



Annual Report from the Committee of Senior Officials

The 9th year of the Council's activity, 2000/2001

**Presented at the
Council of the Baltic Sea States
Ministers' Deputies Meeting in
Hamburg, Germany on 7 June 2001**

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(2000-2001) Annual Report from the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

Council of the Baltic Sea States 10th Ministerial Session (Hamburg, 7 June 2001)

Report from the Committee of Senior Officials
The 9th year of the Council's activity, 2000/2001

The CSO held 6 meetings during the German presidency in 5 different cities: Berlin, Stockholm, Brussels, Warsaw and Hamburg. The meetings were chaired by Ambassador Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth of the German Foreign Ministry. A list of main topics addressed at each meeting is attached in Annex 2.

The CSO troika held two meetings: in Schwerin (September 2000) to co-ordinate the transition to the German presidency and in Moscow (April 2001) to co-ordinate the transition to the Russian presidency.

Northern Dimension

The Northern Dimension has been a major theme for the work in the CSO, which in November 2000 established an ad hoc working group to deal with the issue. The ad hoc group held two meetings, in Berlin (December 2000) and in Brussels (February 2001). The group developed a List of Priorities and Projects as contribution to the Northern dimension Action Plan, which was presented to the Second Foreign Ministers' Conference on Northern Dimension in Luxembourg on 9 April 2001. The work was based on contributions from a large number of Baltic Sea organisations and networks. The List of Priorities and Projects is publicly available on www.baltinfo.org. The Presidency organised a workshop on the Northern Dimension in Brussels on 27 March 2001.

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

The CSO maintained close contacts with the Baltic Sea States' Sub-regional Co-operation, the Union of the Baltic Cities and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, all of which have status of special participants in the CBSS. Contacts have also been maintained with the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers. Representatives of all these organisations participated together in the CSO meeting in Stockholm and discussed proposals for closer co-operation.

The special situation of Kaliningrad Oblast in light of the EU enlargement was considered. An updated list of projects carried out in Kaliningrad was prepared.

Civil Security

In March 2001 the CSO decided to appoint Poland as the Lead country in the field of Civil Security, replacing Sweden. At the same time the CSO adopted a number of proposals for continued work in this area, based on the recommendations from the conference of civil security experts in Warsaw in December 2000. A detailed work programme was presented by Poland and approved by the CSO in May 2001.

The Chairman of the CSO attended and delivered a speech at a Baltic Sea Crisis Management conference in Tallinn (October 2000).

Strengthening of the EuroFaculty

Following the decision of the ministerial session in 2000 to revise the statutes of the EuroFaculty, the CSO held meetings with the director of the EuroFaculty, Professor Arild Saether. The CSO kept itself informed about the financial situation of the EuroFaculty in general and of the individual centres, as well as about problems related to financing for the EuroFaculty

Establishment of the EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad

The EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad (EF-K) was officially opened in Kaliningrad on 20 September 2000. The Chairman of the CSO represented the CBSS. The CSO has been kept informed about the progress made with the establishment of the EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad through regular reports from the lead country for EF-K, represented by Ms. Gunvor Barnholt of the Danish Ministry of Education.

Democratic institutions and human rights

The CBSS Commissioner informed the CSO about her plans and activities at the meeting in November 2001. In addition, she communicated with the CSO through written reports. Reference is made to the Commissioner's annual report.

NGO Forum

In accordance with the conclusions of the CSO in May 2000, the presidency together with the State Chancellery of Schleswig-Holstein and 15 Baltic Sea NGO networks took the initiative to convene a first Baltic Sea NGO Forum in Lübeck in May 2001 with the aim to strengthen NGO co-operation in the region.

Knowledge-based Society

The CSO approved the presidency's initiative to introduce work in a knowledge-based society in the region and enhance university co-operation. An expert meeting on knowledge-based society was held in Berlin on 4-5 May 2001 and the CSO took note of the outcome.

The CSO approved that the Baltic Sea Region International Summer Academy could be held under the auspices of the CBSS.

Initiative on Marine Environment Protection and Safety of Sea Transport

The CSO discussed and further elaborated the initiative taken by the presidency to intensify and better coordinate existing and launch further efforts aimed at preventing ship accidents and their serious consequences for man and biosphere.

Information Society and IT

In accordance with the recommendations from the Third Baltic Sea States Summit, the CSO has discussed the possibilities for enhancing the already leading position of the region in information technology. A survey was carried out by Estonia and Finland as lead countries to establish areas where co-operation in this field could be promoted. In November and January the CSO discussed the possibility of developing a Northern eDimension action plan in partnership with the European Commission. The initiative led to the establishment of a group of Senior Officials on Information Society to prepare a ministerial meeting on Information Society in Riga in September 2001.

Economic Co-operation

The CSO promoted the opening of the IT portal for SMEs at the Conference on Economic Cooperation of the Presidency in Berlin on 13 March 2001. Economic Co-operation was a constant element of on-going interest of the CSO.

Baltic 21

Following the decision from the 9th Ministerial Session in Bergen in June 2000 the CSO received the proposal of the Senior Officials Group of Baltic 21 for the secretarial function for Baltic 21 and prepared the decision of the Council in written procedure to integrate the secretarial function for Baltic 21 into the CBSS Secretariat.

