



# The 27<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in Mariehamn, Åland Islands  
– BSPC in a Nutshell –



## The Baltic Sea – Our Lifeline Cooperation, Sustainability and Smart Energy

The 27<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference took place in Mariehamn, Åland Islands. Around 170 delegates met in the Plenary Hall of the Åland Lagtinget, the Parliament of Åland. The aim of this year's conference was to pass a resolution on cooperation, sustainability and smart energy in the Baltic Sea Region – our lifeline. The conference was opened by H.E. Mr Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland, and Ms Gun-Mari Lind-

holm, President of Ålands Lagting, welcomed the participants.

The BSPC Drafting Committee and the BSPC Standing Committee held their first sessions on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> August, in the Plenary Hall of the Ålands Lagting. In the afternoon, there were two excursions: one to the municipality of Föglö and the other to Bormasund Fortress.

On Monday the first two sessions took place in the Ålands Lagting. The

first session focused on cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region and it continued into the afternoon. The second session was a call for more action on the vision of a healthy Baltic Sea. A cultural event at the Åland Maritime Museum closed the day.

On Tuesday the third session on sustainable energy and smart energy distribution platforms was followed by a general debate and the closing of the 27<sup>th</sup> BSPC conference.

## Extracts from the Opening Speech given by H.E. Mr Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland

“I am very pleased to address you at the 27<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Mariehamn. Let me warmly congratulate the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference and the host, Ålands Lagting, for organizing this year’s conference. [...]

Next year, Finland will assume the Presidency of the European Union. Then, 10 years after the adoption of the Strategy, is a good moment to take a look at its achievements. The purpose of the EU Strategy is to find solutions to the challenges faced by the Region: connect the region, save the sea and increase prosperity. [...]

When arriving to the Åland islands, we can see that the archipelago truly is one of the most beautiful ones in the world with its thousands of islands of smooth rocks and species-rich landscape. Un-

fortunately, the Baltic Sea around this priceless landscape is not feeling well at all. Especially after this exceptionally warm summer, we have witnessed quite worrying algal blooms. This summer, the sky has been clear, but the sea hasn’t. [...]

We cannot delay reducing the nutrient load from human activities, like agriculture, nor in reducing the amount of plastic litter that enter the sea. Action is needed now. We, you and me, gathered here today, have the responsibility and it cannot be handed over to future generations. [...]

Finland took over the Chairmanship of HELCOM this summer for a two-year period. A priority of the Finnish Chairmanship is the updating of The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), the roadmap for achieving



the goals for a healthy sea environment. [...]

I warmly support the idea that one day the Baltic Sea region also becomes a model area for sustainable development. [...] Together we will achieve the goals for a better environment. But we have to keep in mind: structures and conferences don’t mean anything without concrete action.

I wish you enriching discussions and a good spirit of cooperation. Thank you.“

## Welcome address by Ms Gun-Mari Lindholm, President of Ålands Lagting

„Mr President of the Republic of Finland, Speakers, Presidents, Dear All, it is an honour for me to greet you all, welcome to Åland.

Our islands are often mentioned as the Islands of Peace. The Åland Autonomy as well as the status as demilitarized and neutralized zone in the middle of the Baltic Sea is an international solution where several of your countries took part. Åland gained its autonomy in 1921. It was a decision by the League of Nations. One important cornerstone was the security in the Baltic. A decision which still is valid today and is a guarantee for the security in the Baltic Sea. I wish we will have a rewarding confer-

ence, the topics on the agenda are current and urgent, interesting and forward-thinking. Besides a successful conference I wish you will learn about Åland, our Autonomy, our demilitarized status, our business life and about our everydaylife on a sunny and windy island in the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea separate us but also unite us. It is the same Sea we leave to our children and grandchildren to sail and to swim in.

I hope we will come to smart solutions together and find ways forward for the environment and humanity. It’s just us who live around the Baltic Sea who are the best experts to set the agenda for it.



