



Expert Group on Sustainable Maritime Economy

**(legal successor to the Expert Group on Maritime Policy)
Terms of Reference**

**Adopted by the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials
in Copenhagen on 2 June 2009, revised in Moscow on 23 May 2013,
in Warsaw on 7 June 2016 and in Stockholm, 16 June 2018**

***Re-titled 21st of March 2018 upon the agreement of the Expert Group members to
the Expert Group on Sustainable Maritime Economy (EGSME)**

1. Background

The potential for growth in the Baltic Sea region's maritime economy can be better utilised and its marine ecosystems better protected when the coastal states cooperate in and strive towards cohesive efforts in all sectors of maritime action.

It is important to maintain the integrated approach and to strive keeping a balance among the economic, social and ecological aspects within the Baltic Sea Region. This allows a better and timely resolution of conflicting interests, the harnessing of synergies and the elimination of obstacles to development. The basis of such a policy is knowledge, i.e. a comprehensive understanding of maritime and marine principles, interactions and relationships as well as of the various stakeholder interests in the Baltic Sea region. Through the improvement of knowledge transfer between business, science and education, innovation shall be promoted in the Baltic Sea region and new employment shall be created with a view to further enhancing a sustainable blue economy in the Baltic Sea Region. The Council of the Baltic Sea States is an overall political forum for regional inter-governmental cooperation. It strives to be an integral part to cooperation frameworks in the region to identify needs and match them to the available resources through facilitating co-ordination of appropriate policies in the maritime sector. This enables the Baltic Sea Region to enjoy a healthy environment and sustainable economic and social development, as well as to secure its global competitiveness in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

“Declaration on the reform of the Council of the Baltic Sea States” adopted in Riga on 3 June 2008, stipulated that the CBSS “long term priorities can be implemented by expert groups, including governmental and non-governmental experts, as appropriate, with clear and time-limited mandates and tasks. Decisions on establishing expert groups shall be taken by the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials”.

Against this background, and taking into account the request from CBSS strategic partners such as the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference and the Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation *to take concrete steps towards developing the Baltic Sea region into Europe's maritime model region*, based on the CBSS Terms of Reference the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) at its meeting in Copenhagen on 2 June 2009 decided to establish the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP) and approved its initial Terms of Reference. On this basis, at the 15th CBSS Ministerial Session in Elsinore, Denmark, in its *Declaration of 4 June 2009* the CSOs welcomed “the decision to set up an Expert Group on Maritime Policy intended to contribute to sustainable growth and employment in the maritime sector, to combine and better coordinate all sea related activities and tasks, as well as to strike an appropriate balance between economic, social and ecological aspects”.

The CSO approved the revised Terms of Reference of the EGSME (former EGMP) in Stockholm, 17th of June 2018, according to which the EGSME will operate with the following mandate:

3. Overall Aim of the Group

The region already has a competitive advantage due to its comparatively high degree of integration in comparison to other sea regions, which is worth expanding and utilizing. As an intergovernmental group of experts, the EGSME will, through knowledge sharing seek to provide politically coordinated support to relevant efforts, concrete initiatives, actions and projects aimed at

- Improvement of the Baltic Sea region's international competitiveness with regard to development of a sustainable maritime economy
- Positioning of the Baltic Sea region as a model region for maritime best practice and for a balanced co-existence of a successful sustainable maritime economy taking also into account socio-economic aspects and adequate protection of the vulnerable marine ecosystem
- Performing as information hub for experience and knowledge exchange, providing cross sectoral approach and synergies between key actors in the field of maritime economy in Baltic Sea Region.

4. Membership

Membership is open to representatives from relevant ministries or equivalent government agencies in all CBSS Member States and from the European Commission. Other organisations and initiatives from around the Baltic Sea dealing with issues related to the maritime economy, including but not limited to BSPP, BSSSC, UBC, Baltic Sea Forum, HELCOM, VASAB, NDPTL, CPMR-BSC, Baltic Ports Organisation, EUS BSR PA Ship are invited as observers. Representatives of CBSS Observer States can be invited upon the request. Sector players and stakeholders in different maritime sectors may be invited as guests on an ad-hoc basis. The CBSS Secretariat will be present at the meetings, as well as provide secretarial function for the Group.

The EGSME can decide to offer the full membership status instead of observer status to the representatives of any of, but not limited to the above-mentioned organisations.

The EGSME may decide to create additionally relevant structures needed to develop its activity as, for example, the Advisory Board consisting of representatives of businesses, academia and other key players of the maritime branch relevant to the EGSME' overall aim and anticipated key tasks.

5. Organisation and Working Methods

The Chairmanship of the Group will rotate according to the CBSS Presidency. The Chairmanship may request Co-Chair(s) from the CBSS member countries to gain additional resources and support. A Troika, composed of the EGSME' members of the former, incumbent and incoming CBSS Presidencies, may meet to ensure the continuity of the work of the Group and to assist in the smooth transition of the Presidencies. The Troika may draft a Plan of Activities for the certain period, which should be approved by the EGSME members.

