



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

The 14<sup>th</sup> Year of the Council's Activity 2005-2006

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

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The Committee of Senior Officials and the Working Group on Economic Co-operation at their joint session in Reykjavik on 15-16 November 2005

## **Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), 14<sup>th</sup> Year of the Council's Activity**

During the period of the Icelandic Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (1 July 2005 – 30 June 2006), the Committee of Senior Officials has conducted its work according to the Council's directions, as outlined in particular in the Copenhagen Declaration, the Communiqué from the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session which adopted the revised terms of reference for the CBSS, and in line with the political guidance from the 5<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit.

The CSO held eight meetings in the following cities: Reykjavik, Turku, Brussels, Stockholm and Copenhagen. H.E. Ambassador Kornelius Sigmundsson of the Icelandic Foreign Ministry chaired the meetings<sup>1</sup>. The following eight priority areas were deliberated by the CSO during the Icelandic Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States:

### **Energy issues**

Energy has been one of the top priorities of the Icelandic CBSS Presidency. Throughout the year, the CSO monitored the activities of the Baltic Sea Regional Energy Co-operation (BASREC), chaired by Iceland in 2005-06. At the CSO meeting in Reykjavik in November 2005, the CSO reviewed and discussed follow-up to the 4th Meeting of CBSS Ministers of Energy held in Iceland on 28 October 2005. The Chairman of the Group of Senior Energy Officials briefed the CSO on the creation of a task force which is looking into future energy co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region.

### **Protection of the Environment**

Protection of the environment remained a common concern of all CBSS Members. The Icelandic Presidency especially focused on the protection of the maritime environment in the region and adjacent areas and to strengthen the co-operation on nuclear and radiation safety. The Icelandic Presidency and the CSO were involved in some topical aspects of the protection of the environment. The CSO Chairman was present at the Kick-off Stakeholder Conference on the development of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, on 7 March 2006 in Helsinki, and gave a presentation in which he called for increased co-operation between CBSS and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission HELCOM.

The CSO Chairman attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group in Copenhagen on 3-4 November 2005. The Chairman of the Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group Chairman addressed the CSO meeting in Reykjavik in January 2006, and the Executive Secretary of HELCOM attended the CSO meeting in Stockholm in March 2006, where she informed the CSO about the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Further, Sweden as a member of the CBSS Troika represented the CSO Chairman at the "VII International Environmental Forum: Baltic Sea Day" in St. Petersburg on 22-23 March 2006.

### **Co-operation on Nuclear and Radiation Safety**

Throughout the Icelandic Presidency, the CSO followed and supported the work of the CBSS Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (WGNRS) to prepare a Joint Declaration on the Exchange of Air Radiation Monitoring Data on the basis of the

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<sup>1</sup> A list of the CSO meetings with summaries of the main topics is attached to the present report.

Agreement on the Exchange of Radiation Monitoring Data, as of 7 June 2001. At the meeting in Reykjavik in January 2006, the Icelandic member of the WGNRS introduced the draft joint declaration to the CSO, and at its meeting in Stockholm in March, the Chairman of the WGNRS presented the final version to the CSO. At this meeting, the CSO adopted the Joint Declaration.

Air radiation monitoring data (measurements of aerosol bound radionuclides) are useful for routine measurements as it is the most sensitive method to detect small emissions of radioactive sources, but also for emergency measurements, as air-measurements could allow for earlier notification in case of an accident.

Further, the CSO worked to ensure full participation in the CBSS Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety in order to enhance the work of the Group. The Icelandic Presidency hosted a meeting of the WGNRS in Iceland.

### **Co-operation with regional organisations in Northern Europe and beyond**

The CBSS attended the Central European Initiative Summit on 24-25 November, represented by Poland as a member of the Troika and the Secretariat Director. The CSO continued working closely with the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) on the issue of cross-border co-operation. The CSO monitored the start of a joint CBSS and NCM Baltic Sea region INTERREG III B project, called Baltic Euroregional Network (BEN), the aim of which is to develop institutional capacity of Euroregions in the Baltic Sea region. The Icelandic Presidency addressed the BEN Starting Conference on 26-27 September in Vilnius.

Further, the CSO examined ways of improving co-operation with the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC). The CSO Chairman met with high-ranking representatives of the BSEC Secretariat at the CBSS Secretariat in Stockholm in March 2006 and informed the BSEC colleagues about the ongoing activities and best practices.

The CBSS pursued its involvement in the European Union's Northern Dimension policy (ND). The CSO on several occasions discussed the ND policy beyond 2006 and instructed the Secretariat to produce a survey on the future of the Northern Dimension. During the CSO meeting in Brussels, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and the Neighbourhood Programmes were also discussed.

### **Economic co-operation**

The CSO and the WGEC met for a joint session in Reykjavik in November 2005 - with the participation of representatives of the Icelandic Chamber of Commerce as well as Icelandic business life – in order to inform about relevant Icelandic experiences in promoting trade and investments in the Baltic Sea Region. On a number of occasions, the CSO discussed ways of revitalising activities of the CBSS Working Group on Economic Co-operation, with the view to promote cross-border trade and investments in the region.

Additionally, the CSO was involved with the WGEC in discussing the possibility of creating a special mechanism to tackle obstacles to Trade and Investment and address other problem-areas for economic actors in the Baltic Sea region, as proposed by the CBSS Business Advisory Council (BAC).

The CSO expressed its support to the establishment of a new CBSS working body – the Working Group on Customs Co-operation and Border Crossing Aspects.

The CSO supported other forms of economic co-operation initiated in the region by the Baltic Development Forum, the CBSS Business Advisory Council, the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association, the Baltic Sea Initiative 2010, the Eastern European Business Forum, and other structures.

### **Children's issues**

The CSO followed the activities of the CBSS Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk (WGCC). At the CSO meeting in Reykjavik in January 2006, the Vice Chairman of the WGCC informed the CSO about the activities of the WGCC. In May 2006, the CSO and the WGCC met for a joint session in Reykjavik, which also included a study visit to the "Barnahus" Children's House - Centre for Child Sexual Abuse in Reykjavik. The Icelandic member of WGCC presented the "Barnahus" concept to the CSO.

### **Co-operation with parliamentarians in the Baltic Sea region**

The Icelandic Presidency continued to co-operate closely with the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC). The Icelandic Minister of Finance (subsequently appointed Foreign Minister of Iceland) presented the CBSS activities at the 14<sup>th</sup> BSPC in Vilnius (28-30 August 2005). In January the CSO Chairman met the BSPC Extended Standing Committee for the Annual BSPC-CBSS Consultations held in Copenhagen.

The CSO continued discussing the possibility of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the BSPC as well as ways of improving the exchange of information between the two organisations. The CSO welcomed the first-time participation in the Baltic Sea States Summit of the President of the Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC).

### **Co-operation with Ukraine**

The Icelandic Presidency promoted the strengthening of co-operation with neighbouring areas such as Ukraine – already a CBSS Observer State. The CSO Chairman attended the 1st meeting of the Community of Democratic Choice in Kyiv on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2005, jointly organised by the Presidents of Ukraine and Georgia. Ukraine attended the Observer States consultation held in Stockholm in March 2006. Additionally, the CBSS Secretariat finalised the CBSS Survey on co-operation with Belarus and Ukraine, which was distributed to the CBSS Member States in April 2006. The Survey shows that Belarus and Ukraine are already participating in some activities of the CBSS Structures and Working Bodies.

The Icelandic Presidency made a special effort to convene, after several years of interruption, a meeting of CBSS Political Directors. The meeting was held in Stockholm on 30 March 2006 with the aim of holding an informal exchange of views on future co-operation in the region and to give impetus to the preparations for the VI<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit in Reykjavik. The discussions were positive and constructive and stressed the importance of the regional co-operation within the CBSS and that its role should be project-based and present added value. There is a need to make achievements and progress more visible to the public and to feature the CBSS as a model of sustainable and fruitful co-operation. The CBSS should develop a role as a pilot area for enriching the EU-Russia dialogue on the four Common Spaces.

## Attachment N° 1: Main topics of CSO meetings during the Icelandic Presidency

**28-29 September 2005, Turku:** Review and follow-up of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session and follow-up to the 5<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit meeting; presentation of the Icelandic CBSS Presidency programme; Approval of CSO, WGDI and WGNRS 2005-06 activity plans; Review and follow-up of the 13<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference; consultation with CBSS Special Participants: Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), the Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC), B7 Baltic Island Network (B7), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions – Baltic Sea Commission (CPMR-BSC). Cross-border co-operation: Baltic Euroregional Network and Baltic Sea regional co-operation of the City of Turku. Information on BASREC was provided.

**15-16 November 2005, Reykjavik:** Special Joint Session with the WGEC, proposal from BAC on mechanism dealing with obstacles for economic operators. Review and follow-up of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of CBSS Ministers of Energy. Review and follow-up of the Ministerial meeting on the EU Northern Dimension. co-operation on regional infrastructural development: Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB), co-operation with CBSS business and labour partners (CBSS Business Advisory Council (BAC), Baltic Development Forum (BDF), Baltic Sea Chamber of Commerce Association (BCCA), Baltic Sea Trade Union Network (BASTUN). Discussions on the future of the CBSS ad-hoc Working Group on Transport (WG-T), co-operation between CBSS and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC).

**17-18 January 2006, Reykjavik:** Preparations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit and for meeting of the CBSS Political Directors. Future of Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation (BASREC); proposal from BAC on mechanism dealing with obstacles for economic operators. Future of ad-hoc Working Group on Transport; Status Report from the international expert group on EuroFaculty Kaliningrad, discussion on the ability of member states to finance a new EuroFaculty project in Pskov. Co-operation on civil protection and soft security issues: CBSS Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation safety (WGNRS) – presentation of proposal for a Joint Declaration on the Exchange of Air Radiation Monitoring Data on the basis of the Agreement on the Exchange of Radiation Monitoring Data, as of 7 June 2001. Task Force on Organised Crime (TF-OC), Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk (WGCC), BSR Prosecutors-General Network, Lead-country on Civil Security – EUROBALTIC I + II, Directors General for Civil Protection, BSR Directors General for Tax Administration, Baltic Sea Region Border Control Co-operation (BSRBCC). Information on the CBSS Working Group on Customs and Border Crossing Aspects. Discussion on exchange of information with BSEC.

**14-15 February 2006, Brussels:** Joint Session with European Commission representatives: Implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Northern Dimension Action Plan; Guidelines for a renewed ND policy beyond 2006, implementation of relevant European Neighbourhood programmes, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. Northern e-Dimension Action Plan (SOIS). Preparations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit.

**28-29 March 2006, Stockholm:** Co-operation with CBSS Observer States, Joint Session with WGDI; Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), Ars Baltica, Monitoring Group on Heritage Co-operation, Co-operation with the Baltic Sea NGO Forum. CBSS Working Group on Youth Affairs. Presentation of Secretariat 2007 Budget proposal. Adoption of the Joint Declaration on the Exchange of Air Radiation Monitoring Data on the basis of the Agreement on the Exchange of Radiation Monitoring Data of 7 June 2001.

**10-12 May 2006, Reykjavik:** Preparations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit, negotiation of the Chairman's conclusions and draft agenda; Preparations of the CBSS Ministers' Deputies meeting; Joint session with the WGCC and study visit to the "Barnahus" Children's House in Reykjavik. Presentation of the Secretariat 2006 audit report and adoption of Secretariat 2007 Budget.

**23 May 2006, Copenhagen:** Preparations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit, negotiation of the Chairman's conclusions and draft agenda.