CBSS structure and working methods

The CSO supervised the implementation of the recommendations from the Third Baltic Sea States Summit (April 2000), as decided by the Council in June 2000. The CSO adopted the revised mandates for the Working groups on Democratic Institutions and on Nuclear Safety.

In accordance with the recommendations from the Third Baltic Sea States Summit, the CSO intensified the monitoring of activities related to Baltic Sea intergovernmental co-operation.

The Chairman of the CSO represented the CBSS at a large number of conferences and meetings related to Baltic Sea co-operation: Baltic Development Forum (Malmö, September 2000), BSPC Annual Meeting (Malmö, September) Conference on Baltic Sea Region Security and Co-operation (Stockholm, October), Conference on local and decentralised co-operation (Stockholm, October), Annual conference of the BSSSC (Pärnu, October), Crisis Management conference (Tallinn, October), OSCE Council meeting (Vienna, November), Kaliningrad Conference by the Nordic Forum for Security Policy (February 2001), Kaliningrad BSSSC workshop (March) Annual Meeting of the Ostseeinstitute University of Rostock (Rostock, May), XXXIII North European Talks of the European Movement (Riga, May).

Meeting of Political Directors

The presidency convened a meeting of the political directors, the first of its kind in the history of the CBSS, which took place in Berlin on 25 January 2001. Following the request of the political directors the CSO, via the presidency, has commissioned a study on soft security risks and challenges and on Baltic Sea co-operation experience in this field.

Third party participation

At the CSO meeting in March, the CSO accepted the application from the Netherlands for observer status. CBSS has hereafter 6 observers: France, Italy, the Netherlands, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

The CBSS has 4 special participants: The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), the Baltic Sea States' Sub-regional Co-operation (BSSSC), the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Working groups

The CSO monitored the work of the three working groups and approved the revised terms of reference for two of them. Annual reports from the groups are attached in annexes 1-3.

CBSS secretariat

The budget for the Secretariat for 2000 was approved by the CSO in September 2000. At its meeting in May 2001, the CSO took note of the financial accounts of the Secretariat for 2000.

By written procedure, the Council adopted a proposal to integrate the Baltic 21 secretariat into the CBSS Secretariat from January 2001.

The CSO adopted a set of guidelines for the recruitment of staff to the CBSS Secretariat.

Attachment 1

Contacts with special participants and other organisations

Representatives of the following have participated in CSO meetings:

Nordic Council of Ministers

Barents Euro-Arctic Council

Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation, BSSSC

Union of the Baltic Cities, UBC

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, BSPC

Helsinki Commission, Helcom

Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea, VASAB

Swedish National Heritage Board

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

Task Force on Organised Crime

Task Force on Communicable Disease Control

Group of Senior Energy Officials, GSEO

Baltic 21

Attachment 2

Overview of CSO meetings during the German presidency

The CSO held 5 meetings during the German presidency 2000/01 with the following main topics:

11-12 September in Berlin:

Presentation of the German work programme for the CBSS and follow up after the ministerial session. Work programmes of the working groups. Northern Dimension. Information Technology. Knowledge-based Society. Activities of VASAB. Budget and staffing of the office of the CBSS Commissioner. EuroFaculty. Budget of the Secretariat.

13-14 November in Stockholm:

Meeting with the CBSS Commissioner. NGO Forum. Structure and working methods of the CBSS. Northern Dimension. Baltic 21 secretariat function. Knowledge-based society and university co-operation. Protection of marine environment and safety of sea transport. IT. Information strategy of the CBSS. Procedure for recruitment of staff to the Secretariat. Review of the Kalmar Action Programme. Civil security.

25-26 January in Berlin:

Report from the meeting of political directors. Meeting with the director of the EuroFaculty. Funding mechanism for sub-regional co-operation. Civil security. Energy co-operation. IT and Information Society.

26-27 March in Brussels:

Northern Dimension. Information Society and the Northern eDimension. Funding mechanism for sub-regional co-operation. Civil security, Poland as lead country. Marine environment and safety for sea transport. Structure and working methods. Knowledge-based society. Observer status for the Netherlands. Task Force on Organised Crime. Task Force on Communicable Disease Control. Baltic 21.

14-15 May in Warsaw:

Information Society and the Northern eDimension. Transport. Funding mechanism for sub-regional co-operation. Civil Security. Preparation of the 10th ministerial session. Revised terms of reference for the working groups. Knowledge-based society. Activities of the Helsinki Committee (Helcom). Budget and accounts of the office of the CBSS Commissioner. Budget and accounts of the CBSS Secretariat.

6 June, Hamburg:

Finalisation of the communiqué for the ministerial meeting. Fund for Sub-regional Development.

(2000-2001) Report of the Working Group on Economic Co-operation

Council of the Baltic Sea States

10th Ministerial Session

(Hamburg, 7 June 2001)

Annual Report

CBSS Working Group on Economic Co-operation (WGEC)

July 2000 - June 2001

I. Introduction

During the working period July 2000-June 2001 the Working Group followed the priorities for the German chairmanship on the work program. The implementation and further development of the 'Bergen Action Plan' adopted by the Ministers in charge of Trade and Economic Co-operation in Bergen, February 2000 was the major task. The work of the Group thereby focused particularly on the support of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), the reduction of barriers to trade and investment and the protection of intellectual property rights. In addition to the topics listed in the Bergen action plan, the Group also dealt with the subjects such as Information Technology and Tourism.