Together, large countries and small islands we protect the Baltic Sea.

Thank you all for coming. I wish you all the best days in Åland, interesting debates and that many friendships are linked, that itself is a guarantee of cooperation and for peace!

Välkomna”



## Excursions to the Island and Municipality of Föglö and Bomarsund Fortress



In the afternoon of Sunday, 26th August, two excursions took place. One trip provided participants with an insight into daily life in the Archipelago. A trip with the ferry led them to the small island and municipality of Föglö in the archipelago.

A bus trip to the main island and a visit to the Bomarsund Fortress area provided participants with some historical

and political background to its present autonomy. The remains of the Russian military like fortifications, dwelling houses and other buildings can be seen in the terrain today as ruins and house foundations. The main fortress was the centrepiece of Bomarsund and was built as a powerful symbol of defence for the Russian Tsar's authority in the Baltic Sea of the first half of the 19th century. In August 1854 the fortress

was attacked by a British-French force. The defence was quickly overcome. The main fort was blown up and never rebuilt. The participants in the excursion also visited the ruins of a defence tower, also blown up 1854, with an amazing view over the landscape and archipelago of Åland. A reception and dinner hosted by Ålands Lagting in the Badhusparken Pavillion closed the first day.



## Extracts of the Report from the BSPC Chair

### Mr Jörgen Pettersson, MP, President of the BSPC



“[...] In the past year, the BSPC has visibly and in every respect fulfilled its strategic objectives and achieved significant progress: On the basis of our programme and our resolution

- we have communicated our principles and core messages at a large number of Baltic Sea-relevant events and beyond,
- we have intensified the cooperation with our partners, and
- our programmatic concerns and contents are perceived much more strongly.

We are becoming increasingly successful in influencing government action. [...]

We have geared our activities to these topics and targets: The first Standing Committee under the Åland Presidency took place here in Mariehamn. In the run-up to the establishment of our working group “Integration and Migration”, we had a detailed presentation on this topic and a lively exchange of information with experts from Åland. [...]

The Standing Committee also took the opportunity in Brussels to discuss the possible consequences of Brexit for the Baltic Sea region and we also made good on our promise to liaison with our partners, most importantly the CBSS. [...]

Ms Susanne Scherrer, Director of the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat in Rostock, Kiel and Riga, among many important facts concerning the transnational cooperation pointed out that currently capacity for offshore wind energy production was barely used in the BSR, due to missing connections between electricity grids, gaps in Research & Development and insufficient cooperation. [...]

The key messages at all these events were: Based on our fundamental convictions I pointed out the vital importance of international parliamentary cooperation – especially in times of tense situations, I have repeatedly pointed out the need for interparliamentary dialogue and to strengthen the influence of parliaments. We are the voice of the people who, all over the world, want love, security, prosperity, peace and freedom.

And I have underscored the necessity to include the young generation in our deliberations.

That’s why we supported from the very beginning the youth summit ReGeneration 2030, that’s why the BSPC attended and that’s why we will get a presentation from two representatives about the results and the manifesto they agreed to. And we even go one step further: One of the representatives of the summit will moderate the panel debate. [...]

In addition, our rapporteurs have been to a number of events and have taken on board the findings relevant to their policy fields. This is detailed in the written and oral reports to follow. The tremendous work behind all this becomes apparent when you look at the reports that have been published on our website day after day during the past week. On behalf of the BSPC I want to express my thanks to all of you involved in this work.

What I am now recording as this year’s conclusion also includes what my very esteemed colleague and Vice-President Carola Veit is about to comment on: namely the step-by-step and year-by-year intensified reactions of governments to our resolutions. [...]

We have further deepened our internal contacts and relationships through many discussions and close cooperation. We have grown more and more into one family. And we are demonstrating today that those who once worked for us continue to belong to the family: with Christina Gestrin and her presentation. She was our long-standing President as well as presiding over our 19<sup>th</sup> BSPC 2009 in this plenary hall and is dealing now intensively with ‘Environmental Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region’ and with our former President, Working Group Chairman and long-standing Rapporteur for labour and social affairs, Franz Thönnies. Once you have been connected to us, you will never get away from us again. [...]

