

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

The 10<sup>th</sup> Year of the Council's Activity 2001-2002

Russian Presidency of the CBSS

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# Annual report from the Committee of Senior Officials

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## **Committee of Senior Officials (CSO). The 10th Year of the Council's Activity**

Council of the Baltic Sea States

CSO Annual Report for 2001-02:  
The 10th Year of the Council's Activity

During the period of the Russian Presidency of the CBSS, from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, the Committee of Senior Officials has conducted its work according to the Council's directions as outlined in the Copenhagen Declaration, the Communiqué of the Hamburg Ministerial Session and other relevant documents.

The CSO held nine regular meetings and four meetings in special session in six cities: Moscow, St. Petersburg, Svetlogorsk, Brussels, Riga and Stockholm. Ambassador-at-large Alexey A. Obukhov of the Russian Foreign Ministry chaired the meetings.<sup>1</sup> The CSO Chairman has officially represented the CBSS at a large number of meetings and conferences of relevance to Baltic Sea regional co-operation.<sup>2</sup>

The CSO Troika (Germany, Russia and Finland) has held six meetings in four cities: Moscow, St. Petersburg, Svetlogorsk and Stockholm. In addition, the CSO Troika led a CBSS delegation<sup>3</sup> to Strasbourg for bilateral consultations on co-operation with the Council of Europe.

The following priority areas and issues were deliberated by the CSO during its Russian Chairmanship:

The Northern Dimension continued to be a major theme for the work of the CSO. In order to improve monitoring of the implementation of the Northern Dimension Action Plan the CSO decided to appoint "sector lead-countries" for each of the nine sectors outlined in the CBSS "List of Priorities and Projects". A special session of the CSO was held on 25 January at the European Commission in Brussels where lead-country representatives reported on the state-of-play with regard to implementation of the CBSS list of priorities and projects within their respective sectors. These presentations were followed by commentary from representatives of the European Commission. CBSS special participants, partner organizations and representatives of international financial institutions also participated. A compilation of written contributions to the special session was published and distributed at the 11th Ministerial session at Svetlogorsk and is publicly available at [www.cbss.st](http://www.cbss.st). The CSO also closely monitored the work of the Senior Officials Group on Information Society (SOIS) on implementing the Northern e-Dimension Action Plan

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<sup>1</sup> A list of the meetings with summaries of the main topics addressed is attached below.

<sup>2</sup> A list of these meetings and conferences is attached below.

<sup>3</sup> Which, in addition to the CSO Troika, also included the Commissioner on Democratic Development, the Chairmen of the Working Group on Democratic Institutions and the Working Group on Economic Co-operation as well as two representatives from the Secretariat.

(NeDAP) adopted at the Riga CBSS Ministerial meeting on Information and Communication Technologies.

Fostering economic co-operation within the region, as a primary goal of the Russian Presidency, also remained very high on the CSO's agenda. The Chairman of the Working Group on Economic Co-operation reported regularly to the CSO, i.a. on the Moscow CBSS Ministers of Trade and Economy meeting.<sup>4</sup> The CSO met twice with the Business Advisory Council (BAC): in Riga on 25 October and in Stockholm on 22 February. The BAC produced and submitted two special reports: first, on business conditions in Kaliningrad, to the 11th Ministerial session; second, a status report on business conditions in the Baltic Sea region, to the 4th Baltic Sea States Summit at St. Petersburg. A BAC representative participated in the special CBSS fact-finding mission to Kaliningrad to investigate the possibility of setting up a Business Development Support Group in the Oblast, an initiative that received strong support at the Svetlogorsk Ministerial.

The promotion of practical co-operation with regional and subregional actors continued to be a priority goal for the CSO. A meeting of CSO Chairpersons from all major intergovernmental co-operation bodies in Northern Europe<sup>5</sup> was held at Oslo on 14 September. The CSO held its meeting in Riga on 25 October in conjunction with the annual conference of the Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) and this was followed by a first-ever meeting of the heads of Baltic Sea regional organizations,<sup>6</sup> presided over by the CSO Chairman. The special situation of the Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation was an important focus of several deliberations, especially in the context of preparations for the 11th Ministerial session. A summary report on CBSS member-state co-operation projects and activities with Kaliningrad Oblast was compiled by the CSO and submitted to the 11th Ministerial. The initiative to launch a CBSS Financing Facility for Subregional Co-operation did not receive the required support from member-states and was thus tabled indefinitely.

Co-operation on soft security matters was a major focus of attention for the CSO. At the request of the CSO, and in the aftermath of the tragic events of 11 September, the Chairman of the Task Force on Organized Crime (TF-OC) provided regularly updated information to the CSO on a new TF-OC initiative on ways the TF-OC might contribute to the fight against international terrorism. The CSO also monitored closely the work of the EUROBALTIC co-operation on civil protection, including i.a. an initiative on unifying civil emergency response (112 call system). Poland continued to be lead-country for civil security co-operation and as such produced an annual report on its activities to the CSO. The CSO monitored the work of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (WGNRS) and noted the progress made on

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<sup>4</sup> The annual report of the WGEC is attached below as Annex no.1

<sup>5</sup> The Chairmen of the steering bodies of the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the CBSS and the Nordic Council of Ministers all participated.

<sup>6</sup> Organizations represented at the meeting: Business Advisory Council, Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Co-operation, Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation, Union of Baltic Cities and VASAB 2010.

ratifying and implementing the Agreement on the Exchange of Radiation Monitoring Data.<sup>7</sup> The Russian Federation signed the agreement, completing the list of signatories, in conjunction with the 11th Ministerial session.

Issues of human security, including the control of communicable diseases and co-operation on children at risk, occupied a prominent place on the CSO agenda during the past year. At its 21-22 February meeting in Stockholm, the CSO met with the Chairman of the newly created Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk (WGCC). After a careful deliberation on the matter, the CSO decided to accept the integration of a small unit for children's matters into the Secretariat and authorized the Director to facilitate this process on the basis of the procedure agreed by the CSO at its 21-22 February meeting. Since 1 March 2002, the Children's Unit is an integrated part of the Secretariat.

Co-operation in the field of culture and education was also highlighted by the CSO on several occasions. At its 25 October meeting in Riga, the CSO met with the new Director of the EuroFaculty and the Chairman of the EF Governing Board. The CSO closely monitored the work of the EuroFaculty Kaliningrad and was regularly updated by the lead-country representatives. The annual report of the EF Kaliningrad was presented by the lead-country at the 6-7 December meeting in Moscow of the CSO. At the same meeting, the CSO met with a representative of the Conference of Baltic University Rectors and was informed on the progress achieved to date in creating the Baltic Sea Higher Education Area. At its 21-22 February meeting in Stockholm, the CSO met representatives of Ars Baltica and the Baltic Sea States Monitoring Group on Heritage Co-operation.

Civil society and democratic development in the region was an important focus for the CSO, especially at its 6-7 December meeting in Moscow when it met the CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Development and was informed of the Commissioner's activities and plans for future work.<sup>8</sup> The CSO closely monitored the work of its Working Group on Democratic Institutions, especially the seminars held at Bergen, Stockholm and St. Petersburg.<sup>9</sup> The CSO Chairman – together with several members of the CSO – participated in the 2nd Baltic Sea NGO Forum at St. Petersburg on 18-21 April.