**6-7 June 2006, in Reykjavik:** Last-minute preparations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit.

## Attachment N° 2: CBSS Participation in meetings and conferences

### 1. Activities of, or on behalf of, the CBSS Chairman

- Minister of Finance, H.E. Geir H. Haarde gave a presentation on CBSS activities at the 14<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 28-30 August 2005.
- Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Geir H. Haarde represented the CBSS at the 10<sup>th</sup> Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) Ministerial Session held in Harstad, Norway on 9-10 November 2005.
- Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Geir H. Haarde attended the Northern Dimension Ministerial meeting held in Brussels, Belgium on 21 November 2005.
- CSO Chairman, H.E. Ambassador Kornelius Sigmundsson met the Extended Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference for the annual consultations between BSPC-CBSS in Copenhagen, Denmark on 30 January 2006.

### 2. Activities of the CSO Chairman

- Closing Ceremony for the EuroFaculty programme at the University of Tartu (Estonia), University of Latvia (in Riga) and University of Vilnius (Lithuania) held in Riga, Latvia on 1 July 2005.
- 14th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 28-30 August 2005.
- Coordination meeting of the CBSS with the 4 Baltic Sea Subregional Organisations held in Turku, Finland on 29 September 2005.
- Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) VIII General Conference held in Turku, Finland on 29 September – 2 October 2005.
- East European Business Forum held in Stockholm, Sweden on 13-14 October 2005.
- 7th Baltic Development Forum (BDF) Summit held in Stockholm, Sweden on 16-18 October 2005.
- 13th Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) annual conference held in Szczecin, Poland on 20-22 October 2005.
- Nordic Council Session held in Reykjavik, Iceland on 25-27 October 2005 -
- 4th Meeting of the CBSS Ministers of Energy held in Reykjavik, Iceland on 28 October 2005.
- 23rd meeting of the Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group (SOG) held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 3-4 November 2005.
- Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference - Council of the Baltic Sea States annual consultation held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 30 January 2006.
- HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on the development of the Baltic Sea Action Plan held in Helsinki, Finland on 7 March 2006.
- CBSS Political Directors meeting held in Stockholm, Sweden on 30 March 2006.

### **3. Participation of other members of the CSO, including the Troika, on behalf of the CSO Chairman, in regional events**

- Baltic Euroregional Network (BEN) Steering Committee meeting and Starting Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania on 26-27 September 2005, by Ms Heiðrún Pálsdóttir (Icelandic CSO representative).
- Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA) Economic Forum held on 7 October 2005 in Turku, Finland (Sweden as member of the troika).
- 6th Conference of CBSS Ministers for Spatial Planning & Development. 19 September 2005 in Gdansk, Poland (Poland as member of the troika).
- Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing (NDPHS) Annual Conference held in Stockholm, Sweden on 18 November 2005. (Sweden as member of the troika).
- Informal CBSS ministers of environment meeting held in Stockholm on 23 November 2005 (Sweden as member of the troika).
- Central European Initiative (CEI) Summit held in Piestany, Slovakia on 24-25 November 2005 (Poland as member of the Troika).
- Conference on the Northern Dimension, organised by the Northern Dimension Network based at the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in Manchester on 12-13 December 2005 (Sweden as member of the troika).
- VII International Environmental Forum: Baltic Sea Day in St. Petersburg, Russia on 22-23 March 2006 (Sweden as member of the troika).
- Northern Dimension Partnership Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) Committee of Senior Representatives in St. Petersburg on 6-7 April 2006 (Sweden as member of the troika).
- Task Force on Organised Crime (TF-OC) meeting held in Visby, Sweden on 2-3 May 2006 (Sweden as member of the troika).
- Meeting of the Central European Initiative (CEI) Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Tirana, Albania on 26 May 2006 (Sweden as member of the Troika).
- 11<sup>th</sup> CPMR-Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly in Karlskrona, Sweden on 2 June 2006 (Sweden as member of the troika).
- Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership Summit held in Bucharest on 5-6 June 2006 (Poland as member of the Troika).

## Attachment N° 3: External participation at CSO meetings during the Icelandic Presidency

### 1) Participation by representatives of CBSS structures and working bodies:

- Ars Baltica
- Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group (B-21 SOG)
- Baltic Sea Regional Border Control Co-operation (BSRBCC)
- Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation (BASREC)
- Business Advisory Council (BAC)
- Directors General on Civil Protection
- Expert Group on EuroFaculty Kaliningrad (EF-K)
- Lead Country function for Civil Security – EUROBALTIC I & II
- Task Force on Organised Crime (TF-OC)
- Monitoring Group on Heritage Co-operation
- Prosecutors General in the Baltic Sea Region
- Senior Officials on Information Society (SOIS)
- Visions and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea (VASAB)
- Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk (WGCC)
- Working Group on Democratic Institutions (WGDI)
- Working Group on Economic Co-operation (WGEC)
- Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (WGNRS)
- Working Group on Youth Affairs (WGYA) and the Youth Secretariat in Kiel.

### 2) Participation by observers, special participants, strategic partners and invited guests:

#### a. Observer States:

- France
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Slovakia
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

#### b. Special participants:

- Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC)
- Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)
- The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe – Baltic Sea Commission (CPMR-BSC)
- B7 Baltic Islands Co-operation Network (B7)

#### c. Strategic partners:

- Baltic Sea NGO Forum
- Baltic Sea Trade Union Network (BASTUN)
- Visions and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea (VASAB 2010)
- Baltic Development Forum (BDF)
- Baltic Sea Marina Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)
- Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association

#### d. Invited guests:

- City of Turku
- Icelandic Chamber of Commerce
- Representatives of the Icelandic companies “Norvik” and “Byko”

## **Annex 1: Working Group on Economic Co-operation (WGEC)**

### 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Working Group on Economic Co-operation

#### **Introduction**

During the Icelandic Chairmanship of the WGEC the priority was given to the issues of business and investment promotion, to investigating ways for continued alleviating barriers to trade and investment in the region. With due assistance of the CBSS Business Advisory Council (BAC), the Working Group discussed a possibility of introducing a special working structure to deal with obstacles to economic co-operation.

Following the decisions of the V Baltic Sea States Summit in Laulasmaa (June 2004) and the 13<sup>th</sup> CBSS Ministerial session in Szczecin (June 2005), the WG finalised and submitted to the Heads of Government in Reykjavik in June 2006, a Road Map on actions aimed at achieving competitive, stable, transparent and predictable investment conditions in CBSS member-states. As an outcome of the long-term work on the anti-corruption topic, the WG completed and submitted to the Summit meeting in Reykjavik a Survey on Administrative Regulations and Practices in CBSS Member States on Corruption related to Trade and Investment, as part of the efforts to increase awareness in highlighting corruption.

#### **1) Investment promotion in the Baltic Sea region**

##### a) Road Map on investments

- The Road Map was agreed upon and submitted to the VI Baltic Sea States Summit in Reykjavik (June 2006);
- The WGEC commissioned a subsequent World Bank report profiling the BSR in the “Doing Business” indicators 2006, which was produced in time for the Summit meeting in Reykjavik.

##### b) Reducing time for border-crossing for goods

- A CBSS Working Group on Customs Co-operation and Border-Crossing Aspects has been established. At its first meeting on 20-21 March in Helsinki, the Working Group approved and confirmed the Mandate and discussed basic elements of its work for the foreseeable future. The WGEC will liaise with the new structure through the CBSS Secretariat.

##### c) Removing barriers to trade, investment and travelling

- The WGEC discussed the BAC proposal to establish a special „mechanism” to deal with obstacles to cross-border barriers in the region. Possible options for its funding, were also explored;
- The Chairperson of the BEAC/WGEC was invited to the meeting in Stockholm, 2-3 March 2006 to exchange experience and to explore potential for synergies between the two working structures, especially as regards tackling barriers to trade and investment;

- At the VII Summit of the Baltic Development Forum (BDF) in Stockholm (October 2005) the CBSS presented a concept of the Baltic Sea Region Common Information Space, that is conducive to improving accesses to various information sources in the region regarding economy, trade and investments, as well and business development.

## **2) Enhancing framework conditions for business**

### **a) Business development and entrepreneurship**

- The representatives of successful Icelandic companies were invited to the CSO-WGEC joint meeting (on 15 November 2005) to tell about their experience in the Baltic States and Russia. Mr. Thor Sigfusson, Managing Director of the Icelandic Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Jon Helgi Gudmundsson, CEO of the holding company “NORVIK” and also Chairman of “Byko” were invited to present relevant case studies.
- New contacts were established with the Eastern European Business Forum (EEBF) where the CBSS enjoyed a status of “partner” organisation. Iceland and Secretariat attended the EEBF 2005 held in Stockholm on 13-14 October 2005, briefing on the current activities of the CBSS/WGEC in the fields of investment promotion, business development and entrepreneurship.
- The Secretariat attended an Eastern European Business Convention, organised by the Jönköping University on 2 December 2005, on behalf of the WGEC Chair making a brief on the Icelandic WGEC Chairmanship Programme and the ongoing activities in CBSS.

### **b) Fight against corruption**

- The Survey on Administrative Regulations on Corruption related to Trade and Investment was reviewed and considerably improved from both stylistic and reader-friendly points of view and was presented to the Summit meeting in Reykjavik. The Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region contributed with useful recommendations to the Survey.

## **3) Preparations of the VI BSS Summit in Reykjavik**

### **a) VI Baltic Sea Summit, 8-9 June in Reykjavik**

- The WGEC proposed some recommendations for strengthening economic co-operation in the region to be included into the final document of VI BSS Summit meeting in Reykjavik.
- At the WGEC meeting in Stockholm, 2-3 March 2006 the working group discussed a Russian non-paper on intensification of activities of the CBSS.

## **4) Other issues**

- The WGEC held two “vision” discussions during their meetings in November 2005 and March 2006 in order to exchange views on the most important elements for future work.

- The WGEC at its meeting in Reykjavik in November 2005 discussed a low progress in activities of the CBSS ad-hoc Working Group on Transport. The views of the Member-States were conveyed to the CSO.
- At its meeting in Reykjavik in May 2006, the Member-States exchanged views on the Northern Dimension Policies beyond 2006.
- Contacts with the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA) were continued. Sweden, assisted by the CBSS Secretariat attended the third BCCA Economic Forum held on 7 October 2005 in Turku, briefing on the ongoing activities and the visions for the future ND policies.
- Secretariat attended an International Conference on Public Support Systems of SMEs in Russia and Other North European Countries held in Mikkeli (Finland) on 18-19 May 2006.

## Conclusions

- The WGEC findings confirm that economic co-operation remains an important part of the overall regional development and will continue to play a role in the future.
- The basic spheres where regional co-operation has a comparative advantage to the other wider European activities, and not least, to the ongoing EU-Russia relationship, are seemingly the following: the investment promotion, alleviating barriers for economic interaction and integration the SMEs in the BSR, improving conditions for the border-crossing of goods, improving access to information on economic opportunities, raising awareness in the fight against corruption.
- Possibilities for an enhanced co-operation with the networks of the Russian Northwest, especially with the Kaliningrad Region, should be further explored and implemented, as appropriate.
- Synergy-oriented co-operation with the regional partners from the business community and NGOs, such as BCCA, BDF, EEBF, the Baltic Sea Initiative 2010, should be further developed.
- The coordination and search for complementarities with BEAC should be sought, especially, as regards the implementation of the Northern Dimension in the field of promotion of entrepreneurship, Customs co-operation, removing barriers to trade and promoting co-financing.