In order to follow-up on practical results of the Bergen Action Plan, a ['progress report'](#) was finalized. This 'progress report' was submitted to the 10th Ministerial Session of the CBSS, 7 June in Hamburg.

The input from the Business Advisory Council (BAC), and the co-operation with the Baltic Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA) and the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was continued and intensified.

II. List of meetings

During the period July 2000 to June 2001, the Working Group on Economic Co-operation (WGEC) held four meetings. All meetings were chaired by Germany:

Berlin September 26-27. In its first meeting the WGEC discussed the issues for the follow-up of the Bergen Action Plan. Border-crossing conditions for people and goods, Northern Dimension, Fight against corruption, the development of an SME Information system, Baltic Sea Tourism Commission and an OECD FEED working party meeting in co-operation with the WGEC were among the topics of the agenda.

Lübeck, November 23-24. The meeting continued the follow-up of the Bergen Action Plan. The Group discussed with representatives from the OECD further common activities. Additionally Information Technology, Tourism, Transport were discussed.

Hamburg, February 19-20. The meeting followed up on the different topics from the Bergen Action Plan. The Group continued the discussion with the OECD on a joint activity on the 'Fight against Corruption'. However, the problem of financing could not be solved. The BCCA presented the initiative of the EU Baltic Sea Partenariat to be held in Riga in 2001.

Schwerin, April 18-19. The Group discussed continuation of the work on improving 'border crossing conditions', 'fight against corruption', 'conformity in standards and certification' and 'intellectual property rights' and the future of the 'SME IT web site' as well as the ongoing implementation of the Northern Dimension Action Plan. The Group discussed and prepared a final version of the 'progress report'.

III. Follow-up and initiatives

Priority was given to the follow-up of the 'Action Plan' adopted at the meeting of Ministers in charge of Trade and Economic Co-operation, Bergen February 2000.

As asked by the Ministers, the Secretariat together with the BAC and the WGEC prepared a 'progress report'. The progress report will be handed to the ministers at the 10th Ministerial Session of the CBSS in Hamburg, 7 June, 2001.. For further information on the different subjects please refer to the progress report.

Based on the decision of the Ministers of Trade and Economy at their meeting in July 1998, the Working Group continued its efforts to support Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) during the last year. The official CBSS SME-IT website www.balticmarket.org was officially presented and launched at the conference 'Fostering Economic Co-operation in the Baltic Region', Berlin, March 13, 2001 in Berlin. The WGEC has set up an ad-hoc working group on Intellectual Property Rights.

The Working Group has had ongoing follow-up on the EU Northern Dimension and the role of the CBSS. Based on background papers prepared by the Secretariat, the Group continued and followed up on the intensive discussion. In light of the German presidency's document on 'Priorities and Projects' for the '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.

To foster co-operation in the Baltic Sea tourism, Germany invited all member countries to participate in an 'Internet platform' allowing cross-border co-ordination and interlinking of tourism activities. The website provides data on projects relevant to SMEs in the tourism sector.

Initiatives to promote co-operation in the field of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in the Baltic Sea region were discussed in close contact with the CSO. Estonia and Latvia will continue to implement common initiatives as lead countries. Furthermore ICT was a main topic during the conference 'Fostering Economic Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region', Berlin 13 March 2001.

IV. Co-operation with other fora and international organisations

The Baltic Business Advisory Council (BAC)

The Group benefited from the increased involvement of the BAC in the discussions on relevant issues such as border crossing and particularly on the Northern Dimension. This co-operation was stimulating for the further development of activities on economic co-operation.

The Baltic Chambers of Commerce (BCCA)

The Group co-operated with the BCCA on issues such as the border crossing project (2h in 2001) and the preparation of the EU Partenariat.

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

The co-operation with the OECD was continued. Further joint activities under the OECD 'Baltic Regional Program' particularly the activity on 'Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development' (FEED) is under discussion. The WGEC has also an established permanent contact with the OECD on the subject of the 'fight against corruption'.

The Baltic Sea Custom Conference (BSCC)

BSCC plays an important role in realizing the objective of the Bergen Action Plan to reduce time for border crossing of goods to not more than two hours.

Discussed and adopted at the WGEC meeting on 19 April 2001.

(2000-2001) Report of the Working Group on Democratic Institutions

10th Ministerial Session

(Hamburg, 7 June 2001)

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

**Report of the Working Group on
Democratic Institutions for the activity period of 2000-2001**

I. Introduction

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 CBSS Working Group on Democratic Institutions between September 2000 and May 2001. During that period, following up on the recommendations and decisions from the Kolding and Bergen meetings and acting in close co-ordination with the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), the WGDI:

- Facilitated the preparation of relevant conferences, round tables and seminars;
- Maintained close contact and co-operation with the office of the CBSS Commissioner.
- Considered the development of selected democratic institutions in the CBSS Member States
- Ensured further progress on matters pursued during previous Chairmanship
- Studied the characteristics of the Icelandic democratic system.

The Working Group dedicated itself to practical work. It revised its Terms of Reference and working methods, initiated and was involved in the planning and organising of an Ombudsmen seminar, elaborated a background paper for the First Baltic Sea NGO Forum in Lübeck, contributed to the preparation for the NGO Forum and arranged study visits.