A meeting of political directors of CBSS member-states, the second of its kind, was convened by the Russian CBSS Presidency at the European Commission in Brussels on 24 January. A central focus of the meeting was the pending EU enlargement and the changed role of the CBSS as a political actor in the region. The Russia-EU dialogue on Kaliningrad was also highlighted as an important issue. Finland announced its intention to hold a third such meeting during its upcoming CBSS Presidency.

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<sup>7</sup> The annual report of the WGNRS is attached below as Annex no.3

<sup>8</sup> For detailed information on the Commissioner's activities, please refer to her annual report, available at [www.cbss-commissioner.org](http://www.cbss-commissioner.org).

<sup>9</sup> The annual report of the WGDI is attached below as Annex no.2

Preparations for the 4th Baltic Sea States Summit formed the agenda of three meetings of the CSO in special session at Moscow on 12 April and 23-24 May and on 9 June in St. Petersburg. The Summit itself was held in St. Petersburg on 10 June in the presence of the President of the Russian Federation. All CBSS member-states heads of government participated in the Summit. The EU presidency and a representative of the European Commission also attended.

The question of official observers and special participants was discussed by the CSO on several occasions, most notably at its regular meeting in Svetlogorsk on 4-5 March where a four-point program was adopted on beginning a more regular and structured exchange of information with CBSS Observers and Special Participants. At the CSO meeting in Riga on 25 October, Slovakia's application for observer status was satisfied. Hereafter the CBSS has seven observers: France, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America. The CBSS has four special participants: the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Co-operation (BSPC); the Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC); the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC).

Relations with the Council of Europe were enlivened as a result of an exchange of views conducted between a CBSS delegation<sup>10</sup>, headed by the CSO Chairman, and the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Deputies in Strasbourg on 22 March. The exchange of views revealed a high degree of interest on the part of the CoE in the CBSS in general and a number of activities in particular which match or complement the efforts of the CoE on a pan-European level. The CBSS was referred to by several delegations as a "model" of regional co-operation. Further co-operation with the CoE is expected to take place according to the follow-up foreseen in the Vilnius declaration on regional co-operation, adopted by the 110th session of the CoE Committee of Ministers.

The Council approved the CSO nominee for the new Director of the Secretariat, Ambassador Hannu HALINEN, who is set to assume his duties as of 15 August. At the CSO meeting in Moscow on 11 April, the Secretariat presented the new CBSS website and demonstrated some possible uses for the new CSO extranet.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> As noted already above, the CBSS delegation was composed of members of the CSO Troika, the CBSS Commissioner, the Chairmen of the WGs on Democratic Institutions and Economic Development and two representatives of the CBSS Secretariat.

<sup>11</sup> The annual report of the Secretariat is attached as Annex no.4

## Attachment 1

1. Participation by representatives of institutions forming part of the CBSS structure at CSO meetings held during the Russian CBSS Presidency, 2001-02:

Ars Baltica Organizing Committee  
Baltic 21  
Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation (BASREC)  
Baltic Sea States Monitoring Group on Heritage Co-operation  
Business Advisory Council (BAC)  
Commissioner on Democratic Development  
EuroFaculty  
Expert Group on EuroFaculty Kaliningrad  
Senior Officials group on Information Society (SOIS)  
Task Force on Communicable Disease Control (TF-CDC)  
Task Force on Organised Crime (TF-OC)  
Working Group on Child Co-operation (WGCC)  
Working Group on Democratic Institutions (WGDI)  
Working Group on Economic Co-operation (WGEC)

2. Participation by Observers, Special Participants and Invited Guests at CSO meetings held during the Russian CBSS Presidency, 2001-02

a. Observers:

Republic of Slovakia  
United States of America

b. Special Participants:

Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation (BSSSC)  
Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)

c. Invited Guests:

Arctic Council (AC)  
Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA)  
Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)  
Conference of Baltic University Rectors (CBUR)  
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)  
European Investment Bank (EIB)  
Swedish National Defence College – Centre for Crisis Management Research and Training (CRISMART)  
Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010 (VASAB 2010)

## **Attachment 2 - CSO meetings during the Presidency of the Russian Federation**

### CSO meetings during the Presidency of the Russian Federation

The CSO held a total of nine regular meetings and four meetings in special session during the Russian presidency 2001-02 with the following main topics:

7 September 2001 in Moscow: Review of Hamburg Ministerial Session and presentation of the priorities of the Russian presidency. Work program and calendar of meetings of the CSO. Activity plans of the Working Groups. Progress report on the EuroFaculty Kaliningrad.

25 October 2001 in Riga: Meeting with the Director of the EuroFaculty and the Chairman of the Governing Board of the EuroFaculty. Presentation by the Chairman of the Business Advisory Council. Northern Dimension Action Plan and the CBSS List of Priorities and Projects. Riga ICT Ministerial on the Northern e-Dimension. Financing facility for subregional co-operation. Co-operation with CBSS special participants and partner organizations. Preparation of the 10th Anniversary Ministerial Session (1st draft declaration). Slovakia's application for Observer status.

6-7 December 2001 in Moscow: Report on EUROBALTIC 112 Workshop. Annual report by lead-country on Civil Security. Task Force on Organised Crime (TF-OC) Chairman's initiative on counter-terrorism. Report from Task Force on Communicable Diseases. Preparation of CSO special session on Northern Dimension Action Plan. Senior Officials group on Information Society. Annual report by EuroFaculty Kaliningrad lead-country. Presentation by Commissioner on Democratic Development. Preparation of 10th Anniversary Ministerial Session (2nd revised draft declaration). Approval of WGEC work plan for 2001-2002. Preparation of CBSS Political Directors meeting. Institutional arrangements for co-operation on Children at Risk. Belarus application for observer status. Lithuanian proposal for co-operation with the Council of Europe. Swedish initiative on a Business development support group in Kaliningrad.

24 January 2002 in Brussels: Update on TF-OC initiative on counter-terrorism. Report on EUROBALTIC expert meeting on civil protection. Preparation of 10th Anniversary Ministerial session (3rd revised draft declaration).

25 January 2002 in Brussels: (Special session on Implementation of the Northern Dimension Action Plan and the CBSS List of priorities and projects). CBSS sector lead-country reports, replies by representatives of the European Commission. Interventions by special participants and guests, i.a. Arctic Council, BCCA, BSSSC, Baltic 21, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Union of Baltic Cities, EBRD, EIB.

21-22 February 2002 in Stockholm: Review of CSO special session on Northern Dimension. Presentation of initiative on Crisis Management Research and Training (CRISMART). Report on status of agreement on exchange of radiation monitoring data. Presentations by Ars Baltica and Monitoring Group on Heritage Co-operation. Preparation of 10th Anniversary Ministerial session (4th revised draft declaration). Business Development Support Group for Kaliningrad Oblast. Children at Risk – institutional arrangements for co-operation.

4-5 March 2002 in Svetlogorsk: Preparation of 10th Anniversary Ministerial session (5th and final revisions of draft declaration). Review of role and functions of CBSS Observer States and Special Participants. Recruitment of new Director of the Secretariat.

11 April 2002 in Moscow: Update on TF-OC initiative on counter-terrorism. Euroregions and the CBSS. Review of the 10th Anniversary Ministerial Session. Review of the CBSS political directors meeting. Review of CBSS Ministers of Economy and Trade meeting. Report on CBSS consultations in Strasbourg with the Council of Europe. Presentation of draft program for Finnish CBSS Presidency. Presentation of new CBSS website and CSO extranet. Approval by CSO to nominate new Director of Secretariat. Approval of CBSS Commissioner budget for 2003.

