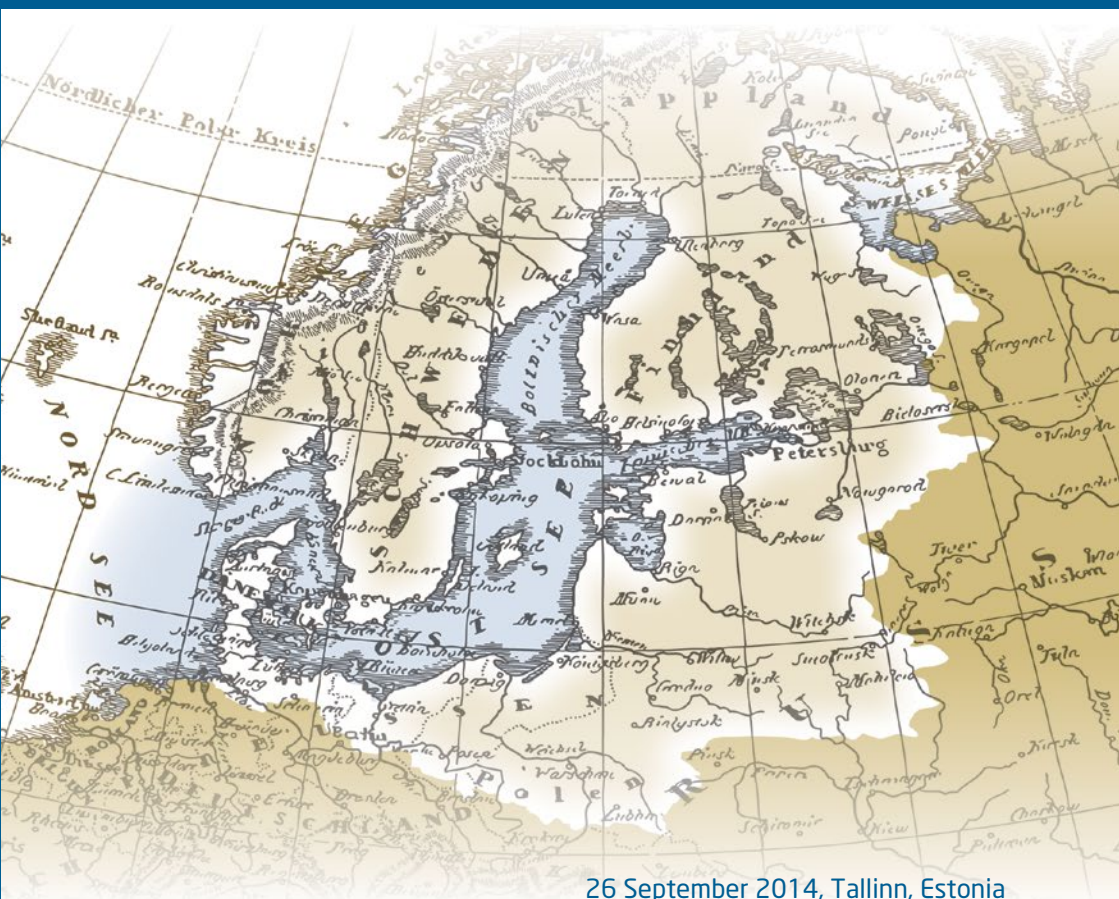


Eighth VASAB Conference of Ministers Responsible for Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region

Statements and Documents



26 September 2014, Tallinn, Estonia



8th VASAB Conference of Ministers Responsible
for Spatial Planning and Development
of the Baltic Sea Region

TALLINN,
26 September
2014

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Statements and Documents

This publication is intended to be an easily accessible version of the most topical statements and documents presented at the Ministerial Conference in Tallinn, Estonia on 26 September 2014.

The Ministerial Conference set new tasks and objectives, which would promote cooperation between the cities, improve the internal and external accessibility of Region, and enhance maritime spatial planning.

The 8th Ministerial Conference discussed the progress on implementing the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region, adopted the Ministerial Declaration about planning and development challenges in the Region, as well as committed to the implementation of the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013–2020.

During the conference several pan-Baltic organisations such as BASREC, HELCOM, BONUS and UBC expressed their opinion regarding territorial cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. Ministers decided that closer cooperation with other pan-Baltic organisations was essential and needed for the future.

The Ministerial Conference coincided with the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the first VASAB strategic document – *Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010*, agreed upon in the 3rd Ministerial Conference in 1994 in Tallinn. It was the first commonly agreed transnational vision of the Baltic Sea Region which played a significant role for the spatial development of the whole Region. For that reason on 25 September 2014 the informal meeting *20 years of VASAB 2010* took place back to back with the Ministerial Conference. The meeting had the aim of looking back to the achievements and memorable moments of the VASAB history, as well as sketched out the possible future role of the VASAB cooperation network.

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT	4
STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES	11
STATEMENTS OF THE HEADS OF THE DELEGATIONS	13
Denmark	13
Finland	14
Germany	16
Latvia	19
Lithuania	21
Norway	24
Poland	26
Russian Federation	28
Sweden	31
Estonia	33
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE INVITED ORGANISATIONS	36
European Commission	36
BASREC	37
BALTMET	39
BONUS	40
HELCOM	41
UBC	43
CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN	45
FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENT	46
CONCLUDING STATEMENT	47
TALLINN DECLARATION	49
OTHER CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS	55
Message from the side event	55
Invitation to the Conference	57
Programme of the Conference	58
List of Participants	60
List of the Members of the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development in the Baltic Sea Region – CSPD/BSR	63

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Mr Hanno Pevkur

Chairman of the meeting
Minister of the Interior, Estonia

Distinguished guests, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very happy to welcome you today on this fourth day of autumn here in Tallinn, a town that has been an important meeting point for different cultures, concepts and professions since its foundation in 1154.

Tallinn has a special place in the history of VASAB. The ministers responsible for spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region gathered here twenty years ago to agree upon the first trans-national strategic document for spatial development "Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010", the document that played an important role in the development of the Region. Among other things VASAB 2010 document mentions for the first time ever is the need for the Rail Baltic corridor. Now, after 20 years, we are finally in the official planning process to build a high speed rail link to the heart of Europe!

VASAB was established in 1992. If we go back to those days, we can see that the situation was very different from the current one. These were the years right after the collapse of the Soviet Union and of the communist system in the whole of Eastern Europe. The confrontation between the East and the West – the Cold War – had ended. Several independent states had re-emerged on the shores of the Baltic Sea. All this created a new political situation, opened up new opportunities and channels for cooperation.

VASAB cooperation has come strong through these last 22 years. The times have changed and VASAB has changed with them. VASAB has shown the power of vision and the power of cooperation. Rail Baltica is only one example.

One must have a vision and goals worthy of achievement – only this way we can expect a purposeful development. Cooperation between equal partners and mutual respect is what makes us strong in pursuing the goals. This respect and faith in the common future are what bring us together even after decades.

Yesterday in the same premises there was a VASAB family meeting which brought together dozens of VASAB veterans. Each and every one of them has given their share over the last 20 years. Their enthusiasm and interest in the future of VASAB is refreshing, and I wait with keen interest for the message and advice for the future that they are willing to share with us later this morning!

I think there is no need to praise the importance of spatial planning and development in front of this audience, we all know about it. But I have noticed that this is not always the case in other audiences! They often treat planning as just another sector and fail to see that planning has the responsibility to spatially tie together all other sectors, balancing use of the space, creating prerequisites for development, smoothing conflicts, and creating public awareness in the process.

A famous Norwegian explorer of Polar Regions, Mr Roald Amundsen, has said that adventure is just bad planning. We are not so wealthy to turn the existence of our countries into extremely costly adventures, never knowing what to expect and just trying to survive by simply reacting to emergencies.

I am happy that in the last decades awareness about the role of spatial planning has increased. And I am very proud that the activity of VASAB has played a significant role in this. This has taken tireless and constant efforts from the VASAB Committee and, of course, the VASAB Secretariat, for which I thank them!

This relentless work has been rewarded by the European Commission with additional trust and responsibility, giving VASAB the role of a co-leader of horizontal action Spatial Planning in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. We should not underestimate the guiding role of the Strategy for the whole macro-region. It is important not only for EU Member States, but also for the countries outside EU, as it stresses the need for cooperation in the whole Baltic Sea Region.

It pleases me to remind that one of the architects of the idea of the Strategy was erstwhile Member of the European Parliament from Estonia and sitting President of the Republic of Estonia, Mr Toomas Hendrik Ilves.

VASAB's new role in the implementation of the Strategy opens up new opportunities to support projects vital for the regional development of our macro-region. It pleases me to say that the horizontal action, co-led by VASAB, is one that has been launched very successfully.

Today we draw conclusions from our actions over these past 5 years. We evaluate our success or failure to implement the goals set by the 2009 Vilnius Declaration and the VASAB Long-Term Perspective. We estimate new challenges and make plans on how to tackle them for the benefit of all partners. We recognise that the economic and political situation in our region is at present complicated, but actions that really matter and the accompanying responsibility are never easy!

I am sure that we are up to the challenge today and in the future!

I wish you a very fruitful day and a pleasant stay in Tallinn!



Opening of the Ministerial Conference



From left: **Mr Raul Mälik** (CBSS CSO Chairman, Estonia), **Mr Eduardas Borisovas** (CBSS Secretariat)



From left: **Ms Tiina Tihlman** (Ministry of the Environment, Finland), **Ms Ulla Koski** (Ministry of the Environment, Finland)



From left: **Mr Wilfried Görmar** (Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Germany), **Ms Katharina Erdmenger** (Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Germany)



Ms Ingūna Urtāne (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia), **Ms Kristīne Rasiņa** (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia)



Ms Annette Klynsner (Agency for Nature, Denmark)



Mr Wilfried Görmar (Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Germany)



From left: **Mr Hanno Pevkur** (Minister of the Interior, Estonia), **Ms Martina Proosa** (Chairperson of VASAB CSPD/BSR, Ministry of the Interior, Estonia)



Mr Talis Linkaits (VASAB Secretariat)



Mr Tomas Hanell (Aalto University)



Mr Aleksandras Gordevičius (Ministry of the Environment, Lithuania)



From left: Mr Aleksandras Gordevičius (Ministry of the Environment, Lithuania), Mr Odd Godal (Ministry of Local Government and Modernization, Norway)



From left: Mr Odd Godal (Ministry of Local Government and Modernization, Norway), Ms Kinga Stanczuk-Olejnik (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, Poland), Ms Katarzyna Krzywdą (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, Poland)



From left: Mr Anders Ljunggren (Ambassador to Estonia, Sweden), Mr Sergej Karaulov (Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation)



From left: Mr Sergej Karaulov (Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation), Ms Irina Karelina (Representative of St. Petersburg Government, ICSEF Leontief Centre, Russian Federation)



From left: Ms Lina Marcinkutė (European Commission)



Mr Harry Liiv (Ministry of the Environment, Estonia, Chairperson of HELCOM)



Ms Kaisa Kononen (BONUS)



Mr Kaur Lass (OÜ Head, Estonia)



Mr Olli Keinänen (City of Helsinki, Finland)



Mr Risto Veivo (Union of the Baltic Cities)



Ms Anita Mäkinen (Co-Chair of the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG)



From left: Ms Lenka Hudcova (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia, on behalf of BASREC Chairmanship), Mr Timo Tatar (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia, on behalf of BASREC Chairmanship)



Ms Ingūna Urtāne (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia)



From left: **Ms Annette Klynsner** (Agency for Nature, Denmark), **Ms Katarzyna Krzywda** (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, Poland), **Ms Kinga Stanczuk-Olejnik** (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, Poland)



From left: **Mr Talis Linkaits** (VASAB Secretariat), **Mr Andris Andrušaitis** (BONUS), **Mr Tomas Hanell** (Aalto University)



From left: **Ms Anita Mäkinen** (Co-Chair of the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG), **Ms Annette Klynsner** (Agency for Nature, Denmark)



From left: **Ms Alda Nikodemusa** (VASAB Secretariat), **Ms Katharina Erdmenger** (Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Germany)



Mr Risto Veivo (Union of Baltic Cities), **Mr Sakari Saarinen** (City of Helsinki, Finland)

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES

Mr Raul Mälk

Ambassador
CBSS CSO Chairman

On behalf of the Estonian Presidency and the whole CBSS, allow me to wish you a successful meeting in Tallinn. Your meeting is the first of several high-level manifestations of Baltic Sea cooperation taking place during the Estonian CBSS presidency period, and we are of course happy for this.

It just happens that this year Estonia holds a leading role in nearly every cooperation organization in the Baltic Sea Region where we participate.

Since January Estonia is the chair of Baltic 3 Cooperation. Estonia also commenced its yearlong role as coordinator of the eight member state regional cooperation, Nordic-Baltic Eight, in January. Estonia's demanding chairmanship of the Council of the Baltic Sea States started in July and will continue until June 2015. Furthermore, Estonia assumed its role as the chairing country in the thematic cooperation organizations HELCOM and VASAB in July. During the second half of this year Estonia coordinates the work of National Contact points of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. And we may add that Finland, Russia and Estonia have the Year of the Gulf of Finland 2014. To sum it up, 2014 is a Baltic Sea Year for Estonia. It opens good opportunities to contribute to cooperation between formats.