II. WGDI agenda and activities during the Icelandic Chairmanship in 2000-2001

In accordance with the Work plan, the Group held four regular meetings - in September and December 2000, March and April 2001. The main topics handled by the WGDI during this period were:

Follow-up on the recommendations and decisions from the Kolding and Bergen meetings. The Working Group discussed the scope of its activities in light of the recommendations and decisions from the 3rd Baltic Sea States Summit in Kolding and 9th CBSS Ministerial session in Bergen. It was agreed that they contained a number of broad guidelines for the WGDI, while leaving sufficient room for the Working Group to decide on concrete actions to be taken and issues to be followed up on. The activity plan of the WGDI for 2000-2001 was adjusted accordingly.

Following the instructions from the CBSS Presidency, the WGDI discussed its possible contribution to the CBSS input to the EU Northern Dimension Action Plan. Project proposals identified in the framework of the Working Group were forwarded to the CSO. They will be kept as a source of reference and in view of possible follow-up in the future.

Development of selected democratic institutions in the Baltic Sea region: the WGDI assisted in the preparation for, and attended the seminar of National/Parliamentary Ombudsmen from the CBSS Member States on 1st March 2001. The WGDI may take up some issues discussed by the Ombudsmen in its future work. The Summary from the Seminar, prepared by the Secretariat, was circulated to the offices of National/Parliamentary Ombudsmen for reference use. The official texts of the presentations and remarks delivered at the Seminar by the Ombudsmen were compiled by the Secretariat and published on

the CBSS Website. The Working Group concluded, as did the Ombudsmen themselves, that the Seminar was a success, since it stimulated discussion on recent achievements and future challenges of the Ombudsman institution. A follow-up meeting in the same format, possibly in St.Petersburg during the period of the Russian CBSS Presidency, would be very welcome and useful.

Co-operation between the WGDI and the CBSS Commissioner. Contacts between the WGDI and the *CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Development* have been extensive. Members of the WGDI assisted the Commissioner in preparing her visits to the Member States, identifying relevant structures/officials/contact persons dealing with democratic institution-building or human rights issues and keeping the Commissioner up to date with any administrative or personal changes which occurred therein. Whenever necessary, the WGDI provided assistance in ensuring adequate dissemination of the Commissioner's official documents among relevant structures and authorities in the Member States. Upon request from the Commissioner, the Working Group ensured an official translation of the mandate of the CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Development into all 11 national languages of the CBSS Member countries for subsequent dissemination in electronic and printed form. Co-operation between the Commissioner and the Group included invitations to regular WGDI meetings and a visit to the Commissioner's office, exchange of information, follow-up on the Commissioner's past recommendations and surveys, as well as co-ordinated efforts in the context of the Ombudsmen seminar and the NGO Forum. The WGDI followed closely the implementation of the Commissioner's programme of good law-making seminars, providing assistance in their organisation and evaluation, whenever appropriate. The Working Group fully supports the Commissioner's intention to launch, as a next step, a series of three seminars on good governance, as well as to focus in the future on such areas as trafficking in human beings, border crossings and national minorities.

Overview of the status of implementation of the CBSS Commissioner's recommendations. The WGDI continued the tradition of including the Commissioner's relevant surveys and activities in its agenda. It is understood that the Working Group is not an instrument to enforce the implementation of the Commissioner's recommendations at the national level. Instead, the WGDI focused on bringing political spotlight on issues and areas where the progress in the implementation had been slow or insufficient. The Working Group welcomed the intention of the Commissioner to follow up on selected past surveys and recommendations.

Co-operation on Children at Risk in the Baltic Sea region. This topic was on the agenda of two meetings of the Working Group. The Swedish Special Group on Children at Risk and national experts on children's issues from the Member States were invited to take part in the discussions. The WGDI received and discussed the progress report from the lead countries for the "Child Centre" IT initiative. It also held preliminary discussions on organisational and institutional aspects of the future work on Children at Risk.

Terms of Reference, structure and working methods of the WGDI. Acting upon instructions from the CSO, the Group undertook a thorough update of its Terms of Reference adopted in 1992, as well as its structure and working methods, making them more focused and result-oriented. The agreed revised text of the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Democratic Institutions was forwarded to the CSO for formal approval.

The Group held a joint session with representatives of three organisations with the status of Special Participants in the CBSS. It was agreed that close co-operation with the BSPC, BSSSC and UBC constituted a priority for the CBSS. This co-operation should aim at avoiding duplication of efforts and ensuring harmonisation and synergy of activities through the establishment of a mechanism for regular exchange of information.

The WGDI supported the process of preparation for the First Baltic Sea NGO Forum in Lubeck by elaborating a background paper explaining the national policies on, and assistance schemes for, NGO co-operation in the Baltic Sea region. Members of the Group participated in the Forum and will study the relevance of its outcome for the future work of the WGDI.

The WGDI discussed the preliminary work programme of the next WGDI Chairmanship (Norway) and agreed on a set of common priorities and proposals for the next activity period.

Study visits. Building on the useful tradition established during previous activity years, study visits were organised to

- The Icelandic parliament (Althing)
- The Office of the Swedish Equal Opportunities Ombudsman (JämO)
- The Office of the CBSS Commissioner
- The Children's House in Reykjavik

Related activities

A Conference on Decentralised Co-operation and Local Government was held in Stockholm on 17-18 October 2000.

III. Outlook for the future

The promotion of respect for democracy, the rule of law, fundamental and human rights is a priority of the Council of the Baltic Sea States at the outset of the new millennium. The institutions of the CBSS are not solely responsible for this task in the Baltic Sea region, but work in co-operation with other international fora to achieve this goal, avoiding at the same time unnecessary duplication of efforts.

