

1st Conference of the CBSS Ministers of Culture (Saltsjöbaden, 10-11 May 1993)

DECLARATION

We, the Ministers of Cultural Affairs, representing the Baltic Sea States, meeting in Stockholm in May, 1993,

Take note of the intentions expressed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs at the first meeting of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in Copenhagen in March 1992.

Recognize the close connection between our countries, based in many respects on common historical and cultural development.

Express our wish and intention to widen Cultural Cooperation within the Baltic region.

Declare our mutual intention to:

- recognize and, if possible, eliminate existing obstacles for wider Cultural cooperation among our countries, both on a bilateral and multilateral basis.
- promote cultural projects aiming at widening knowledge and understanding among our countries, especially through the framework of ARS BALTICA,
- strengthen the exchange of information on cultural life, at all levels, among our respective countries.

Propose the following guidelines for our cooperation:

- An international cultural cooperation covering the region already exists within the framework of multilateral organizations. i.e. the Council of Europe, the CSCE-process and the UNESCO regional cooperation.
- Our ambition is to use the network represented by these organizations for the purposes expressed above, thereby avoiding the establishment of new institutional organisations and other unnecessary duplication.
- For this purpose representatives of the Baltic Sea States' Ministries of Cultural Affairs will, when appropriate, cooperate within the framework of existing organizations.
- Cultural Cooperation must be based on respect for the preconditions for cultural life and the wishes of our cultural communities, and therefore, governmental agencies should primarily encourage grass-roots initiatives.