 (EU countries and the partner countries) encouraged the EU to consider, in co-operation with relevant regional bodies (e.g. CBSS) and other partners, how to improve co-ordination of relevant EU-programmes and instruments as well as of national, regional and multilateral programmes to create synergies and to increase effectiveness.

The WG has discussed about the following questions without having yet final answers:

- 1) How well the existing bilateral, regional and multilateral programmes are co-ordinated with comparable EU-programmes (TACIS, PHARE)? Are there overlapping activities?

Probable answers to these questions are that more co-ordination is needed in this field and overlappings should be investigated. The WG was informed that within the G24 an attempt for tracking the ongoing co-operation projects has been performed but with inadequate results.

- 2) If there is need for better co-ordination, is the CBSS / WGNRS a suitable body for that?

The WG stated at the meeting in Tallinn that the Group is able to elaborate relevant activities in the Baltic Sea Region and can identify possible overlaps and gaps of ongoing co-operation programmes, within the umbrella of the Northern Dimension.

- 3) Should this be taken into the ToR of the WGNRS?

The WG will revise its ToR as the Action Plan of ND has been finalised and the role of the CBSS has been identified.

- 4) Is there need to enhance co-operation of the competent national authorities in the field of nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea Region?. And how to do it?

Need for closer co-operation of national regulatory bodies was identified. The problem is how to do it. Regular meetings of national regulatory authorities of the Baltic Sea States were discussed. Some delegates supported the idea but some others criticised it. Today national regulatory authorities already have so many international forums for co-operation that creation of new one did not get undivided support.

5. **The next meeting** of the WG will be held on September 7-8. Germany has declared to be ready to host the meeting.

Annex 5 - Annual Report to the CSO on the activities of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, 1999/2000

The Secretariat has continued to provide technical assistance and support to the presidency in accordance with the mandate. The Secretariat has assisted the presidency in the preparation and follow-up of the following meetings:

- Baltic Sea States Summit in April 2000 including 5 preparatory meetings of the CSO in special session.
- The 9th ministerial session of the CBSS in June 2000
- The conference of the ministers for trade and economic co-operation in February 2000
 - 10 meetings of the CSO
 - 6 meetings of the WGEC
 - 4 meetings, one seminar and one round table in the WGDI
 - 2 meetings of the WGNS.

In addition, the Secretariat has been given a number of important ad hoc tasks by ministers or by the CSO:

- The Council in 1999 charged the CBSS Commissioner and the Secretariat with the establishment of close contacts with the Council of Europe and the EU for examination of issues related to conditions for travel in the region.
- The CSO asked the Secretariat to participate in examining the feasibility of the re-establishment of the EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad and subsequently to support the development of a project proposal.
- The conference of ministers for trade and economic co-operation in February 2000 requested the Secretariat in co-operation with the WGEC and the BAC, to report on the progress in the removal of barriers to trade and investments based on the action plan adopted by the conference.

A list of ad hoc working documents from the Secretariat is given in attachment 1.

- Information strategy, Baltinfo and Internet home page

The Secretariat has produced 9 issues of the monthly newsletter BALTINFO with an average of 6 pages per issue for approximately 1.400 subscribers. The newsletter is also on the Internet.

The Secretariat's website (www.baltinfo.org) is continuously being updated. The Secretariat has changed Internet provider to get an upgraded website with enhanced search facilities and links. All major, public CBSS documents are published on the website. The site has an average of 4500 visitors per month.

In the framework of the information strategy, the Secretariat has given lectures at a number of meetings and conferences. See attachment 2.

- Re-establishment of the EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad

A considerable part of the Secretariat's resources has since December 1999 been involved in the efforts to re-establish the EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad. The Secretariat contributed to the progress report on the basis of which the CSO decided to ask experts to develop a project proposal. The Secretariat subsequently contributed to the drafting of the proposal and term of reference.

- Economic Co-operation

The Secretariat has carried out a survey on the implementation of the recommendations from the Baltic Sea Business Summit in January 1998. The survey was submitted to the conference of ministers for trade and economic co-operation in February 2000.

- Energy Secretarial Unit

Based on a decision by the ministers for energy, the CSO in January endorsed a proposal for an energy unit in the Secretariat. The CSO authorised the director of the Secretariat to sign a project contract with the Nordic Council of Ministers for funding of the energy unit in the Secretariat and to sign employment contracts with two new staff members to the energy unit as proposed by the Group of Senior Energy Officials.