## Attachment N° 1 to the Annual Report of the WGEC: Meetings held by the WGEC

- **14 November 2005, Reykjavik**
  - Adoption of the Annual Programme of work
  - Follow-up to the V BSS Summit in Laulasmaa
  - Follow-up to the 13<sup>th</sup> CBSS Ministerial in Szczecin
  - Proposal by BAC to establish a “mechanism” countering cross-border barriers
  - Road Map in Investment
  - Proposal for a Conference on business environment in BSR
  - Vision discussion on the future
  - Planning for the VI BSS Summit in Reykjavik
  
- **15 November 2005, Reykjavik – a joint meeting with the CSO**
  - Business Development & Entrepreneurship
  - Proposal by BAC to establish a “mechanism” countering cross-border barriers
  
- **2-3 March 2006, Stockholm**
  - Tackling barriers to economic co-operation
  - Co-operation with the BEAC (WGEC and WG on Trade Barriers)
  - Follow-up to the BAC proposal
  - Russian proposal on intensification of economic co-operation
  - Recommendations for the Summit in Reykjavik
  - Road Map on Investment promotion
  - Survey on anti-corruption
  - Border-crossing for goods
  - Preparations to the VI Baltic Sea States Summit in Reykjavik
  
- **4-5 May 2006, Reykjavik**
  - Follow-up to the BAC proposal
  - CBSS WG on Customs and Border-Crossing
  - Recommendations to the Summit in Reykjavik
  - Follow-up activities: WGEC input to discussions on the Northern Dimension after 2007;
  - World Bank report on Baltic Sea Regional profile in “Doing Business 2006”
  - Draft Annual report to the CSO
  - Proposal for the Programme of the Swedish Chairmanship in WGEC 2006-2007

## Attachment N° 2 to the Annual Report of the WGEC: Documents produced

- Road Map on actions aimed at achieving competitive, stable, transparent and predictable investment conditions in CBSS member-states;
- The BAC proposal on a CBSS mechanism for Removing Cross-border barriers;
- Survey on Administrative Regulations and Practices in CBSS Member States on Corruption related to Trade and Investment;
- Recommendations for continued strengthening economic co-operation in the region;
- WGEC part on the Follow-up to the V Baltic Sea States Summit in Laulasmaa;
- WGEC part of the Follow-up to the 13<sup>th</sup> CBSS Ministerial session in Szczecin;
- Report from the Third BCCA Forum in Turku, 7 October 2005;
- Presentation by the representative of the CBSS CSO “Troika” at the Third BCCA Forum in Turku;
- Report from the Eastern European Business Forum 2005 in Stockholm, 13-14 October;
- Presentation by the Icelandic Presidency at the Eastern European Business Forum 2005 in Stockholm;
- Report from the VI Summit of the Baltic Development Forum in Stockholm, 16-18 October 2005;
- Presentation by the representative of the CBSS CSO “Troika” at the VI Summit of the Baltic Development Forum in Stockholm;
- Working Document on the Baltic Sea Region Common Information Space, presented at the VI Summit of the Baltic Development Forum in Stockholm;
- Proposal on a Conference “Business Environment in the BSR”, November 2005;
- CBSS Survey on the Northern Dimension beyond 2006;
- Proceedings from a Coordination meeting between CBSS and NCM Secretariats in Stockholm, 15 December 2005;
- Report from the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the CBSS Working Group on Customs Co-operation and Border-Crossing aspects in Helsinki, 19-20 March 2006;
- The World Bank BSR profile in “Doing Business” indicators 2006;
- The BEAC/WGEC Finnish Chairmanship Plan for 2006-07;
- Outlines for the Swedish WGEC Chairmanship work plan for 2006-07.

## **Annex 2: Working Group on Democratic Institutions (WGDI)**

### 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Working Group on Democratic Institutions

#### **I. Introduction**

The 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. One of the main objectives of the CBSS is to provide a framework for common efforts aimed at promoting democratic development in the region. For this purpose the Council established its Working Group on Democratic Institutions (WGDI) in 1992.

The WGDI, working in close co-ordination with the CSO, ensures the continuous political and organisational support in the preparation of conferences, workshops and seminars for regional exchange of experience and best practices in the field of democracy and human rights. In order to avoid duplication of activities and to ensure synergy of efforts, the Working Group cooperates closely with other working structures within the Baltic Sea region.

The WGDI arranges its activities according to an activity-plan which is discussed by the WGDI and CSO chairpersons at the beginning of each chairmanship and later endorsed at the first CSO meeting. The activity-plan envisages the expected outcome of the WGDI activities. In order to maximise the results of the meetings of the WGDI, the Members should ensure continuity in, and the expertise of, their representatives participating in the Working Group. Expert meetings, seminars and conferences may assist the work of the WGDI and recommendations from these events are then transmitted to the WGDI. The CBSS Secretariat provides support to the WGDI, follows up on its decisions and keeps the Working Group informed about progress made. In order to adapt to the needs and interests of the Member States, the WGDI will continue to discuss its future role, the scope of activities and working methods.

#### **II. WGDI agenda and activities during the Swedish Chairmanship 2005-2006**

The Chairmanship of the WGDI rotates on an annual basis. From July 2005 to July 2006 the Working Group has been chaired by Sweden. During this Chairmanship, the WGDI has held 4 meetings: 12-13 October 2005 in Stockholm; 19-20 January 2006 in Stockholm; 27 March 2006 in Stockholm and 22-24 May 2006 in Kaliningrad. A joint session between the WGDI and the CSO was held 28 March 2006 in Stockholm. Two mini-seminars have been arranged under the Swedish Chairmanship; one on Gender and Equal Opportunity, 27 March 2006 in Stockholm and another one with the focus on Good Governance at the Euro –Faculty in Kaliningrad on 23 May 2006. During the Swedish Chairmanship the WGDI also focused on issues including:

- **Citizens' participation** (locally, nationally, internationally and on EU-level)
- **Civil society**
- **Fundamental rights**
- **Good governance**

## **Citizens' participation (locally, nationally, internationally and on EU level)**

### Study on Citizens' Participation

One of the main priorities of the Swedish Chairmanship has been civil society and citizens' participation in the democratic decision-making processes on various levels. In relation to these focus areas; the Chairmanship initiated a comparative study on Citizens' Participation in the Baltic Sea Region. The overall objective of this study was to broaden the existing knowledge in the respective CBSS Member States and to get an idea of the development in the region with respect to this issue. The aim of the study was to serve as an exchange of knowledge and to take note of the lessons learned by the Member States in fields where most democracies are challenged by decreasing participation at the present time. One of the key goals was to map areas where the future focus for the WGDI would be of relevance. The study has served to point out areas, which could not be featured in the study itself due to limitations of time and resources, but which are of interest and necessity for a body like WGDI to follow.

### **Civil society**

Civil society is an important intermediary between the state and the citizens, and is thus an essential and necessary part of any democratic society. The WGDI has tried to engage the NGO Forum, as appropriate, in its work. The Chair of the NGO Forum's Consultative Committee, Ms. Aase Foshaug-Palme, took part in the WGDI meeting on 27 March 2006 in Stockholm and briefed on preparations of the 6th Baltic Sea NGO forum. At the same meeting, Ms. Darja Akhutina, Director of the Russian NGO *Norden Association*, which serves as a focal point for Russian NGOs with interest in the Baltic Sea region, gave a presentation on her views on the impact of the new Russian NGO legislation on the non-governmental sector.

In addition, the CBSS Secretariat maintains close contact with the Baltic Sea NGO Forum Consultative Committee and strives to be present at their meetings. Accordingly, the Secretariat participated and gave presentations at the Consultative Committee's meetings in Copenhagen on 27 – 28 January 2006 and in Stockholm on 31 March – 1 April 2006. In relation to the meeting in Stockholm, the Consultative Committee also visited the CBSS Secretariat, where Director Dr. Gabriele Kötschau gave a presentation on the CBSS Secretariat and prospects for a closer future co-operation. Formal relations between the NGO Forum and CBSS were discussed and clarified. The need to strengthen the financial independence of the NGO Forum was also stressed. On 20 – 21 February 2006, the Secretariat also participated at the meeting of the Danish delegation to the Baltic Sea NGO Forum in Copenhagen.

### **Fundamental rights**

On 27 March 2006 in Stockholm, the WGDI held a mini-seminar on Gender and Equal Opportunities. Ms. Lena Mirow, Special Adviser at the Ministry of Justice, presented the new Swedish Human Rights Action Plan, which was presented to the Swedish Parliament on 9 March 2006. Ms. Pia Engström Lindgren, Deputy Equal Opportunities Ombudsman, gave a presentation on the Ombudsman's role and areas of activity. The presentation touched upon legislation and practices on issues related to gender discrimination in employment situations, equal payment, and maternity leaves, among

others. The Chairman of the International Roma Women Network, Ms. Soraya Post, spoke about her ideas and thoughts on working with Roma issues and informed about the situation and rights of Roma people in Sweden and other countries. The presentations raised fruitful discussion and questions.

### **Good governance**

In co-operation with the EuroFaculty at the Immanuel Kant State University of Russia in Kaliningrad, the WGDI held a mini-seminar on good governance on 23 May 2006. At the seminar, a wide range of issues was discussed and students and professors of the University made a number of presentations. Among those were the results of a survey on implementation of the concept of good governance in Russia, conducted by the Law Faculty of the University. Also, issues of transparency in the work of state and municipal bodies in the Russian Federation, problems with the fight against corruption in Russia, accountability of public institutions in Russia and the effectiveness of the Ombudsman institution in the Russian Federation were discussed. The WGDI also had the opportunity to be informed about the development of the EuroFaculty project.

### **Study tours of the WGDI**

As an integral part of its work, the WGDI frequently includes study-tours in connection with its meetings and seminars. These provide a good opportunity for WGDI members to get a first hand impression of the situation in a particular field or institution in one of the Member States.

#### The Swedish Parliament (Riksdagen)

In connection with the WGDI meeting on 19 January 2006, the Working Group met with Mr. Kent Olsson, Member of the Swedish Parliament, who briefly presented the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) and the BSPC Standing Committee, of which he is a member. The presentation by Mr. Kent Olsson was followed by a guided tour of the Swedish Parliament.

#### International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

On 20 January 2006, the Working Group visited IDEA and heard a number of interesting presentations of IDEA's work in fields closely related to the WGDI and the priorities of the Swedish Chairmanship. Ms. Ingrid Wetterqvist, Head of Planning and External Relations and Mrs. Bénédicte Walter, Communication Manager, presented aims and areas of activities of IDEA. Mrs. Maria Gratschew, Assistant Programme Officer on Electoral process, introduced the IDEA Voter Turnout Project, whereas Mrs. Rita Taphorn, Programme Officer for Political Parties and Women in Politics, presented a project on women participation in politics.

#### Ombudsman of the Kaliningrad Oblast

On 24 May 2006, the WGDI visited the Ombudsman of the Kaliningrad Oblast and discussed the work and the development of democracy in the Kaliningrad Oblast. Central issues, which had been in focus for the Ombudsman in recent years were discussed, such as problems of civil and human rights education in the Kaliningrad region, trafficking, rights of children in custody, the right of freedom of movement for the people of the Kaliningrad Oblast and the right of a fair court trial.

### Consulates General in Kaliningrad

On 25 May 2006 the WGDI visited the Swedish Consulate General in Kaliningrad and met there with the CBSS member states Consulates General in Kaliningrad. The representatives of the Consulates gave a presentation on the history of Kaliningrad and its past and present political situation.