The most important result of the Finnish Presidency for us was the approval of the two new documents just in June, which will notably define the organisations' endeavours during our presidency.

A document named "Decision by the Council of the Baltic Sea States on a review of the CBSS long-term priorities" is changing the list of the organisation's priorities from five to three. A smaller list of priorities allows concentrating our efforts on really important areas where it can bring added value, and also reflects the role of the CBSS among regional cooperation formats better.

Another document is "Declaration of the Council of the Baltic Sea States on the implementation of the Vilnius Declaration – A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020". It gives an overview how CBSS is working to reach the aims of the CBSS 2010 Vilnius summit paper. We are now halfway to 2020, and the Declaration shows that CBSS and many other regional cooperation structures including VASAB are now doing a lot to reach the vision, and their cooperation and division of labour is more streamlined and efficient.

So in short, the main task for Estonian Presidency is practical implementation of these new guiding documents. Our aim is that the Council's work is efficient, impact-driven and result-based.

Estonian Presidency started in changed international political and economic conditions. It is still very difficult to predict their development until next summer.

According to our schedule there is a regular Foreign Ministers' meeting in late May to early June next year. The first CSO meeting will be held in September 29–30 in Tallinn.

CBSS has a 1 million euro Project Support Fund for 2013–15 from which we already designated about two thirds. It is now important to pay attention to the realisation of the projects.

Moving to the sectorial overview, the first CBSS long-term priority is **regional identity**. It is an area where for CBSS cooperation with all various networks and initiatives is important: parliamentary, regional and local authorities, NGOs, Youth and so on. It covers such areas as tourism and investment promotion, high education, cooperation in the area of creative industries and so on.

Among important projects during the last years was One BSR. Its aim is to produce elements for the Region's image and identity, contribute to joint promotion of the Region. Its final conference took place in Helsinki on September 4. Tourism and investment information packages were produced. Now there stands a question about the future and hopefully there will be a successor project.

The second long-term priority area is a **sustainable and prosperous region**.

The work of VASAB is an important part of that area. We may say the same about HELCOM. There are two evaluation processes of the CBSS working groups on the way: Expert group on Sustainable Development, Baltic 21, and Expert group on Maritime Policy.

So it is important to have a clear division of labor and good cooperation between different actors because there are some overlapping responsibilities. A good example here is the joint HELCOM-VASAB maritime spatial planning working group, which also acts as a Project Advisory Group for the PartiSEApate project.

The third long-term priority of CBSS is a **safe and secure region**. The meeting of the Ministers responsible for children's issues will take place in Estonia next May. The CBSS Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk will pay attention to matters related to alternative care and children's rights, the handling of cross-national child protection cases, and child-friendly justice standards. The CBSS Task Force against Trafficking of Human beings has just had its first meeting during the Estonian Presidency together with the conference on how to counter labour exploitation, paying special attention to self-regulation of private sector actors.

The Heads of Border services will meet this autumn with the Heads of the Civil protection in spring 2015. Finally, the Baltic Sea task Force, which is in the fight against organised crime, will establish a strategy for the next mandate.

Thank you.

STATEMENTS OF THE HEADS OF THE DELEGATIONS

DENMARK

Ms Annete Klynsner

Chief Adviser

Spatial Planning Department

Agency for Nature

Ministry of the Environment

**Thank you Mr Chairman,
Thank you for the invitation to this conference.**

Dear Ministers, dear colleagues. Unfortunately the Danish minister for the Environment, Mrs Kirsten Brosbøl, is unable to attend the conference due to other commitments. I am happy to convey her best regards and wishes for a successful conference here in Tallinn.

Denmark finds the collaboration between our 11 nations on spatial planning and territorial development in the Baltic Sea Region unique. A cooperation that has successfully addressed regional and global challenges for more than twenty years.

Denmark appreciates the extensive work by Ministers since the adoption of the Long-Term Perspective for Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region in 2009, especially the work carried out in relation to Maritime Spatial Planning – a relative new task for most of the countries in the Baltic Sea Region.

Denmark recognizes the importance of the joint working group between VASAB and HELCOM, established in 2010, which has given a common understanding of maritime spatial planning (MSP) in the region.

The progress report, which is presented today, shows that implementation of Maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region occurs in different tempi. However, cooperation is still very important in the next steps to discuss and agree on common guidelines for cross-country cooperation.

Denmark would like to compliment the VASAB committee's ability to secure finance from the EU and to develop a monitoring system that can detect changes in the territorial development, and thereby making it possible to give relevant information for politicians and the administrative level as to which way to proceed to secure sustainable regional development.

Denmark welcomes the minister declaration and its support to Maritime Spatial Planning, which together with land-based planning in the coastal areas can assist regional states in solving conflicts between different stakeholders and sectors' economic interest, and safeguard the environment in order to get sound cross-border or transnational solutions at sea.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

FINLAND

Ms Ulla Koski

Ministerial Adviser
Ministry of the Environment

Dear Chairman and colleagues,

On behalf of my minister I would like to begin by expressing my thanks for the invitation to attend this VASAB Conference of Ministers in Tallinn. Being the twin city of Helsinki, Tallinn is always a pleasant place to visit. I would also like to thank the organisers for the great side event we had yesterday.

VASAB has been carrying out ambitious spatial planning and development cooperation for twenty years now. Our goal is to create a globally attractive Baltic Sea Region, where wealth and well-being are distributed evenly across the entire area. Reaching this goal requires patient and continuous work.

VASAB's history shows that we have been very active and that our efforts have also borne fruit. We can also safely say that the structures created at the 1994 VASAB Conference of Ministers, that was held in Tallinn, have proven effective; otherwise these results we see today would not have been possible.

VASAB has been very active in launching its LTP, and doing its part to implement the themes of the LTP and the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference held in Vilnius in 2009. This is exactly what we agreed to do in Vilnius — to focus VASAB's efforts primarily on turning its three main themes – urban networking and urban-rural cooperation, accessibility, and maritime spatial planning and management – into action. Finland considers it important that VASAB continues its development efforts guided by these three themes, which we also have in the declaration of this conference.

After the Vilnius Conference, the development of maritime spatial planning has been successful. As the body responsible for spatial planning, VASAB has had and will continue to have a significant role in developing the compatibility between maritime spatial planning and land-based spatial planning. To this end, the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group is well-prepared to respond to the requirements of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive regarding international cooperation and the coordination of plans. This cooperation provides a good discussion forum for all Baltic Sea countries as they develop their maritime spatial planning at the national level. Because of this, the development of cooperation on maritime spatial planning between the Baltic Sea countries should continue in accordance with the HELCOM-VASAB Roadmap 2013–2020. This cooperation is of vital importance, since the region is believed to have high potential for greater economic growth, and spatial planning will help make this growth sustainable.

For Finland, the Baltic Sea Region is an important forum for international spatial planning cooperation. The development trends of the Region and VASAB's strategic documents have served as the central basis of Finland's National Perspective for territorial development. Now VASAB's strategic documents are again being utilised in the revision of this Perspective. This work will be

finished by the end of the year. The new perspective is aimed at providing a national vision for the regional structure and the long-term development of transport systems.

In the Ministerial Declaration, we support strategies that can improve the prosperity of different types of regions, especially strategies for urban networking and urban–rural cooperation. In Finland we are similarly emphasising polycentric and networked regions based on good transport connections. At the same time, we are developing the Helsinki metropolitan area.

Growth corridors are an essential part of networked regions, and they also link urban regions together across national borders. The Ministerial Declaration has particularly highlighted three growth corridors connecting northern regions to Europe. These growth corridors are, of course, highly important to Finland. The maritime transport connections existing within these corridors are vital for Finland's exports and imports.

In the Declaration there is one new theme, energy. Climate change and energy questions are future challenges that also have an impact on land use and spatial planning. Finland hopes that VASAB will focus on this theme effectively in the coming years. Cooperation with the BASREC process, with the aim of incorporating spatial planning perspectives into BASREC, is definitely worth pursuing.

From Finland's perspective continuous and close cooperation, that has formed between VASAB and other Baltic organisations, is highly commendable. VASAB has been successful in systematically creating effective cooperation networks. These networks provide synergy benefits and improve the chances of reaching our common goal: an attractive Baltic Sea Region. One example is the event VASAB organised in Helsinki last December that brought together various interest groups for broad discussions on their future expectations of VASAB's work. VASAB also has a new role as the Leader of Horizontal Action 'Spatial Planning' of the EU's Baltic Sea Region Strategy. This work provides VASAB with the opportunity to coordinate spatial planning development projects in the Baltic Sea Region.

To conclude, I would like to say that together with our cooperation partners, we have systematically created the basis for continued co-operative development of the Baltic Sea Region. We have all the means at hand for implementing the measures of the new Ministerial Declaration and promoting the attractiveness of and sustainable solutions in the Baltic Sea Region through the development of spatial planning.

Since Finland chaired VASAB before Estonia, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank not only the VASAB committee, but also the secretariat, for their good cooperation during our chairmanship and wish all the success for Estonian chairmanship.

Thank you.

GERMANY

Ms Katharina Erdmenger

Head of Division

Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure

Dear Chairman,

Dear Ministers and heads of delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Estonian chairmanship for preparing our 8th Conference. I would also like to thank the VASAB pioneers which gathered yesterday. Their commitment was the backbone for many VASAB achievements and a contribution to the successful development of the Baltic Sea Region. VASAB comes back to its roots now, to Tallinn, where the first spatial vision for a large European macro-region of 11 countries was commonly agreed 20 years ago. It was a time where the old division of Europe was still felt and huge socio-economic disparities were visible. Now, 20 years later, our territorial monitoring system revealed that disparities between the West and the East are diminishing and it is not unrealistic that by the time horizon 2030 of our VASAB Long-Term Perspective the huge disparities will have ceased to exist.

Our 8th Conference is therefore an excellent opportunity to look back and to look forward.

Looking back, I would like to highlight the following:

First, the VASAB vision of 1994 served many sectors and national and regional authorities as a reference framework for spatial development. Many references are still valid.

Second, VASAB strategies, concepts, projects and actions supported networking and cooperation of cities and regions, as well as urban-rural cooperation around the Baltic Sea, and helped to make better use of endogenous development potentials.

Third, territorial cohesion, accessibility and connectivity of the Baltic Sea Region were promoted. I would just like to mention the support for transport corridors and axes like Rail Baltica, Scandria and others from the very beginning which now form part of the core network of European transport.

Fourth, VASAB has also promoted spatial planning systems. This is in particular valid for spatial planning of the coastal zones and maritime spatial planning which is a top item of our agenda today.

Fifth, since the emergence of territorial cooperation programmes – the INTERREG programmes – in 1996, VASAB provided essential background and inputs to them, and helped with launching important projects. Projects like VASAB 2010 Plus, East-West Window, Baltcoast, BaltSeaPlan and PartiSEAPate helped with implementing VASAB strategies. It is worth mentioning that some outcomes still exist, for instance, the European Route of Brick Gothic – a transnational culture and tourism route which was supported at our 5th Conference 2001 in Wismar. We should be proud to say that many ideas which were developed by VASAB widely contributed to a large number of

very successful INTERREG projects.

Finally, with the help of ESPON, VASAB developed a promising spatial monitoring system which is quite unique for an area of 11 different countries and which might in the future help to better analyse and steer territorial development.

Over the past 20 years, VASAB has also changed its character. VASAB focuses now more on key issues. It combines visions and strategies stronger with projects and actions, and it is better connected with other networks and initiatives in the framework of CBSS. Finally, VASAB is more communicative: besides being present on Facebook and Twitter, VASAB discusses issues more intensively with other transnational networks and institutions, and with regional authorities around the Baltic Sea. It is furthermore a good example for Europe in terms of cooperation between EU and non-EU countries on equal basis.

I think all of that was achieved through joint work, and we can be proud of the results of our cooperation.

New challenges are ahead of us. Among them are: demographic and climate change, new kinds of threats of environmental pollution to the Baltic Sea, increasing sea use conflicts, territorial disparities of energy production and supply, growing challenges of urban-rural divide, threats to social cohesion and cooperation, and intensive discussions on the most appropriate development paths of Europe.

The EU Agenda 2020, the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Framework Directive, the EU BSR Strategy, and similar strategies of neighbouring countries, especially Russia, are important tools to tackle the common challenges. The VASAB LTP is an important corner stone in that respect. It provides a territorial dimension to all strategies and action plans in the region, and it will remain our main basis for common actions in the near future.

I fully support our declaration and the focus of future work and would like to highlight the following issues:

Firstly, we need to commonly promote maritime spatial planning in all countries around the Baltic Sea, and we should make use also of all relevant legislation, among them the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Framework Directive. MSP is going to be one, if not the topic in the spatial planning context, which will attract a lot of attention in the coming years and which will be politically relevant. The more conflicting uses there are in the Baltic Sea, the more we should also co-operate to make efficient use of the limited marine space we share. Who knows better than us, the spatial planners, that only we can achieve results together? Which is why we should be especially aware that now there is a new framework for cooperation created by the EU – the Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning. I regret this is not mentioned more specifically in the resolution. Although the directive is not binding for all countries in the Region, it provides an excellent guidance on what is needed, and it encourages an “effective cross-border cooperation between Member States and with neighbouring third countries”. As referred to earlier, VASAB can be proud of its achievements and it should therefore now seize the opportunities which present themselves with the setting up of this new framework for MSP, also to VASAB as an organization.