12 April 2002 in Moscow: (Special session to prepare the 4th Baltic Sea States Summit). Practical preparations. Draft agenda and themes for discussion. Chairman's conclusions preliminary outline. Draft list of reports and other documents for the Summit.

23-24 May 2002 in Moscow: (Special session to prepare the 4th Baltic Sea States Summit). Practical preparations. Draft agenda and format. 2nd Draft Chairman's conclusions. Draft Statement on Communicable Diseases and draft Message on Baltic 21. Draft list of reports and other documents for the Summit.

24 May 2002 in Moscow: VASAB 2010 Request for special participant Status. Appointment of new Director of the Secretariat.

9 June 2002 in St. Petersburg: (Special session to prepare the 4th Baltic Sea States Summit). Practical preparations. Draft agenda and format. Final Draft Chairman's conclusions. Final draft Statement on Communicable Diseases and draft Message on Baltic 21. Final list of reports and other documents for the Summit.

17-18 June in Stockholm: Presentations by Baltic 21, BASREC-GSEO, SOIS. Review of 4th Baltic Sea States Summit. Draft program for Finnish CBSS Presidency. Discussion of VASAB 2010 request for closer co-operation. Fact-finding mission report on the Business Development Support Group for Kaliningrad Oblast. Adoption of CSO annual report. Recruitment of Secretariat staff. Presentation of new Director of the Secretariat.

### **Attachment 3 - Participation by the CBSS-CSO Chairman in selected meetings and conferences related to Baltic Sea regional co-operation during the Russian CBSS Presidency, 2001-02**

Participation by the CBSS-CSO Chairman in selected meetings and conferences related to Baltic Sea regional co-operation during the Russian CBSS Presidency, 2001-02

10th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), 3-4 September in Greifswald

Meeting of CSO Chairmen from the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the CBSS and the Nordic Council of Ministers, 14 September in Oslo

5th meeting of CBSS Ministers of Culture, 18-19 September in Copenhagen

3rd Annual Summit of the Baltic Development Forum, 23-25 September in St. Petersburg

6th General Conference of the Union of Baltic Cities, 12-13 October in Rostock

9th Annual Conference of the Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation, 26-27 October in Riga

Meeting of Chairpersons of Baltic Sea Organizations and Structures, 27 October in Riga

OSCE Ministerial meeting, 3-4 December in Bucharest

2nd meeting of CBSS Political Directors, 24 January in Brussels

Meeting of CBSS Ministers of Trade and Economy, 20 March in Moscow

Exchange of views between the CBSS and the Council of Europe, 22 March in Strasbourg

2nd Baltic Sea NGO Forum, 18-21 April in St. Petersburg

110th Session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, 2-3 May in Vilnius

Meeting of CBSS Ministers of the Interior, 6-7 May in Lübeck

## **Annex 1 - Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)**

Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

Presidency of the Russian Federation (July 2001 - June 2002)

Working Group on Economic Co-operation (WGEC)

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

Discussed at the Meeting of the WGEC held on 4 June 2002 in Moscow.

Introduction.

During the period of July 2001-June 2002 the CBSS Working Group on Economic Co-operation concentrated its efforts on the Work Program of the Russian Chairmanship of the CBSS WGEC. The Chairmanship found it important to involve several relevant Russian authorities in the activities of the WGEC, thus providing for multifaceted participation and a better study of the regional problems. The preparation of the Meeting of the Ministers of Economy and Trade of the Member States of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) held in Moscow on 20 March 2002, and in particular the drafting of the 'Moscow Action Plan' were major tasks for the WGEC. (See Annex 1)

An 'Updated Progress Report' on the 'Bergen Action Plan', adopted by the Ministers in charge of Trade and Economic Co-operation in Bergen (February 2000) was drafted by the BAC (Business Advisory Council) and the CBSS Secretariat. The Report was, after adoption by the WGEC, submitted to the 11th Session of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CBSS Member States (Svetlogorsk, 5-6 March 2002), and to the Meeting of the Ministers of Economy and Trade of the CBSS Member States (Moscow, 20 March 2002). (See Annex 2)

The input from the BAC, continued to be of great interest and value to the WGEC. Co-operation with the Baltic Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA), and the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was also continued. Co-operation with the WGEC of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) concentrated on customs issues pertaining to the wider border crossing issues and the measures adopted in this respect in the 'Bergen Action Plan'.

The intention of the BEAC WGEC and the CBSS WGEC to hold a joint meeting under the Russian Chairmanship of the CBSS WGEC was not realised. It was, however, decided during the last WGEC meeting in Moscow

on 4 June to hold such a meeting on the 10th of September. The outgoing Russian Chairman would for that meeting only, represent the CBSS WGEC.

#### I. List of the meetings of the WGEC

During the period of July 2001-June 2002, six meetings of the WGEC were held. The Russian Federation chaired all meetings.

Moscow, 13-14 September 2001

The draft Work Program of the Russian presidency was discussed. Several countries submitted amendments. Such amendments dealt with, i.e. co-operation in the fields of tourism, economic importance of transport infrastructure, standards and certification, support of SMEs, intellectual property rights, fight against corruption, and monitoring of the achievements since the adoption of the 'Bergen Action Plan'. It was agreed to elaborate concrete proposals on the issues concerned and discuss those at the next meeting of the WGEC.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Russian State Standards Committee who briefed on the start of co-operation process in the field of standards and certification. Representatives of the BEAC Task Force II for Customs issues informed on border-crossing issues within the Barents region. Representatives of the St. Petersburg public and private sectors, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and several representatives of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development and Trade were also in attendance. The President of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, invited to the meeting, briefed on the activities of the bank, in particular underlining the importance of exchange of experiences. Discussions were initiated on the preparation of the Meeting of Ministers of Trade and Economy on March 20. (See Minutes of the Meeting of the CBSS WGEC 13-14.09.2001)

Moscow, 13-14 November 2001

The Russian Work Program was adopted. With the consensus understanding that some issues were also dealt with in other fora, and that those issues were of economic importance to the region it was decided to include them in the Russian Chairmanship's work programme. Follow-up activities of the Bergen Action Plan were discussed. Regarding border crossing issues the BCCA informed on the 'Laufzettel assessment'. Complying with the request of the CBSS CSO the WGEC discussed the specific economic dimension of the CBSS-EU interaction. The BCCA briefed on the results of a first external evaluation on the CBSS website [www.balticmarket.org](http://www.balticmarket.org). Details on the preparation of the upcoming Meeting of the Task Force on Standardisation were discussed. The Meeting of the Ministers of Economy and Trade was subject to further discussion. The WGEC continued the drafting of the text of the Moscow Action Plan. Representatives of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Moscow Institute of the Development of Educational Studies, briefed on those activities of their organisations having an impact on the Baltic Sea region. (See Minutes of the Meeting of the CBSS WGEC 13-14.10.2001).