The two staff members started their work in the Secretariat on 3 April 2000. They are employed under the same conditions as other international staff in the Secretariat.

- Staff

As of 3 April 2000 the CBSS Secretariat has the following 9 staff members employed (in chronological employment order);

Director Jacek Starosciak (Started 15 August 1998)

Senior Advisor Lars Gronbjerg (Started 15 August 1998)

Secretary Claire Nyström (Started 1 September 1998)

Senior Advisor Serguei Sokolov (Started 20 October 1998)

Senior Advisor Vibeke Holm (Started 1 November 1998)

Chief of Staff Anna Nylander (Started 16 November 1998)

Senior Advisor Dr. Axel Krohn (Started 1 January 1999)

Project Manager and Head of the energy unit Seppo Silvonen (Started 3 April 2000)

Project Assistant Nijole Jovaisiene (Started 3 April 2000)

- Internship

During the year, the CBSS Secretariat has had two graduate students as interns.

Mr. Wilm Scharlemann, LL.M., wrote during his stay in the Secretariat, July to October 1999, two reports: Possibilities for a Complaint Mechanism for Business in the

framework of the CBSS and A Comparative study of the Trade Agreements in the CBSS Region. These reports were made available for the WGEC and the BAC.

Ms. Kaarina Williams, MA, wrote during her stay in the Secretariat, March to April 2000, the report: The Euro–Mediterranean Partnership and the Northern Dimension - A comparison.

- Meetings at the Secretariat

During the past year the Secretariat has hosted various meetings, conferences and seminars for foreign visitors and organisations. The Secretariat started a series of Seasonal Seminars in the autumn of 1999. Guest speakers have been Ambassador Heikki Talvitie of Finland, professor Carl-Einar Stålvant of Södertörn University College and Ambassador Alexei L. Nikiforov of Russia.

- Accounting and budget

The 1999 budget for the Secretariat was adopted by the CSO on 24 November 1998, with a total spending of 1.479.000 DEM. On 19-20 October 1999, the budget for 2000 was adopted by the CSO with a total spending of 1.477.000 DEM (765.000 EURO).

The financial accounts for 1999 were finalised in February 2000 and audited by the Swedish State Auditor Office in March 2000. The 1999 financial accounts were transmitted to the CSO at its meeting on 22-23 March 2000 and were taken note of by the CSO on 10 May 2000. An economy and accounting consultant, Ms. Ellenor Pettersson, performs the daily accounting. The Secretariat has accounts in EURO, DEM and SEK.

The CSO approved in September 1999 a set of financial rules as guidelines for the financial administration of the Secretariat.

- Financial contributions

At the time of closing the 1999 accounts, all member states had paid their contributions in full, except Russia. Russia has since regulated most of its 1999 contribution to the Secretariat.

Attachment 1

Some working papers from the Secretariat produced during the Norwegian presidency 1999/2000.

8th Ministerial Session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Palanga, 14-15 June 1999. Summary record, Final communiqué, Statements.

Note on the follow-up to the two past Baltic Sea States Summits. Doc. CSO-2/99-03. 15 October 1999.

Possibilities for a Complaint Mechanism for Business in the framework of the CBSS. (written by intern Mr. Wilm Scharlemann, LL.M)

A Comparative Study of the Trade Agreements in the CBSS Region. (written by intern Mr. Wilm Scharlemann, LL.M)

Y2K Handbook. December 1999.

Information Document. January 2000, updated April and June 2000.

Survey on the Implementation of Recommendations adapted from the Memorandum on Conditions for Growth and Development in the Baltic Sea Region from January 1998. January 2000.

Re-establishment of the EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad. Progress Report with Conclusions. Doc. No. CSO-06/00-02. 17 January 2000.

Background paper on the Northern Dimension. For discussion on the role for the CBSS. 17 January 2000.

Ministerial Conference on Trade and Economic Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region. Bergen, 7-8 February 2000. Summarising Report, Action Plan, Statements.

Preliminary report on the status on establishing close contacts between the CBSS Commissioner, the CBSS Secretariat, the Council of Europe and representatives from the European Union for further examination of certain border crossing issues – By the CBSS Secretariat and the CBSS Commissioner 1 March 2000 (circulated 7 March 2000)

Reestablishment of the EuroFaculty at Kaliningrad State University. Proposal for a 3-year project. 14 March 2000 (Work of an expert group with participation from the Secretariat).

Projects in Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation. Doc. No. CSO-06/00-04 rev 1. 20 March 2000.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and Northern Dimension – a comparison.
(Written by intern Kaarina Williams, MA).