Secondly, the existing macroregional strategies in the Baltic Sea Region are excellent instruments to join forces in order to make use of specific endogenous potentials of this large transnational area and to tackle problems. However, it will only be successful if cooperation between all countries continues, especially between those being members of the EU and non-members. VASAB has an extraordinarily good tradition in that respect.

Thirdly, urban-rural cooperation and partnership, accessibility, connectivity and infrastructure development, as well as the promotion of overall territorial cohesion and of place-based approaches, are important action fields. Energy issues and the use of space become more important in the near future.

Fourthly, territorial development is a mirror of many aspects of development of a society. It is therefore important to monitor territorial development and to signal success and threats to other actors. Solutions can only be found and implemented together. VASAB needs to combine visions and strategies with issues on the ground, and to develop answers to them, and to promote transnational projects in close contact with cities, regions and sectoral institutions. Only through such an approach VASAB can broaden the basis for its work and can benefit from other experience, and fulfil its tasks efficiently and well-anchored.

Finally, VASAB should not forget about its own key matter which is spatial planning as such, as an instrument. Spatial planning methods are also developing and transnational exchange of experience is needed in order to further develop and sharpen this instrument.

I think those are challenging tasks for the near future which require an active VASAB engagement both from VASAB member countries and from the secretariat, and I wish all of us success for that common work.

LATVIA

Ms Ingūna Urtāne

Director of the Spatial Planning Department
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

Mr Chairman, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional Development Mr Naudīņš and the Delegation of Latvia, I would like to thank Mr Hanno Pevkur for his kind words of welcome. I would also like to express my appreciation to the people who have worked a lot to organize today's meeting.

It sounds incredible that since the first VASAB long-term strategic document was adopted in 1994, 20 years have passed. At that time, after the reestablishment of the independence, Latvia had just adopted the first spatial planning regulations and there was no confidence in long-term strategic planning neither in general public nor governmental institutions. It is interesting to mention that even the term "vision" in the title of VASAB was not positively understood and perceived. Even after a decade – in 2003, the government of Latvia failed to adopt a National Spatial Plan. Only six years later the **Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia up to 2030** was elaborated and later on – in June 2010 – approved by the Latvian Parliament. Consequently, the **National Development Plan was adopted in 2012**, intended to be a major tool for implementation of the national strategy.

The Strategy "Latvia 2030" is the first and main long-term planning document for the country. It defines sustainable development guidelines and Spatial Development Perspective. A concept of capitals in a very broad sense has been applied in the document. People with their skills, capabilities, knowledge, and talents have been recognized as the key capital. Nature, environment, territory, cultural heritage, creativity, and ability to cooperate are indicated as additional capitals.

In 2011, spatial planning legislation was significantly changed in Latvia by adopting a new law, introducing the concept of Maritime Spatial Planning and the Spatial Planning Information System. Latvia is aiming to develop a modern spatial planning and real estate data management system, providing and improving public access to all level planning documents, land use data, and ensuring e-discussions and e-services for a wide range of users until 2015. Concerning Maritime spatial planning, we are proud to inform that by the end of this year drafting of National Maritime Spatial Plan will start back to back with elaboration of the Coastal Zone Management Plan to ensure that land-sea interactions are taken into account.

Since the very beginning VASAB cooperation has provided a knowledge exchange platform and has given a huge contribution to the development of the Spatial planning system of Latvia. Thus development of the national Spatial planning concept and documents, such as Maritime Spatial Plan and Coastal Zone Management Plan, was inspired by the VASAB Long-Term Perspective to the greatest extent. We do recognize the importance of European and macroregional level cooperation, and have come to a common understanding that spatial planning is an issue of transboundary

cooperation, and national concepts must be closely bonded with common interests of the neighboring countries and the region.

This year marks a 20-year anniversary since the adoption of the Tallinn Vision – VASAB 2010, and issues that have been raised at that time are today's reality or are coming to the implementation phase, for example VIA Baltica, Rail Baltica, national maritime spatial plans.

It is worth mentioning that the idea of energy independence was pointed out by VASAB already in 1994, and nowadays it is in the spotlight of political debate. The same is true for Coastal and Maritime Spatial planning, firstly mentioned in the Wismar Declaration in 2001, now recognized in the EU by adopting a framework directive for maritime spatial planning.

VASAB has initiated a lot of discussions important for development planning at regional level. Today the EU opens discussion on the growing role of cities and metropolitan areas in the context of social and economic cohesion. In relation to the upcoming Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2015, we are proposing to launch a discussion about the future of sparsely populated areas, challenges faced by depopulation of rural areas, and the role of small and medium sized urban areas in territorial development and their growth potential. Integrated framework for maritime spatial planning and improvement of energy interconnections, as well as development of green transport corridors, have to be mentioned as other major themes for further elaboration.

Latvia would like to invite all VASAB countries to continue guiding and facilitating implementation of VASAB LTP, as well as conducting other relevant discussions in the frame of the BSR. We understand the complexity of large infrastructure projects – completion of the Trans-European Transport network will require at least two more decades of substantial investment. A lot of effort will be needed to produce coherent maritime spatial plans across the BSR applying an ecosystem approach.

Latvia is proud of recent achievements and efforts VASAB has done to make the BSR more coherent and visible in the arena of Europe. We commit with pleasure to continue hosting the VASAB Secretariat in Riga, particularly in the light of the upcoming Presidency.

Finally, I would like once more to thank all those involved in preparation of the Conference. I wish success to Estonian Chairmanship in fulfilling decisions of this Ministerial Conference.

Thank you for your attention!

LITHUANIA

Mr Aleksandras Gordevičius

Head of the Spatial Planning Division
Ministry of the Environment

***Dear Mr Chairman Minister, Excellencies,
Heads of delegations and delegates of cooperating countries,
Honourable guests,***

Since 1992 Görel Thurdin's initiative-led meeting (21.08.1992, Karlskrona, Sweden) of Baltic Sea Region country ministers responsible for spatial planning, Lithuania is actively involved in this BSR cooperation.

The formal footing of cooperation has been its advantage compared to other European macro-regions.

And it has become a for-runner in many ways: first – making a joint vision, and now – successfully developing maritime spatial planning (MSP) and making strong steps for BSR territorial monitoring. It has stood during countries joining EU enlargement process, and running smoothly on now.

We see a great value of this cooperation in professional terms and in its democratic approach of co-operating countries. It has also created their strong BSR identity.

This is one of the limited numbers of macro-regions of Europe where countries jointly work on this "flight level" (as our Estonian colleague Jüri Lass would say).

And this gives immediate context to national level spatial planning. It also makes it possible to see what the CoE and EU level decisions mean for BSR. We are able to concretise them at the European macro-regional level. And we can find ways to jointly say our views deriving from a comprehensive, holistic spatial planning approach. This is unique not only for such a level but also in a wider context.

Concerning the implementation of the BSR Long-Term Perspective, adopted in the Vilnius meeting, we can say:

1. With regard to our cities, we would like to admit that the objectives laid down in the Comprehensive Plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania and those in the LTP/BSR are unanimous. Therefore, when dealing with urban development matters, we were implementing both our national aims and our international obligations.

We are pleased that our country's major urban centres and their further development find their appropriate place in the urban system of the whole BSR. It should be noted that:

- Further formation and promotion of their efficient operation will help the development of our countries and the BSR;
- We hope, that the relationship between urban and rural areas, their cooperation, will contribute to their sustainable development, at the same time maintaining the path of Leipzig Charter, Toledo Declaration, and other important documents on urban development adopted by the EU ministers.

We think that EU Urban Agenda development and UN HABITAT Urban Agenda (planned for adoption in 2016) might be of interest for our BSR cooperation as sources contributing to the stands on urban development of BSR, as a European macro-region;

- Draw attention to the importance of efforts and measures aiming at (at least) mitigating adverse territorial effects of migration (and other related processes, changing the demographic

situation, social and economic circumstances) on urban structures and competitiveness of regions. Here not only the metropolitan centres, but also small towns and medium sized cities have their role to play. When succeeded, we might expect positive influence also on urban-rural relations.

With regard to the practical activities meant for urban development in the BSR, we appreciate the effort of Belarus in organizing a workshop of the BSR on urban-rural partnership in 2010, i.e. immediately following the Vilnius Ministerial Conference of our ministers.

2. In view to the location and size of our country – the successful development of such infrastructures as the Rail Baltica, further perfecting of Via Baltica, as well as improvement of the sea links are vital. We support the related provisions of the LTP, important for the territorial cohesion and economic development of our country, and we will be developing them further on.

At the same time it is important to admit, that in comparison of TEN-T core network and VASAB transnational transport connections, we still see a need for enhancement of cross-border links on external EU borders (Vilnius-Minsk direction – IX b transport corridor) and North-South road, and rail links (direction Klaipėda-Vilnius-Minsk- and further -South).

We also support the priority for sustainable production and use of energy, and more environmentally sound renewable energy solutions. The prudent use of the sea space could contribute among other issues to realization of this priority.

3. In the Program of the Lithuanian Government for the years 2008–2012, maritime spatial planning was included. Our Parliament also requested in 2011 the national MSP to be prepared. This was an immediate national interest based on the need for better use and management of the sea space and in direct coherence with the LTP/BSR and its priorities. Following these political imperatives, at the end of 2011 Lithuania started and till the end of 2013 prepared the project of Complementing the Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania by the maritime territories. It has not only developed MSP for the territorial waters and EEZ of Lithuania, but also coherently linked terrestrial and maritime spatial planning in one document. A complex approach has been used here, spatial development perspective, functional priorities, thematic fields (environment and cultural heritage protection, technical infrastructure development, maritime transport and other issues), solutions elaborated, information and public participation ensured, SEA prepared.

The territorial planning document is expected to be adopted in 2014.

Along with preparation of this document the relevant stands of the legal basis were developed and introduced into national legislation – Territorial Planning Law and its bylaws.

The BSR LTP is included as a reference document when complementing the Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania by the maritime territories. The broad scale MSP principles of the BSR were used for this document preparation.

With regard to the practical activities meant for development of maritime spatial planning in the BSR, we appreciate very much the effort of Sweden in organizing a two-day meeting/seminar (Gotland, 2013). The representatives/experts of the BSR countries, relevant national institutions responsible for MSP came to discuss problems of practical matters of MSP development and push forward cooperation on MSP in BSR.

We will seek to further contribute to developing the MSP theme in cooperation of the BSR.

Recalling the BSR Ministers responsible for spatial planning and development, Vilnius Declaration (2009): we followed its stands, especially in the field of the MSP.

Concerning the Tallinn Declaration:

Taking note of a long lasting discussion in the CSPD/BSR meetings and through a written procedure on the text of the Tallinn Declaration, we will seek to contribute to its implementation.

At the same time we would like to stress the importance of its actions oriented towards the international character of the BSR as a European macro-region, especially those oriented towards better EU integration and related to it territorial cohesion. We see here the top priority for the implementation of the stands of the Declaration.

We believe that there is no doubt about the necessity of cooperation with partners in related fields, first of all, within the BSR, but also on a larger scale, helping us to realize the targets while grouping them as:

- the priority activities of our ministerial cooperation;
- actions done together with other partners (contributing to response to challenges outlined in the Tallinn Declaration, as well to implementation of our BSR LTP);
- actions being in line with the LTP/BSR, carried out by the other stakeholders, and helping to its implementation;
- contribution to the tasks helping in implementing the EU and Council of Europe stated objectives and targets.

We hope that the VASAB expert and stakeholder meeting on demographic trends and labour market development, held in Kaunas, Lithuania in June 2010, as a landmark in dealing with the problematic issues from the urban and spatial point of view related to demographic changes and migration, will be further on our cooperation agenda, as it is outlined in the Tallinn Declaration.

Concluding this intervention, I would like to stress that:

- BSR cooperation will continue to be under our priorities.
- We will seek to implement the maritime spatial planning priority not only in the Baltic Sea Region, but first and foremost, in our own country, when implementing the MSP after its adoption. We will co-operate with current and upcoming chairmanships of the cooperation of the BSR ministers responsible for spatial planning, so as to ensure the implementation of the jointly selected priorities.

Thank you for your attention.

NORWAY

Mr Odd Godal

Senior Adviser

Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation

Dear Minister and fellow participants,

First of all I would like to thank the Estonians for hosting this VASAB ministerial meeting, for the great efforts put into preparing it, and for the hospitality shown last night.

We believe that the VASAB cooperation – with the Tallinn declaration and the LTP will make a valuable contribution to an integrated and balanced territorial and regional development of the Baltic Sea Region – taking into account social, economic and environmental aspects.

The Tallinn declaration points to the following main challenges for the territorial and regional development in the Baltic Sea Region:

- Territorial development
- Maritime spatial planning coherent with land-based planning
- Urban networking and urban-rural cooperation in functional regions
- Territorial integration of the Baltic Sea Region, connectivity and accessibility
- Sustainable production and use of energy

I would like to pick up on two issues in my intervention:

Urban networking and urban-rural cooperation

Urban issues are becoming more important, this is reflected in our declaration, the EU commission has also just recently had an EU Urban Agenda on an open public consultation. Even in Norway where we have traditionally concentrated our regional development policies on questions like developing sparsely populated areas, access to private and public services – we have now initiated a programme for urban-rural relations.