Moscow, 28 January 2002

The Group continued deliberations on various issues pertaining to the preparation of the meeting of Ministers of Economy and Trade. Particular attention was paid to the draft agenda of the meeting. Representatives of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development and Trade briefed on the preliminary program. The Russian Chairmanship informed on the outcomes of the meeting of the Task Force on Standardisation held on 14 December 2001 in St. Petersburg. Several guests from various Russian organisations acting in the Baltic Sea region informed on their activities and presented project proposals. The Group approved the 'Updated Progress Report on the Bergen Action plan'. (See Minutes of the Meeting of the CBSS WGEC 28.01.2002)

Moscow, 26 February 2002

The meeting was almost entirely devoted to the preparatory issues of the meeting of Ministers of Economy and Trade. The draft agenda and draft program for the meeting were adopted. A principal agreement on the text of the Moscow Action Plan was reached. The representatives of the BEAC Task Force II for Customs, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Centre for Effective Ecology Programs, the International Centre for Environmental Protection of the Baltic Sea (Russia), and St. Petersburg authorities briefed on the activities of their organisations and presented project proposals. Russia proposed to form a new Task Force on Trade Barriers within the CBSS WGEC and called for the participation in this TF of other CBSS Member States. (See Minutes of the Meeting of the CBSS WGEC 26.02.2002)

Moscow, 19 March 2002

The Group held a final preparatory session on the eve of the Meeting of the Ministers of Economy and Trade. The draft text of the 'Moscow Action Plan' was amended with a late Lithuanian proposal on the economic impact of infrastructural issues. (See Minutes of the Meeting of the CBSS WGEC 19.03.2002)

Moscow, 4 June 2002

Activities of the WGEC during the preliminary work program of the forthcoming Finnish Chairmanship were subject to debate. The implementation of the 'Moscow Action Plan', its follow-up by the working group were other topics for discussion. Representatives of several Russian authorities and companies of public and private sector, functioning in the CBSS region, briefed on their activities. Sweden reported on the meeting on 30 May of the CBSS ad hoc working group for IPR-issues. The Chairman of the group submitted to the CBSS WGEC the recommendation of the group to dissolve itself in its present composition, the group having successfully fulfilled its mandate with the holding of a seminar on "IPR-awareness raising campaigns" on May 31st. On behalf of the CBSS WGEC Sweden thanked the outgoing Russian Chairmanship.

The Annual Report of the Chairman was discussed and submitted for approval to the Member countries.

## II. Follow-up and initiatives.

Priority was given to the preparation of the Meeting of the Ministers of Economy and Trade of the Member States of the CBSS. Several Working Group meetings were devoted to this subject and to the drafting of the 'Moscow Action Plan'. The Ministerial meeting was held on 20 March 2002 in Moscow. The ministers adopted the 'Moscow Action Plan' that provides guidelines for the future work of the Working Group on economic co-operation.

The CBSS Secretariat in co-operation with the Business Advisory Council, under the auspices of the WGEC, prepared an updated and enhanced draft report on the progress in implementing the objectives of the 'Bergen Action Plan'. The WGEC submitted the report to the 11th Ministerial Session of the CBSS held in Svetlogorsk on 5-6 March 2002 and to the Meeting of the Ministers of Economy and Trade of the CBSS Member States held in Moscow on 20 March 2002.

For further information on the different subjects, please refer to the updated report in Annex 2.

The WGEC persisted in its strong efforts to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) during the period of the Russian chairmanship. The member countries completed the development of, and maintained the CBSS SME-IT website, [www.balticmarket.org](http://www.balticmarket.org). The evaluation undertaken by the BCCA clearly demonstrates the value of the website for the business community and the need to continue this work. The WGEC underlines the need for financing from January 2003, in order to assure further maintenance, high quality and availability of the website, thereby reiterating the Ministerial Meeting of the 20 March. .

The WGEC will continue to concentrate on efforts regarding activities to facilitate border crossing procedures, international conformity in standards and certification, fight against corruption, protecting intellectual property rights, government information to SMEs and regional co-operation with the Northern Dimension Action Plan (NDAP) and the Northern eDimension Action Plan (NeDAP). The WGEC furthermore reaffirms its commitment to promote concrete measures in order to reach the 2 hour border crossing objective, set in Bergen 2002, and firmly reiterated by the Ministerial Meeting in Moscow on 20 March, at the suggestion of the Russian Chair.

## III. Co-operation with other fora and international organisations.

### Business Advisory Council (BAC)

The Group indeed benefited from the involvement of the BAC, in general and particularly in the discussions on issues such as border crossing and on the recommendations in the Group's report on the 'Bergen Action Plan'.

### Baltic Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA)

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

**Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)**

The CBSS WGEC is looking forward to the joint meeting with the BEAC WGEC.

**Baltic Sea Custom Conference (BSCC)**

BSCC plays an important role in realising the objective of the Bergen Action Plan to reduce the time needed for border crossing of goods to not more than two hours. The BSCC has repeatedly reported on their work to the WGEC.

**Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

The co-operation with the OECD was continued. The OECD welcomed the participation of the CBSS Member countries' in the Baltic Anti-Corruption Initiative, which emerged, in part, as a result of discussions in the CBSS WGEC. The WGEC has repeatedly discussed further co-operation with the OECD in the area of 'fight against corruption', however a specific, new joint project has not yet materialised. The WGEC has an established permanent contact with the OECD on the subject concerning 'fight against corruption'.

## **Annex 2 - COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES Working Group of Democratic Institutions**

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES Working Group of Democratic Institutions

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

Report of the WGDI for the activity period of 2001-2002

#### I. Introduction

Member States of the CBSS recognise that a well-functioning democracy depends on continuous promotion of democratic values and principles, as well as on development and strengthening of democratic institutions. Since the very beginning, one of the main objectives of the CBSS has been to provide a framework for common efforts aimed at promoting democratic development in the region. For this purpose the Council maintains its Working Group on Democratic Institutions (WGDI).

Acting in close co-ordination with the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), the Working Group organises and/or ensures the necessary political and organisational support in the preparation of relevant conferences, workshops and seminars for exchanges of experience.

The Working Group co-operates closely with the office of the CBSS Commissioner and keeps itself informed about the implementation of the Commissioner's surveys and recommendations. The WGDI also maintains close contacts with relevant working structures in other organisations at national- and sub-national levels in the Baltic Sea region, with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts and ensuring harmonisation and synergy of activities. Activities of the WGDI are traditionally supplemented by expert activities - conferences, workshops or seminars. The Working Group draws policy recommendations on the basis of conclusions made by the experts and forwards them to the CSO.

#### II. WGDI agenda and activities during the Norwegian Chairmanship in 2001-2002

The Chairmanship of the WGDI rotates on an annual basis, as decided by the CSO. In 2001-2002 the Working Group was chaired by Norway. The Activity plan of the WGDI during Norway's chairmanship in 2001-2002 included four regular meetings of the Working group – in September and November 2001 and in February and April 2002 - and focused on a number of important issues deemed particularly relevant for the region, such as

Civic society, People-to-people co-operation, NGO participation  
Rights of the Child, Children at Risk  
Gender issues – exchange of information about best practices of ensuring equal participation of women in civic life  
Combating contemporary forms of racism and xenophobia

Civic society, People-to-people co-operation and NGO participation: the Working Group was directly involved in the preparations for, and took part in, the 2nd Baltic Sea NGO Forum in St.Petersburg on 18-21 April 2002, i.a. by way of contributing with information about the outcome of the CBSS Seminar on racism, in which NGO representatives from the Member States actively participated. The WGDI will study the relevance of the outcome of the Forum for its future work.