Round Table on "The Rights of Minorities in the Baltic Sea Region" (Moscow, 30-31 March 2000). A compilation of national presentations.

Informal notes from the meetings in Strasbourg on 13 March 2000, when the CBSS Commissioner and the CBSS Secretariat visited the Council of Europe.

The Role of the CBSS in the action plan on the Northern Dimension. Background paper. April 2000.

Background note on the follow up after the Third Baltic Sea States Summit. 5 May 2000.



List of conferences and meetings, to which members of the staff of the Secretariat have given lectures.

10-11 September 1999. Conference on Baltic and Black Sea Co-operation, Yalta. Lecture on "Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region" by Director Jacek Starosciak.

7-8 October 1999: Baltic Ports Organisation. Conference on Integrating the Baltic Sea Region and the EU, Bornholm. Lecture on "Regional Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Area" by Director Jacek Starosciak.

12-13 October 1999. Baltic Finance Forum 99, Gdansk. Lecture on "CBSS – strengthening economic co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region" by Senior Advisor Dr Axel Krohn.

11-12 November 1999. Towards sustainable development in the Estonian-Russian Border Area, Tartu. Lecture on "Activities of the Council of the Baltic Sea States with respect to promotion of cross-border co-operation" by Senior Advisor Lars Gronbjerg.

30 November. Schiff Symposium, Kiel. Lecture on "The CBSS - its mandate and working procedures and its significance for the Baltic Sea region" by Director Jacek Starosciak.

6 December 1999. Conference on the Northern Dimension - assessment and future development. Riga. Lecture on "Deepening of co-operation forms" by Senior Advisor Dr. Axel Krohn.

24-25 March 2000: Kaliningrad Exclave within the Framework of the Russian and European Policy. Kaliningrad. Senior Advisor Serguei Sokolov.

24 March 2000. Danish Defence Academy, annual staff course, Copenhagen. Lecture on 'Organisations in the Baltic Sea Region – The Council of Baltic Sea States' by Senior Advisor Dr. Axel Krohn

28 March. Meeting with defence and civil security officials from the Baltic Countries and Russia. Lecture on Civil Security in CBSS context by Senior Advisor Serguei Sokolov.

17-18 April. Bertelsmann Conference on "Regional co-operation in Central and Eastern Europe, Sofia. Lecture on "Co-operation in the Council of the Baltic Sea States". Director Jacek Starosciak.

9 May. Russland und EU-Erweiterung - Rahmenbedingungen der Wirtschaftskooperation Mecklenburg-Vorpommerns im Ostseeraum, Rostock. Lecture on "Die Förderung der Wirtschaftskooperation durch den Ostseerat vor dem Hintergrund der EU-Erweiterung" by Senior Advisor Dr. Axel Krohn.

Report from Sweden as the lead country on civil security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

*Lars Karlberg,
Director*

Report to the CBSS-CSO meeting in Oslo,

7 June 2000

Furthering Civil Security co-operation in the Baltic Sea region

In the Chairman's Conclusions from the Baltic Sea States Summit held in Kolding, Denmark, 12-13 April 2000, the Heads of Government recommend steps to continue to support the co-operation between the competent civil security authorities and specialists. The aim is to promote co-ordinated action in the fields of disaster prevention and surveillance, as well as search-and-rescue operations and joint disaster relief oriented crisis management. On this occasion, the Prime Minister of Poland proposed that a group of experts should begin working on the harmonisation of technical rescue facilities in the Baltic Sea region.

EU co-operation in the field of Civil Protection should also be kept in mind. The purpose of this co-operation is to help ensure better protection for people, the environment and property in the event of natural and other disasters, including the enhancement of action coherence undertaken at international level especially with the candidate Central and Eastern European countries in view of enlargement and with the partners in the Mediterranean region.

At the CSO Meeting in Oslo 19 January 2000, the organisation of work on civil security in the Baltic Sea region was discussed on the basis of a work plan proposed by Sweden as lead country in this co-operation field. Sweden was requested to present an update of the work before the ministerial session in June, so that a report could be made to the Ministers. The CSO had already previously agreed to request from the Secretariat to update Doc. No. CSO-01/99-01 "Developments in the Field of Civil Security after the summit in Riga, January 1998" when warranted.

The following is an updated list of promoted actions aimed at furthering closer multilateral CBSS co-operation in the area of Civil Security on the basis of the work plan adopted by the CSO. One should keep in mind however that the vast majority of co-operation projects in this field of activity are of a bilateral nature.