### **Co-operation with other organisations**

The WGDI receives invitations to attend meetings, seminars or conferences arranged by other organisations, the topics of which fall within the terms of reference of the WGDI. During the Swedish Chairmanship, the WGDI was invited to attend the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC). The WGDI Secretary attended the 14th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 29-30 August 2005.

In the process of carrying out the Study on Citizens' Participation, the WGDI closely co-operated with IDEA and other institutions. The WGDI and IDEA are currently working on preparing a joint seminar on citizens' participation that will be a follow-up to the WGDI Study. The seminar will take place in October, back-to-back with the 6th Baltic Sea NGO Forum.

### **III. Future Activities of the Working Group**

The promotion of democracy, the rule of law, fundamental rights and the fostering of civil society will remain a focus of the CBSS. The WGDI will continue its work aimed at achieving these goals. Co-operation with other regional and international institutions will be crucial in carrying out this task and avoiding the duplication of efforts. The future of the WGDI has been thoroughly discussed during the Swedish Chairmanship, including a joint session with the CSO. The WGDI decided to reduce the number of formal meetings and to add, instead, a conference or seminar once a year. In this way, while reducing the number of issues discussed, more focus, stronger output and value-added can be achieved by the Group.

During the Swedish Chairmanship, a new tradition of WGDI members informing each other about the recent development on democratic issues in their respective country has been introduced. This issue has been valued by members of the Group as a good way to attain an overview and an insight into developments in the region.

#### Scope of future activities

Within its Terms of Reference, the WGDI will focus on a selected number of issues, for instance, citizens' participation in democratic society at all levels and the involvement of civil society in the Baltic Sea region. The WGDI will address the issues of civil society by focusing on areas where there is a real potential to share experience and best practices. Co-operation with the NGO Forum will be continued and the Study on Citizens' Participation will be followed up.

#### Structure and working methods

Activities organised under the guidance of the Working Group would considerably profit from the participation of experts of all Member States.

## **Annex 3: Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (WGNRS)**

### 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

Within the reporting period (13<sup>th</sup> CBSS Ministerial Session, Szczecin, Poland, 9-10 June 2005, until 6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit on 7-8 June 2006 in Reykjavik, Iceland) the WGNRS continued its activities with regard to already covered issues as well as included new topics into its work. Since the WGNRS meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, on 23-24 October 2003 the WGNRS is chaired by Germany. A regular rotation of the three-year Chairmanship will take place at the end of 2006. Russia was invited to take over the WGNRS Chairmanship for 2007-2009 and will reply until the end of May 2006.

#### **I. Meetings**

Since the 13<sup>th</sup> CBSS Ministerial Session in Szczecin in 2005, two WGNRS meetings were held: 7-8 November 2005 in the Lithuanian Radiation Protection Centre in Vilnius, Lithuania; 3-4 April 2006 in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Reykjavik, Iceland. At the Vilnius meeting, the WGNRS was welcomed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania Mr. Romualdas Sabaliauskas. In conjunction with the meetings, the WGNRS paid technical visits to relevant institutions in the hosting country as e.g. the Lithuanian Radiation Protection Centre and the Icelandic National Crisis Coordination Centre and the CTBTO IMS Radionuclide Station RN34 in Reykjavik.

Denmark, Finland (due to cancelled flights) and Latvia did not attend the Vilnius meeting. At the Reykjavik meeting, all WGNRS members were present. In addition to the WGNRS members, at the Vilnius meeting the CBSS Observer countries France, Italy, Slovak Republic and Ukraine, the Lithuanian Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region (TF-OC) Operative Committee Coordinator (as guest speaker) and several Lithuanian experts in the field of nuclear and radiation safety (Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Environment, Lithuanian Fire and Rescue Department, Lithuanian State Nuclear Power Safety Inspectorate, Environmental Protection Agency) were represented. At the Reykjavik meeting, the CBSS Observer countries France and United States were present.

At the Reykjavik meeting, the WGNRS decided to change the set-up of WGNRS meetings. One of the two annual meetings should be used for a more general discussion and information exchange as in the past. The other one will be used for a topical meeting where a concrete subject will be discussed in depth. This change aims at adapting the WGNRS activities and working procedures to today's needs. WGNRS decided to have the first topical meeting on emergency preparedness in Stockholm in October 2006.

Especially worth mentioning is that WGNRS appreciates very much that Russia continues to join the working group again after a period of absence. It participated in both meetings in the reporting period 2005-2006. In addition, several personnel changes in the WGNRS took place (new WGNRS representatives of Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Sweden).

At the beginning of each meeting, National Progress Reports by the Member States were presented on nuclear and radiation safety activities and achievements since the last meeting. Members commented on and discussed issues in the reports that were of common interest. All the National Progress Reports as well as other (meeting) documents are available for all WGNRS members and the CSO at the CBSS WGNRS Extranet.

## **II. WGNRS Activities**

The agenda of the WGNRS meetings during the reporting period covered preferably activities which are relevant with respect to emergency preparedness:

### **• Environmental Monitoring**

#### *- Principles on External Dose Rate Measurements*

The Baltic Sea States already exchange results of the routine external dose rate measurements daily. For better harmonisation of the measurements WGNRS installed an Expert Group on External Dose Rate Measurements which held its third meeting in Rendsburg/Germany in September 2005. The main topic concerned the harmonisation of software and the definition of standards for monitoring probes. The WGNRS took note of the activities of the Expert Group at its meeting in Vilnius in November 2005 and encouraged it to continue its work.

#### *- Radionuclides Measurements in Air*

Radionuclide measurements in air are a very sensitive method to detect even small incidental releases of radionuclides. They are the most important measurements in the early phase of an accident in addition to external dose rate. Consequently a first draft of a Joint Declaration on the Exchange of Air Radiation Monitoring Data on the Basis of the CBSS Agreement on the Exchange of Monitoring Data as of 7 June 2001 was suggested at the WGNRS meeting in Vilnius in November 2005. The information to be exchanged are results from off-line and/or on-line systems measuring nuclide specific or non-nuclide specific (gross) activity concentrations in air within national monitoring networks. At the CSO meeting in January 2006 in Reykjavik, the Icelandic WGNRS member gave a presentation on behalf of the WGNRS Chairman on the ongoing discussion. The text of the Joint Declaration was then finalized afterwards. A WGNRS Expert Group met on 14-15 March 2006 in Stockholm to draft the Note to the Joint Declaration which specifies the main technical details. The draft text of both the Joint Declaration and the Note to the Joint Declaration were approved by the WGNRS by two separate silent procedures.

On 28 March 2006 the CSO approved both the agreement and the Note, the WGNRS Chairman introduced. At the 6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit in Reykjavik on 7-8 June 2006, the Heads of Government will take note of the Joint Declaration.

### **• Publishing of Monitoring Data**

The WGNRS discussed the general idea of publishing the monitoring data in form of maps on the CBSS web page ([www.cbss.org](http://www.cbss.org)) and proposed this idea to the CSO at its meeting in Turku in September 2005 which appreciated this idea. Presently practical and technical implications of the publishing are discussed, e.g. the verification results.

- **Overview of Routine and Emergency Monitoring Programmes in the CBSS Member States**

The WGNRS discussed whether the topic of routine and emergency monitoring programmes in the CBSS Member States should be kept on the agenda. It was agreed to follow-up only routine monitoring programmes and the representative of the European Commission will prepare an overview on the routine monitoring programmes in the CBSS Member States for the upcoming WGNRS meeting in October 2006.

- **Regional Agreement on Assistance**

The WGNRS discussed a first draft Regional Agreement on Assistance in the case of an accidental contamination of the environment with radionuclides at its Reykjavik meeting in April 2006. This document specifies the fields and the basic principles of assistance. However, it was agreed to terminate the discussion of the proposed document and to continue with a compilation of practical arrangements for regional assistance in case of an emergency situation. Based on the outcome of this overview, the need for a regional agreement will be further discussed.

- **Harmonisation of Intervention Levels within the CBSS Member States**

The Table on Intervention Levels within the CBSS Member States focusing on evacuation, iodine prophylaxis and sheltering in the CBSS Member States compiled by the WGNRS was complemented with international intervention levels (ICRP, WHO, IAEA etc.). Based on the updated table, the WGNRS noticed that the values for sheltering and evacuation are not much different in the CBSS Member States. The variation of the uncertainty of the estimated doses will be significantly higher than the variation of the reference levels in the different countries. Therefore, the group sees no reason not to come to some kind of harmonisation although the approach will be very difficult. The discussion on harmonisation of the intervention levels within the CBSS Member States will be continued in future.

- **Handling and Control of Strong Radioactive Sources**

The Comparative Table on Handling and Control of High-activity Sealed Radioactive Sources in the different Baltic Sea States compiled by the WGNRS was regularly updated and single issues discussed (e.g. radioactive sources in transit).

- **Illicit Trafficking**

At the Vilnius meeting, the WGNRS held an information exchange with the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region ([www.balticseataaskforce.org](http://www.balticseataaskforce.org)) in order to investigate needs and possibilities for a possible co-operation in the field of illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive substances. At present, no need for a closer co-operation was seen.

- **International Exercises**

Another CBSS Communication Exercise was held in October 2005 (organized by Latvia) and it was agreed to hold the next one in October/November 2006 (organized by Iceland).

At the WGNRS meetings, regular reports were given by those CBSS Member States participating in international exercises and the CBSS Member States are asked to inform regularly the Secretary to the WGNRS about upcoming exercises in their countries and to invite the other WGNRS members as observers to these exercises.

### **III. Other**

To increase public awareness and visibility of the WGNRS activities, an interview with the present and the two previous Chairmen on “Nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea Region – Co-operation for the safety of all” was published in the November 2005 issue of the CBSS newsletter Baltinfo. In addition, the WGNRS prepared a Report on the WGNRS activities 1992-2006.

## Annex 4: Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States

### 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States

#### A. Overall activities of the Secretariat

During the period 2005-2006 the Secretariat continued, under the guidance of the CSO, to provide technical assistance to the CBSS presidency. Main events during the reporting period were the preparation of the 6<sup>th</sup> CBSS Summit on June 2006 in Reykjavik, the Meeting of the Political Directors in Stockholm and the reception for Embassies and CBSS related institutions, celebrated in February 2006 featuring CBSS Troika member Ambassador Christer P. Persson as keynote speaker.

The budget of 2005 ended with a surplus, due to continued attention to cost-efficiency and budgetary discipline. A slight increase of the budget 2006 (+2.1%) as compared to the budget 2005 is attributed to increase in salaries and related costs, introduction of two new chapters to the budget (the working groups fund and the internship programme scholarship) and the inflation within the CBSS member states.

The personnel of the Secretariat have undergone some major changes under the period. The Director and a Senior Adviser were replaced, a new Deputy Director recruited, and Senior Advisers have been assigned new responsibilities. Due to sick-leaves and one leave of absence for a traineeship at the European Commission, the Secretariat faced additional challenges to provide full and efficient servicing of the Presidency, the CSO and other CSO working groups and related structures.

In addition there were import changes in the Secretariat units: the **BASREC - Energy unit** was suspended at the end of 2005 resulting in some problems regarding the Secretariat budget (shared administrative costs between Core Secretariat and Units). The **Baltic 21 unit** needed new recruitments for Head of Unit and Senior Adviser positions which required a staff member to be recruited on a short term basis. The **Children's unit** prolonged the contract for the Head of Unit for another three year period. The co-located **NDPHS Secretariat** faced uncertainties whether and how it would function, but the governing body the Committee of Senior Representatives decided to continue the work as such, and maintain the NDPHS Secretariat co-located at the CBSS Secretariat, after recruitment of a Head of Unit and Senior Adviser.