Scope of future activities:

The Working Group will focus on a selected number of key issues emanating from its Terms of Reference, which include i.a.:

- Arranging and evaluating seminars and workshops dedicated to sharing experience and exchanging views on common challenges with respect to the rule of law, civil society, transparency and efficiency of administrative practices, access to information, local democracy and citizens' participation;
- Launching and overseeing concrete projects in the field of strengthening of democratic institutions, including technical assistance, good governance, local self-government and good law-making;

Good governance and administration is a way of enhancing the transparency of legislation and promoting human rights awareness. These efforts should primarily be targeted at parliamentarians and executives at national and sub-national levels, providing training in human rights and state-of-the-art legislative and governance practices. The initiative of the CBSS Commissioner to hold a new series of mini-seminars is particularly relevant in this respect.

Structure and working methods:

The WGDI meets on a regular basis, following a work plan, to be discussed between the CSO Chair and the WGDI Chair at the beginning of each new Presidency and endorsed by the first CSO meeting of the season. The work plan includes the expected outcome of the activities. The Secretariat follows up on the outcome of WGDI decisions and keeps the Group informed thereon.

Activities of the WGDI may be supported by experts, through i.a. conferences, workshops or seminars, who shall report their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the WGDI.

Level and professional profile of national representation in the WGDI is decided by the respective Member States, with due consideration given to knowledge and expertise in legal issues.

The Chairmanship of the WGDI rotates on an annual basis, as decided by the CSO.

(2000-2001) Report of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

**Council of the Baltic Sea States
10th Ministerial Session
(Hamburg, 7 June 2001)**

Annual Report of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

The Working Group for Nuclear and Radiation Safety has encouraged and supported the national authorities to enhance their co-operation in improving nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea Region. During the past year, and in the near future, special emphasis was put on rapid exchange of radiation monitoring data on a daily basis and other information between the Member States in the event of radiological or nuclear emergencies. This is considered to be of a particular importance due to the number of nuclear facilities in the Region requiring a preparedness when needed for multilateral co-operation and co-ordination in the Region.

I. Meetings:

The Group decided to have two meetings per year. The first meeting took place in Berlin 7-8 September 2000 and the second on April 26- 27, 2001 in Stockholm. During the meetings as well as in written procedure, the countries have reported on the preparation for signing of the agreement as well as of the experience what concerns testing of the technical system developed for the exchange of radiation monitoring data.

During the meeting in Berlin, the Group elected a new chairman, Mr. B. Åke Persson from Sweden and adopted a new work plan.

The chairman had together with the Secretariat two extra meetings with selected members of the Group to finalize the Terms of Reference and the draft Agreement on exchange of radiation monitoring data.

During the meeting in Stockholm the Group adopted new terms of references, which were submitted to the CSO.

II. Activities in the Working Group:

Agreement on exchange of radiation monitoring data: Finalizing the Agreement on exchange of radiation monitoring data was among the major tasks for the Working Group during the last year. The Agreement has resulted from complicated and hard work in the CBSS. Despite the difficulties in preparing the agreement, the goal was that the agreement can be signed by the Foreign Ministers at the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the CBSS in Hamburg on 7 June.

Technical arrangements for the exchange of gamma monitoring data have been tested. 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.

Terms of Reference: The group has prepared broad Terms of Reference, not limiting the scope of possible future activities. In this context the countries of the Baltic Sea Region shall also be prepared to co-operate in areas related to the decommissioning of nuclear installations. The actual steering tool for future work of the Group will therefore be the work plan.

The Group agreed to the revised Terms of Reference at the meeting in April and will forward them to the CSO.

Country reports: Member countries reported regularly on major issues of nuclear and radiation safety.

Radiological condition of the Baltic Sea: The chairman of HELCOM/MORS gave a comprehensive report on the radioactive contamination of the Baltic Sea, its sources and development of contamination rate. The information was based on an EU project titled 'MARINA BALT'.

III. Working Plan of the WGNRS

The Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (WGNRS) within the CBSS is a forum for exchange of information and coordination of efforts to enhance nuclear and radiation safety in the region. The working group is looking for means to be initiated with the aim to strengthen practical co-operation in these fields. The national nominated participants in the WGNRS mainly have their expertise knowledge in the field of radiation protection and radiological emergency planning.

Actions to be taken

- 1 Exchange of monitoring data and information
 - Follow up the experience of the operation of the system for the exchange of monitoring data.
 - Participate in the finalisation of the intergovernmental agreement on monitoring data and information.
- 2 Regional agreement on assistance
 - Supplementing of the IAEA 'Convention on assistance in the case of radiological accident' what concerns cooperation in the Baltic Sea region in the event of a nuclear accident. A background report is under preparation by Norway and Lithuania to analyse the prevailing situation in the region. Suitable actions to be initiated will be discussed at coming WGNRS meetings.
- 3 Illicit trafficking
 - Monitor the situation in the region by contacts with IAEA and other organisations, which are active in this area.
- 4 Emergency exercises and training
 - Exchange of experience on exercises of common interest for the region.
 - Investigate the condition of an extension of the regularly communication tests between the Nordic authorities (involving official national point of contact and the competent authorities) to include all countries in the Baltic Sea region.
 - Consider the need for common actions to strengthen the emergency preparedness co-operation in case of nuclear accident.
- 5 National Reports
 - Exchange information on national activities during the meetings of WGNRS, documented in reports and task groups.
 - Act as a chain for exchange of general information between the CBSS members in the field of nuclear and radiation safety on nuclear power plants in operation, units to be decommissioned and new units planned.
 - Follow and evaluate the overall situation regarding the pollution of radioactive substances in the Baltic Sea.
- 6 Information Channels
 - The Group intends to initiate information channels in each member state between the civil and military authorities dealing with nuclear activities relevant to the scope of the Working Group.