I wish us all a very successful conference, the deepening of our cooperation and friendships and wise decisions that will take us forward. And let’s get better and better in working together for a prosperous, clean and peaceful Baltic Sea. It is time to work.”



Ms **Paula Lehtomäki**, State Secretary to the Prime Minister of Finland informed participants on the development of Finland's strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Main core of the maritime policy is to ensure sustainable blue growth by protecting the ocean and the seas, developing maritime cluster and blue economy as well as maritime logistics.



## FIRST SESSION

### Cooperation in the Baltic Sea region

*Chair: Jörgen Pettersson, MP, President of the BSPC*  
*Vice-Chair: Jorodd Asphjell, MP, Norway,*  
*Vice-President of the BSPC*



*Ms Carola Veit*



*Mr Hans Olsson*



*Mr Juris Bone*



*Mr Hans Wallmark*



*Mr Simon Holmström*



*Ms Hanna Salmén*

The first session of the conference introduced the “Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region”. The session was chaired by **Mr Jörgen Pettersson**, President of the BSPC, and **Jorodd Asphjell**, Member of Parliament from Norway, as vice-chair.

Starting off in this first session, **Mr Jörgen Pettersson** reported from the BSPC Chair. Following this **Ms Carola Veit**, President of the Hamburg Parliament and Vice-President of the BSPC, informed the delegates about the implementation of the 26<sup>th</sup> BSPC Resolution.

**Mr Hans Olsson**, Ambassador of Sweden and outgoing chair of the

Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), and **Mr Juris Bone**, Chairman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, pointed out three priorities: integrity and societal security, dialogue and responsibility.

**Mr Hans Wallmark**, Member of Parliament from Sweden and Chairman of the BSPC Working Group on Migration and Integration, presented the Midway Report of the working group. **Mr Simon Holmström** and **Ms Hanna Salmén**, representatives of the Youth Event “ReGeneration 2030” presented their Manifesto and the results of the summit taking place one week ago in Marienhamn. After the lunch break the first session con-

tinued with **Ms Christina Gestrin**, former Member of Parliament from Finland and BSPC President, presenting information on the environmental cooperation in the Baltic Sea region.

**Mr Franz Thönnnes**, former Member of Parliament from Germany and BSPC President, gave a joint report on the work of the CBSS/BSLF Coordination Group on Labour and Employment.

**Ms Daria Akhutina**, CBSS Senior Advisor on Economic Issues, coordinator for Baltic Sea Labour Forum' and secretary to CBSS Expert Group on maritime issues, gave a report on new developments.



Ms Christina  
Gestrin



Mr Franz  
Thönnies



Ms Daria  
Akhutina



Mr Pyry  
Niemi



Mr Jochen  
Schulte



Ms Saara-Sofia  
Sirén

**Mr Pyry Niemi**, Member of Parliament from Sweden and BSPC-Rapporteur on Labour Market and Social Welfare, discussed labour issues.

#### *Briefings from BSPC Rapporteurs*

The parliamentarians were updated by the BSPC Rapporteurs. The rapporteurs on Integrated Maritime Policy, **Mr Jörgen Pettersson** and **Mr Jochen Schulte**, on Cultural Affairs, **Ms Karin Gaardsted**, on Sustainable Tourism, **Ms Sara Kemetter**, on HELCOM and on Eutrophication,

**Ms Saara-Sofia Sirén**, presented the results of the action taken in their respective fields.

#### *Addresses by the Representatives*

Addresses followed by **Mr Roger Ryberg**, Chairman of the Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC), and by **Ms Ulla-Karin Nurm**, Director of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being. **Gun Rudquist**, Head of Policy, Baltic Eye, rounded up the first session by reporting on “Bridging the

gap between science and policy – an example from Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre”.