As to IT equipment, the overall administrative effectiveness of the Secretariat requires a reliable and efficient solution. Renewed equipment and improved contracts, including better services, product and consultancy liability and a detailed documentation will contribute to greater reliability and effectiveness. In addition, in order to provide the Presidency and the CSO with professional services in its role of CBSS institutional memory, an efficient archiving system is required. The Secretariat is exploring a variety of systems through which an electronic archive can be established.

## **B. CBSS Structures & Working Bodies serviced by the Secretariat**

### **B1. Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)**

The Secretariat has continued to provide technical and administrative support to the CSO Chairman and the CSO as a whole in the performance of their duties. Eight meetings of the CSO were serviced by the Secretariat. The Secretariat also provided support for the CSO Chairman in the preparation and execution of several other meetings including: the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Coordination meeting of heads of Baltic Sea Subregional organisation and the BSPC-CBSS Annual consultations.

The Secretariat continued to perform a liaison function for the CBSS Presidency in contacts with a wide range of actors, including CBSS Member States and the European Commission. In line with the Secretariat Terms of Reference and in accord with other relevant CBSS documents, the Secretariat also served as a focal point for all CBSS structures and working bodies, CBSS special participants and strategic partners as well as with the CBSS observer states and relevant international organisations.

### **B2. Working Group on Economic Co-operation (WGEC)**

Under the Icelandic Chairmanship, the Secretariat provided technical assistance to three regular meetings of the Working Group on Economic Co-operation (WGEC). These meetings took place on the following dates and in the following locations: Reykjavik, 14-15 November 2005; Stockholm, 2-3 March 2006; Reykjavik, 4-5 May 2006. In addition, the Secretariat provided assistance to the CSO – WGEC Special Joint Session in Reykjavik held in Reykjavik on 15 November 2005. (Secretary: Deputy Director, Philipp Saprykin)

The Secretariat contributed with a number of analytical/background working papers and relevant reports to the WGEC meetings (referred to in the WGEC annual report). The Secretariat also contributed to a Road Map on investments and finalised the Survey on Administrative Regulations on Corruption in CBSS member-states. Useful contacts were maintained with the World Bank, which led to the production of a subsequent World Bank study. This study examined the Baltic Sea Region's profile in terms of World Bank indicators for "doing business" in the Baltic Sea region in the year 2006.

The Secretariat established in 2006 close working relationship with a newly created CBSS working structure – the Working Group on Customs Co-operation and Border-Crossing Aspects.

The Secretariat continued to network with the development-oriented organisations, such as BAC, BCCA, BASTUN, Baltic 21, BASREC, and the CBSS/BEAC Customs-Liaison Committee. This was also the case with co-operation between the Secretariat and the BDF, within the framework of the Baltic Sea Initiative 2010 and the 7<sup>th</sup> BDF Summit in Stockholm. Namely, at the BDF Summit the CBSS presented a concept of the Baltic Sea Region Common Information Space.

The Secretariat attended the Eastern European Business Convention, organised by the Jönköping University on 2 December 2005, on behalf of the WGEC Chair introducing the Icelandic WGEC Chairmanship Programme and the ongoing activities in CBSS.

### **B3. Working Group on Democratic Institutions (WGDI)**

Throughout the course of the WGDI Swedish Chairmanship, the Secretariat provided technical assistance to the WGDI and its Chairmanship. This assistance included the provision of support during meetings, assistance in the exchange of ideas regarding agendas, the preparation of draft minutes, the preparation of the non-paper on the future of the WGDI, and carrying out the Study on Citizen's Participation under the guidance of the chairmanship.

During the Swedish Chairmanship, four WGDI meetings were held. The first took place on 12-13 October 2005 in Stockholm, the second was held on 19-20 January 2006 in Stockholm, the third was held on 27 March 2006 in Stockholm, and the fourth took place on 22-24 May 2006 in Kaliningrad, Russia. In addition, a joint session with the CSO was held on 28 March in Stockholm. Two mini-seminars have been arranged under the Swedish Chairmanship. The first mini-seminar was about Gender and Equal Opportunity, and was held on 27 March 2006 in Stockholm. The second mini-seminar concerned Good Governance, and took place on 23 May 2006 at the EuroFaculty in Kaliningrad. As a fundamental part of its mission, the WGDI included four study-tours in connection with its meetings and mini-seminars during the Swedish Chairmanship. These tours included the Swedish Parliament (Riksdagen), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the Ombudsman of the Kaliningrad Oblast, and the CBSS Member States Consulates General in Kaliningrad.

The WGDI Secretary also assisted the WGDI Chairmanship by attending and subsequently reporting on the 14<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) that took place on 29-30 August 2005 in Vilnius.

### **B4. Working Group on Nuclear Radiation Safety (WGNRS)**

During the Icelandic CBSS Chairmanship, the Secretariat provided full technical assistance to two regular meetings of the Working Group on Nuclear Radiation Safety (WGNRS). The first of these was in Vilnius and took place on 7-8 November 2005, while the second was in Reykjavik and took place on 3-4 April 2006. In addition, the Secretariat also provided assistance to two meetings of the Preparatory Group, which included Germany (WGNRS Chairmanship 2003-2006), Sweden and Norway (CBSS Secretariat, 23 September 2005 and 1 March 2006).

As in the reporting period 2004-2005, the Secretariat provided the WGNRS in addition to the assistance to the meetings with technical assistance in the preparation and compilation of papers: the regular update of the "Comparative Table on Handling and Control of High-activity Sealed Radioactive Sources in the Baltic Sea Region" and the compilation of "Intervention Levels within the CBSS Member States"; and the drafting of new documents as the report "CBSS Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (WGNRS) 1992-2006". Further, the Secretariat was heavily involved in the drafting and approval process of the Joint Declaration on the Exchange of Air Radiation Monitoring Data and the respective Note finally approved by the CSO at its meeting on 28-29 March 2006 in Stockholm.

Further, the WGNRS was featured with an interview with the present and the two previous WGNRS Chairmen in Baltinfo No. 76 (November 2005).

## **B5. Group of Senior Energy Officials (BASREC-GSEO) & Energy Unit<sup>2</sup>**

From July 2005 to December 2005 the energy unit was supported by Nordic Council Scholarship grantees: Ms. Aneta Ciszewska from Poland and Mr. Vladimir Chursin from Russia.

The BASREC ministerial meeting on 28 October 2005 gathered representatives of Energy Ministries of CBSS member countries and the European Commission for the fourth time in Reykjavik. During the meeting short reviews of activities performed by the five working groups were delivered and a Communiqué that defines the guidelines for BASREC for the years 2006-2008 was adopted. The meeting was organized at the call of the chairperson of BASREC, the Icelandic Minister of Industry and Commerce Mrs. Valgerdur Sverrisdottir in order to evaluate the results of the Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation in the years 2003-2005, to discuss further integration of regional energy markets and to decide on future co-operation within BASREC.

One day before the ministerial meeting, on 27 October 2005 a seminar focussing on regional energy co-operation for a secure future took place in order to discuss co-operation achieved so far and to point out future challenges.

## **B6. Baltic 21 Network & Baltic 21 Unit**

During the reporting year, the Baltic 21 Secretariat (an administrative unit of the CBSS Secretariat) was charged with many tasks and responsibilities and conducted numerous activities to fulfil them. From 1 July 2005 to 28 February 2006, the Secretariat was staffed by one Head of Unit and one Senior Adviser. Later, from 1 March 2006 and until the end of the reporting period, the Secretariat was manned by one Head of Unit, a Senior Adviser and an Adviser.

### *Implementation of the Baltic 21 Strategy Guidelines*

The Baltic 21 Secretariat assisted the Baltic 21 Network in facilitating the implementation of the Baltic 21 Strategy Guidelines (cf. <http://www.baltic21.org/?about#strategy>).

Key services provided by the Secretariat to carry out Strategy Guideline 1 (support the CBSS and its processes in the pursuit of sustainable development) included:

- The Secretariat funded and, together with the Baltic University Programme (BUP), organised a symposium on “Realising a Common Vision of a Baltic Sea Eco-region: Research Symposium on Sustainable Development Patterns,” which took place on 27-29 October 2005 in Kaliningrad, Russia. In the follow-up to the Kaliningrad Research Symposium, the Secretariat worked together with BUP to finalise the proceedings from the Symposium;
- Building on Kaliningrad Symposium, effort to establish a firm scientific base for developing policy recommendations, the Secretariat also developed a proposal – under the guidance of the SOG Bureau – for the creation of a region-wide Sustainable Development Research Network;
- The Secretariat approached the CBSS WGEC and the BASREC Unit to discuss and develop a joint vision of co-operation for the future. Based on the outcome of

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<sup>2</sup> This section covers the period from 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2005

these interactions, the Secretariat prepared proposals for co-operation with these CBSS bodies and submitted them to the SOG Bureau.

The actions undertaken by the Secretariat to further implement Strategy Guideline 2 (strengthened involvement in cross-sectoral work, and work towards achieving the agreed goals and visions) included, but were not limited to:

- The Secretariat organised, *inter alia*, the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Lead Party and Responsible Actor Meetings for the purposes of developing cross-sectoral activities and Lighthouse Projects;
- The Secretariat assisted in facilitating a joint Education Sector and Forest Sector planning meeting on an international workshop for “Forestry in Schools;”
- Concerning the monitoring of agreed goals and visions, the Secretariat developed and finalised a questionnaire-based assessment of (i) the extent to which the Sectors, Spatial Planning and Joint Actions have completed the tasks assigned to them in the Baltic 21 Action Programme, and (ii) whether and how the Action Programme needs to be revised and updated.

The actions undertaken by the Secretariat to further implement Strategy Guideline 3 (Lighthouse Projects (LHP) development and demonstration activities) included, but were not limited to the following:

- The Secretariat worked with and managed the Lighthouse Project Consultant, and in particular, commissioned the Consultant to produce an assessment on the INTERREG III B BSR Program and its reflection of the Baltic 21 Action Programme;
- The Secretariat developed the Guidelines for the employment of Consultants in the Baltic 21 process, which were adopted by the SOG in November 2005;
- The Secretariat further developed and revised the Baltic 21 Lighthouse Project criteria, which were adopted by the SOG in May 2005, and facilitated the upgrading of the tentative LHP New Hansa to a fully-fledged LHP in February 2006;
- In addition to facilitating LHP development in general, the Secretariat also developed and submitted reports to donor countries concerning the specific activities it undertook to this effect.

More information about Baltic 21 Lighthouse projects is available on webpage <http://www.baltic21.org/?lhp>.

#### *Participation in Baltic 21 meetings*

The Baltic 21 Secretariat took part in and organized or helped to organize a number of Baltic 21 network meetings (SOG, SOG Bureau, Lead Party and Responsible Actor, Sector meetings – cf. <http://www.baltic21.org/?meetings>).

#### *Development of documents and letters/correspondence*

Approximately 150 meeting documents have been developed by the Secretariat to facilitate decision-making within Baltic 21. All of these documents are available on the Baltic 21 website at [www.baltic21.org](http://www.baltic21.org).

At the same time, the Secretariat developed 173 formal letters/communications to either Baltic 21 network members or other recipients.