The annual report was adopted by the Group at the meeting April 27.

Annual Report to the CSO on the activities of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, 2000/2001

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:

- 10th ministerial session of the CBSS in Hamburg, 7 June 2001 - 6 meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials
- 2 meetings of the troika at CSO level
- 2 meetings of the ad hoc working group on the Northern Dimension - 4 meetings of the WGEC
- 4 meetings and 1 seminar in the WGDI
- 2 meetings of the WGNS
- 2 meetings in the Group of Senior Officials on Information Society.

Energy unit of the Secretariat has assisted GSEO and the ad hoc groups of BASREC in the preparation and follow-up of the following meetings and other events:

- 4 meetings of GSEO
- 1 meeting and 4 seminars of the ad hoc Group on Electricity Markets - 1 meeting of the ad hoc Group on Gas markets
- 2 meetings of the ad hoc Group on Energy Efficiency
- 2 meetings and 1 seminar of the ad hoc Group on Climate Change
- 1 joint meeting between BAL TREL, Baltic Gas and the BASREC ad hoc Groups on Electricity Markets and Gas Markets

The Baltic 21 unit has prepared and followed-up or assisted the following meetings:

- 4 meetings of the Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group Bureau
- 2 meetings of the Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group
- 2 meetings of the Lead Parties and the Responsible Actors
- The Baltic 21 First Education Sector Meeting, Vilnius, Lithuania.

The Secretariat has held a number of planning meetings with the presidency. A meeting was held in the Secretariat on 18 December 2000 with State Minister Dr. Christoph Zöpel.

In addition, the Secretariat was given a number of tasks by the Council or by the CSO:

- The CSO asked the Secretariat to participate in the expert group on the EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad. 4 expert group meetings took place, including a monitoring visit to Kaliningrad.
- The conference of ministers for trade and economic co-operation in February 2000 requested the Secretariat to report, in co-operation with the WGEC and the BAC, on the progress in the removal of barriers to trade and investments based on the Action plan adopted by the conference.

The Baltic 21 unit was given a number of ad hoc tasks by the Senior Officials Group:

- Preparation of a joint *ad hoc* Baltic 21-HELCOM Working Group to examine how the mandates, policies and scopes of activities should be pursued in a best coordinated, complementary and mutually supporting manner. Two expert meetings took place and a report was developed.
- A joint meeting in Brussels with the Forward Studies Unit in the European Commission regarding the EU Strategy on Sustainable Development with Baltic 21 and the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD).
- Country Meeting in Estonia regarding the future location of the Baltic 21 Secretariat

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 (including June 2001) of the monthly Newsletter, BALTINFO with an average of 6 pages per issue and circulated them to approximately 1.300 subscribers. The Newsletter was also published on the Web site of the CBSS maintained by the Secretariat.

The CBSS Website (www.baltinfo.org) was continuously updated. All major, public documents of the CBSS, as well as others, directly related to intergovernmental co-operation in the Baltic Sea region are published on the Website. The site has an average of 4500 visitors per month. The Secretariat is currently in the process of technical upgrading of the Website.

A specific website (www.basrec.org) was set up for disseminating information on the BASREC Conference "Energy - the Key to the New Millennium" in Stockholm, 18-19 June, 2001.

The Secretariat continued to provide factual information about the CBSS and its activities upon requests from European, American and international yearbooks and encyclopaedias.

In the framework of implementation of the information strategy in accordance with the mandate Secretariat staff members delivered lectures at a number of meetings and conferences (See attachment 2).

The Secretariat organised a press briefing with the Chairman of the CSO on the occasion of the CBSS Day on 6 March 2001.

During the past year the Secretariat hosted various meetings, conferences and seminars for foreign visitors and organisations. The Secretariat continued the series of Seasonal Seminars launched in the autumn of 1999. Guest speakers have been Alexej Leonidovitj Nikiforov, Russian Ambassador to Sweden, Prof. Dr. Bernd Henningsen, Humboldt University Berlin, and professor Olav F. Knudsen of Södertörn University College.

▪ **Northern Dimension**

The Northern Dimension was one of the main activities of the work of the Secretariat. The Secretariat collected and analysed proposals from a large number of Baltic Sea organisations and networks. The Secretariat has prepared the report on the Workshop 'Contribution to the Northern Dimension Action Plan of the European Union' in Brussels on 27 March 2001.

▪ **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 (EF-K). The Secretariat took part in organising the EF-K inauguration ceremony (September 2000) and has subsequently participated in the CBSS expert group for EF-K, which monitors the implementation of the project, providing assistance in the drafting of conceptual and background papers, official correspondence, establishing and maintaining contacts with all parties involved in or related to the project.