The programme which now consists of 33 regions including 187 municipalities will go through 2 phases. In the first phase they will analyse relations between the urban area and its surrounding areas. In the second phase they will use the analyses to formulate strategies to address issues of interest.

One important goal of the programme is to better understand urban-rural linkages, so as to better promote economic development and formulate the right policies.

We hope that VASAB with its focus on urban issues in the Baltic Sea Region also can contribute to a better understanding of urban-rural relations – so that we are all able to formulate policy with regard to these issues better.

Territorial development

We have established a system to monitor the regional and territorial development in the Baltic Sea Region. Some of the results were presented earlier today. A system such as BSR-TeMo makes it possible to understand regional and territorial trends and structures across the BSR with regard to demographic development or GDP per capita. Trends in demographic development in one part of the BSR can be compared with those in another part, and the system can assess whether the economic gaps between parts of the BSR are decreasing or increasing.

Transnational comparisons or analyses like these are of course helpful for an organization like VASAB – whose task is to develop policy options for a transnational region like the Baltic Sea Region. It should also be of interest for organizations or programmes working at a transnational level.

The challenge is – how to use and apply all this information. I therefore believe that it could be an important task for VASAB alone, or in cooperation with others, to pick up on this challenge and promote the use of the monitoring system. It could be used to develop policy briefs, fact sheets or write articles to contribute to the public debate on the regional development of the Baltic Sea Region.

Thank you for your attention.

POLAND

Ms Katarzyna Krywzda

Acting Director of the Maritime Transportation Department
Ministry of Infrastructure and Development

1. Introduction

Mister Minister, Excellences, honorable guests, dear colleagues,

It is an honor for me to take part in this conference, as today we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the first VASAB strategic document. Comparing the situation of the Baltic Sea Region twenty years ago and today, we can observe the impressive progress that has been jointly made to approach the goals, set up in the **VASAB strategic documents**.

2. Place-based approach and territorial cohesion

From the Polish perspective, putting into practice a **territorial and integrated approach to development** is especially important. During the last five years, the debate on this issue and the efforts to implement it has been strongly visible at the European level. Adoption of the **Territorial Agenda of the EU 2020 Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions** in 2011, has strongly influenced the legislative package of the Cohesion Policy 2014–2020 and resulted in a new solution for urban areas – the Integrated Territorial Instruments. We have taken these instruments into considerable account in the Polish Partnership Agreement and Operational Programs at national and regional level.

Merging the territorial approach with development policy, especially Cohesion Policy, gives tangible results and contributes to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of policies. In the Report entitled **Place-based territorially sensitive and integrated approach** we have gathered a broad spectrum of the best practices, of which many are based on the experiences from the Baltic Sea Region. There are no doubts, that this debate helps us to implement our common Baltic goals from the **Long-term Development Perspective for the Territorial Development of the BSR** and finally leads to achieving territorial cohesion of our macro region.

In Poland this approach is also present in the strategic documents at national level, such as the **National Spatial Development Concept 2030** (adopted in 2011) and in the draft of the **National Urban Policy**, which is currently under discussion. The first of these documents addresses both land and maritime spatial planning. The need for integrated coastal management, efficient organization, and use of the exclusive economic zone, as well as strengthening the accessibility to ports from land and sea, were underlined in NSDC 2030.

We believe that a territorially-sensitive and integrated approach, due to its flexibility to different territorial contexts, potentials and needs, may contribute to achieving the objectives established in VASAB Long-Term Perspective and in the Declaration, that we are adopting today.

3. Maritime Spatial Planning and Maritime issues

Six years after the adoption of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), the HELCOM Copenhagen

Ministerial Declaration was adopted on 3 October 2013 in Copenhagen. All Baltic States agreed to put in place by 2017 national frameworks for coherent Maritime Spatial Planning with an ultimate goal to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region. The plans should be coherent across the borders and based on the ecosystem approach. It is crucial that across maritime borders we develop a common vision for the Baltic Sea. A vision that will integrate environmental concerns and internationally-agreed targets, already included in different relevant policies. I believe that for the benefit of the Baltic Sea ecosystem and future generations we should work together to develop the vision along with cross border consultation procedures and common understanding of the ecosystem approach even before we adopt our national plans.

It must be underlined that through joint projects with HELCOM, such as BaltSeaPlan, PartiSeaPate or leading the Horizontal Action of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, VASAB became more visible at the European level and today plays a prominent role in the field of maritime spatial planning. The newly-adopted EU Directive establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning is entirely in line with the HELCOM-VASAB Roadmap on MSP.

4. Monitoring

We have already met some of our previous **challenges** such as diminishing the north-south and east-west divides. On the other hand, some of them are still before us, such as narrowing the gap between the remote regions lagging behind and the metropolitan areas – the motors of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. We need to pay more attention to the territorial monitoring of development processes, especially having in mind quickly-changing circumstances. Therefore we have to make use of the monitoring system of the Baltic Sea Region delivered by the ESPON TeMo project. Gathering knowledge and analyzing ongoing processes will help us to prepare an adequate territorial answer for future challenges.

5. Ending

I should like to express my appreciation to all members of the Committee for their work and effort to implement a common vision for the Baltic Sea Region. I believe that through our joint projects, workshops and other initiatives, our macro-region becomes a unique example of cooperation, consistently getting closer to the concept of territorial cohesion, and what is even more important, becoming a better place to live.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Estonian Presidency for hosting the meeting, and the VASAB Secretariat in Riga for taking excellent care and coordination of our activities.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Ms Irina Karelina

Representative of St Petersburg Government
Director-General of ICSEER Leontief Centre

Courtesy translation

**Dear Mr Chairman,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Let me greet you on behalf of the Russian Federation, the delegation of which I lead in the course of this Conference.

I would like to thank the hosting institution – the Ministry of the Interior of Estonia – and VASAB Secretariat for the excellent management of the event and hospitality.

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing changes in the structure of the Government of Russia and the organisational complexities (redistribution of functions regarding spatial planning) the representatives of the relevant Ministry were not able to come. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation is also being represented at the highest level at this Conference.

2. As you know, Russia has a rich and long-standing planning tradition, which keeps developing with due regard to the current conditions and approaches.

To date Russia has approved the Concept of long-term development of the country and the long-term forecast up to 2030.

At least 60 sectorial strategic documents of the federal level have been produced and approved. There have been accepted five federal schemes of territorial planning, fixing long-term plans for the development of basic infrastructure – transport, energy, pipeline services, public health, and education.

On the regional level the set of official documents on strategic development has been elaborated in almost all regions. The set includes:

- long-term strategies for socio-economic development (*the strategies for all 85 regions have been elaborated, 79 of which have already been approved*);
- territorial planning schemes;
- programs and prognoses of social and economic development for the medium-term period;
- the target programs implemented through the budgets of the Subjects of the Russian Federation.

There are more than 20 thousand municipalities in Russia and almost all of them have master plans and other urban planning documents.

The vast majority of the cities with the population of over 100 thousand inhabitants (*according to Rosstat there are 164 of them*), also have long-term strategies and development programs.

The Russian Government has completed the work on the development and approval of the strategies for the socio-economic development of all macro-regions of the Russian Federation (eight federal districts and the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation), as well as action plans for their implementation. The Government has adopted individual budget programs for a number of macro-regions.

Furthermore, three-year program budgets at the federal and regional levels are being set.

In 2011, a completely public Federal state information system of territorial planning, being a large-scale tool of strategic communication of planning processes, was created and put into operation. (*The system is designed on the basis of GIS technology. There will be a separate report regarding this system in the framework of International roundtable discussion at the Forum of strategists in St. Petersburg.*)

3. Until recently, the main documents that regulate the development of strategic and territorial planning, from the legal point of view, were:
 - The Town Planning Code of the Russian Federation (dated 29 December 2004, No. 190-FZ);
 - Federal Law “On State Forecasting and Programs for Socio-Economic Development of the Russian Federation” (dated 20 July 1995, No. FZ-115);
 - The Decree of the President of the Russian Federation “On the Basis for Strategic Planning in the Russian Federation” (dated 12 May 2009, No. 536).

Furthermore, the Federal Law No. 172-FZ “On Strategic Planning in the Russian Federation” was adopted on 28 June 2014, which has aligned the practices of planning of the last 20 years, and has fixed the legal basis for forming, elaborating and operating the complex system of the state strategic planning of socio-economic development.

The law, first of all:

- regulates the strategic planning process and the rights of the participants;
- defines the hierarchy of the strategic planning documents, their interconnectedness and content at the level of the Russian Federation and regions (*it also contains provisions on ensuring interconnectedness of the documents of the socio-economic, territorial and budget planning*);
- specifies general requirements for their structure, development and approval procedure;
- introduces state registration of the strategic planning documents.

However, it is important to note in connection with our work in VASAB that the Law introduces the concept of macro-region as a part of the territory of the Russian Federation, which covers territories of two or more regions (subjects of the Russian Federation); their socio-economic conditions require highlighting particular directions, priorities, goals and tasks of socio-economic development when developing strategic planning documents.

Moreover, the Law requires the preparation of the spatial development strategy of the Russian Federation and provides the basis for further development of the marine planning (*in particular, it is specified that the law is applied in the field of strategic planning, carried out in the territory of the Russian Federation, including the maritime areas*).

Furthermore, the draft federal law “On the Maritime (Water Area) Planning” is being developed. Besides, we consider these provisions as one of the results of cooperation within VASAB and, especially, during the Russian Presidency in VASAB in the period 2012–2013.

4. In conditions of globalization, due regard to the regional spatial planning experience in different countries is an integral part of the regional policy formation process for the central/federal and regional authorities. Collaboration and exploiting the opportunities of coordination of joint actions for spatial planning, both large world regions, and adjacent territories of several adjoining countries, are becoming increasingly important.

In the Baltic region a unique institutional infrastructure of cooperation has been created. It allows joining efforts and approaches of the neighbouring countries on different platforms and in different spheres, including the most important area for us – spatial planning and development.

And the most significant thing. Colleagues, let me emphasize, at the present moment the most important thing for us are the adequate measures regarding the organization of the inter-regional and inter-country dialogue and coordinated planning for development of border areas. The VASAB platform provides an excellent opportunity to do this.

I believe, the Baltic Sea Region has acquired a unique experience of cooperation between Russia and other countries, both members and non-members of the European Union. This experience shows, on the one hand, obvious achievements and, on the other hand, topics for discussion.

We believe that at the current moment of strengthening of the “centrifugal” tendencies, VASAB, which became the general platform for coordination of positions and development of common substantive approaches, has to play an important coordinating role in the spatial development of the entire Baltic Region.

The direction for developing spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region depends largely on our today’s decisions, on the approval of the Tallinn Declaration, and on subsequent development of the mechanisms for its implementation.

From the position of Russia, all the abovementioned is an important condition for further organization of the activity of the VASAB, VASAB Committee and the Secretariat for improvement of spatial development management, regional monitoring, spatial planning and urban-rural cooperation.

I hope that the discussions planned within the framework of the Committee meetings will help all of us to make progress in our daily work on increasing the level and quality of life of our citizens.

From our point of view, the cooperation experience within the VASAB aims at learning lessons for the future not only for the Baltic region itself, but also for other territories of cooperation of regions of Russia to cooperate with regions of both neighbouring and remote countries. This will be another step towards understanding the importance of collaboration for the regions of Russia and preparing a new stage of interlinked spatial development of regions in the Baltics.

I wish us all active, meaningful and productive work on implementation of the Tallinn Declaration!

Thank you for your attention!

SWEDEN

Mr Anders Ljunggren

Ambassador to Estonia

Chairman, Ministers, dear colleagues,

It has been 20 years since the Third Ministerial Conference in Tallinn adopted the first long-term spatial vision for the Baltic Sea Region under the title “VASAB 2010. Towards a Framework for Spatial Development in the BSR”.

Since then we have seen a tremendous development of the Baltic Sea Region. Economic growth and increased trade that follows increased pressure on our infrastructure and our environment. We have seen shipping on the Baltic Sea increase by the tenfold and transport links to other parts of Europe and the world being developed bringing economic development but also putting pressure on our infrastructure and environment.

Increased mobility of our workforce have shown our dependence on creating attractive environments for our young people to stay in or to choose to go to, not least for our rural areas this has proven to be an issue of crucial and growing importance for the future in our countries. All in all, there is no doubt what so ever that spatial planning as a tool, and territorial development as an indicator, is more important today to cope with challenges put to our cities and rural areas, to the accessibility of our region and to the preservation of our sea, and to a sustainable use of the Baltic Sea as a common resource.

We believe that a response to global challenges to some extent can be found on a macro-regional level, and the VASAB cooperation pointed that out already 20 years ago in its first visionary Tallinn document. Now we also need this approach to be part of the EU tool box and, therefore, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region plays an important role.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A lot has happened on maritime spatial planning since the last VASAB ministerial meeting in 2009. Sweden welcomes with satisfaction the progress made.

VASAB together with Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) has adopted a Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap. The goal is to make every effort to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach. This is a challenging but needed task.