Rights of the Child, Children at Risk: This topic was on the agenda of the WGDI meeting in November 2001. Discussion in the Working Group eventually led to the decision adopted by the CSO in March 2002 organisational and institutional aspects of the future work on Children at Risk.

Gender issues – exchange of information about best practices of ensuring equal participation of women in civic life: this topic formed the main focus of the first-ever Seminar of Gender Equality/Equal Opportunity Ombudsmen from CBSS Member States, which was organised in Stockholm on 25 April 2002 upon the initiative of, and with assistance from, the WGDI. Participants of the Seminar agreed on the need to continue their co-operation in various forms, including exchange of best practices and information on specific issues of promoting gender equality and combating discrimination on the basis of sex.

Combating contemporary forms of racism and xenophobia: The CBSS Seminar on combating contemporary manifestations of racism and xenophobia held in Bergen on 7 February 2002 was envisaged as a regional follow-up to the World Conference on Racism in Durban last fall. All members of the CBSS and the CBSS Commissioner were represented by both WGDI members and government and/or NGO experts. Participants of the Seminar welcomed the new initiatives of the CBSS Commissioner aimed at preventing and combating manifestations of racism and xenophobia in the Member States. There was a consensus regarding the usefulness of enhanced exchange of information and experience in combating racism and xenophobia in CBSS countries. Seminar participants also agreed on the need to establish a mechanism for exchange of best practices in handling migration flows and asylum seekers. Combating trafficking in human beings, particularly in women and children, as one of the sources of racism and xenophobia in the region was deemed to be of special importance. The incoming Chair of the WGDI, in close co-ordination with the CBSS Commissioner, was encouraged to look into the possibilities of following up on the Seminar on combating contemporary manifestations of racism and xenophobia. The outcome of the CBSS Seminar on racism was presented by the Chairman of the WGDI to the meeting between the expanded Bureau of

Deputies of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe bureau and the CBSS CSO Troika in Strasbourg on 22 March 2002. The issue of combating contemporary manifestations of racism and xenophobia might prove to be a fertile ground for close practical co-operation with the Council of Europe structures in the future.

The WGDI assisted in the preparation for the 2nd Seminar of National/Parliamentary Ombudsmen from the CBSS Member States, which was held in St.Petersburg on 16 May 2002 under the theme, Environment in the Baltic Sea Region and Human Rights. The final document from the Seminar – Chairman's Conclusions - was circulated to relevant CBSS structures for reference use and published on the CBSS Website. The WGDI took note of the important issues discussed by the Ombudsmen. The Working Group concluded, as did the Ombudsmen themselves, that the Seminar was a success, and welcomed their decision to continue the practice of holding regular meetings of National/Parliamentary Ombudsmen in the CBSS format, dedicated to specific issues of democratic development and promotion of human rights in the Baltic Sea region and to hold the next such Seminar in 2003.

Contacts between the WGDI and the CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Development were extensive. Members of the WGDI assisted the Commissioner in preparing her visits to the Member States, and, whenever necessary, provided assistance in ensuring adequate dissemination of the Commissioner's official documents among relevant structures and authorities in the Member States.

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 Seminar on racism, Ombudsmen seminars and the 2nd NGO Forum.

The WGDI undertook steps aimed at enhancing the exchange of information and ensuring greater synergy of efforts with three organisations with the status of Special Participants in the CBSS – the Union of the Baltic Cities, Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference. With the aim of avoiding negative duplication of efforts and ensuring harmony of activities, the Chair of the Working group informed the heads of the three partner organisations about the calendar and thematic focus of the WGDI Work plan for 2001-2002 and received their comments thereon. This practice of consultations exchange of information at the beginning of each political season will be continued in the future.

Study visits: Building on the existing tradition, the Norwegian WGDI Chairmanship also arranged study visits in conjunction with WGDI meetings. Such visits were organised to the Oslo Town Hall, the Storting (Parliament) and the Human Rights House in Bergen.

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

### III. Outlook for the future

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. CBSS institutions 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 (NGO co-operation), people-to-people contacts, transparency and efficiency of administrative practices, access to information, local democracy and citizens' participation;  
Ensuring organisational support in the preparation of events in the field of strengthening of democratic institutions, good governance, local self-government, good law-making, consumer protection and combating racism.

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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.

#### Structure and working methods:

The WGDI 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 Working Group.

The WGDI will continue the discussion of its future role, scope of activities and working methods.

### **Annex 3 - Annual Report of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (WGNRS)**

Annual Report of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety  
(WGNRS)  
2001 -2002

During the working period July 2001 to June 2002 the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety has put special emphasis on the accession and implementation of the Agreement between the CBSS countries on the Exchange of Radiation Monitoring Data on a daily basis. A communication exercise will be initiated by WGNRS in 2002, encouraging and supporting the national authorities to enhance their co-operation. Illicit trafficking and potential terrorist events involving radioactive material have been issues for discussion within the group. Initiative will be taken for the exchange of information regarding which actions are taken in the various countries to increase the capability to respond to terrorist events involving radioactive or nuclear materials.

#### **I. Meetings:**

The Group has decided to hold two meetings this period with all countries invited to send their representatives. The first meeting took place in Moscow 22-23 November 2001, hosted by Minatom, and the second in Helsinki on 30-31 May 2002, hosted by STUK. During the meetings as well as in written procedure, the members of the group have discussed major issues of nuclear and radiation safety started or planned in the Member States including written reports from the European Commission.

#### **II. Activities in the working group:**

**Agreement on the Exchange of Radiation Monitoring Data**  
All countries have now signed the Agreement. Follow-up on the implementation of the Agreement on the Exchange of Radiation Monitoring Data was among the major tasks for the WGNRS during the last year. However, for one country it is still unclear whether or not the signature expresses the consent to be bound by the Agreement. According to article 3.1 in the Agreement all parties have to appoint a 'competent authority'. Norway has accepted the role as depositary for the agreement and takes the responsibility to collect the necessary information regarding the required 'competent authority'. Through the embassies in Oslo, Norway has submitted a note to all parties, reminding them to appoint a 'competent authority'. According to article 3.2 the 'competent authority' also has to nominate a

'contact point'. However, the official appointment of 'competent authority' is still missing for three countries.

Work Plan of the WGNRS: Additional topics

Additional to the work plan (Annex 1) the following issues were discussed.

Initiating of communication exercises:

The Group decided to initiate a joint 'Communication exercise' as a first test for this type of potentially future exercises in the Region. The participation in the exercise is voluntary and the exercise shall be conducted in the autumn 2002, with Sweden (SSI) as the organizer.

Potential terrorist events involving radioactive material

The Group discussed the difficulties involved in this subject and whether or not this could be dealt with by the WGNRS. An expert from the IAEA will be invited to inform about their procedures and activities in the field of countering terrorist activities. The CBSS member countries should also provide information on national activities.

Illicit trafficking: Developing co-operation activities in the BSR

The Group discussed the need to define the issue in context of the expertise of the Group. The issue of illicit trafficking is covered by many other organizations and therefore the Group will at present take no further actions.

Participation of the Commission of the EU in the work of the WGNRS

It is an advantage that the COM was present at meetings and could participate to the discussion in the Group, as many of the activities dealt with are linked with the activities of the COM. During the period the chairman also wrote a letter to the chairman of CSO on this matter and reported on the contacts taken to activate the COM in the WGNRS's work. In the meeting in Helsinki COM participated with one expert.

