



**5th CBSS Conference of Ministers of Transport
MOSCOW JOINT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION
(Moscow, Russian Federation, December 5, 2012)**

We, the Ministers of Transport of the Council of the Baltic Sea member-states, met in Moscow, Russian Federation, on December 5, 2012 under the Russian Chairmanship-in-office to discuss progress and identify further steps, best ways and means of strengthening cooperation in the field of transport in the Baltic Sea region.

Taking into consideration dynamic development of transport in the Baltic Sea region as a crucial factor for sustainable economic growth as well as the necessity to increase the Baltic Sea region's international competitiveness;

Recognizing the importance of the maritime economy for sustainable growth and jobs in the Baltic Sea region;

Recognizing also the value of marine ecosystem services and protection of the marine environment;

Being aware of the existing maritime best practices for a balanced correlation of a successful maritime economy and adequate protection of the marine ecosystem;

Giving higher priority to the comprehensive approach to the capacity enhancement of transport links in the Baltic Sea region for safe and environmentally friendly Baltic shipping;

Taking into account, that creation of innovative and high-quality transport, auxiliary and logistic infrastructure is an important tool for the seamless integration of the Baltic Sea region into the global transport systems;

Recognizing the vital importance of more extensive involvement of the business community in the process of elaboration and implementation of transport projects particularly on the basis of public-private partnership;

Considering that the cooperation among CBSS member states should be enhanced in the area of comprehensive interaction between modes of transport in the Baltic Sea region, which includes interaction in the field of passenger and freight ferry services, intermodal transportation;

Realizing the fact that passenger, cruise and high-speed ferry transportation is vital for the development of domestic and international tourism and as a result the welfare gain in the Baltic Sea region;

Taking note on the progress achieved within the framework of the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy activity aimed at sustainable growth in the Baltic maritime sector as well as improved maritime governance through enhanced cooperation;

Highlighting the importance of efficient surveillance of the maritime domain to protect the fundamental interests of the CBSS countries while ensuring security and safety;

Stressing the importance of promoting dialogues, enhanced cooperation and exchange of best practices on maritime matters at regional and international level;

Welcoming the enhanced cooperation that exists between the CBSS and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB), Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL) (including the establishment of the Support Fund), Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC), Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme (BONUS), Baltic Sea Forum, CPMR-Baltic Sea Commission, in order to maintain, broaden and further develop regional cooperation, strengthen visibility and raise awareness of the advantages of Baltic Sea cooperation;

Acknowledging the commitments undertaken during the previous Conference of the CBSS Ministers of Transport in Gdańsk (2001);

Have agreed to:

Undertake further steps to establish an integrated, safe, sustainable and efficient transport system in the Baltic Sea region in order to facilitate trade, mobility and tourism and enhance the overall welfare of population of the CBSS member states.

Focus joint efforts on elaboration, demonstration and promotion of common maritime policy opinions in the Baltic Sea region as well as on enhanced maritime governance at national and regional level through increased cooperation.

Proceed with the identification of objectives and topics of common concern and priority projects on regional and international level with the active involvement of the business community and the international financial institutions and banks with the view to mobilise funding.

Facilitate the coordination of initiatives aimed at the development of shipping and inter-modal transportation in the region.

Maximise opportunities for innovation in the ship building and marine equipment and services in order to improve performance of ships.

Take active part in mutually beneficial cooperation and constructive dialogue within the framework of projects such as “Sub-Mariner: sustainable uses of Baltic marine resources” and “CleanShip”.

Encourage CBSS member states to strengthen synergies between industries, research and education through the promotion of maritime clusters and to enhance maritime carriers through the development of the cross-sectoral maritime training.

Facilitate involvement of all environmentally concerned shipping organizations, port authorities and shipping stakeholders in order to find clean and cost-effective energy solutions for shipping.

Affirm the importance of implementation in the Baltic Sea region of annex VI of the MARPOL Convention-74/78 as amended.

Facilitate the use of alternative fuel solutions and establishing of regional cooperation in the field of LNG usage in shipping for the development of the relevant port infrastructure as well as production and usage standards.

Encourage investigation and cooperation with the International Maritime Organization in relation to NO_x, SO_x, CO₂ emission reduction from ships.

Appeal to the CBSS member-countries which have not done so yet to accede to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM) as agreed within the framework of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan in the context of measures aimed at improving the ecological situation in the Baltic Sea region.

Recognize the necessity of monitoring and possible correction of the maritime traffic management, surveillance and oil spill response in the Baltic Sea region as an effective safety and security component minimizing negative impact on the environment.

Enhance cooperation across sectors and across borders between maritime authorities to ensure safety and security at sea.

Raise awareness and increase transparency with the view of efficient coherence of work with other international organizations.

Continue the work on the organization of seminars and international conferences to exchange experiences, best practices, research and development in the field of maritime transport between the experts of the CBSS member states, other countries and international organizations.

The Ministers of Transport adopt the present declaration and express their willingness to strengthen multilateral and bilateral cooperation for speeding up the sustainable development of transport in the Baltic Sea region.

Recognising the need to further strengthen and deepen regional cooperation, the Ministers of Transport decide to hold their meetings on a regular basis.

The Ministers expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation for the hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent organization of the Conference in Moscow.

Moscow, Russia, December 5, 2012