

2nd Conference of the CBSS Ministers of Culture (Tallinn, 10-12 Sept. 1995)

DECLARATION

The Ministers of Culture of the Baltic Sea States met in Tallinn on September 10-12, 1995 for their second conference.

The Ministers welcomed the progress achieved in cultural cooperation, following the guidelines of the First Conference of the Ministers of Culture of the Baltic Sea States in Saltsjobaden, 1993. *

The Ministers took note of the Report on Swedish Cultural Exchange with the Baltic Sea Countries, and the comments made by each of the states. The Ministers agreed to continue working - through the relevant domestic and international organizations-with the aim of eliminating the existing structural and practical obstacles to the free flow of cultural exchange in the Baltic Sea region.

The Ministers of Culture took note of the Danish Reports on Priorities and Future Structures of Cultural Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, and came to the conclusion that, during this time of rapid cultural development, these matters needed a longer period of consolidation. The Ministers recommended that this central item be taken up at the next conference.

The Ministers agreed with the Russian consideration that cultural centres and other similar institutions are important elements in regional cultural cooperation.

The Ministers of Culture appreciated the cooperation which has been taking place within the Ars Baltica framework. The Ministers took note of the German report "Five Years of Ars Baltica", as well as the Danish discussion paper on the same subject, and welcomed them as a basis for future cooperation.

The Ministers agreed to consider establishing national funding for the cultural projects in the Baltic Sea region.

The Ministers of Culture stressed the importance of the regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea area within the broader European context.

The Ministers of Culture agreed that a preparatory meeting for the next conference of Ministers will be held in 1996 in Norway and that the 3rd Conference of Ministers will be held in 1997 in Germany.

* ANNEX

The ministers took specific note of:

- The booklet "The world around the Baltic Sea~Guide to the New Generation of Travellers" published in Finland in accordance with a decision made at the First Conference of Ministers of Culture.
- The booklet "5 Years Ars Baltica", edited by the Ars Baltica Committee.

- The proposal by Sweden and Denmark to compile a mailing list and a list of cultural institutions and organisations in the Baltic Sea region. This will be done by the SwedishInstitute.