Country progress reports

In connections with the meetings the member countries reported regularly on some major issues in the field of nuclear and radiation safety.

Report from the Barents Rescue 2001 – results and lessons learned

In connection with the meeting in Moscow a representative from Sweden (SSI) gave a report from the field exercise involving expert teams on measurements from different countries searching for hidden radioactive sources placed in the nature. The field exercise was a rather unique but very appreciated activity in the Barents Rescue 2001 program. Among other things the exercise has proven to be a good example for a combined civilian – military exercise.

Some other of the activities of the Barents rescue 2001 LIVEX were also highlighted as an training of the national emergency organizations concerning the response to different 'alarm, command and order of rescue team actions', including the alarm phase of an accident dealing with the various communication procedures and means in the event of a nuclear accident

#### Scientific visits to Russian crisis centers

In connection with the meeting in Moscow the Group visited the Situation and Crisis Center of MINATOM, and the Nuclear Safety Institute of the Russian Academy of Science (IBRAE). Both visits were very well organized and allowed an intensive exchange of views initiating co-operation to be continued.

The Group at the meeting 30-31 May 2002 adopted the annual report.

Annex

Working Plan of the WGNRS

Revised on 31 May 2002

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 also is identifying actions to be initiated with the aim to strengthen 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.

#### Action 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 implementation of the intergovernmental agreement on monitoring data and information.

Investigating the interest and the possibility for extending the practical and technical arrangements of the agreement to include other measurement data.

Inform about the possibility for other countries to join the current agreement.

##### 2 Regional agreement on assistance

Consider 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 Potential terrorist events involving radioactive material / 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 radiological and nuclear accidents.

#### 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 Region.

#### 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.

## **Annex 4 - Annual Report to the CSO on the activities of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, 2001/2002**

Annual Report to the CSO on the activities of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, 2001/2002

The Secretariat has continued to provide technical assistance and support to the CBSS Presidency, the BASREC GSEO and the Baltic SOG in accordance with the given mandate. The Secretariat has assisted the Presidency in the preparation and follow-up of the following meetings:

- 11th ministerial session of the CBSS in Svetlogorsk, 5-6 March 2002
- meeting of the Ministers of Economy and Trade of the Member States of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) held in Moscow on 20 March 2002
- 'Baltic Sea States Summit', St Petersburg 10 June 2002
- 13 meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials
- 6 meetings of the troika at CSO level
- 6 meetings of the WGEC
- 4 meetings of the WGDI, 3 Seminars organised within the framework of the Working Group and the 2nd Baltic Sea NGO Forum
- 2 meetings of the WGNRS
- 2 meetings in the Group of Senior Officials on Information Society (SOIS)
- 1 meeting of the WGCC (Working Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk)

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
- 3 meetings and 1 seminar of the ad hoc Group on Electricity Markets
- 1 meeting and 1 workshop of the ad hoc Group on Gas markets
- 5 meetings of the ad hoc Group on Energy Efficiency
- 5 meetings and 1 seminar of the ad hoc Group on Climate Change
- 1 joint meeting between BALTREL, Baltic Gas and the BASREC ad hoc Groups on Electricity Markets and Gas Markets
- 2 BASREC Conferences: one in Sweden 18-19.6.2001, the other in St. Petersburg, 26-28.5.2002

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

- 3 meetings of the Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group Bureau
- 7 meetings of the Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group

- 3 meetings of the Lead Parties and the Responsible Actors
- 2 meetings of the Working Group on Project Financing

The Baltic 21 Unit has substantially assisted the following meetings:

- 2 meetings of Baltic 21 sectors
- 2 meetings of Baltic 21 Joint Actions
- 2 meetings of an ad hoc Baltic 21-HELCOM Working Group.

Finally, the Baltic 21 Unit has participated in the following non-Baltic 21 meetings:

- Substantially contributed to the work of an ad hoc Baltic 21-HELCOM Working Group, including, but not limited to the preparation of a report on recommendations on how the mandates, policies and scopes of activities of Baltic 21 and HELCOM should be pursued in a best coordinated, complementary and mutually supporting manner.
- 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)
- A EU ECE meeting regarding regional preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Secretariat has held a number of planning meetings with the presidency

In addition, the Secretariat was given a number of tasks by the Council, by the CSO, BASREC GSEO and the Baltic 21 SOG:

The preparation of the Meeting of the Ministers of Economy and Trade of the Member States of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) held in Moscow on 20 March 2002 and the development of the 'Moscow Action Plan'.

The CBSS Secretariat has also provided assistance to CBSS Lead country for Civil Security co-operation (Poland) in the preparation for, and reporting from, Expert meetings on 112 Single Emergency Call number (Jurmala, October 2001) and the EUROBAL TIC framework project (Warsaw, December 2001). Upon request from Iceland, the Secretariat has also assisted in the formulation of, and follow-up on, its initiative within the framework of the CBSS on harmonisation of 112 Single Emergency Call Services in the Baltic Sea region.

The CBSS Secretariat had been tasked to look into the possibility of setting up a 'Business Support Group' (BSG) in Kaliningrad. Mr. Jacek Starosciak, Dr Axel Krohn and Mr. Hans Jeppson a representative from the Business Advisory Council traveled to Kaliningrad to visit and talk to relevant representatives of the administration and the business community to get their opinion on this idea. A report with the results of this fact-finding mission was prepared and submitted to the CSO.

The CBSS Secretariat provided support for three SOIS meetings during the year 2002. Therefore an agreement was signed on the 'CBSS Secretariat

support to the Swedish Chairmanship of the Senior Official Group for Information Society (SOIS)'.

- Energy unit

The two staff members of the energy unit of the Secretariat support the implementation of the BASREC Work Programme under the Group of Senior Energy Officials. Besides the secretarial work for GSEO the unit is closely involved in implementing the tasks in the work plans of the four ad hoc groups: gas and electricity markets, energy efficiency and climate change.

- Baltic 21 unit

Following a decision of the Baltic 21 SOG subsequently adopted by the Council, in January 2001, the Baltic 21 Secretariat, including its two staff members, was integrated into the CBSS Secretariat and became its unit. The Baltic 21 Unit continues to provide services to the Baltic 21 network in accordance with its Terms of Reference adopted by the SOG in April 2001. During 2001 and the first months of 2002, the Baltic 21 Unit has organized and/or participated in many meetings and developed ca. 50 documents for them as well as for other meetings, including high level political conferences. The Baltic 21 Unit was also in working contacts with a number of international organizations and agencies both those being Baltic 21 members as well as external parties such as UN, EEA, UN ECE, and OECD. The unit was also instrumental in developing two Baltic 21 priority projects, which have been started in 2002 thanks to contributions from Sweden and Germany. Finally, the Baltic 21 Unit assisted the SOG Chairman and the SOG Bureau in an open international recruitment of new Baltic 21 Unit personnel.