The maritime economy is important in the Baltic Sea Region. Maritime spatial planning can contribute to the growth of the maritime sectors and the maritime economy. But many maritime sectors are depending on a healthy environment, like fishery and tourism. The poor environmental status of the Baltic Sea is challenging long-term economic development. A maritime spatial planning and applying the ecosystem approach aims at achieving the Baltic Sea ecosystem in a good status – a healthy, productive and resilient condition, so that it can provide the services

humans want and need. Cooperation on maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region will work toward this end. This will be beneficial for the economy and for the environment.

The coming year Estonia will have the chairmanship in both VASAB and HELCOM. This is a unique possibility to further the cooperation on maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region. Sweden looks forward to the active work of the joint Helcom-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group.

For the member states who are also EU member states an EU Directive has been adopted to establish Maritime Spatial Plans. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region gives high priority to Maritime Spatial Planning and European Union funding can be an important source for future cooperation projects. In most countries around the Baltic Sea national legislation on maritime spatial planning is adopted or under development. Sweden has a new legislation on maritime spatial planning in force since 1st of September, and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management will have the responsibility to develop three plans: one for the Gulf of Bothnia, one for the Baltic Sea, and one for Skagerrak. This will be done in close consultation with stakeholders, including neighbouring countries and organisations. Sweden welcomes that the VASAB Ministerial Declaration calls upon the Committee to organise networking and encourage maritime spatial planning experts and practitioners to the network, as well as to arrange Baltic Sea Region-wide events on maritime spatial planning.

To summarize:

Sweden is convinced that VASAB can play a role in the future development of the region. We need a forum, where the territorial consequences of policies affecting our region are discussed. A forum that can follow the development and ask necessary questions, which can take initiatives for studies and analyses that will serve as an input to our policy making and implementation. We can see three major tasks for VASAB in the near future:

- to actively participate in the development of coherent maritime spatial planning across borders, by applying the ecosystem approach;
- to actively participate in the development of maritime spatial planning as a tool for a sustainable use of our common sea;
- to closely follow and analyse the implementation and future update of the Long-Term Perspective and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;
- to actively spread the ideas of the Long-Term Perspective and to energize the discussion on the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee and the Secretariat for the work put into preparing this meeting and for laying the basis for a future cooperation. I would also like to thank the Estonian chairmanship for warm hospitality and excellent arrangements of this meeting.

ESTONIA

Mr Hanno Pevkur

Minister of the Interior

Distinguished guests, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Today we present to you a new document for approval, the Tallinn Declaration. This is of course a traditional way to draw conclusions from the work done between the Ministerial Conferences, define the major challenges in spatial planning and development, design solutions, and allocate the responsibilities.

We can see with satisfaction that overall awareness about spatial planning and development has grown in the Baltic Sea Region, as the role of VASAB has grown, and I would like to thank once more the VASAB Committee and the VASAB Secretariat for their continuous work.

We have managed to initiate and support several important projects, which have provided a new understanding and new tools for our work. Here we should mention “BaltSeaPlan”, supporting the integrated Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and preparation of National Maritime Strategies in the Baltic Sea Region; “Plan Bothnia”, testing trans-boundary Maritime Spatial Planning; “PartiSEApate”, tackling with multi-level governance issues in MSP; and, last but not least, “ESPON BSR-TeMo”, attempting to provide a territorial monitoring tool for the Baltic Sea Region.

VASAB has been open for cooperation with other pan-Baltic organisations. Organisations, such as the Council of the Baltic Sea States, but also the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, the so-called Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), with whom we have created a joint working group for MSP. This working group has successfully started to lay the foundation for a common understanding on how to achieve coherent planning of marine space in the Baltic Sea Region. These ‘building bricks’ are scheduled in the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013–2020, another document presented today for our approval.

Without a doubt, one of the important themes for the next seven years is maritime spatial planning. We realised it already five years ago in Vilnius and made it one of the priorities for our cooperation. And it is an important priority up to today, even increasingly so!

Estonia and other EU Member States can and will not evade the implementation of a Directive for Maritime Spatial Planning, recently adopted by the European Parliament. The Directive compels the Member States to draw up their national maritime spatial plans by 2021. It also encourages cooperation between the Member States and cooperation with third countries.

This only confirms that the goals already previously set in the Baltic Sea Region by VASAB and HELCOM are still valid very much.

Estonia has consistently taken steps to achieve the goals in the time-frame, set both by the Directive and by the Road Map. We already have the MSP process in two of our regions on the way as pilot projects, one of them in cooperation with our Latvian colleagues. We simultaneously elaborate

the methodology for MSP in Estonia. The new Planning Act, stipulating new rules for MSP, both in territorial waters and in the exclusive economic zone, is waiting for our Parliament's approval. It appears that we are even a bit ahead of the planned schedule.

The Baltic Sea is our common sea and its ecosystem has no administrative or political boundaries. Therefore it is very important to have at place a network for cooperation, information sharing, and know-how exchange. In this way we can learn from each other's experiences, link our infrastructures, and deal with cross-border impacts.

In connection to that I would like to remind you about one of our successful endeavours in this field: the PartiSEApate project, which set the goal to develop a pan-Baltic approach to handle the topics which transcend national borders. The idea was to develop a concept for the MSP institutional framework and governance model. And it did not matter that Estonia was not an official partner in this project! The unique focus of the project was sufficient motivation for us to actively participate. Practical cooperation between specialists in very practical planning questions created by the project is of importance also for the future.

Connectivity and accessibility are issues that we, here on the east coast of the Baltic Sea, feel particularly acutely about. We have had some success in planning and reconstructing our main roads, and Tallinn has very good ferry connections. But our direct air connections are too few, which hinders Tallinn from becoming a more important business and cultural centre. Although Estonia has invested heavily into its railways and trains over the last years, the Baltic States are still an island, when it comes to international rail connections. Thus it is absolutely vital for us to succeed in the planning and the building of the high-speed railway Rail Baltic, which connects our region to the rest of Europe!

I am very proud to remind you that the idea was first put on the map by VASAB: it happened in our first common strategic document "Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010", approved 20 years ago here, in Tallinn! At that time there were only few who believed that this was achievable or viable, that this was anything more than a dream. Today it is a reality, a work in progress!

Today most consider the idea of a Tallinn-Helsinki tunnel absurd, although it would give an absolutely new dimension also to Rail Baltic. But still just yesterday, here in Tallinn, we had a first Advisory Board meeting of the TALSINKIFIX project, the pre-feasibility study of this same tunnel.

Energy issues are very important for the whole Baltic Sea Region. The Baltic States have some problems of their own, which concern linking of our electricity grids to the European systems, but better energy connections between our countries are important for all of us, both for energy security and for the more effective production, and use of the energy. It concerns both electricity grids and gas pipelines, and infrastructure. Estonia has two electricity cables linked to the Finnish grid, and we are planning a new high-voltage connection with Latvia, but more are needed, also taking into account the future need to connect the off-shore wind farms to the main grid.

Estonia and Finland have started a common project to connect their gas systems through the new pipeline Baltic Connector and to build a new regional LNG terminal, operating on both sides of the Finnish Gulf.

All these efforts require from VASAB a much closer cooperation with other relevant organisations, for example with BASREC, which has been the most prominent in the energy field. This cooperation has to be well established, very concrete and practical.

I call my colleagues to rely more on VASAB's prominent role in the implementation of the EU's Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, bringing forward and supporting common projects, to promote spatial planning in the Region. I also urge you to make even better use of VASAB as a forum for cooperation and information exchange. And I call on us all to take the fruits of this cooperation more into account in our national strategic documents.

We have no time to waste: all the challenges outlined in the text of the Declaration are already present and we have to deal with these! We have to draw our conclusions from the implementation of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective. We have to constantly monitor the ever-changing situation to be able react adequately. And first of all, we have to start formulating a precise action plan immediately to ensure the implementation of all our decisions!

Thank you for your attention!

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE INVITED ORGANISATIONS

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ms Lina Marcinkutė

Programme Manager

Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

Dear Minister, Ambassador, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the invitation to the 8th VASAB Conference of Ministers Responsible for Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region.

The Commission welcomes the political impetus given by the VASAB Ministerial Declaration to Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP). MSP will have a key role to play in ensuring that the maritime growth potential of the Baltic is fulfilled, while helping preserve and improve its marine ecosystems.

The EU has made a huge step in adopting legislation on MSP this summer. The work of VASAB in developing MSP in the Baltic region will strongly contribute to the efficient implementation of the Directive. The Commission looks forward to cooperate with all maritime actors in the Baltic to ensure that the plans delivered increase stability for investments in the Blue economy.

The Commission welcomes the intention to set up pan-Baltic tools for maritime spatial planning. Considering the close interlinks between maritime activities of the Baltic Sea and their impact on a fragile environment, cooperation on planning will be best achieved at sea basin level.

Maritime Spatial Planning is an opportunity for contributions to be made to the sustainable development of maritime sectors, taking an ecosystem-based approach, and acknowledging the interactions between land and sea in delivering this.

To that end, the Commission appreciates the work already being undertaken by pan-Baltic organisations, such as VASAB and HELCOM, in facilitating the exchange of data, experience and good practice between Contracting Parties, and looks forward to continuing to work with them in the delivery of programmes that benefit the Baltic overall.

VASAB, the same as the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) is about cooperation in the Baltic Region. Therefore, we are happy to see the linkages between the EUSBSR and VASAB work in the Ministerial Declaration. The Commission highly appreciates the work and efforts made by VASAB and HELCOM in coordinating the implementation of the Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" within the framework of the Strategy. At the same time we do think that you could benefit more from the possibilities provided by the EUSBSR. Therefore, we invite you to use this cooperation framework to implement your objectives and to further reflect on what the EUSBSR can additionally bring to the current work undertaken by VASAB.

Thank you for your attention.

BALTIC SEA REGION ENERGY COOPERATION – BASREC

Mr Timo Tatar

Director of the Energy Department

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia

on behalf of BASREC Chairmanship

Dear Minister, Ambassador, dear colleagues,

BASREC (Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation) is the intergovernmental network of the CBSS that comprises 11 states and the European Commission.¹ BASREC's main objective is to promote sustainable growth, security and prosperity in the region. BASREC focuses on integration of the energy markets and the energy infrastructure, as well as on ensuring competitive, stable and secure energy supply and predictable demand in the region.²

Overall, BASREC actively supports the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region. Hence, BASREC has an essential role as facilitator for improving internal and external interconnections of the energy systems of the region around the Baltic Sea.³

BASREC was assigned in the VASAB Long-Term Perspective to contribute to the integration of the energy markets in the Region, to analyse and demonstrate solutions for better utilization of local renewable resources in order to achieve higher energy independency on the pan-Baltic scale and to deploy the potential of renewable energies and energy efficient solutions in the Region.⁴

With regard to the integration of the energy markets in the region, BASREC financially contributed to several projects examining the possibilities of further electricity market integration in the region.⁵ In this sense a series of seminars⁶ on the topic of electricity market integration is being held, discussing the differences between electricity markets within the Baltic Sea Region and suggesting the concrete measures how to overcome the integration challenge on the regional level. Moreover, an ambitious project modelling the functioning of regional power systems supplied with higher proportions of renewable energy is being conducted.⁷

As far as the effective utilization of local renewable resources in energy production is concerned,

1 <http://basrec.net/>

2 Guidelines for BASREC Project Activities.

3 <http://www.vasab.org/index.php/long-term-perspective>

4 <http://www.vasab.org/index.php/long-term-perspective>, p. 31–32.

5 Workshop on Development of the electricity market and strengthening of the electricity grid in the High North Region. Project led by Russia, concluded 2014.

6 Workshop on Development of the electricity market and strengthening of the electricity grid in the High North Region. Project led by Russia, concluded 2014. Workshop on "Analysis of the Electricity Industry Development in the Baltic Sea Region: market, grid infrastructure, regulation". Project led by Russia, to be concluded in 2014. Information exchange between Nord Pool and Russia on electricity market functioning rules in the Nordic, Baltic and Russian areas. The project idea is not officially discussed.

7 BASREC study: Electricity grid expansion in the context of renewables integration in the Baltic Sea Region. Project led by Germany, ongoing.

BASREC activities have not been less significant. Projects covering this area of interest emphasize the importance of information exchange on efficient local energy production in terms of heating systems⁸ and hydro power plants⁹ from which the majority of BASREC countries benefit. In addition, the conditions for wind power production in the Baltic Sea Region were analysed in order to promote the wind power production as the convenient source of energy in the fulfilment of commitments given by EU 20-20-20 target.¹⁰

The energy efficient solutions together with the usage of renewable resources are the necessary preconditions for both: combating the climate change and improving the energy independency of the whole region. BASREC believes that the way how to address these issues is to take the common regional approach based on functioning information exchange and best-practices sharing. In this sense, BASREC's approach has been reflected in a wide range of activities covering seminars and surveys among respective stakeholders¹¹, providing inputs for policy recommendations, for instance in the street lighting sector¹², and in achieving greater energy efficiency of ports in the Baltic Sea Region. Consequently, all project outcomes are presented at Ministerial Meetings and serve as inputs for political decisions.

Overall, all BASREC activities have been targeted at providing solutions for common regional energy issues. Hence, BASREC will continue focusing its activities aimed at promotion of projects favouring various sustainable and green energy solutions. Therefore, the construction of offshore wind farms and related grid connections in the Baltic Sea Region is perceived to be an integral part of BASREC cooperation topics.

