

Rights and obligations of the Observers of the CBSS
Adopted by the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials on 21 September 2011

The CBSS Committee of Senior Officials acknowledging that decisions at all levels in the CBSS are the exclusive right and responsibility of the Member States decided to adopt this paper to complement the Principles and Guidelines for Third Party Participation in CBSS Activities and Meetings and to provide clarification to the Observers of the CBSS on their rights and obligations dealing with the organisation.

An Observer of the CBSS has the right:

to be treated on an equal basis with other Observers;

to seek an invitation to be present at particular items of the Agenda of the CBSS CSO meetings and to raise issues of importance both to Observers and to the CBSS to be considered by the CSO at such meetings;

to be invited to observe the meetings of CBSS expert groups and task forces;

to actively participate in specific activities and projects of the CBSS structures;

to co-organise separate meetings with a CBSS structure if there is an added value for the Baltic Sea Region, in venues provided by the Observer;

to be invited by the CBSS Secretariat to a preparatory meeting in advance of the Annual Consultations, to highlight issues where Observers might benefit from/contribute to CBSS activities and to make proposals to the draft agenda of the Annual Consultations between the CSO and Observers which are usually held in Stockholm;

to call for consultations between the Presidency or the Troika and the Observer, individually or together with other Observers on issues of mutual interest;

to invite the CBSS participation at official level in meetings of other regional organisations where the Observer is holding a Presidency. However participation in one such meeting should not be seen as a precedent for accepting subsequent invitations by the same organisation, nor for accepting invitations by other organisations;

to promote regional organisations in which the Observer is a member to engage actively in the CBSS activities and to encourage these organisations to create closer links to the CBSS;

to create links from the CBSS website to the national website of Observer and vice versa;

to seek reinstatement to a status as an Observer if suspended by the Council;

to abdicate from the status of the Observer of the CBSS.

An Observer of the CBSS is strongly expected:

to adhere to the CBSS principles as they are stated in the CBSS founding documents;

to contribute actively to and benefit from the activities and projects of the CBSS structures in line with the CBSS long-term priorities and strategic guidelines;

to designate a contact person (focal point) for permanent contacts with the CBSS Presidency and the Secretariat of the CBSS;

to take an active part at Annual Consultations between the CSO and Observers;

to attend meetings with the Presidency, Troika or CSO and Expert Groups if invited;

to contribute in kind or financially to the implementation of the CBSS projects that they join;

to assist information flows that make the CBSS, its structures and their activities and projects more visible to the public;

to provide annually information on its participation in the activities of the CBSS and its structures to the CSO and the Secretariat.