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

- Information strategy, Baltinfo and Internet home page

The Secretariat produced 9 issues (including June 2001) of the monthly CBSS Newsletter, BALTINFO, of an average size of 6 pages per issue, and circulated them to approximately 1.300 subscribers. The Newsletter was also published on the Website of the CBSS maintained by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat implemented the second stage of the technical upgrade of the CBSS Website, which i.a. included changing its Internet address from [www.baltinfo.org](http://www.baltinfo.org) to [www.cbss.st](http://www.cbss.st) and the e-mail address of the Secretariat from [cbss@baltinfo.org](mailto:cbss@baltinfo.org) to [cbss@cbss.st](mailto:cbss@cbss.st). The logic behind the choice of the new Internet domain was to raise the visibility and ensure instant recognition of the CBSS on the Web. The second stage of the CSO-approved technical upgrade of the CBSS Internet domain also included implementing a new publishing tool, which would i.a. enhance the user-friendliness of the CBSS Website and lay the technical basis for the upcoming introduction of Extranet as the main working tool of the CSO and the Working Groups. Parallel to upgrading the CBSS Internet domain, the Secretariat continued to

continuously update the contents of the CBSS Website with all major public documents produced by the Council, as well as with other information directly related to inter-governmental co-operation in the Baltic Sea region.

The website ([www.basrec.org](http://www.basrec.org)) was used for disseminating information on the BASREC Conference "The Testing Ground for the development and implementation of the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol" in St. Petersburg 26-28 May 2002.

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).

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 included:

Ambassador Alexey A. Obukhov, Chairman of the CBSS CSO with a lecture, On the eve of the 10th anniversary - the Russian presidency of the CBSS, and Dr Bernd von Waldow, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Sweden with a lecture, The Baltic Sea region: A region of co-operation and prosperity.

- Northern Dimension

The Northern Dimension for external and cross-border policies of the European Union is a constantly evolving framework for co-operation, which from the beginning has been high on the agenda of the CBSS. The CBSS Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) decided at its meeting in Moscow on 7 December 2001 to appoint specific member states to take the lead in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the sectors identified in the CBSS 'List of Priorities and Projects'. The CSO held a special session in Brussels on 25 January 2002, devoted to reporting by the 'sector lead countries'. A large number of European Commission experts participated, providing an overview on the Commission's activities in the framework of the Northern Dimension Action Plan. A compilation of written contributions to the special session of the CSO was prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to the CBSS.

- EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad

Since 1999, the Secretariat has invested considerable efforts in the re-establishment of the EuroFaculty at Kaliningrad State University, including the elaboration of the concept of the EuroFaculty-Kaliningrad (EF-K) project and the preparation of the EF-K inauguration ceremony in September 2000. The Secretariat has invariably participated in work of the CBSS Expert group for

EF-K, which monitors the implementation of the project, providing assistance in the drafting of background papers and reports, official correspondence, establishing and maintaining contacts with all parties involved in or related to the project. In 2001-2002, the bulk of the Secretariat's support went to the Expert group's efforts to lay the ground for and launch the evaluation of EF-K, which shall form the basis for the CSO decision regarding possible extension of the EF-K project beyond its initial three-year timeframe.

- Civil Security

The Secretariat continued to serve as the focal point for information about Baltic Sea inter-governmental co-operation in the field of Civil Security, assisting the Lead country and other Member States in the preparation of background documents, reports and project proposals, organising and participating high-level expert meetings.

- Economic Co-operation

In collaboration with the WGEC the Secretariat has followed-up and updated the earlier report on the 'Bergen Action Plan' adopted by the Ministers in charge of Trade and Economic Co-operation in Bergen (February 2000). The final 'Report on the Bergen Action Plan' was submitted to the 11th Session of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CBSS Member States held in Svetlogorsk on 5-6 March 2002, and to the Meeting of the Ministers of Economy and Trade of the CBSS Member States held in Moscow on 20 March 2002. The Secretariat continued its support for the further development and maintenance of the Internet website for SMEs [www.balticmarket.org](http://www.balticmarket.org).

- NGO Forum

Upon instructions from the CBSS Presidency, the Secretariat provided support to the organisers of the 2nd Baltic Sea NGO Forum in St. Petersburg, drafting and disseminating background papers, assisting in identifying and contacting participants and guests, taking part in preparatory meetings and the Forum itself and publishing information about the Forum and its outcome on the CBSS Website and in the monthly Newsletter.

#### Administrative issues

- Staff

At present following 13 staff members are employed at the CBSS Secretariat (in chronological employment order);

Director Jacek Starosciak (started 15 August 1998)

Secretary Claire Nyström (started 1 September 1998)

Senior Advisor Serguei Sokolov (started 20 October 1998)

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

Senior Advisor Alar Olljum (started 1 September 2001)

Senior Advisor Rasa Kairiene (started 15 September 2001)

Project Manager in the Energy secretarial unit Seppo Silvonen (started 3 April 2000)

Project Assistant in the Energy secretarial unit Nijole Jovaisiene (started 3 April 2000)

Senior Advisor in the Baltic 21 secretarial unit Lars Westermark (started 12 November 2001)

Senior Advisor in the Baltic 21 secretarial unit Laila Kule (started 14 February 2002 until 15 August 2002)

Senior Advisor in the Children's secretarial unit Lars Lööf (started 12 June 2002)

Receptionist Linda Marking (started 4 April 2002)

Assistant Birgit Lagerström (started 1 April 2001)

The Director's contract was prolonged for one year and will end 15 August 2002. Mr. Hannu Halinen was nominated for the post of Director from 15 August 2002.

The contract with Senior Advisor Serguei Sokolov has been prolonged for one year until 20 October 2002. The open application procedure has been started in April 2002 and will be ending in June 2002 for the recruitment of his replacement. The contract with Senior Advisor Dr. Axel Krohn has been prolonged for one year until 31 December 2002.

Following an open application procedure two new staff members: Mr. Lars Westermark for the replacement of Mrs. Christine Jacobsson and Ms. Laila Kule for the temporary replacement of Mr. Marek Maciejowski at the Baltic 21 secretarial unit were recruited.

After the decision by the CBSS CSO at their meeting in February 2002 on the integration of co-operation on child matters into the CBSS Secretariat, following an open application procedure Mr. Lars Lööf was recruited for the position of Senior Advisor at the Children's secretarial unit. Linda Marking was recruited for the position of the receptionist.

- Internships

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

Mr. Etzold was recruited for a period of time, from 1 May till 31 August 2001. In this context he produced the following background papers for the Secretariat:

'ICT Co-operation in the Baltic Sea region as back ground information for the Russian chairmanship' 'Infrastructure policies in the Baltic Sea Region – the development of Baltic Sea Transport Routes'. Mr. Etzold participated additionally in the arrangement of the regional BASREC Conference "Energy- the Key to the New Millennium".

Ms. Adrianna Malewska was recruited from 1 September till 28 September 2001.

During this time she produced the following paper for the Secretariat:

The Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) a place where 'big' and 'small' states meet.

Ms. Sonja Diez was recruited for a period of time, from 1 October till 21 December 2001.

In this context she produced the following background papers and materials for the Secretariat: 'The role of observer states in CBSS' 'EU activities in the field of nuclear safety' (with a focus on the Baltic Sea region) 'Compilation of e-business related contact information in the BSR' 'List of lead countries and organisations for CBSS priorities and projects in the framework of the EU Northern Dimension Action Plan' 'Conference report: European Crisis Management Conference (Stockholm, November 22-23 2001): Foundations for cooperative European crisis Management - Establishing common ground.' Ms. Josefina Löfgren was recruited for the period from 15 January till 31 April 2002. She supported the 'Energy unit' at the Secretariat and participated in various preparations of conferences and meetings within the BASREC structure. After her internship she was employed by BASREC as an assistant for the period from 1 May till 30 June 2002.