Additionally, the Secretariat also developed and provided several over 10 texts for inclusion in documents developed by the CBSS Secretariat.

#### *Baltic 21 Newsletter, Baltic 21 e-News and contributions to other newsletters*

During the period of time in question, the Secretariat produced two issues of the Baltic 21 Newsletter (available at <http://www.baltic21.org/?newsletter>) featuring, *inter alia*, articles from top-level political officials and other prominent figures, and distributed several e-news briefs (available at <http://www.baltic21.org/?enews>) to ca. 15,000 e-mail addresses, which are included in its distribution list. Both the newsletter and e-news distribution databases were continually updated.

The Secretariat contributed two newsletter articles to the Baltinfo Newsletter, as well as to other region-based newsletters such as Union of the Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin.

#### *Triennial Report 2003-2005*

In terms of monitoring and reporting on the state of the Baltic 21 process, the Secretariat developed and finalized the Triennial Report 2003-2005, with a view to having it submitted to the Heads of Government at the 6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit in June 2006. This report includes several indicators (for which the Secretariat collected data), and it describes significant unsustainable trends in the Baltic Sea Region. Further, it proposes ways to address these trends, presents progress made in the Baltic 21 process during the period covered, and also recommends actions to be taken by Baltic 21 in the near future (cf. <http://www.baltic21.org/?monitoringsd>). The report will be published as the latest paper in a Baltic 21 publications series (available at <http://www.baltic21.org/?publications>).

#### *Management of the Baltic 21 Secretariat and its budget*

The Secretariat developed and regularly updated its work-plan for 2005 and 2006, and reported (with time-sheets) on a monthly bases on their implementation.

The Head of the Baltic 21 Unit managed the Baltic 21 budget in close co-operation with the CBSS Head of Administration. A number of administration and finance-related actions have been undertaken by the Secretariat, such as the regular scrutinizing of monthly budget reviews, warranted corrections, and also preparing the statement of accounts for FY 2005 and the preliminary budget for FY 2007.

Further, the following actions were taken by the Secretariat:

- Development and distribution of 4 Pro Memoriam concerning the financial situation in the Baltic 21 Secretariat and the employment of Baltic 21 staff and the employment of the Lighthouse Projects Consultant;
- In accordance with the revised *Financial rules of the Baltic 21 Unit at the CBSS Secretariat*, the Secretariat collected information about donor countries preferences as to what should be done with their unspent contributions from FY 2002 – FY 2005.

### *Implementation of additional projects and tasks not covered by Baltic 21 main budget*

The Secretariat implemented several project-based activities supported through the voluntary funds from donors. As required, it prepared detailed narrative and financial reports to the donors. Projects and tasks in question include the following ones:

- Priority project No. 1.2 and 2 (Task 22) funded by the European Commission. Although this project ended on 30 April 2005, the Secretariat developed detailed narrative and financial reports to the donor;
- Co-operation with the Mediterranean (Task 23) funded by Sweden (cf. <http://www.baltic21.org/?liaison>);
- Demonstration projects (Lighthouse projects) (Task 26) funded by Finland and Sweden. This project involved employment and management of a Lighthouse Projects Consultant (cf. <http://www.baltic21.org/?lhp>).

### *Participation and representation of Baltic 21 in other forums*

Apart from participating in meetings organized within Baltic 21 context, the Secretariat participated in and contributed to a number of meetings and international events. Some of those involved preparation and making speeches or presentations (some of these speeches are available on page <http://www.baltic21.org/?speeches>).

### *Management of the Baltic 21 website*

The Baltic 21 Secretariat continued to manage the Baltic 21 website ([www.baltic21.org](http://www.baltic21.org)) and updated it regularly (several website modifications were made as well). The Baltic 21 website received very positive feedback by many visitors as being extremely interesting, informative and user-friendly.

### *Recruitment of Baltic 21 staff*

The Secretariat assisted the SOG Bureau and the SOG Chairman in the recruitment of a new Baltic 21 Head of Unit as well as a new Baltic 21 Senior Adviser.

### *Technical and administrative support to the Baltic 21 SOG Chairman*

The Secretariat wrote speeches for the SOG Chairman in connection with his participation in international events during which he represented Baltic 21.

Also, a number of administration and finance-related actions have been undertaken by the Secretariat to assist the SOG Chairman in flight and hotel bookings, and reimbursement of his travel costs.

### *Contributions on Baltic 21 to speaking points of CBSS speakers*

The Secretariat contributed to the CBSS CSO's participation in environment-related meetings, such as through drafting speaking points for the Icelandic CSO Chairman's participation in the HELCOM meeting on 7 March 2006 in Helsinki, Finland, and also by substantively contributing to a number of interventions made by the incoming Swedish CSO Chairman (i.a., Baltic Sea Day held on 22-23 March 2006 in St. Petersburg,

Russia, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> International BERNET Conference held on 5-7 April 2006 in Fyn, Denmark).

### *Support to the CBSS Secretariat*

The Baltic 21 Secretariat provided substantive support to the CBSS Secretariat in the development of the so-called 'Gotland Initiative' aimed at addressing the problem of Baltic Sea eutrophication. It also provided advice and support concerning other matters on numerous occasions.

Additionally, the Baltic 21 staff took part in some administration-related activities, such as recruitment of a receptionist/secretary for the CBSS Secretariat.

### **B7. Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk (WGCC) & Children's Unit<sup>3</sup>**

The Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk, the WGCC, has during the year been chaired by Lithuania, Ms Audra Mikalauskaite, Head of Family, Children, Youth and Women Unit of the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

#### **Meetings of the Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk**

The Working Group has had two meetings during the year:

- **Tallinn, October 2005.** During the WGCC meeting in Tallinn, hosted by the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs the WGCC concentrated on the follow up of the ministerial meeting. The programme on the rights of children in institutions was drafted, elaborating the focus for the programme and the main features of it. The conclusion from the ministerial meeting has been disseminated within both the Council of Europe and on the CRC Special Discussion day on the Rights of Children in Institutional Care.
- **Reykjavik, May 2006:** At the Reykjavik meeting Mr Björn Bredesen, Deputy Director General of the Norwegian Ministry for Children and Equality was elected new chair for the WGCC from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2006. New steps were taken to continue the elaboration of the programme on the rights of children in institutional care, and decision was taken on three areas to pursue in the regional work on this. The expert meeting was planned and the focus for the planned conference on the topic in Stockholm was elaborated. The Programme on Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children was also discussed. The EU funded project on developing competence on care, protection and assistance to child victims of trafficking was discussed and the WGCC was given a clear understanding how the project will be implemented. The mapping project where all child victims of trafficking during a period of one year will be traced in order for the stakeholders to be fully aware of what works regarding assistance and not least regarding cross border co-operation was also discussed. Part of the meeting contained a joint visit to the Barnahus in Reykjavik with the CSO, and a joint meeting between the two groups followed. During the joint meeting both the Barnahus expert meeting was presented as was the plans for the WGCC work on children in institutions.

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<sup>3</sup> For a more elaborate description of the activities of the WGCC and the Children's Unit, please refer to the "2005-2006 Annual report of the WGCC".

## **Expert meetings organised by the WGCC:**

- **Support to boys and girls leaving institutional care**

Expert meeting organised by the Russian Agency for Education, the Russian Ministry of Education and Science, the Yaroslavl Youth Information Centre and the Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk. The meeting gathered experts from 10 of the member countries plus participants from Belarus. Through presentations and discussions a number of recommendations were elaborated and these were later presented to the WGCC for their consideration. One of the most prominent conclusions was that national monitoring institutions in the member countries should be supported in order to better include the provisions formulated in international conventions like the CRC and the Council of Europe Recommendation on Children's rights in institutions.

- **Child Friendly Forensic Investigations – Barnahus model**

This expert meeting was organised by the Icelandic Agency for Child Protection and the Working Group for Children at Risk brought together some 40 experts on investigative procedures when children are the suspected victims of sexual abuse of violence. Police, prosecutors, forensic medicine, paediatricians, psychologists and social workers discussed methods used and research on the topic.

- **Children abused in Internet based settings**

Expert meeting organised by the Swedish Foundation for Child Welfare and the Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk. This meeting brought together 20 practitioners, researchers and clinicians to further the issue of how to support children exploited in Internet and cyberspace contexts. A report from the meeting will be written and used as a resource book for practitioners.

- **Online Abuse**

As a follow up to the above meeting, the Swedish Foundation for Child Welfare, the Stockholm County Council training unit and the Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk organised an open seminar on the issue of support and rehabilitation of children violated through the Information and Communication Technologies.

## **Programme on Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children**

### **Training programme**

The part of the programme designed to increase the competence regarding care, protection and assistance to children victims of trafficking has received funding from the EU through the Daphne II programme, Save the Children Sweden and the Oak Foundation. This means that the programme will be able to offer approximately 50 professionals five in depth training seminars during 2006 – 07.

**The National Contact Points** in the co-operation met on the Invitation of the Lithuanian Ministry of the Interior to discuss all aspects of the programme and of the co-operation.

### **The Baltic Sea Regional Study on Adolescent Sexuality**

This study, carried out in seven of the member countries is in its conclusion with a final report soon to be presented.

**The Childcentre Website:** [www.childcentre.info](http://www.childcentre.info)

The website supporting the co-operation on children at risk is continuously updated with relevant regional information and research reports. A new tool enabling a more scientific approach to disseminating relevant material has been implemented during the spring of 2006.

### **Budget**

The Children's Unit is financed by voluntary contributions from the member states. During 2005 all member countries except Russia and Latvia contributed to the budget. Norway has made extra contributions during the year in order for the WGCC to be able to follow up on the conclusions from the ministerial meeting.

## C. CBSS Structures & Working Bodies served on ad-hoc basis or liaised with

### **Lead Country function for Civil Security (LC-CS) – EUROBALTIC, Civil Protection**

The Secretariat is in direct contact with the Lead Country/Programme Coordinator for EUROBALTIC I and II (Ms. Barbara Polak, Adviser to the Head of Polish Fire Service and Civil Protection), actively follows EUROBALTIC activities and participated in the Annual Civil Protection Expert and EUROBALTIC Steering Committee Meeting on 23-24 August 2005 in Tallinn. Furthermore, the Secretariat participated in the IV Meeting of CBSS Civil Protection Directors General (Turku, 28-29 November 2005).

### **Lead Country function for EuroFaculty Kaliningrad (LC-EF-K)**

Throughout 2005-2006, the Secretariat continued its assistance to the work of the CBSS International Expert Group on EuroFaculty Kaliningrad, which monitors the implementation of the EuroFaculty project at the Immanuel Kant State University of Russia in Kaliningrad. During the reporting period, the Secretariat attended 2 meetings of the expert group held in Moscow on 17-19 November 2005, and in Copenhagen on 1 April 2006. The Secretariat provided secretarial assistance at these meetings and undertook the preparation of minutes from the meetings. In addition, on several occasions the Secretariat assisted with translation or collection of information as well as with other tasks on behalf of the Lead Country.

### **Senior Officials on Information Society (SOIS)**

The Secretariat provided technical assistance to two regular SOIS meetings: St. Petersburg, 27-28 October 2005 – under the Danish Chairmanship, and Riga 7 April 2006 - under the Norwegian Chairmanship. Among others, in 2005-06 Secretariat assisted the Chair in following-up the issue of the participation of the European Commission in the work of NeDAP/SOIS, as well as assisted in re-establishing working contacts with the Russian and Polish delegations in the SOIS Group. Secretariat compiled for the Norwegian Chairmanship in SOIS the NeDAP/SOIS work programme 2006, as well as prepared an Interim (Evaluation) report on NeDAP/SOIS activities for the VI Baltic Sea States Summit in Reykjavik.