Ms Ulla-Karin  
Nurm



Ms Gun  
Rudquist



## SECOND SESSION

### The Vision of a Healthy Baltic Sea – A Call for more Action

*Chair: Prof Jānis Vucāns, MP, Latvia,  
Co-Chair: Dorota Arciszewska-Mielewczyk, MP, Poland*

The second session was chaired by **Prof Dr. Jānis Vucāns**, Member of Parliament from Latvia, and **Ms Dorota Arciszewska-Mielewczyk**, Member of Parliament from Poland, as vice-chair. The speakers presented their views and statements on “The Vision of a Healthy Baltic Sea – A Call for more Action”.

**Mr Karmenu Vella**, European Commissioner for the Environment, Mar-

itime Affairs and Fisheries, addressed participants in a video message on the topic: “Protecting our environment while maintaining our competitiveness in regards to the UN 2030 goals for our oceans and the Baltic Sea Action Plan”. **Mr Kimmo Tiilikainen**, Minister of the Environment, Energy and Housing of Finland, stressed the priorities of the Finnish HELCOM Chairmanship and the future of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

**Ms Camilla Gunell**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Åland Islands and Minister for Trade, Environment and Energy, informed the guests about the sustainability strategy of the Åland Islands as a best-practice example for the Baltic Sea Region.

**Ms Otilia Thoreson**, Director of the WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme, highlighted the Baltic Sea Scorecard and the need for stringent action.





*Mr Kimmo  
Tiilikainen*



*Ms Camilla  
Gunell*



*Ms Otilia  
Thoreson*



*Mr Marc  
Klaus*



*Mr Jari  
Nahkanen*

**Mr Marc Klaus**, Race for the Baltic, Baltic Sea City Accelerator, talked about the private sector's engagement in a healthy Baltic Sea and a better Environment.

**Mr Jari Nahkanen**, Chairman CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, stressed that emphasis must be put on implementation, sufficient funding and the support of actors at the local and regional levels.

The second session was closed after a panel debate moderated by Mr Simon Holmström from ReGeneration 2030.





## THIRD SESSION

### Sustainable Energy, Smart energy distribution platforms

The chair of the third session was **Ms Valentina Pivnenko**, Member of Parliament of the Russian Federation, and vice-chair was **Ms Karin Gaardsted**, Member of Parliament from Denmark. The discussion evolved around “Sustainable energy, smart energy distribution platforms”. Contributions were made about pilot projects in the Baltic Sea Region on the next generation electrical grids.

Mr **Berndt Schalin**, Senior Advisor of the Government of Åland,

explained a project which aims to realize a smart and flexible energy system, where novel energy markets and regulation can be implemented.

**Mr Reinis Āboltiņš**, Senior Adviser on Energy from Latvia, described challenges to sustainable energy in the Baltic Sea Region.

The third session ended in a **general debate**. At the end of this 27th BSPC conference a new format was introduced - a general debate

without restricting the content to give everyone the opportunity to contribute what was particularly close to his or her heart. Therefore a controversial but healthy debate on current issues evolved. Different views were indicated and diverse positions were lively discussed. At the end of this open forum the resolution of the 27th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference was adopted and the Strategy and Work Programme 2018 – 2019 was released.







## Closing Words

by Mr Jörgen Pettersson, outgoing Chair of the BSPC

“At the very end of our conference let me thank everyone who has participated in the organisation of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference:

- first of all, thank you to all the parliamentarians, experts, government representatives, and guests for your active involvement;
- thank you to the staff of the Ålands Lagting, Administration, specially Sten Eriksson and Maj Falck for your support and assistance in efficiently organising this conference;
- thank you to our Secretary General for his valuable input;
- and finally, a special thank you to the interpreters for their amazing job that greatly simplified our work over the past couple of days!