8 DHC-CHP-RES: Best practices on District Heating and Cooling, Combined Heat and Power and Renewable Energy Sources. Project led by Finland, Denmark, concluded.

9 Workshop on design, construction and operation of Small-Scale Hydro Power Plants. Project led by Russia, concluded 2013.

10 Analysis of Conditions for Wind Power in the Baltic Sea Region. Project led by Sweden, concluded 2012.

11 Energy efficiency activities. Project led by Finland, ongoing.

12 Activities on the street lighting sector are led by Finland. Increasing Energy Efficiency and Environmental Issues of Ports in the Baltic Sea Region. Project led by Finland. Ongoing.

BALTIC METROPOLES NETWORK – BALTMET

Statement of Berlin-Brandenburg (Scandria alliance) and Helsinki (Rail Baltica Growth Corridor network) to the VASAB ministerial meeting in Tallinn on 26 September 2014

Mr Olli Keinänen

Chief Adviser

City of Helsinki

Esteemed minister, Ambassador and representatives of VASAB countries,

Thank you for this opportunity to present this statement on behalf of two Baltic Sea corridor projects: Scandria and Rail Baltica Growth Corridor (RBGC). The lead partners in these projects are Berlin and Helsinki, both cities are also members and hold the Presidency in the Baltic Metropolises Network of capital and metropolitan cities in the Baltic Sea Region.

Urban Nodes and their interconnections were the core structure in the VASAB LTP 2010 document. Today the new TEN-T legislation follows the same principle. In the Baltic Sea Region two core network corridors cover the entire area: the Scandinavian-Mediterranean corridor and the North Sea-Baltic corridor. Cities of Berlin and Helsinki are nodes where corridors meet each other. Two past Interreg projects, Scandria and RBGC, worked for corridor development at the level of cities and regions. The projects showed potentials and developed practices of network cooperation between the stakeholders of the transport business, logistic hubs, and the local and regional governments.

The node cities are the key links between transport (TEN-T) and regional development. Today, most of the challenges in improving sustainable accessibility in the Core Network, are bottlenecks and missing links in metropolitan city regions. Projects Scandria and RBGC showed the potential of core network corridors, their strings of cities and logistic hubs to become powerful engines of economic integration and growth zones. National borders act as barriers preventing market integration and functional cooperation. Non-communication is often culturally rooted but reinforced with poor transport connections.

Regional development policies along CNC's key issue is to combine a place-based approach and involvement of stakeholders of business development with the innovation capacities in transports. A good example is CNC's potential to become platforms for alternative fuel distribution. Other examples are efforts of Scandria and RBGC in development of green transports.

The node cities also play a role as hubs for interlinking other regions with the Core Network Corridors. In the sparsely populated parts of the BSR these links from the CNC to connecting nodes, harbors, smaller cities and border crossing points are essential for the functioning of the CNC itself, especially in Eastern side of the Baltic Sea.

There are important links missing or inadequately developed, especially in the North-South direction. Wider transnational cooperation is needed to overcome these missing links and bottlenecks. The key challenge for the countries and regions is to interconnect Trans-European, national and regional intermodal transport networks.

Core Network Corridors and their nodes need to avoid:

- becoming the future bottlenecks of the network;
- conflicts between global, European, regional and local transport flows;
- conflicts between freight and passenger transport;
- conflicts between the needs of sustainable transports and the needs of mobility.

CNC development calls for trilateral cooperation between the nodes, stakeholders of transports, and spatial planning expertise. In the Baltic Sea Region VASAB do have an important coordination and expert role to play, e.g. to observe the regional effects of the European transport infrastructure and to support actions and projects, using potential of Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) for regional development and improving its connectivity to regional transport networks in order to promote territorial cohesion.

VASAB is needed to facilitate integration between different levels in spatial planning across the borders and planning systems, and involving all stakeholders of CNC development. Tallinn Declaration provides a good framework for realising this multi-level cooperation.

BONUS

Ms Kaisa Kononen

Executive Director of the Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme BONUS

It is a great pleasure on behalf of BONUS to congratulate VASAB on the 20th anniversary of the common strategic document – Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010. Its adoption launched a crucially important process aiming for the long-term sustainability of the Baltic Sea Region.

BONUS is a joint Baltic Sea research and development programme of eight EU member states (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden) surrounding the Baltic Sea and the European Union. The Russian Federation participates in BONUS as well. BONUS members are national research and innovation funders, which have pooled their national investments in research and development in order produce knowledge and tools for solving the sustainability challenges that the Baltic Sea and the region around faces. The vision of BONUS is:

An economically and ecologically prosperous Baltic Sea Region, where resources and goods are used sustainably and where the long-term management of the region is based on sound knowledge derived from multi-disciplinary research.

The total BONUS funding is EUR 100 million for the coming years until 2017, and it is distributed by opening calls for proposals to research and innovation projects. The themes that need to be addressed by the projects are defined in the BONUS strategic research agenda which has been developed in cooperation with stakeholders, including VASAB. So far, 28 projects have already been selected for funding and more calls are planned.

During the last decade's development of BONUS and the simultaneous introduction of maritime spatial planning into VASAB work, it has become more and more obvious that these two processes need to be closely linked. The co-existence in the Baltic Sea Region of an intergovernmental cooperation in spatial planning represented by VASAB and a joint research and development programme represented by BONUS provides a one-of-a-kind situation among the European regional seas. We already see the benefits emerging from this synergy.

While recognising that maritime spatial planning faces many challenges that need research support, BONUS has included specific maritime spatial planning related research themes to its research agenda. A call has already been run earlier this year that included the themes *Maritime spatial planning from local to Baltic Sea Region scale* and *Integrated Coastal Zone Management*, and the outcome of the call will be published early next year, but I can already tell you now that excellent projects will address these themes during the coming years.

We highly appreciate that VASAB has taken an active part in designing the BONUS strategic research agenda in 2011 and its update in 2014. It is indicative that in the first BONUS research agenda in 2006 maritime spatial planning was mentioned only twice, while in the agenda of this year – 49 times. The research needs are huge and the BONUS programme will be responding to them.

BONUS wishes to emphasise the decisive role of new knowledge and know-how in meeting the two most critical challenges for maritime spatial planning in the Baltic: (1) bringing together the national efforts in order to ensure a Baltic-wide coherence in maritime spatial planning, and (2) assessing the potential impact of maritime spatial planning on sustainability of the Baltic Sea ecosystem services for human well-being, economy and Blue growth.

BONUS will appreciate the endorsement of this Ministerial Meeting's resolution, and remain convinced that through science and innovation BONUS will support achievement of the VASAB objectives, in particular, the goals set in the Long-Term Perspective adopted by VASAB in 2009.

HELSINKI COMMISSION – HELCOM

Mr Harry Liiv

Deputy Secretary General,
Ministry of the Environment of Estonia,
Chairperson of Helsinki Commission

Distinguished Minister, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is easy to agree with the statement that policy and planning should be based on what we know of the world – what one might call facts. However, if taken seriously, this relatively simple idea is surprisingly hard to live up to. An excellent illustration of the kind of efforts it may take is the international cooperation on the Baltic Sea.

An intensive scientific cooperation on the Baltic Sea has been going on for over more than

100 years. During the 40-year lifespan of HELCOM, the generation, exchange and use of marine and maritime information in our region has further intensified.

The women and men working in HELCOM – affiliated national institutions on marine research, maritime transport, land based industry, defense, fisheries and agriculture – have during the last decades carried out a massive number of observations at sea, in air and on land on the many different characteristics of the Baltic Sea and its inhabitants, of human activities like ship traffic and pollution loads. The results have also been analyzed and even transformed to computer models useful for scenario building.

Without this century of efforts we would not be in the situation where we are today, where we can detect even relatively small changes in the environment, make claims on the current status of the Baltic Sea, and the sustainability of human activities, as well as confidently recommend corrective science based measures toward a healthier Baltic Sea.

All countries gathered here today have contributed and continue to contribute considerable intellectual and financial resources to develop and maintain this reassuring bedrock of “best available science” for Maritime Spatial Planning and other regional policies related to the Baltic Sea, as a part of the extended HELCOM cooperation. I urge you to use this source of information in Maritime Spatial Planning.

Further, I am looking forward to further develop the HELCOM monitoring and surveillance, as well as the resulting data and GIS services as one of the priorities of the Estonian Chairmanship in HELCOM, to serve spatial policy and planning needs even better.

Minister[s], ladies and gentlemen,

Planning is the art of thinking ahead. However, in the case of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea, I am convinced that it will also benefit from another thought back in history. Namely, to get a perspective on the patience and effort needed to generate the currently available knowledge base on the marine environment and maritime activities, underpinning the implementation of the ecosystem approach.

Also, a couple of more thoughts sideways to other currently ongoing processes such as the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, could enable even more synergies and even cost savings in terms of data generation and overall implementation for Maritime Spatial Planning.

Concluding, I warmly welcome today's VASAB Declaration as another step on our joint path to implement Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea Region.

Thank you.

UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES – UBC

Mr Risto Veivo

Co-chairman of the UBC Commission on Environment

Your Excellencies, dear conference participants and organizers,

VASAB and UBC have a good and strong history of cooperation. VASAB has been very successful in analyzing the development challenges of the Baltic Sea Region and, based on this – shaping efficient strategies. UBC has been instrumental in implementing such strategies by connecting and mobilizing the cities. We have created many successful projects on warranted actions for the urban areas.

Against this history of successful and complementary cooperation, it is a special pleasure for the UBC to congratulate VASAB on the twentieth anniversary of its first common strategic document “Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010”. We do know by now that many of the ideas in that document have been implemented. It has also been our pleasure and responsibility to contribute to this process.

The history of VASAB has been a successful one. Also the future of the Baltic Sea Region development will benefit from the pro-active intellectual work of VASAB. The Tallinn Declaration paves a good way forward by emphasizing many crucial topics, including the role of cities and urban areas.

Many of the objectives and themes of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective are also at the core of UBC's strategy, which creates an excellent basis for continuation of our successful cooperation.

UBC's membership of a hundred cities covers all BSR countries and includes many coastal ones. This gives us a strong reason to contribute with targeted activities also to the implementation of the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013–2020 with new projects addressing the Baltic Sea, maritime activities, and planning from the urban perspective. City of Turku will host the European Maritime Day Conference in May 2016, which will also provide an excellent forum for debate on these topics.

The UBC and its members are committed to sustainable development and have implemented significant practical steps as outlined in the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010–2015. The program has been successful with many resultful projects and a total implemented budget of over 50 million euros. We are very grateful to our partners and co-funders for having made this possible.

One of these projects was New Bridges, which will be followed up by other large projects addressing urban-rural interaction and governance issues within functional urban areas.

We are now preparing our new programme, tentatively called “Sustainable Baltic Cities 2020”, for adoption at the UBC General Conference in autumn 2015. Topics preliminarily discussed include, among others, green urban economies, climate-smart cities, and partnerships for knowledge-based development. We have had many good examples of new partnerships with universities and businesses during the recent years. This has further strengthened our understanding on how

successful cities are best co-created with stakeholders.

In order to co-create our program, we warmly welcome VASAB and other BSR partners to shape our programme for Baltic Cities together with us. We will organise specific events for this purpose. One of these is planned to be organised at the CBSS Secretariat in Stockholm early next year, kindly enabled by the Baltic 21 Unit.

Dear partners of Baltic Sea Regional development,

The need and interest for BSR cooperation is as relevant as ever. The Baltic Sea Days – combining Baltic Development Forum Summit and EU BSR Strategy Forum – in Turku in June this year gathered more participants than ever before. We have also observed a great interest towards new joint programmes and projects within the UBC.

As outlined in our strategy, the Union of the Baltic Cities wants to see a dynamic, prosperous, democratic and stable European Baltic Sea Region in a successful and sustainable economic, political, social, environmental and cultural development process, moving towards closer cooperation and integration. Let us keep moving to this end together and continue to complement and strengthen each other's approaches!

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Mr Hanno Pevkur

Chairman of the meeting,
Minister of the Interior, Estonia

Dear colleagues,

I would like to summarize some main points of the statements made.

1. For all delegations *maritime spatial planning* was mentioned as a very important issue.
2. *Connections*. Not only connections between the countries, but also connections within the country were mentioned. Connections between rural and urban areas, physical connections between countries, like energy grids, pipelines, or Rail Baltica. The connections are vital if we all want to have a well-integrated and coherent Baltic Sea Region.
3. Importance of the *monitoring system*. Definitely, we cannot have a good result without monitoring territorial development and mistakes made within the planning process.
4. *Urban-rural relations*. Not only connections, but also relations between urban areas and rural areas are vital, especially in such large countries as Norway, Sweden and the Russian Federation.
5. *An ecosystem-approach* for the maritime planning is very important. I am satisfied that the Tallinn Declaration mentions it.
6. We have to have very active *participation* in VASAB. Without sharing good ideas with other partners, the good ideas will not be distributed further.
7. *Cooperation*. We all understand that the Baltic Sea is something that we share and something we have to maintain in every way. Pollution level in the Baltic Sea is not very good. We have to improve the situation.
8. Last but not least, in all the steps that we make, *sustainability* is essential; sustainable solutions can only bring success.