On 20 December 2005 in Moscow the Secretariat held a meeting with the Russian representatives in SOIS to refresh contacts and update on the current activities and to follow up the SOIS meeting in St. Petersburg in October 2005.

### **Business Advisory Council (BAC)**

The Secretariat maintained regular contacts with BAC (Chaired by the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce) and coordinated multiple facets of the WGEC's activities. Joint efforts with the BAC - in the context of the Road Map on investments, as well as in connection with the BAC proposal to establish a CBSS "mechanism" to deal with economic cross-border obstacles in the region, were of particular value.

### **Ad-Hoc Working Group on Transport (WGT)**

The Secretariat continued to liaise with the WGT Chairman, and upon his invitation, attended a meeting of the WG in Warsaw on 28 April 2006. The Secretariat contributed

to initiating discussions in the CSO and WGEC on the lack of progress in the work and activities of the WGT.

### **Task Force on Organised Crime (TF-OC)**

The Secretariat is in close contact with the TF-OC Secretariat in Helsinki (e.g. with regard to the presentation by the Head of the TF-OC Secretariat at the CSO meeting on 17-18 January in Reykjavik or the TF-OC Report presented to the Heads of Government at the Baltic Sea States Summit in June 2006 in Reykjavik) and participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the Task Force on Organised Crime (TF-OC) in Visby on 2-3 May 2006. For this occasion, the Secretariat drafted the speaking points for the incoming Swedish CSO Chairman representing the CBSS Presidency/Troika. The TF-OC was further featured in Baltinfo No. 80 (May/June 2006).

### **Ars Baltica**

The Secretariat attended the 31<sup>st</sup> Ars Baltica Organizing Committee meeting that took place on 10-11 November 2005 in Oslo. Additionally, the Secretariat attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the CBSS Ministers of Culture that took place on 26-27 September 2005 in Bergen.

### **Baltic Sea Monitoring Group on Heritage Co-operation**

The Baltic Sea Monitoring Group on Heritage Co-operation visited the CBSS Secretariat on 11 November 2005 and met with the Secretariat Director and responsible Senior Adviser.

## **D. Special participants, strategic partners & other organisations or meetings**

### *CBSS Special Participants:*

### **Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)**

The CBSS Secretariat attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Vilnius that took place on 29-30 August 2005. Throughout 2005-2006, the Secretariat maintained and enhanced its relations with the BSPC, especially in terms of information sharing and closer co-operation.

On 30 November 2005, the BSPC Standing Committee Secretary level held a meeting at Strömsborg, at which Director Gabriele Kötschau gave a presentation on current CBSS affairs. Later, on 10 January 2006, the Chair of the BSPC Standing Committee visited the CBSS Secretariat to discuss ongoing co-operation between the BSPC and the CBSS.

The Secretariat attended the Annual Consultations between the CBSS and the BSPC held on 30 January 2006 in Copenhagen.

### **Baltic Sea Seven Islands Co-operation Network (B7 Islands)**

The Secretariat participated in the B7 Annual Conference on the island of Gotland on 1 December 2005. In addition, the Secretariat works together with the B7 within the BEN

project ([www.benproject.org](http://www.benproject.org)) and organized together with the island of Hiiumaa/Estonia the BEN seminar on Public Relations and Information Strategy in CBC and the 2<sup>nd</sup> BEN Steering Committee meeting in Kärđla on Hiiumaa on 26-28 April 2006 (cf. below).

### **Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC)**

The Secretariat participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> BSSSC Conference in Szczecin on 20-21 October 2005 and drafted the speaking points for the CSO Chairman for his speech on “Co-operation on National Level Supporting Regional Co-operation”. The Secretariat further had a working meeting with the BSSSC Secretariat on 12 January 2006 in Malmö and presented the CBSS Secretariat to the BSSSC Board at a BSSSC Mini-seminar in Stockholm on 2 February 2006. The BSSSC Newsletter 2006/I featured an interview with the CBSS Secretariat’s Director.

### **CPMR - Baltic Sea Commission**

The Secretariat met on 25 January 2006 in Stockholm with the Head of the CPMR-BSC Secretariat Mr. Marko Mälly. The Secretariat also participated in the CPMR-BSC seminar “How to improve sustainable accessibility in the Baltic Sea Region?” and the 11<sup>th</sup> CPMR-BSC General Conference on in Karlskrona, Sweden (1-2 June 2006). For this occasion, the Secretariat prepared the draft speaking points for the incoming Swedish CSO Chairman representing the CBSS Presidency/Troika.

### **Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)**

The Secretariat continued to network with the Union of Baltic Cities and participated in the UBC conference “Towards a new Baltic Sea agenda” and the VIII UBC General Conference on 29 September - 1 October 2005 in Turku. For this occasion, the Secretariat drafted the speaking points for the CSO Chairman for his address of the UBC.

### ***CBSS Strategic Partners***

#### **Baltic Development Forum (BDF)**

The Secretariat actively contributed to the preparations of the 7<sup>th</sup> BDF Summit in Stockholm taking the lead in developing and introducing the concept of the Baltic Sea Common Information Space (BCIS) within the framework of the Baltic Sea Initiative 2010. To this end, the Secretariat was leading the Task Force on the BCIS (together with the BAC and Swedish VINNOVA), which resulted in the creation of the Working Document on the BCIS. The BCIS was presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> BDF Summit.

#### **Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA)**

The Secretariat continued to develop its contacts with the BCCA. On 7 October 2005, the Secretariat attended the Third BCCA Economic Forum in Turku (Finland). The Secretariat also assisted Sweden, representing the CSO “Troika” at the Forum.

#### **Baltic Sea NGO Forum**

The Secretariat continued its contacts with the Baltic Sea NGO Forum Consultative Committee, contacts which included the provision of advice on planning and agenda of the Forum. The Secretariat participated and gave presentations at the Consultative

Committee meetings in Copenhagen on 27-28 January 2006 and in Stockholm on 31 March – 1 April 2006. In relation to the meeting in Stockholm, the Consultative Committee also visited the CBSS Secretariat, where Director Gabriele Kötschau gave a presentation on the CBSS Secretariat and closer co-operation was discussed. On 20-21 February 2006, the Secretariat also participated and gave a presentation on behalf of the Secretariat at the Annual Meeting of the Danish delegation to the Baltic Sea NGO Forum that was held in Copenhagen.

#### *Other organisations and meetings:*

#### **Special Consultation between Heads of BSR organisations and CBSS Presidency**

The Secretariat provided technical assistance to the CBSS Presidency in organising a Special Consultation Meeting of the four subregional organisations BSSSC, B7, CPMR-BSC and UBC with the Icelandic CBSS Presidency on 29 September 2005 in Turku. This consultation meeting was replacing the so far four (2001-2004) coordination meetings of the Heads of the Baltic Sea regional organisations as a new approach was felt necessary by the Icelandic CSO Chairmanship.

In addition, the Secretariat participated in a coordination meeting of Heads and Secretariats of Baltic Sea organisations hosted by CPMR-BSC in conjunction with the CPMR-BSC seminar/General Assembly on 31 May 2006 in Karlskrona.

#### **Prosecutors General in the Baltic Sea Region**

The Secretariat participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Prosecutors General in the Baltic Sea Region on 27-29 June 2005 in St. Petersburg, and gave a presentation on behalf of the CBSS Secretariat.

#### **Eastern European Business Forum (EEBF)**

The CBSS - enjoying a partner status with the EEBF - was represented at the 2005 Forum held in Stockholm on 13-14 October 2005. The Secretariat briefed the audience on the current activities of the CBSS/WGEC in the fields of investment promotion, business development and entrepreneurship.

#### **Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)**

Coordination on NeDAP/SOIS matters continued, especially in regard to common actions to secure a full-fledged participation by the EU Commission and Russia in the NeDAP/SOIS. The CBSS and NCM Secretariats held an annual co-ordination meeting on 15 December 2005, updating each other on a wide range of issues on common interest.

#### **The Northern Dimension and the European Neighbourhood Policy**

The Secretariat initiated during the Icelandic CBSS Presidency a survey on the future of the Northern Dimension (ND) beyond 2006. On behalf of the CSO Chairman, a questionnaire was sent out to the 27 CBSS Structures and Working Bodies, Strategic

Partners and Special Participants asking for their views and expectations on the ND beyond 2006. The final report was presented to the European Commission and published on the CBSS web page. In addition, the Secretariat participated in the ND Network Conference “The Northern Dimension of the EU: the Next Phase” organized by the Manchester European Research Institute (Manchester Metropolitan University) and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (University of Manchester) on 12-13 December 2005 and drafted the speaking points for the incoming Swedish CSO Chairman for his speech on “The Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Northern Dimension”. Further, the Secretariat actively follows the discussion and the developments of the European Neighbourhood Policy as they relate to the European and the Baltic Sea regional levels. In this way, the Secretariat participated in the BSPC 3<sup>rd</sup> Parliamentary Round table on ND on 30 January 2006 in Copenhagen and prepared the draft speaking points for the incoming Swedish CSO Chairman; the seminar “Changes to the Menu? Swedish Policy towards the EU Northern Dimension and European Neighbourhood Policy” organized by the Swedish MFA on 28 February 2006 in Stockholm; and the joint EC-CSO meeting in Brussels on 14 February 2006. The latter meeting included speakers from the European Commission DG RELEX, DG REGIO DG INFSO on the ND, ENP and NeDAP.

### **CBC (CBSS-NCM Joint pilot project “Baltic Euroregional Network”)**

Apart from participating in relevant meetings and seminars (e.g. Conference “Cross Border Co-operation within ENPI 2007-2013” organized by the Finnish MFA, the Finnish Ministry of Interior and the INTERACT Point Managing Transition and External Co-operation on 9-10 February 2006 in Helsinki; presentation of the Secretariat’s Director “Building a Stable Region in Motion – The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and Transnational Co-operation” at the BSR INTERREG III B-project conference “Setting Regions in Motion” on 16-17 May 2006 in Malmö), the Secretariat was heavily involved in the joint CBSS-NCM pilot project “Baltic Euroregional Network” (BEN). The BEN-project was launched by a Starting Conference and the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee Meeting on 26-27 September 2005 in Vilnius. The Secretariat drafted the speaking points for the welcome speech by the Icelandic CSO Member at the Starting Conference. The Secretariat further co-organized/financed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting and BEN Seminar on Public Relations and Information Strategy in CBC (26-28 April 2006, Kärdla, Estonia; preparation meeting on 7 December 2005 in Tallinn). The Secretariat further participated in a meeting of the BEN Coordination Group consisting of the NCM Offices in Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (LP) and the CBSS Secretariat (20 February 2006), had two meetings of the Preparation Group for the BEN Best practice Handbook (Nemunas Euroregion Marijampole Bureau/Lithuania, CBSS Secretariat; on 26 September 2005 and 22 February 2006) and took part in the BEN seminar “How to use Science and Innovation in CBC” (Tallinn, 7-8 December 2005), and the BEN seminar “Co-operation of regional and national authorities on the border of EU and neighbouring states” (20-22 February 2006, Roshino, Russian Federation).

The BEN project was presented by the Secretariat at a Round Table on CBC between Russia and the EU organized by the North-West Investment (Development Agency) on 10-11 November 2005 in St. Petersburg. Further, the BEN-project was featured in Baltinfo No. 76 (November 2005) and a direct link to the BEN web page ([www.benproject.org](http://www.benproject.org)) was published on the CBSS web page.