I hope that it was a very fruitful conference for all of you,

I hope that you could deepen cooperation and friendships,

I hope that our decisions contribute to make the world a bit better, and

I hope that came true, what I pointed out last year in Hamburg:

- that you go home with good memories which will inspire you in your future work and which you will not forget for a lifetime,

- and that you leave the Åland Islands a bit more experienced and educated than before you arrived.

I now declare the 27th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference closed. Thank you all!

Have a safe journey home!”



## Speech by Mr Jorodd Asphjell incoming President of the BSPC on the occasion of the transfer of the Chairmanship of the BSPC

Dear Jørgen,

First of all I would like to thank you and Åland for having hosted the 27th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference. I believe I speak for all of us present when I say that this has been a fantastic conference! You have shown us great hospitality. It is always a pleasure to visit your beautiful islands here in the middle of the Baltic Sea. A perfect venue for the BSPC!

Thanks to all involved in the programme, it has been very interesting and I have learned a lot. I have also met a lot of nice people that I hopefully will meet again.

I would specially like to thank the working people, that is Bodo, Sten, Maj and the rest of the staff, and of course the interpreters! You have all done a great job!

Next year I will invite you outside the Baltic Sea, to the Big Ocean! No, that was a joke, although Norway's territory consists of at least six times as much

sea as land and much of our income comes from the sea. Next year's conference will be in Oslo, the capital. By the fjord but, not in the ocean.

Norway is not bordering the Baltic Sea, so why does BSPC matter for us?

You are our neighbours, our friends, and our most important trading partners since historic times. Peace and cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area is also very important for Norway. We are a member of the Nordic Council, and the Baltic Sea Area has always been of great importance for the Nordic Council.

I am looking forward to the coming year were the BSPC has several important issues to work with. The Working Group on Migration will continue its important work and deliver a final report with recommendations in time for the conference in Oslo. This is also an issue I expect we will discuss further during the conference.

We have proposed to have a look into The Future of Working Life – Digitalization, Integration and Labour Mobility in the Baltic Sea Region. This is a very interesting topic and important for all our citizens. How will technology influence the working life in our region in the future? New opportunities, but also challenges for others. Can the Baltic Sea Region become a world champion in employing new technology?

Another area where our countries are performing well is the UNs Sustainable Developments Goals. However, there is still work to be done according to a recent report commissioned by our governments in the CBSS. I believe the BSPC should see how we also can contribute to this important work.

I am looking forward to a busy, but interesting year, and most of all, I am looking forward to see all of you in Oslo next year!



*The BSPC Presidents of past and present conferences: Ms Valentina Pivnenko, Mr Jørgen Pettersson, Prof Jānis Vucāns, Ms Carola Veit, Mr Jorodd Asphjell and Mr Franz Thönnnes.*



## Conference Resolution

### Adopted by the 27th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

The participants, elected representatives from the Baltic Sea Region States\*, assembling in Mariehamn, Åland, 26-28 August 2018,

- renew the expectation that all Baltic Sea States make every effort to ensure the Baltic Sea Region continues to be a region of peaceful and close neighbourliness and intense cooperation based on democratic values, the rule of law, human rights and equal opportunities for all. To this end, they will pursue all the opportunities of parliamentary, governmental and social exchange and democratic dialogue among neighbours. For this reason, they welcome the Stockholm Declaration of the Council of Baltic Sea States and in particular the Roadmap for Reform. They furthermore welcome the resumption of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Foreign Ministers meetings including under the Swedish Presidency but additionally call for a resumption of the Baltic Sea States Summits. This will foster the dialogue, strengthen cooperation and manifesting peace;

- welcome the comprehensive implementation statements and reports by the governments of the Baltic Sea Region on the 26<sup>th</sup> BSPC Resolution and the progress made to implement the BSPC's calls for action;

- welcome the efforts of the Swedish CBSS Presidency 2017/2018 to improve coherence in Baltic Sea regional cooperation, acknowledge the progress of the CBSS - based on the priorities of sustainability, continuity and adaptability under the umbrella of the UN 2030 goals