At least one regular meeting should take place under each Presidency/Chairmanship. The Presidency may organize electronic exchanges and meetings to take decisions, as well as additional seminars and/or workshops between or back-to-back with regular meetings.

Decisions are taken by consensus. The working language is English. The Group reports to the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials (CSO).

The EGSME interacts with authorities managing the funds, institutions and structures of relevance to the activities of the EGSME.

6. Guidelines and Anticipated Key Tasks

Taking into account the CBSS Riga Declaration of 2008 and further developments, the following guidelines will be generally applicable to the EGSME activities:

- overlapping mandates with bodies under CBSS umbrella and outside the CBSS are to be avoided;
- the Group cooperates closely and exchanges information with the relevant CBSS Strategic Partners and stakeholders in the Baltic Sea region and beyond where appropriate;
- the Group takes full account of the Northern Dimension Policy Framework Document, the Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the EU Blue Growth Strategy as well as national strategies of the CBSS Member States, where appropriate.

Each CBSS Presidency and respective EGSME Chairmanship will be suggesting its work plan together with specific priorities to focus on in accordance with the overall aims, guidelines and anticipated key tasks of the Expert Group. The CBSS Presidency prepares the agenda for the EGSME meetings. Members and the Secretariat may present their proposals for the agenda to the Chair.

The following key tasks should guide the rotating chairmanships in carrying out their agendas:

- Exchanging information regarding development and implementation of the national maritime policies of the CBSS member-countries and of the EU.
- Encouraging the cross-sectoral approach and interaction by strengthening the links with the private sector, increasing the involvement of maritime businesses as well as academia and research institutions
- Providing policy recommendations on behalf of the Expert Group to the CBSS Member States policy makers, including the possibility of facilitating meetings between the Ministers of Transport and other relevant Authorities - if agreed by all members of the Expert Group and relevant for the specific issue

- Ensure a more coherent approach to issues related to sustainable maritime economy by synergies with relevant regional organizations and policies development across different policy areas. Concrete responsibility areas shall be followed with the aim to use both human and financial resources in the most efficient way. In this context the dialogue of the Baltic Sea organizations which have maritime competences - Baltic Sea Maritime Dialogue - should be maintained and developed.
- Early identify, accompany and support projects and project applications in maritime policy within the framework of transnational cooperation in the Baltic Sea region, striving to a holistic and coordinated approach with a view to add value and avoid duplication.
- Promote and strengthen visibility of maritime clusters in the Baltic Sea region to combine regional interests through bringing regional industries closer to research, innovation and education as well as to enable dialogue with decision-makers.
- Assure that the focus should be given to measures to stimulate the use of environmentally friendly maritime transport and alternative fuels, as well as use of innovative solutions including green and e-technology, digitalization and automatization in the maritime and marine sectors.
- Examine and propose measures to raise awareness of model maritime projects and products, e.g. through special awards
- Increase visibility of the Expert Group by participation in the most significant events public relations campaigns for the promotion of collective maritime consciousness and shared Baltic Sea identity, e.g. on the annual European Maritime Day, the annual Baltic Sea Days in St. Petersburg, events organized by HELCOM, EU DG MARE, EUS BSR PA SHIP, PA SAFE, VASAB and other relevant to the EGSME' activities
- In view of the role of the CBSS as an overall political forum for regional inter-governmental cooperation, assist the Council in facilitating co-ordination of appropriate policies in the maritime sector as a cornerstone and an integral part of regional economy, thus enabling the Baltic Sea Region to enjoy a sustainable environment and optimal economic and social development, as well as to secure its global competitiveness.

7. Timeframe

The mandate of the Group has been prolonged for three years, starting from July 2018; its current mandate is being extended until to June 2021

8. Evaluation

The EGSME should submit a subsequent evaluation to the CSO by the Group not later than six months prior to the end of the mandate period. This will be done by the Chairmanship and CBSS Secretariat approved by the Expert Group members. The evaluation will form the basis for the decision on whether to prolong the mandate of the Expert Group. The approval or rejection of such a prolonged mandate will have to be decided by the end of June 2021.

9. Resources

Travel costs for meetings will be covered by the participants themselves. Costs for holding meetings will be covered by the hosting country. Upon request by the Group's Chairmanship, and subject to approval by the Director General of the CBSS Secretariat, minor supplementary co-financing can be provided through the Secretariat Expert Group Fund to cover costs related to the EGSME events

related to the EGSME meetings, seminars and workshops. The EGSME will be provided with a permanent secretary function from the CBSS Secretariat by designated Senior Adviser. The Group will explore possibilities for external funding when considering projects.