



**9th Baltic Sea States Summit
Stralsund, Germany
31 May 2012**

Presidential Communiqué

At the invitation of the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Heads of Government of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden, the First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia and the President of the European Commission met in Stralsund on 30-31 May 2012 for the 9th Baltic Sea States Summit. The Heads of Government welcomed the participation of the President of the Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC).

In the spirit of the June 2010 Vilnius Declaration “A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region”, the Summit reiterated its conviction that the Baltic Sea Region, on the basis of

- respect for democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law,
- active civil societies,
- increasingly integrated and interdependent economies,
- developed social dialogue and social cohesion,

has the potential to become one of the most prosperous, innovative and competitive regions in the world, using the strengths of the CBSS and other existing Baltic Sea

regional cooperation frameworks.

The Summit warmly congratulated the CBSS on its 20th anniversary. Since its foundation in March 1992 on the initiative of the former Foreign Ministers of Germany and Denmark, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, it has contributed successfully to pluralism and prosperity in the region. As a pioneer of cooperation and a symbol of regional identity, it is continuously adapting to new challenges, concentrating on specific long-term priorities, re-enforcing its project orientation and interacting closely with other cooperation frameworks in the region.

The Summit endorsed the decision of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials to establish a Project Support Facility budget line within the CBSS Secretariat's budget for the years 2013-2015. In a first phase, this Facility will be used to increase the competitiveness and attractiveness of the South Eastern Baltic Sea Area, including strengthening cooperation of Kaliningrad oblast and other regions of the Russian Federation in the Baltic Sea Area with its neighbours. The Facility will be used in accordance with approved guidelines under the supervision of the Committee of Senior Officials.

In the presence of the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, Ms Maria van der Hoeven, the Summit had an exchange of views on "Modern Energy Infrastructures and International Cooperation - Key for more Energy Security in the Baltic Sea Region". The Heads of Government took note of the conclusions on energy security, low-carbon energy policy and sustainable growth of the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation (BASREC) held in Berlin on 14-15 May 2012 as well as the Declaration on Energy Security adopted by the 17th CBSS Extraordinary Ministerial Session at Plön Castle on 5 February 2012. The Heads of Government deepened mutual trust and understanding and laid the basis for ever closer cooperation in the field of energy in the Baltic Sea Region.

In the presence of the Director of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Mr James W. Vaupel, the Summit had an exchange of views on "Demographic Change – Consequences of an Ageing Society, Experiences and Perspectives in the Countries of the Baltic Sea Region". Following a stimulating debate, the Heads of Government identified as particular challenges the adaptation of working conditions, education and social security systems, allowing for dignified ageing with a focus on those beyond working age and

promoting more favorable conditions for families with children, the reduction of regional imbalances, and the ensuring of sustainable growth and sound public finances in their countries. The Summit encouraged the CBSS and other Baltic Sea regional cooperation frameworks to pay special attention in their respective fields of activity to the impact of demographic change in the future.

To meet the challenges in the Baltic Sea Region, the Summit underlined the importance of associating all Baltic Sea States with projects and initiatives of common interest. The Summit welcomed the progress made so far in cooperation between EU member states guided by the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and non-EU states of the region.

To this effect, cooperation platforms like the CBSS, the Northern Dimension, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Helsinki Commission should be used. Here the potential of the recently adopted North-West Federal District Socio-Economic Development Strategy of the Russian Federation would be explored.

The participants of the 3rd Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region on 18 - 19 June 2012 in Copenhagen, hosted by the Danish Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission and of the VIII Annual Conference on Russia-EU-Norway Cross Border Cooperation on 6-7 Sept 2012 in Pskov hosted by the incoming Russian CBSS Presidency are invited to further develop the potential of joint work.

The Summit welcomed the initiative of the German Chair of the CBSS structure on Sustainable Development-Baltic 21 to organize with BASREC a side event at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, 20-22 June 2012. It will present key achievements and lessons learnt on green economy and sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. The Summit encouraged Ministers responsible for sustainable development in CBSS Member States to actively support the German Minister for the Environment in this endeavour and called upon the international community to acknowledge the importance of regional cooperation in the global framework on sustainable development.

The Summit expressed its gratitude to the Federal Republic of Germany for its 2011 – 2012 Presidency of the CBSS and welcomed the Russian Federation as the incoming Presidency for 2012-2013.

The Summit welcomed the initiative of the Russian Federation to host during its Presidency a High-level Conference on Protecting the Environment of the Baltic Sea by the end of this year as a follow-up of the Baltic Sea Action Summit (Helsinki, February 2010).

The Summit welcomed the invitation from Finland to host the 10th Baltic Sea States Summit in June 2014.