- and recognise the achievements in areas of Sustainable Development, Youth, the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings, Child Protection and Civil Protection;

- encourage the Latvian CBSS Presidency 2018/2019 to continue efforts within its three priorities: Integrity & Societal Security, Dialogue, Responsibility;

- share the vision of the CBSS Vision Group, that the Baltic Sea Region shall become a role model of ecological, economic, social and security standards and policies, with a vibrant regional civil society and will take into account the report of the Vision Group in their further discussions on future developments in the Baltic Sea Region;

- underline again the need for political exchange among young people and will proceed to establish a Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum based on the youth projects of their member parliaments and parliamentary organizations but also effect efforts to establish closer cooperation between youth organisations in the BSR and formats such as 'Regeneration 2030' involving young people in the deliberation of issues to be discussed in the BSPC;

- welcome all efforts to move towards a healthy and clean Baltic Sea;

- establish a way, as a first step within the framework of a progressive foreign and trade policy to address the issue of plastic litter on a global scale;

- strongly welcome all concrete actions and all regulations in banning

or reducing the use of single-use plastic products that are found most often on beaches and in oceans, along with fishing equipment lost or left behind at sea, and intend to help raise awareness of the negative impact of plastic waste among consumers;

- discuss Cooperation, the Vision of a Healthy Baltic Sea, Sustainable Energy as well as Migration and Integration;

**call on the governments in the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and the EU**

**Regarding Cooperation in the Region, to**

1. intensify the interaction between the Northern Dimension policy and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea and the Russian Strategy of social and economic development of the North-West federal district;
2. extend the scope of transnational programmes covering the whole Baltic Sea area and anchor this possibility and the corresponding funding in all macro-regional strategies on a formal level to improve relations between neighbouring countries;
3. strengthen cooperation in the field of migration and integration, involving all countries bordering the Baltic Sea, to better meet similar tasks;

4. intensify programs in the scope of visits and multinational meetings of youth in view of meeting each other, fostering mutual understanding and developing relations;
  5. actively support – referring to the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the CBSS Labour Ministries in June 2017 – in the field of labour and employment in the Baltic Sea Region, the work of the “CBSS/BSLF Coordination Group on Labour and Employment” (CG) – focused on the cross-cutting and topical issues pertaining to the new qualifications required for future work patterns, and their linkage to education and the needs of the labour market, life-long learning and comprehensive labour market forecasting and research, including demographic challenges; guarantee equal opportunities for men and women;
  6. meet the challenges of an ageing population, social cohesion and sustainable development in the Baltic Sea region through increased cooperation on incentives and practical systems for life-long learning and adult education, adaptation of job conditions and workplaces to the needs of older persons, anti-age discrimination policies, measures to promote good health and flexible and gradual retirement schemes;
- Regarding the vision of a Healthy Baltic Sea – a call for more action, to**
7. – as the BSPC supports the HELCOM Ministerial Declaration of 6 March 2018 in Brussels and shares its critical view on the state of the Baltic Sea under various aspects – vigorously implement the decisions contained in the Ministerial Declaration;
  8. establish effective coordination processes and policies to support the Implementation Strategy for the sustainable Blue Growth Agenda for the Baltic Sea Region;
  9. enhance consultations and cooperation regarding a spatial master planning in the Baltic Sea region, considering all interests and aspects of economy (shipping, fishing, energy, tourism, etc.), environment and the neighbours;
  10. considering that, depending on the country, only 25 to 60 percent of the targets of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan to be implemented by 2021 are currently met at the national level – urgently intensify efforts at the national and regional level to set appropriate policy priorities so as to achieve the objectives of the BSAP by 2021 as far as possible on schedule;
  11. hold regular HELCOM Ministerial Meetings – including all responsible ministers of each member state in the meetings – and come to binding rules under international law – as was the case with the measures to increase maritime safety with the involvement of the transport ministers –, thus bringing the issue of a clean Baltic Sea more strongly into the political debate of each nation and region and to achieve a more binding enforcement of the agreements reached;
  12. develop or enhance both joint and additional national and regional sustainability strategies to achieve the UN-Agenda 2030 goals and realise the vision of a clean Baltic Sea free from marine litter whilst promoting sustainable agricultural practices, more sustainable shipping and tackling eutrophication and underwater noise;
  13. prepare for and help shape the “Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development” from 2021-2030 proclaimed by the United Nations, in order to reach the goal of delivering the ocean we need for the future we want;
  14. further strengthen the relationship between the UN Sustainable Development Goals and human rights whilst recognising their close relationship and mutual reinforcement;
  15. take preventative measures and immediate actions to improve the quality of waste-water effluents and halt untreated discharges without delay and to show determination to clean up the heavily polluted sea;
  16. take urgent efficient action on the worrying levels of plastics and micro-plastics in the seas; support and implement the regulations on reducing or banning single-use plastic as quickly as possible; promote public awareness of microplastic pollution throughout the Baltic ecosystem and encourage customers to avoid personal care products containing plastic microbeads;
  17. enhance and efficiently use cross-border transmission con-