I Search and rescue

Lithuania has informed its partners of its intention to adhere to the 1979 International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, (SAR 1979) during the current year.

In line with ICAO and the SAR-Convention, the Baltic Sea Area is divided into flight information regions (FIRs) that should also constitute Search and Rescue Regions (SRR). The existing network of bilateral agreements and arrangements contains certain formal gaps and overlapping. The Swedish Maritime Administration has undertaken to co-ordinate during the current year and in close co-operation with counterparts around the Baltic Sea, a compilation of information on such gaps and overlaps. The study should also assess the potential negative impact this may have in practice for search and rescue activities in the Baltic Sea region and if possible provide practical recommendations for further action.

Nordic co-operation related to land-based search and rescue operations takes place in the framework of NORDRED. A network of bilateral agreements and contacts is also being developed with other Baltic Sea states. Holding of meetings, as appropriate, also with counterparts from other CBSS members in conjunction with NORDRED-meetings is being promoted. Representatives from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian federation participated in the NORDRED Conference, which took place in Malmö, Sweden on 9-11 May 2000.

Modes of improved co-operation between National Rescue Services and National Defence Authorities are being encouraged also in other contexts. An example of this is the Barents Rescue 2001 exercise taking place in Northern Sweden "in the spirit of the PfP" and with the aim to train and develop joint co-operation at major accidents in the Barents region. Barents Rescue 2001 is intended for experts and decision-makers responsible for rescue services, protection against radiation, nuclear safety, information, and emergency planning as well as to military units and staff personnel from all CBSS Member States. Another example is the PfP air crash and ship collision exercise "COOPERATIVE BALTIC EYE 2001" which will initiate its work in Gdynia, Poland in June 2000 with participation from most BSR States.

II Accidents, emergencies, prevention and crisis management research

The CBSS-workshop on "Civil Security and Crisis Management" in Stockholm in March 1999, urged states to develop national networks or centres for crisis management studies and training. Sweden and Estonia were charged with facilitating this task. Since then, bilateral links have been established between crisis researchers in Sweden and most other CBSS member nations. A National Center for Crisis Management Research and Training (CRISMART), designed to be a focal point for the development and sharing of civil crisis management knowledge in Sweden and a point of contact for regional collaboration in this area, will begin operations on July 1, 2000 at the Swedish National Defence College in Stockholm. A Conference on Civil Security and Crisis Management is planned to take place in Tallinn, Estonia in October of this year. The ultimate aim of this researcher-practitioner conference is to help identify means of, and models for, enhancing national and international collaborative capacity in the region. EU-applicant countries will in this way also be supported in their efforts toward more robust national and local institutions for crisis management, one prerequisite for successful integration into the EU.

At the Stockholm workshop, it was also proposed to establish a joint regional research project regarding hazardous materials and radioactive pollution at sea. HELCOM has carried out extensive work in the field of dumped chemical munitions in the Baltic Sea Area. On the basis of the Final Report of the ad hoc Working Group on Dumped Chemical Munitions (HELCOM-CHEMU), the Helsinki Commission in 1995 concluded that

-according to existing knowledge, dissolved warfare agents are not a widespread risk to the marine environment,

-for this reason, warfare agents should be left untouched on the sea bottom and

-crews of fishing vessels operating in dumping areas or in the immediate vicinity could be in danger from the chemical munitions and chemical warfare agents dumped there, if lumps of viscous mustard gas or chemical munitions are caught in bottom trawls and hauled on board.

In 1999, the issue was reconsidered in the Environment and Combating Committees of HELCOM on the basis of a new report. Both committees were of the opinion that no new information had been provided to change the previous conclusions.

Denmark has confirmed its readiness to assume a leading role in the CSO regarding work with hazardous materials at land and, as far as dumped chemical munitions in the Baltic Sea Area are concerned, also at sea, based on its role as lead country within this particular field in HELCOM.

With regard to the Millennium Transition (Y2K) problem, the CBSS Secretariat compiled and distributed a Y2K Contingency Contact list for the Baltic Sea Region. Norway has undertaken to monitor any further action warranted in this field.

III Surveillance

IMO has decided that from 1 July 2002 all ships with capacity exceeding 300 tonnes shall gradually be equipped with transponders. In the Baltic Sea Area, land-based equipment for detecting automatic transponder signals for surveillance is being rapidly developed and built up. Similar systems for air traffic control are under discussion in ICAO.