▪ **Civil Security**

The Secretariat continued to follow-up on Baltic Sea developments and events in the field of Civil Security, assisting the lead country in the preparation of background documents and reports, organising and attending and contributing to meetings, particularly the expert conference in Warsaw (December 2000).

▪ **Economic Co-operation**

The Secretariat participated in the development and launching of the Internet website for SMEs as decided by the conference of ministers for trade and economic co-operation in February 2000. In collaboration with the WGEC the Secretariat has prepared the 'Progress Report' on the 'Bergen Action Plan' to the 10th ministerial session of the CBSS in Hamburg 7 June 2001

▪ **NGO Forum**

The Secretariat provided support to the Presidency in the preparation for the NGO Forum in Lübeck, drafting background '- papers, assisting in identifying and contacting participants and guests, attending preparatory meetings and publishing information about the Forum on the CBSS website and the monthly newsletter.

▪ **Energy Unit**

Based on a decision by the ministers for energy, the CSO in January 2000 endorsed a proposal for an energy unit in the Secretariat. Two staff members have worked in the unit since April 2000. They support the activities under the Group of Senior Energy Officials.

▪ **Baltic 21 Unit**

The Secretariat for the Baltic 21 was established in January 2001, following a decision of the Council, integrated into the CBSS Secretariat and the two persons working in the Baltic 21 secretariat were transferred to the staff of the CBSS Secretariat.

▪ **Staf**

As of 3 April 2000, the CBSS Secretariat had 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 Nystrom (Started 1 September 1998)
- Senior Advisor Serguei Sokolov (Started 20 October 1998)
- Senior Advisor Vibeke Holm (Started 1 November 1998)
- Chief of Staff Anna Reece (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 in the energy unit Nijole Jovaisiene (Started 3 April 2000)
- Head of Baltic 21 unit Christine Jacobsson (started 1 January 2001)
- Senior Advisor in the Baltic 21 unit Marek Maciejowski (started 1 January 2001)
- Assistant Birgit Lagerstrom (started 1 April 2001)

The Director's contract has been prolonged for one year, until 15 August 2002. The contract with Senior Advisor Serguei Sokolov has been prolonged for one year until 20 October 2002. Two new staff members were recruited in May following an open application procedure as replacements for Mr. Gronbjerg, Ms. Reece and Ms. Holm. Mrs. Nyström was rehired for three years following an open application procedure. The two new staff members are:

- Senior Advisor Mr. Alar Olljum
- Senior Advisor Ms. Rasa Kairiene.

▪ **Internship**

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

- Anna Kouznetsova, MSc., NGO co-operation in the Baltic Sea region. Edited the compilation of the WGDI on "CBSS Member States' policies on, and assistance schemes for, NGO co-operation in the Baltic Sea region" (endorsed by the WGDI in April 2001).
- Mr. Tobias Etzold, MA. Information Society and energy co-operation.

▪ **Accounting and budget**

The 2001 budget for the Secretariat was adopted by the CSO on 12 September 2000, with a total spending of € 765.000.

The financial accounts for 2000 were finalised in February 2001 and audited by the Swedish State Auditor Office in March-April 2001. They were taken note of by the CSO in its meeting on 15 May 2001.

The 2001 budget for the Baltic 21 unit was adopted by the SOG on 30 November 2000 and by the Council in a written procedure on 22 January 2001 with a total spending of €337.839. In addition to this budget, Sweden has provided a host country contribution.

An accounting consultant, Ms. Ellenor Pettersson, performs the daily accounting. The Secretariat has accounts in EURO, DEM and SEK.

▪ **Financial contributions**

At the time of closing the 2000 accounts, all member states had paid their contributions to the CBSS Secretariat in full.

Attachment 1

Some working papers from the Secretariat.

- Report on University Co-operation in the Baltic Sea region. November 2000.
- Introductory observations on Information-Communication- Technology (ICT) Kalmar Action Programme. Review of progress. November 2000.
- Projects in Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation. Available on www.baltinfo.org.
- Information Document. January 2000, last updated May 2001.
- Information Strategy and Visibility of the CBSS. Analysis and Recommendations. 10 Nov. 2000. Northern Dimension: Overview of project proposals. January 2001.
- Report on the Workshop 'Contribution to the Northern Dimension Action Plan of the European Union', Organized by the Presidency of the Council of Baltic Sea States, the Hanse-Office and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Brussels 27 March 2001.
- Compilation on "CBSS Member States' policies on, and assistance schemes for, NGO co-operation in the Baltic Sea region" (April 2001)

Some working papers from the energy unit

- Elements of BASREC information strategy, 13 July, 2000
- Barriers to financing of small and medium-sized energy investments, 18 September, 2000
- Review of activities on Baltic Sea Region energy statistics, 9 April, 2001

Some working papers from the Baltic 21 unit:

- Strategy for the Baltic 21 Interim Secretariat. September 2000
- Implementation of the Baltic 21 TR 1 Action. September 2000
- Baltic 21 Biennial Report - preliminary conclusions from the preparation process and its outcome. November 2000
- Baltic 21 Indicator Report - preliminary conclusions from the preparation process. November 2000
- Revised progress reports from the Sector Lead Parties and the Joint Action Responsible Actors. November 2000
- Sharing of responsibilities within Baltic 21. November 2000
- Comments from Baltic 21 to the INTERREG III B Draft Programme. November 2000
- The EU Northern Dimension and Baltic 21 - the Baltic 21 Secretariat views. November 2000
- The Baltic 21 SOG Chairman's letter to the CBSS CSO Chairman regarding the Baltic 21 projects for the Action Plan for the Northern Dimension. November 2000
- The role of the Baltic 21 Secretariat in the Baltic 21 process. November 2000
- Outcome of the 9th CBSS Ministerial Session of relevance to Baltic 21. November 2000
- SOG Membership. November 2000
- Use of Baltic 21 logo and symbols. November 2000