**Regarding Sustainable Energy, Smart energy distribution platforms, to**



nections by building and expanding fluent electricity networks to enable new energy markets and new forms of energy services and products to better integrate renewable energies, as well as use undersea electricity connection to integrate grids;

#### **Regarding Migration and Integration, to**

18. acknowledge objective differences in the political system as well as in the historical and cultural background due to the scars of the Second World War, continue discussions and reflections about flight and migration, and share best governance practices to raise awareness in our societies;
19. initiate a Baltic Sea-wide data basis on integration conditions and measures to improve the public discussion on a factual basis;
20. intensify the dialogue on migration and integration between the countries bordering the Baltic Sea;
21. increase the offer of migration-specific advisory services and language training in order to intensify integration efforts;

22. enlarge projects for advising and supporting volunteers, local institutions and civil society organizations working in the field of integration and taking into account the unifying and integrating role of sports;

23. consider migration and security perspectives in relevant other political agendas such as trade, labour rights and environmental preservation;

24. seek holistic and multi-faceted solutions to the challenges posed by current refugee and migration policies which include a well-coordinated combination of migration management, humanitarian assistance, political solutions, European and international collaboration, fair trade agreements and development assistance;

#### **Regarding Economic development and growth in the Baltic Sea Region**

25. support the Implementation Strategy for the sustainable Blue Growth Agenda for the Baltic Sea Region;

26. acknowledge, that the Baltic Sea is a crucial line of sea transportation (a motorway of the sea) for

all its neighbours, a resource for nutrition (fishing) and energy (oil, gas, wind and wave) as well as a recreation area for millions of tourists, therefore use all opportunities of Baltic Sea cooperation to enable managing and considering all interests and aspects of economy, environment and the neighbours;

27. further develop the Trans-European Networks for transport in the Baltic Sea region, take initiatives to synchronize toll systems in Europe, in particular the Baltic Sea neighbours, to make transport via sea and rail most economic compared to trucking;

28. aim to make the Baltic Sea a pioneer area for automatic shipping.

#### **Furthermore, the Conference decides to**

welcome with gratitude the kind offer by the Parliament of Norway to host the 28<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Oslo on 25-27 August 2019.

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*\*Parliaments and Parliamentary Organizations:*

*Baltic Assembly, Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Denmark, Estonia, European Parliament, Faroe Islands, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Iceland, Kaliningrad Region, Karelian Republic, Latvia, Leningrad Region, Lithuania, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Nordic Council, Norway, Poland, Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, City of St. Petersburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Sweden, Åland Islands.*

















Conference Site Åland Islands in  
Mariehamn on 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018



*Photo: Bodo Bahr*

Meet you next time in Norway, hosting the 28<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in  
Oslo on 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019



*Photo: shutterstock.com*

## Impressum

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