## E. Information & Communication Strategy, Baltinfo newsletter and Websites

Within the framework of the implementation of the Information and Communication Strategy, and in accordance with its mandate, the Secretariat performed the following communication tasks.

### ***D. I. The CBSS information Brochure***

The Secretariat has updated and improved the information brochure that was produced in October 2003 “*Council of the Baltic Sea States – Innovative Co-operation for a Dynamic Region*”. The revised version has been available since September 2005.

### ***D. II. The CBSS official newsletter Baltinfo***

During the reporting period, the Secretariat produced 7 issues of Baltinfo. Approximately 2.000 copies are printed of each issue and distributed at various conferences and seminars. 1.000 individuals receive the Baltinfo by mail and 800 receive the newsletter in electronic form. This electronic version of the newsletter is posted on the CBSS website and on the Baltic Sea Region Portal website.

### ***D. III. The CBSS Websites and Extranets***

The Secretariat continued to update the CBSS official websites and Extranets, as well as to supervise the content of the Baltic Sea Region Portal [www.balticsea.net](http://www.balticsea.net). The visits of the CBSS website have been increasing every month reaching an average for the first quarter of 2006 of **35.000 visits a month** or more than 1.000 a day for 800 unique visitors. This is nearly triple the amount compared to the same period in 2005. The average length of stay is 2 minutes which is very high compared to similar websites. Since September 2005 the Secretariat successfully changed the website address from [www.cbss.st](http://www.cbss.st) to [www.cbss.org](http://www.cbss.org).

### ***D. IV. Lectures, Conferences and Seminars***

CBSS Secretariat Staff members delivered lectures at a number of meetings and conferences. Those have been reported in the CBSS Director’s report to the CSO. Some non-exhaustive highlights of events organised by the Secretariat are described below:

A meeting between the CBSS Secretariat and the members of the Association of Diplomats of Stockholm (ADS) was organised in the premises of the Secretariat at Strömsborg on **5 December 2005**, featuring a lecture by Director “The Role of the CBSS in the Baltic Sea Region Co-operation”.

The Secretariat staff-members held a meeting with the Governor of Gotland Mrs. Marianne Samuelsson and her team in Visby on **24 February 2006**, with the view to inform about the CBSS and its activities, as well as to look into possibilities of developing co-operation, especially during the Swedish Chairmanship in CBSS in 2006-07.

An annual reception of the Secretariat was held on **27 February 2006** gathering diplomats from the Embassies of the CBSS Member States and International Organisations located Stockholm, and other parties concerned. The Swedish CSO

member, Ambassador Christer Persson, introduced activities of the CBSS and briefed on plans for the upcoming Swedish Presidency in CBSS 2006-07.

### ***D. V. Public Queries and Year Books***

The Secretariat continued to disseminate information about the CBSS and its activities, in response to requests from academics, officials from member state ministries and agencies etc. The Secretariat also provided information to European, American and international yearbooks and encyclopaedias.

## **F. Administrative Issues**

### ***Staff***

The following staff members have completed their assignment at the Secretariat during the reporting period (in chronological order of employment):

1. Deputy Director of the Secretariat: **Alar Olljum** (from 1 Sept. 01 until 31 Aug. 2005)
2. Senior Adviser Baltic 21 unit: **Lars Westermark** (from 12 Nov. 01 until 11 Nov. 2005)
3. Director of the Secretariat: **Hannu Halinen** (from 15 Sept. 02 until 14 Sept. 2005)
4. Head of BASREC Energy unit: **Janis Folkmanis** (from 22 April 03 until December 05)

The following staff members are currently employed at the Secretariat (in chronological order of employment):

1. Head of the Baltic 21 unit: **Marek Maciejowski** (since 1 July 2002)
2. Head of the Children's unit: **Lars Lööf** (since 12 June 2002)
3. Administrative Assistant: **Ligia Broström** (since 1 September 2004)
4. Senior Adviser: **Philipp Schwartz** (since 13 September 2004)
5. Head of Administration: **Gertrude Opira** (since 15 September 2004)
6. Senior Adviser: **Bjarke W. Bøtcher** (since 17 October 2004)
7. Director of the Secretariat: **Gabriele Kötschau** (since 1 September 2005)
8. Senior Adviser: **Anitra Jankevica** (since 1 September 2005)
9. Deputy Director of the Secretariat: **Phil Saprykin** (since 15 September 2005)
10. Receptionist / Office administrator: **Sophie Levasseur** (since 1 January 2006)
11. Communications Officer: **Didrik de Schaetzen** (since 1 March 2006)
12. Senior Adviser Baltic 21 unit: **Mia Söderlund** (since 1 March 2006)

The following persons were hired on a temporary basis at the Secretariat during the reporting year (in chronological order of employment):

1. Communications Officer **Mira Banerjee** (from 1 October until 31 December 2005)
2. Adviser Baltic 21unit **Asha Davis** (from 11 November 2005)
3. Communications Officer **Hanna Gross** (from 1 January until 28 February 2006)
4. Assistant **Johanne Thorhauge** (from 1 March until 15 June 2006)

### ***Financial Contributions and Budget***

At the time of closing the financial accounts for the year 2005, all CBSS Member States had paid their contributions to the CBSS Secretariat in full. The financial annual report

for the year 2005 were finalised in February 2006 and audited by the Swedish National Audit Office in March 2006. The Audit Report was submitted to the Secretariat on 27 March 2006. The reports will be presented at the CSO meeting in Reykjavik 10-12 May 2006. The budget of the Secretariat for the financial year 2006 was adopted by the CSO at its meeting in Gdynia, Poland on 11-12 May 2005, with a total spending of € 868.000.

In 2005, the Nordic Council of Ministers provided funding for the energy unit BASREC activities. The BASREC Secretariat was closed in December 2005.

As regards the main budget of the Baltic 21 Unit, during 2005 all countries except Russia paid their contributions to the 2005 budget. Additionally, Sweden made a host country contribution of 750,000. As regards voluntary contributions Finland and Sweden financially supported the Baltic 21 lighthouse projects. The budget for the Baltic 21 Unit for the year 2006 was adopted at the SOG 20 meeting held on 7-8 October 2004, Stockholm, Sweden, with a total spending of €408.665, and was subsequently revised during the SOG 22 Meeting on 09-10 May 2005 in Sopot, Poland, with a total spending of € 411,167.

In accordance with the decision taken by the CSO at the inclusion of the Children's Unit in the secretariat of the CBSS, contributions to the budget of the Children's Unit are voluntary. During 2005 all member countries except Russia and Latvia contributed to the budget. Norway has made extra contributions during the year in order for the WGCC to be able to follow up on the conclusions from the ministerial meeting. The scale for contributions has been calculated according to the regular contribution scale used within the CBSS.

The Swedish Ministry for Social Affairs and Ministry for Foreign Affairs has during the period contributed with the rent for the premises and with the overhead costs shared by all units and the secretariat.

### **Co-location with the NDPHS Secretariat**

As of September 2004, the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being is co-located with the CBSS Secretariat at Strömsborg. The NDPHS constitute a separate Secretariat. The co-location allows both Secretariats to share overhead as well as administrative functions and costs.

The following staff members have completed their assignment at the NDPHS Secretariat during the reporting period (in chronological order of employment):

1. Senior Adviser: **Dr. Jurate Sabliene** (from 1 Sept. 04 until 30 April 06)
2. Director of the Secretariat: **Dr. Lars Blad** (from 1 Nov. 04 until 31 Jan. 06)

The following staff members are currently employed at the NDPHS Secretariat (in chronological order of employment):

1. Senior Adviser: **Dr. Assia Brandrup-Lukanow** (since 2 May 2006)
2. Director of the Secretariat : **Mr. Marek Maciejowski** (since 1 June 2006)

## ***CBSS Secretariat internship programme***

During the Icelandic Presidency of the CBSS, the Secretariat hosted 11 interns from 8 different countries. 4 interns benefited from the CBSS Scholarship:

1. Ms. **Asha Davis** (USA) worked from May to July 2005. During this time, she assisted the Baltic 21 Unit in arranging a research symposium on sustainable development in co-operation with the Baltic University. Additionally, she assisted with the preparation and editing of numerous Baltic 21 and CBSS reports, official documents, and Baltinfo No. 73.
2. Ms. **Elisabeth Vogt** (Germany) stayed at the Secretariat from July to August 2005 and assisted the staff with various information and communication tasks.
3. Mr. **Daniel Varsanyi** (United Kingdom) stayed at the Secretariat from July to August 2005 and assisted Senior Adviser Phil Saprykin with drafting a document on trade barriers in the Baltic Sea region for the Working Group on Economic Co-operation. Mr. Varsanyi holds a MA in Economics from Uppsala University.
4. Ms. **Karin Wirén** (Sweden) stayed at the Secretariat from September to December 2005 and assisted the Baltic 21 Unit.
5. Mr. **Eirikur Gudleifsson** (Iceland) stayed from September until December 2005 and was supervised by Deputy Director Phil Saprykin. Besides assisting the WGEC, Mr. Gudleifsson was compiling the answers of the CBSS Structures and Working Bodies, Special Participants and Strategic Partners to the CBSS Survey on Co-operation with Belarus and Ukraine and drafted a first evaluation.
6. Mr. **Ulf Flink** (Sweden) worked at the CBSS Secretariat from October to December 2005 and assisted the Children's Unit. Mr. Flink developed a questionnaire on national monitoring of Children's institutions and drafted reports on responses given.
7. Ms. **Johanne Thorhauge** (Denmark) stayed at the CBSS Secretariat from September 2005 until February 2006 and assisted the Secretary to the WGDI. Ms. Thorhauge's primary task was to work on a comparative study on citizens' participation undertaken by the Swedish WGDI Chairmanship. In addition, Ms. Thorhauge assisted in the preparation of the WGDI meetings including the drafting of Chairman's scripts, agendas etc.
8. Mr. **Marcin Cecot** (Poland) stayed from January until March 2006 and assisted the Baltic 21 Unit in preparing a number of indicator-based graphs for the Baltic 21 Triennial Report 2003-2005. He also assisted in preparing the Baltic 21 Newsletter issue 1/2006, and developed and distributed a questionnaire to the Baltic 21 Lead Parties and Responsible Actors concerning the implementation status of the Baltic 21 Action Programme. Mr. Cecot was involved in preparing and web-posting documents for the SOG Bureau 23 Meeting, and was responsible for updating the Baltic 21 website on a day-to-day basis.
9. Ms. **Viktoria Dobrot** (Germany) worked at the CBSS Secretariat from March until June 2006 and was supervised by the Secretary to the WGEC. Ms. Dobrot prepared a Survey on Corruption for the WGEC and drafted the Annual WGEC Report. In addition, she wrote a Baltinfo opinion editorial on "The Baltic Sea Region as Pilot-Region for a Successful EU-Russia Dialogue".
10. Ms. **Tiziana Melchiorre** (Italy) stayed at the CBSS Secretariat from April until June 2006 and worked mainly on matters related to the Northern Dimension policy and the European Neighbourhood Policy. In addition, she assisted the BEN-project coordinator (e.g. by evaluating questionnaires on PR and Information strategies in Euroregions).
11. Ms. **Nina Peters** (Germany) assisted the Baltic 21 Unit from April until June 2006 in preparing the next issue of the Baltic 21 Newsletter as well as in the development of the Triennial Report 2003-2005.