- Decision regarding the solution for the Secretariat function of Baltic 21. November 2000 Integration of the Baltic 21 Secretariat function into the CBSS Secretariat. January 2001
- Baltic 21 and the Rio+ 10 Summit. January 2001
- Background information on the Rio +10 Summit. January 2001
- Baltic 21 application to DG Environment for partial financing of the Secretariat function for 2001. January 2001
- Integration of the Baltic 21 Secretariat function into the CBSS Secretariat. March 2001
- Draft SOG Bureau decision on mandate for Baltic 21 within the integration process of Baltic 21 and CBSS. March 2001
- Monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Baltic 21 Sector and Joint Actions. March 2001
- Baltic 21 Recommendations for UN -led roundtables in connection with Rio + 10 Summit. March 2001
- Report from the joint experts meeting Baltic 21, MED 21 and the EU Strategy Group on Sustainable Development. March 2001
- Recommendations for coordination and complementarity of Baltic 21 and HELCOM policies and activities. April 2001
- Proposed list of follow-up actions to the *ad hoc* Baltic 21 - HELCOM WG recommendations. April 2001.
- Budget Proposal for the Baltic 21 Secretariat for 2002 - 2 respectively 3 staff. April 2001
- Terms of Reference for the Baltic 21 Secretariat. April 2001
- Analysis and summary of the questionnaire - Question 6. April 2001
- Guidelines for the selection of Baltic 21 staff of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. April 2001
- Vacancy announcement and post descriptions for the Baltic 21 Secretariat. April 2001
- Progress reports from the Baltic 21 Sectors and Joint Actions - synthesis and comments by the Secretariat. April 2001
- Integration of the Baltic 21 Energy Sector Work into the Activities of BASREC. April 2001
- Rio + 10 Summit preparations. April 2001
- Baltic 21 and Nordic Council of Ministers pre-feasibility funding 2001. April 2001
- Baltic 21 and Nordic Council of Ministers pre-feasibility funding for 2000 - Summary of status reports in April 2001.

Attachment 2

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

Project Manager Seppo Silvonen:

- September 6,2000: "The Role of Energy Unit of the CBSS Secretariat in BASREC". Seminar of the BASREC ad hoc Group on Electricity Markets. Helsinki.
- May 19,2001 "Baltic Sea region energy co-operation". Information seminar on Nordic energy projects in the Baltic Sea Region. Helsinki,

Senior Advisor Dr Axel Krohn:

- 8 May 2001, BSSSC Workshop Sub-regional Contribution to the Northern Dimension, Umea, Sweden
- 23 March, Workshop on Economic Dependence and Geopolitics, Riga, Latvia, lecture on 'Economic Co-operation in the Baltic Sea region and the role of the CBSS'
- 4 November 2000, Baltic Economic Forum, Gdansk, Poland, lecture on 'The importance of information-communication- technology (ICT) for the Baltic Sea region'
- 13-15 October 2000, Conference on Security and Stability through Co-operation the Baltic Sea region, Lübeck, Germany, lecture on 'The CBSS- Fostering stability through co-operation.'
- 19-20 September 2000, Conference on Economic Co-operation and Integration in the BSR, Sellin, Germany, lecture on 'Economic Co-operation and Integration in the Baltic Sea Region: A challenge for the CBSS'.

Members of Baltic 21 unit

- 24-25 January 2001, Ad hoc Baltic 21 - HELCOM WG, First Meeting, Kiel, Germany. Marek Maciejowski
- 12-14 November 2000, EU -Life Conference "Efficiency of applied policies regarding prevention and control of diffuse pollution", Poitiers, France. Christine Jakobsson
- 3 November 2000, Steering group meeting for the Baltic Sea Region GEF project, Uppsala, Sweden. Christine Jakobsson
- 27-28 October 2000, Presentation on Baltic 21 in the EUREGIA Congress in Leipzig, Germany. Christine Jakobsson
- 15-17 October 2000, V ASAB 2010 CSD/BSR Meeting, Svetlogorsk, Russia. Marek Maciejowski
- 11-12 October 2000, HELCOM PITF Working Group for Agriculture Meeting, Helsinki. Christine Jakobsson
- 10-11 October 2000, Baltic 21 Agriculture Sector Meeting, Helsinki, Finland. Christine Jakobsson
- 26-29 September 2000, Seminar in connection with Expo 2000, "The Baltic Sea Region - A colourful part of Europe", Hanover, Germany. Christine Jakobsson
- 19-20 September 2000, Conference on Economic Co-operation and Integration in the BSR, Sellin, Germany, lecture on ~Economic Co-operation and Integration in the Baltic Sea Region: A challenge for the CBSS'
- 18-19 June 2000, International conference "On the threshold - Baltic 21 ", Baltic Sea Project, Sønderborg, Denmark. Christine Jakobsson
- 29-30 May 2000, Baltic 21 presentation in connection with UNEP Governing Council, Malmo, Sweden. Christine Jakobsson