All these remarks what you have said here today are in one way or another reflected in the VASAB Tallinn Declaration.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENT

BY THE INCOMING VASAB CHAIRMANSHIP – POLAND

Ms Katarzyna Krywzda

Acting Director of Maritime Transportation Department,
Ministry of Infrastructure and Development

We are looking forward to 1 July 2015 to take the VASAB Presidency from our Estonian Colleagues. The goal of our chairmanship will be to enhance the integrated territorial approach to development. Such an approach should be helpful both in programming and implementing public policies in different territorial scales and thematic scopes.

Within this frame, using the VASAB Committee as a platform for exchanging best practice, our aim is to put emphasis on three main topics:

- Urban issues
- Maritime Spatial Planning
- Territorial monitoring

We shall also try to strengthen the co-ordination between activities of the VASAB Committee and other relevant pan-Baltic bodies and organizations.

I am very happy that the above mentioned priorities have also been pointed out by other delegations. This means that we are heading in the same direction, and this gives us hope that the progress and achievements will continue.

Thank you.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Mr Hanno Pevkur

Chairman of the meeting,
Minister of the Interior, Estonia

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank each and every one for your tireless effort today to achieve a consensual final result.

Thank you for your input and for your personal accents into the discussion.

I am very glad that you all responded to our invitation to gather here in Tallinn, to contemplate on the actual challenges that our Region faces currently and in the nearest future.

Population changes, territorial misbalances, growing mobility, climate change, growing pressure on marine resources are just a few enumerated in the Declaration.

We have to concentrate our efforts on the issues important for us all: planning and balancing the use of marine space, improving accessibility and connectivity, ensuring energy connections, and the shift towards renewable resources and energy saving, applying the place based approach to the development, creating prerequisites for development of different types of regions.

It is clear that the coming years will not be easy and we have to make serious efforts, to meet the challenges, to fully exploit the great possibilities embedded in the spatial planning and development, to advance step by step towards our common goals.

This puts pressure not only on Estonia and Poland, as a current and a next Chairman, but to all of us.

The conclusions from the Progress Report about implementation of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective show that this is not a unique position: we have faced serious challenges before and we have been very successful in several directions.

The key to this success is cooperation.

We all know that from the beginning VASAB has been based on cooperation between equal partners. That is our strength to be cherished also in the future.

But VASAB cannot achieve all the results on its own – we need partners! The closer cooperation with other pan-Baltic organisations is essential for success!

We don't have any time to waste: the goals agreed here today demand concrete actions.

For that we need to draw up the new action plan. That is the next task for Estonian Chairmanship, followed by Poland. In relation to that I sincerely appreciate the enthusiasm and the proposals by

Poland, because they will feel the gravity of pulling us into the action.

I would like to thank the Committee for the job well done between the Ministerial Conferences, and I am sure that we, Ministers, can rely on them also in the future – they are those who face the day-to-day challenges.

I also would like to stress the importance to continue the Troika meetings as a format that prepares the Committee meetings, because this brings together three Chairs: roping in the experience of the previous one, the actions of the present one, and the expectations of the future one.

And last but not least, I would like to express our gratitude to the VASAB Secretariat in Riga. Without your work all the forenamed wouldn't have run anyway!

So, once more, I thank you all for coming! I thank you all for your fruitful work today! I wish you all the best and a safe journey home! We shall meet again soon, at the 9th Ministerial Conference! Let's get to work!

TALLINN DECLARATION

Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB) is an intergovernmental cooperation of ministers responsible for spatial planning and development of Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, and Sweden. VASAB is part of the network of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

VASAB prepares policy options for the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region and provides a forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development between the Baltic Sea countries. VASAB recommends transnational policy measures, promotes methodology development and cooperation projects, co-operates with other pan-Baltic initiatives, and promotes a dialogue with sector institutions. For fulfilling those tasks, VASAB takes into account also strategies and policies on European, European Union, pan-Baltic and national levels and provides inputs into these.



From left: **Ms Ulla Koski** (Ministry of the Environment, Finland), **Mr Aleksandras Gordevičius** (Ministry of the Environment, Lithuania), **Ms Katarzyna Krzywda** (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, Poland), **Mr Anders Ljunggren** (Ambassador to Estonia, Sweden), **Mr Hanno Pevkur** (Minister of the Interior, Estonia), **Ms Irina Karelina** (Representative of St. Petersburg Government, ICSEER Leontief Centre, Russian Federation), **Ms Katharina Erdmenger** (Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Germany), **Ms Ingūna Urtāne** (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia), **Ms Annette Klynsner** (Agency for Nature, Denmark), **Mr Odd Godal** (Ministry of Local Government and Modernization, Norway)

The Ministers, having met at the 8th Conference in Tallinn on 26 September 2014, upon the invitation of Estonia, and on the 20th anniversary of the first VASAB common strategic document – “Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010”, agreed at the 3rd Ministerial Conference in 1994, and having agreed to follow the implementation progress of previous decisions and to deliberate on new planning and development challenges the Baltic Sea Region is facing, have adopted the following Declaration.

The Ministers,

Recognising the importance of the integrated and balanced territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region, taking into account social, economic and environmental aspects,

Emphasising the leading role of VASAB in spatial planning and development cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, both on land and on sea,

Underlining the long tradition and importance of currently 22 years of close and exemplary intergovernmental cooperation, between all 11 countries on equal terms, which has led to the formulation of visions, strategies, joint actions and projects, raised awareness about spatial planning and development, and influenced the designing of policies, planning processes and legislation at different levels,

Acknowledging the importance of the goals set out in the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Declaration on the implementation of the Vilnius Declaration on A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 of 20 June 2014,

Expressing satisfaction with the work done between Ministerial Conferences by the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development in the Baltic Sea Region (the Committee) in implementing the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region till 2030 (VASAB LTP) and the Vilnius Declaration, adopted by the 7th Ministerial Conference in 2009,

Taking note of the macro-regional strategies relevant for the Baltic Sea Region and VASAB cooperation,

Emphasising that VASAB, acting as a co-leader for Horizontal Action Spatial Planning in the EUSBSR, has obtained new opportunities to promote maritime and land-based spatial planning, important for the Baltic Sea Region,

Welcoming the progress in the introduction of maritime spatial planning by the Member States,

Welcoming with satisfaction the well-established cooperation between VASAB and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) on the introduction of coherent maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea, the jointly developed Baltic Sea Broad-Scale Maritime Spatial Planning Principles, the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013–2020 and other results of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group, which was formed after the 7th VASAB Ministerial Conference in 2009,

Recognising the achievements of the Member States and the Committee in implementing the VASAB LTP and tackling the important challenges pointed out in the Vilnius Declaration, such as promoting accessibility and connectivity in the Region, urban networking and urban-rural cooperation, developing a territorial monitoring system for the Region, supporting joint capacity building in maritime spatial planning, and initiating joint actions and transnational cooperation projects, all of which contribute to the solving of respective territorial development issues in the Baltic Sea Region,

Highlighting the need to continue the implementation of VASAB LTP, while also tackling the new challenges,

Ministers would like to point out the following main challenges for spatial planning and development cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region:

Territorial development

1. The global competitiveness and attractiveness of the Baltic Sea Region is crucial. A co-ordinated policy response is needed to tackle the following main territorial challenges: adverse territorial consequences of population changes, e.g. ageing and migration; continued growth of metropolitan areas, land take, urban sprawl, resulting in more commuting; new configurations of trade routes; growing pressure on marine resources and greater conflicts over the use of the sea; and climate change affecting the living conditions and the environment. Consequently methods for spatial planning and development have to be further advanced.
2. Over the last decade there have been changes in the trends influencing territorial and regional development in the Baltic Sea Region. The former economic divide in the Region has become more complex, where social differences play a more important role. The capital cities and other large urban regions in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea Region are catching up with other regions in the western part in terms of economic wealth. The polarisation between urban and rural areas has increased in many of the Baltic Sea Region countries.
3. Place-based and integrated territorial development approaches contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of development policies by accurately identifying territorial resources and stimulating internal development potentials, and by enabling different policies to be adjusted to local conditions. This requires enhancing the dialogue, consultation and cooperation between authorities in different policy areas and at different administrative levels, and enhancing the public participation including the participation of stakeholders and local communities.

Maritime spatial planning coherent with land-based planning

4. The Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013–2020 directs all Baltic Sea Region countries to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans in a coherent way across the borders, including in their exclusive economic zones.
5. Interactions between marine and terrestrial space demand coherent interlinking of maritime spatial planning with land-based spatial planning in ways that reconcile the needs of different human activities with the safeguarding of the environment.
6. The pan-Baltic and national tools for maritime spatial planning need to be improved. The legal basis and modes of consultation and cooperation between countries and with stakeholders have to be further developed, taking into account a common Baltic Sea approach.

Urban networking and urban-rural cooperation in functional regions

7. A new approach to regional development is needed that recognises both the importance of metropolitan areas and large urban regions as drivers of growth and innovation and the potential of other types of regions. An advanced urban–rural partnership is of additional value to both types of territories while metropolitan areas have a specific responsibility for

initiating such partnerships.

8. Countries are witnessing a growing development gap between metropolitan areas and other regions. Smaller urban areas and rural areas could contribute significantly to aggregate growth by developing appropriate strategies, at both national and international levels. Urban development should contribute to the resilience and competitiveness of regions and countries.
9. Many regions face the challenge of planning under conditions of declining populations, while, at the same time, trying to promote better living conditions and quality of life. Flexible solutions are needed to promote development alternatives.

Territorial integration of the Baltic Sea Region, connectivity and accessibility

10. The Baltic Sea Region poses specific challenges regarding physical accessibility: long distances, large sea areas, the combined use of all different transport modes, and significant differences in population density, which demands maintenance of infrastructure with limited efficiency. Connectivity and accessibility in the Baltic Sea Region, links between the Region and Europe's core areas, and between the Region and other neighbouring regions are amongst the key development issues in the Baltic Sea Region.
11. There are important transport links missing or inadequately developed, especially in the North–South direction. Wider transnational cooperation is needed to address these missing links and overcome bottlenecks. The key challenge for the countries and regions is to interconnect Trans-European, national and regional intermodal transport networks in the best way possible.

Sustainable production and use of energy

12. Energy efficiency and access to energy are of high importance for all societies. In the Baltic Sea Region the important energy challenges are: the interconnection of national energy networks, development of sustainable and green energy, achievement of a proper balance between centralised and decentralised energy production, and increased energy efficiency and energy savings, all of which need to be promoted through appropriate planning solutions.
13. Energy production, distribution and consumption have considerable territorial implications in land and sea areas and concerning their development, but these implications often go beyond national borders. Spatial planning can contribute to the wider use of varied renewable energy sources and the promotion of more environmentally sound solutions. One of the growing interests and challenges in the years to come will be the building of offshore wind farms and related grid connections. When developing energy solutions, public awareness and participation should be ensured from an early phase and throughout the planning process.

Future tasks for VASAB

The Ministers,

1. Ask the present and upcoming chairmanships and Member States to implement this Declaration and the VASAB LTP by allocating adequate resources and making use of existing structures, by ensuring better visibility of the VASAB LTP, by taking the decisive responsibility for its execution, by evaluating on a regular basis the implementation progress of the VASAB LTP,

and, as needed, by deciding on new actions.

2. Encourage the Member States to make use of and consider the VASAB strategic documents when designing national policies, sectorial strategies and planning documents.
3. Urge the Member States and the Committee to initiate and support territorial development and maritime spatial planning projects, fully exploiting the potential of all relevant financing instruments, especially the trans-national Baltic Sea Region Programme.
4. Instruct the Committee to observe the territorial development processes in the Baltic Sea Region, using the monitoring system developed by the ESPON BSR-TeMo project and to report the findings to the Ministers and relevant stakeholders.
5. Ask the Member States and the Committee to analyse correlations in specific thematic fields between relevant macro-regional strategies and to explore their potential for joint actions and projects on territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region.
6. Ask VASAB to continue to cooperate closely with other relevant pan-Baltic organisations and stakeholders.
7. Encourage the Committee to continue introducing, promoting and following up maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region by using the potential of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group and other relevant fora and legislation, as well as to enhance cooperation between Member States.
8. Encourage the Member States to implement the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013–2020.
9. Encourage the Committee to facilitate Blue growth through spatial planning and development.
10. Call upon the Committee to organise networking and encourage maritime spatial planning experts and practitioners to network in order to gather and share experiences to be used in planning, and to initiate and arrange Baltic Sea Region-wide events on maritime spatial planning.
11. Encourage the Member States and the Regions to co-operate closely in the planning and development of intelligent multi-modal green transport corridors as the main transport links, especially the Bothnian Corridor, the Scandinavian–Mediterranean Corridor and the North Sea–Baltic Corridor, including fast railway connections such as Rail Baltica. The concept of Motorways of the Sea should be used for greening transport across the Baltic Sea.
12. Ask the Committee to observe closely the regional effects of the European transport infrastructure and to support actions and projects, using the potential of Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) for regional development and improving their connectivity to regional transport networks, in order to promote territorial cohesion.
13. Instruct the Committee to co-operate closely with the Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation (BASREC) in order to address important territorial challenges of sustainable production, distribution and use of energy, and to develop joint solutions, especially those related to renewable energy and energy efficiency.
14. Ask the Committee to contribute to better adaptation of strategies to different types of areas,

especially: Baltic Sea Region metropolises and large cities, small- and medium-sized towns and their functional areas, and rural areas, with the focus on supporting the development of cross-border functional areas, enhancing the development role of the metropolises in their wider vicinity, promoting urban–rural partnerships, and promoting success stories of innovative small- and medium-sized towns, drawing on the experiences from case studies and on cooperation with the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation (BSSSC) and the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC).