Mr. Jean-Francois Drolet was recruited for the period from 6 May till 15 July 2002. He is currently working on assisting in the preparation of the Baltic Sea Summit in St. Petersburg on 10 June 2002.

- Accounting and budget

The 2002 budget for the Secretariat was adopted by the CSO on 14-15 May 2001, with a total spending of € 795418. The financial accounts for 2001 were finalised in February 2001 and audited by the Swedish State Auditor Office in March-May 2001. They were taken note of by the CSO in its meeting on 17-18 June 2002

The budget for the energy unit as the secretariat of BASREC was approved by GSEO 29 January 2001 for the year 2001, and 21 September 2001 for the year 2002. The latter was revised 24 January 2002 as the funding conditions were changed.

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 to be shared, as a general principle, among all CBSS countries. On top of this Sweden agreed to provide a host country contribution.

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

- Financial contributions

At the time of closing the 2001 accounts, all member states had paid their contributions to the CBSS Secretariat in full.

In 2001 the funding of the energy unit was based on contributions from the Nordic Council of Ministers, Norway, and Sweden.

In 2002 the funding to the BASREC activities, including the energy unit of the Secretariat, comes from the Nordic Council of Ministers, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, and the Synergy Programme of the EU.

As regards Baltic 21 unit, all countries except for Russia paid their contributions to the Baltic 21 budget of 2001. Additionally Sweden made host country contribution, SEK 715 000 and the European Commission contributed with a grant Euro 50 000.

In 2002 CBSS members covered the financing of the Children's secretarial unit on the basis of the procedure agreed to at the CSO meeting in Stockholm on 21-22 February 2002.

## **Attachment 1 - Working papers from the Secretariat.**

Working papers from the Secretariat.

'The role of observer states in CBSS'

'EU activities in the field of nuclear safety' (with a focus on the Baltic Sea region)

'Compilation of e-business related contact information in the BSR'

'ICT Co-operation in the Baltic Sea region - background information for the Russian chairmanship'

'Infrastructure policies in the Baltic Sea Region – the development of Baltic Sea Transport Routes'.

' On Implementation of the Northern Dimension Action plan and the CBSS list of

Priorities and projects.' Compilation of written contributions to the special session of the CSO Brussels, 25 January 2002

'Report on the fact finding mission for a Business Support Group (BSG) in Kaliningrad 22 April- 25 April 2002'

'Kaliningrad Oblast – co-operation projects and activities with CBSS member states.' Summary Report, CBSS 11th Ministerial Session, Svetlogorsk, 5-6 March 2002

Working papers from the Energy unit

Summary report of the BASREC Conference "Energy – the Key to the New Millennium" September 2001.

Project Manual for the BASREC 2002 project. October 2001.

'Implementation of tasks 1-15 in the BASREC 2002 project plan'. 17 January 2002.

'Future of Bioenergy in the Baltic Sea Region'. March 2002.

'BASREC after 2002 – financing options'. April 2002.

Status reports of the BASREC 2002 project. January-June 2002.

Working papers from the Baltic 21 unit:

During 2001 and the first months of 2002, the Baltic 21 Unit has developed ca. 50 documents. These documents have been developed for SOG, SOG Bureau, LP&RA meetings as well as other meetings within Baltic 21 and elsewhere. Below are listed the most important documents developed by the Baltic 21 Unit for the SOG meetings:

SOG 14 Meeting, April 2001

Recommendations for coordination and complementarity of Baltic 21 and HELCOM policies and activities (co-written)

Recommendations for coordination and complementarity of Baltic 21 and HELCOM policies and activities – Part II (co-written)

Proposed list of follow-up actions to the ad hoc Baltic 21 - HELCOM WG recommendations

Terms of Reference for the Baltic 21 Secretariat

Guidelines for the selection of Baltic 21 staff of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States  
Progress reports from the Baltic 21 Sectors and Joint Actions – synthesis and comments by the Secretariat  
Draft Baltic 21 text to the Communiqué from the 10th CBSS Ministerial Session  
Rio +10 Summit preparations  
Baltic 21 indicator and target work for the forthcoming Triennial Report

SOG 15 Meeting, October 2001  
Baltic 21 report for the 10th CBSS Ministerial Session  
Baltic 21 – strategy and policy for the near future  
Terms of Reference for three Baltic 21 Projects  
Baltic 21 indicator and target work for the forthcoming Triennial Report  
Johannesburg Summit preparations and Baltic 21  
The Northern Dimension and Baltic 21

SOG 16 Meeting, April 2001  
Informative  
A Future Baltic 21 strategy

**Attachment 2 - List of conferences and meetings, at which members of the staff of the Secretariat have given lectures:**

List of conferences and meetings, at which members of the staff of the Secretariat have given lectures:

Director Jacek Starosciak

Symposium: Finding a place in Europe. Speech on 'Emerging Patterns of Co-operation around the Baltic'. University College of London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies. London, 6 November 2001.

Baltic Economic Forum. Speech on 'CBSS and Baltic Co-operation'. Gdansk, 12-13 November 2002.

Conference: Co-operation in the Baltic and Mediterranean Region. Speech on 'Co-operation projects carried out with sub-state participation in the Baltic Sea Region'. Barcelona, 28Feb -1 March. 2002.

Conference: Kaliningrad –European Subject: what will be the place of the Kaliningrad Oblast in European enlargement. Speech on 'Relation between the Kaliningrad Oblast and CBSS'. Warszawa, 19-20 June 2002.

Senior Advisor Dr Axel Krohn

The CBSS: Fostering co-operation and stability in the Baltic Sea region. Lecture at the Humboldt University, Berlin, 22 May 2002

Conference on: The European Union and the Caspian Sea region in Dialogue – Sustainability, Environmental Policy and Caspian Region Development. Presentation on: 'The CBSS – Fostering economic development in the Baltic Sea region', 11 March 2002

Seminar Östeuropaforum. Lecture on: 'The CBSS Fostering Co-operation and stability in the BRS', Uppsala, Sweden, 13 February 2002

Priority problems of the Baltic Sea Region: Risks of Soft Security. Presentation on: Soft security from the point of view of the CBSS, 5-6 October 2001

Meeting of Ministers for Spatial Planning, Wismar, Germany, Presentation on: 'CBSS and Spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region.' 20-21 September 2001

Senior Advisor Serguei Sokolov

CBSS Conference on 112 Single Emergency Call Number in the Baltic Sea region (Jurmala, 7-9 October 2001): presentation on CBSS co-operation in the field of Civil Security

CBSS Expert Conference on the EUROBALTIC Civil Protection Framework project (Warsaw, 6-8 December 2001): presentation on CBSS co-operation in the field of Civil Security

Senior Advisor Rasa Kairiene:

April 25-27, 2002 Conference: "International Co-operation in Higher Education in the Baltic Sea Region: EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad". Kaliningrad, Russia

Energy unit

Project Manager Seppo Silvonen:

"Recommendations for future actions in the BSR bioenergy co-operation". BASREC workshop on the Future of Bioenergy in the Baltic Sea Region. Jyväskylä, Finland,

"The BASREC 2002 Project". Information seminar on Nordic energy projects in the Baltic Sea Region. Helsinki, 12 March 2002

Baltic 21 unit

Senior Adviser Marek Maciejowski

Conference of the CBSS Ministers of Transport, Gdansk, Poland.  
Presentation on: Baltic 21 and sustainable transport in the Baltic Sea Region, 27-28 September 2001