At their meeting in January 2000, CSO members were asked to encourage their competent authorities to promote compatibility between the surveillance systems under discussion in the Baltic Sea region.

The Baltic Sea Region Border Control Co-operation Conference (BSRBCCC) is for example developing a system for computerised communication based on the INTERPOL/BALTCOM system and another BSRBCCC working group is studying the possibilities for common real-time presentations of the situation in the Baltic Sea region based on present national maritime surveillance systems.

In the context of the Phare Multi-Country Transport Programme a pre-investment study has been carried out (Phare 98-0049) involving the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea. The overall objective of the study was to design a Baltic Sea Early Warning System for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland which would constitute a first step towards the establishment of an integrated Baltic Sea Safety Plan for the whole Baltic Sea region. (Russia participated as an observer in the study.) The proposal is presently under consideration by the services of the European Commission. If implemented, this Baltic Warning System could detect and prevent maritime accidents in the Baltic Sea and minimise coastal and port pollution, building on existing systems operating in other EU Member States. The establishment of a Baltic Sea Safety Forum, with participation from all countries around the Baltic Sea and the Commission is also proposed in order to pursue the envisaged work, for the project. CSO-members are asked to use their good offices as appropriate in order to support the implementation of this project-proposal.

IV Horizontal and institutional issues

Ad hoc co-operation often takes place between delegates from the Baltic Sea States in international fora. An example is the group BBRC (Baltic Barents Regional co-operation group) which holds meetings in conjunction with meetings of the UN International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Such co-operation should be encouraged further, whenever appropriate.

Following up on the international conferences on civil security in Århus, Denmark and Visby, Sweden in 1998 and in Palanga, Lithuania in 1999, St. Petersburg has launched the initiative of hosting Annual International fora dedicated to problems of emergency awareness and mitigation of the consequences of natural and man-made disasters in North-western Russia and the Baltic sea region. The first such international forum, "EXTREME - 2000" took place in St. Petersburg on 23-26 May 2000. Civil defence authorities and rescue services, organisations and companies working in the field of protection of the population and environment from all CBSS Member States were invited to take part in the Forum. In conjunction with this event, representatives of EMERCOM made a proposal aiming at the establishment of a formal framework consisting of heads of national Civil Security agencies in the Baltic Sea region that would set up priorities and guidelines for co-operation projects. The framework would be assisted by a Civil Security Co-ordination Centre and examples of areas of co-operation could be the establishment of a database of geophysical risk zones in the region and the creation of a regional space- and landbased monitoring structure. A formal version of this proposal from Russia is forthcoming.

In his statement at the recent Baltic Sea States Summit in Kolding, the Prime Minister of Poland stressed the key role that could be played in preventing threats arising from natural and man-made environmental hazards and disasters by the creation of an integrated and compatible warning and information system that would alert people both to threats of or existing disasters. An urgent task for sea rescue services would be the creation of a fully integrated system of radio communications that could help to raise the safety level in the Baltic Sea region. The Prime Minister therefore proposed that a group of experts should begin working on the harmonisation and standardisation of technical rescue facilities. He also proposed to encourage exchange of experts, co-operation in training and the holding of joint exercises and a continuation of work on creating a legal basis for co-operation in the field of civil security.

The proposal by the Polish Prime Minister is mainly directed to the development of more compatible and efficient surveillance and rescue facilities in the region. A way to proceed further in this matter could be for the Polish side to invite interested CBSS parties to an open discussion with the aim of defining more closely priorities for the proposed co-operation.

EU-co-operation on civil protection is currently governed by the Community action programme in the field of civil protection for the years 2000-2004 adopted by the Council on 9 December 1999. The **«Pilot Project for the creation of a EURO-MED system of prevention, mitigation and management of natural and man-made disasters»** may offer a possible

model for closer CBSS co-operation. This project is jointly led by [Italy](#) and [Egypt](#) and is co-financed by the European Union (EUROMED programme) and the Italian Government (approximate budget is 2,5 M Euro for two years - 1999/2000).

The [objectives](#) of the project are:

- to supplement bilateral and multilateral initiatives of the Member States,
- to establish a set of concrete and operational actions,

The project is managed by a [Steering Committee](#) composed by representatives of the 15 Member States of the Union, of the 12 Mediterranean partners as well as the European Commission.

Italy assures the Secretariat and the [activities](#) relate to:

- [Training courses](#)

- [Exchange of experts](#)

- [Networking of Civil Protection Schools](#)

- [Technical Assistance](#)