15. Underline the need to apply place-based approaches to development policies at national, regional and local levels, and encourage the Committee to act as a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices on such approaches and on cooperation inside functional areas.
16. Reconfirm the commitment to cooperate on spatial planning and development of the Baltic Sea Region. To ensure smooth cooperation, the Ministers hereby agree to continue cooperation in the form of Ministerial Conferences and meetings of senior officials (the Committee), reinforce the previous commitment to continue the work of the VASAB Secretariat, and ask the Member States to provide the Committee and the Secretariat with resources needed to implement the tasks highlighted in this Declaration, according to the rules used by the CBSS and according to national annual budgetary decisions. Further cooperation with the CBSS is to be encouraged.
17. Ask the Estonian chairmanship, in cooperation with the Committee and the Secretariat, to distribute this Declaration to relevant national, Baltic, European and global actors.

OTHER CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE SIDE EVENT

What is next after VASAB 2010 and VASAB LTP – a message from the side event “20 Years of VASAB 2010” of 25 September 2014

Mr Wilfried Görmar

Member of VASAB CSPD/BSR

Dear Chairman,

Dear Ministers and heads of delegations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I was asked to summarize some messages from our ‘VASAB pioneers’ who gathered yesterday and I do this with great pleasure. First of all, I would like to thank the Estonian host and VASAB Secretariat for preparing that event.

It was interesting to see that our pioneers have further fresh and inspiring ideas. No wonder they went through the ‘VASAB school’. I have got the impression: although our former colleagues and VASAB pioneers are not responsible anymore for any VASAB activities, they still feel committed to our work and provided valuable inputs to our way ahead.

From my observation there was a strong confirmation of both: the priorities of our future work and the way we are working. Moreover, there were reflections on conditions and impacts of VASAB work.

Firstly, it was underlined to continue working on vision, strategies and spatial concepts as that provides an excellent framework for other actors in the Baltic Sea Region. Polish participants communicated a respective message of the MEP and former EU Commissioner, Danuta Hübner. The meeting underlined the focus on territorial cohesion, as well as the strong focus on promotion of maritime spatial planning, to make the Baltic Sea Region a forerunner in that respect. Here VASAB should also make use of existing policies and legislation such as the EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning.

While keeping the focus of work, it should be discussed more intensively with:

- Regional and local authorities in order to receive feedback on developments at the ground level;
- Sectoral institutions and the business sector in order to better understand their policy and to also follow-up on economic developments;
- Scientists, as they are allies concerning regional analysis and forecasts, as well as education and training of future spatial planners.

Secondly, in view of the challenges of demographic and climate change, accessibility and connectivity, urban-rural cooperation and partnership, as well as energy solutions and their territorial conditions and consequences, should remain important issues on our agenda.

Thirdly, VASAB involvement in implementing the existing macroregional strategies in the Baltic Sea Region will promote integration and a balanced territorial development with the help of all actors around the Baltic Sea. Swedish participants highlighted the role of VASAB concepts for the preparation of macroregional strategies.

The VASAB pioneers also liked the way VASAB works now:

- Combining visions and strategies with concrete actions and projects, especially transnational INTERREG projects;
- Monitoring territorial development in the Baltic Sea Region in order to pinpoint achievements and challenges to other actors and to the public in the area;
- Working well-integrated and cooperating with other networks in the framework of CBSS.

Two additional proposals were put forward to be considered in the VASAB work schedule:

- To create a "VASAB Young Professional Forum" in order to get in touch more intensively with the younger generation, and to create a more sustainable basis for the future of spatial planning cooperation;
- To promote a more intensive exchange of civil servants in order to follow new approaches on spatial planning (especially land-based spatial planning) in different countries better, and to intensify the use of good practice.

It was also expressed that VASAB might even sell more such models of cooperation on spatial planning of several countries on equal basis to other areas in the world. It was a contribution to create bridges and to promote mutual trust, and it can be a contribution also in the future to solve conflicts and to find common actions. At the same time, it also relies on mutual trust and peace.

I think these ideas and suggestions of our 'pioneers' provide a good basis for our discussion today and the way ahead for VASAB.

Thank you for your attention.

INVITATION TO THE CONFERENCE

Dear Colleague,

With regard to the upcoming Chairmanship of Estonia for the Cooperation of Ministers responsible for spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region (VASAB) and for the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), I have the honour to invite you to the 8th VASAB Conference of the Baltic Sea Region Ministers Responsible for Spatial Planning and Development, to be held on 25–26 September 2014 in Tallinn.

The main focus of the Ministerial Conference is to follow the implementation progress of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective, adoption of the Ministerial Declaration about planning and development challenges in the region, and adoption of the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013–2020. Also other relevant topics will be on the agenda.

The 8th Conference also marks the 20th Anniversary of the first VASAB common strategic document (Tallinn Document).

Additional information concerning the registration, the program, and other practical details of the Conference will be sent to you later.

I look forward to welcoming you in Tallinn.

Sincerely Yours,

Siim Kiisler

Minister of Regional Affairs of Estonia
Tallinn, March 2014

PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2014

- 10:00 – 12:00** Guided tour in the Old Town of Tallinn
Departure from the Town Hall at the Town Hall square
- 18:30** Buses for dinner depart from Telegraaf Hotel and Meriton Old Town Garden Hotel
- 19:00** Dinner hosted by **Mr Hanno Pevkur**, Minister of the Interior, Estonia in the restaurant of Tallinn TV Tower

FRIDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2014

- 08:30 – 09:00** **Registration of the Conference participants. Morning coffee**
- 09:00 – 09:15** **Opening of the Conference**
Mr Hanno Pevkur, Minister of the Interior, Estonia
Mr Raul Mälik, Ambassador, CBSS CSO Chairman, Estonia
- 09:15 – 10:10** **Presentations**
- 09:15 – 09:30** *Recent changes in territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region –*
Mr Tomas Hanell, Aalto University
- 09:30 – 09:50** *Progress of the implementation of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region –* **Mr Talis Linkaits**, Head of VASAB Secretariat
- 09:50 – 10:00** *Baltic Sea countries ready to introduce Maritime Spatial Planning and Regional MSP Roadmap –* **Ms Anita Mäkinen**, Co-Chair of the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG
- 10:00 – 10:15** *What is next after VASAB 2010 and VASAB LTP – a message from the side event “20 Years after VASAB 2010” of 25 September 2014 –* **Mr Wilfried Görmar**, VASAB CSPD/BSR member
- 10:15 – 11:00** **Statements by the Heads of the Delegations**
Ms Annette Klynsner, Spatial Planning Department, Agency for Nature, Denmark
Ms Ulla Koski, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of the Environment, Finland
Ms Katharina Erdmenger, Head of Division, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Germany
Ms Ingūna Urtāne, Director of Spatial Planning Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia

Mr Aleksandras Gordevičius, Head of Spatial Planning Division, Ministry of the Environment, Lithuania

Mr Odd Godal, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Local Government and Modernization, Norway

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30 – 12:05 **Statements by the Heads of the Delegations (continue)**

Ms Katarzyna Krzywda, Acting Director, Maritime Transport and Shipping Safety Department, Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, Poland

Mr Anders Ljunggren, Ambassador to Estonia, Sweden

Ms Irina Karelina, Representative of St. Petersburg Government, Director-General, ICSEER Leontief Centre

Mr Hanno Pevkur, Minister of the Interior, Estonia

12:05 – 12:35 **Statements of pan-Baltic organizations and invited guests**

Ms Lina Marcinkutė, Programme Manager, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, the European Commission, Belgium

Mr Timo Tatar, Director of Energy Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia, on behalf of BASREC Chairmanship

Mr Olli Keinänen, Chief Adviser, City of Helsinki, Finland

Ms Kaisa Kononen, Executive Director, BONUS

Mr Harry Liiv, Ministry of the Environment of Estonia, Chairperson of Helsinki Commission

Mr Risto Veivo, Co-Chair of the Commission on Environment, Union of Baltic Cities

12:35 – 12:40 **Reflections of the participants, concluding remarks by the Chairman**

12:40 – 12:45 **Adoption of the Tallinn Declaration**

12:45 – 12:50 Forward Looking Statement by the incoming VASAB Chairmanship – **Ms Katarzyna Krzywda**, Acting Director, Maritime Transport and Shipping Safety Department, Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, Poland

12:50 – 12:55 Final speech by **Mr Hanno Pevkur**, Minister of the Interior, Estonia
Official closing of the Ministerial Conference

12:55 – 13:10 **Family photo**

Heads of the Delegations and VASAB CSPD/BSR members separately

13:10 – 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 **Departure of the delegations**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Country/ organisation	Name/position	Institution
Denmark	Ms Annette Klysnér Chief Adviser, Spatial Planning Department, Head of Delegation	Ministry of the Environment, Agency for Nature
Estonia	Mr Hanno Pevkur Minister of the Interior, Head of Delegation	Ministry of the Interior
	Ms Martina Proosa Head of Planning Department, Chairperson of VASAB CSPD/BSR	Ministry of the Interior
	Ms Kaia Sarnet Deputy Secretary General for Regional Affairs	Ministry of the Interior
	Mr Tavo Kikas Adviser, Planning Department	Ministry of the Interior
	Mr Kaur Lass CEO, planning expert	OÜ Head
Finland	Ms Ulla Koski Ministerial Adviser, Head of Delegation	Ministry of the Environment
	Ms Tiina Tihlman Ministerial Adviser	Ministry of the Environment
Germany	Ms Katharina Erdmenger Head of Division, Head of Delegation	Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure
	Mr Wilfried Görmar Deputy Head of Division	Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning
Latvia	Ms Ingūna Urtāne Director of Spatial Planning Department, Head of Delegation	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
	Ms Kristīne Rasiņa Head of Spatial Planning Policy Division, Spatial Planning Department	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

Lithuania	Mr Aleksandras Gordevičius Head of Spatial Planning Division, Head of Delegation	Ministry of the Environment
Norway	Mr Odd Godal Senior Adviser, Head of Delegation	Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation
Poland	Ms Katarzyna Krzywda Acting Director of Department of Maritime Transport and Maritime Safety, Head of Delegation	Ministry of Infrastructure and Development
	Ms Kinga Stanczuk-Olejniak Head of Unit, Department of Spatial Policy	Ministry of Infrastructure and Development
Russian Federation	Ms Irina Karelina Director-General, Representative of St. Petersburg City, Head of Delegation	ICSER Leontief Centre
	Mr Sergej Karaulov Deputy Director Department of European and American countries	Ministry of Economic Development
	Ms Anna Konashkova First Secretary	Embassy of Russian Federation to Estonia
	Ms Elena Belova Academic Secretary	ICSER Leontief Centre
Sweden	Mr Anders Ljunggren Ambassador of Sweden to Estonia, Head of Delegation	Embassy of Sweden to Estonia
European Commission	Ms Lina Marcinkutė Programme Manager	Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
BASREC – Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation	Mr Timo Tatar Director of Energy Department	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia
	Ms Lenka Hudcova Trainee	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia

BaltMet – Baltic Metropoles Network	Mr Olli Keinänen Chief Adviser	City of Helsinki
	Mr Sakari Saarinen Planner	City of Helsinki
BONUS	Ms Kaisa Kononen Executive Director	BONUS
	Mr Andris Andrušaitis Programme Manager	BONUS
CBSS – Council of the Baltic Sea States	Mr Raul Mälk Ambassador, CBSS CSO Chairman	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia
	Mr Eduardas Borisovas Deputy Director General	CBSS Permanent International Secretariat
	Ms Krista Kampus Head of Baltic 21 Unit	CBSS Permanent International Secretariat
HELCOM – Helsinki Commission	Mr Harry Liiv Deputy Secretary General, Chairperson of Helsinki Commission	Ministry of the Environment of Estonia
UBC – Union of Baltic Cities	Mr Risto Veivo Co-Chair of the Commission on Environment	UBC
Invited guests – speakers	Ms Anita Mäkinen Chief Adviser	Finnish Transport Safety Agency
	Mr Tomas Hanell Research Fellow, School of Engineering,	Aalto University, Finland

LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON SPATIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION – CSPD/BSR

As of October 2014



From left: **Mr Tavo Kikas** (Ministry of the Interior, Estonia), **Mr Aleksandras Gordevičius** (Ministry of the Environment, Lithuania), **Ms Irina Karelina** (Representative of St. Petersburg Government, ICSEF Leontief Centre, Russian Federation), **Ms Kristīne Rasiņa** (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia), **Ms Kinga Stanczuk-Olejnik** (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, Poland), **Mr Wilfried Görmar** (Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Germany), **Ms Martina Proosa** (Chairperson of VASAB CSPD/BSR, Ministry of the Interior, Estonia), **Ms Tiina Tihlman** (Ministry of the Environment, Finland), **Ms Annette Klynsner** (Agency for Nature, Denmark), **Mr Odd Godal** (Ministry of Local Government and Modernization, Norway), **Ms Ingūna Urtāne** (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia), **Mr Sergej Karaulov** (Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation)

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