

COMMITTEE ON SPATIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF
THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Draft Report of the 97th CSPD/BSR Meeting

Warsaw, Poland, 18-19 February 2026

Chairperson: Ms. Emilia Malak-Pętlicka (PL)

Participants: CSPD/BSR members: Mr. Jens Kurnol (DE), Mr. Tiit Oidjärv (EE), Ms. Mari Pohja-Mykrä (FI), Ms. Donata Paulauskaitė (LT), Ms. Anete Bērziņa (LV), Ms. Kinga Stańczuk-Olejniak (PL), Ms. Martyna Gajowniczek (PL), Ms. Maxi Nachtigall (SE), Mr. Jon Fransson (SE), *Invited guests:* Mr. Lukasz Marciniak (Ministry of Development and Technologies), Mr. Wiktor Szydarowski (ESPON EGTC), Mr. Jacek Zaucha (Gdańsk University), Ms. Anna Kuna-Kasprzyk (Ministry of Economic Development and Technology), Mr. Jakub Tarnacki (Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy), Ms. Hilma Salonen (Nordregio), Mr. Szymon Faruga (Pomorskie Voivodeship), Mr. Emil Walendzik (Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship Office), Mr. Karol Ostrowski (Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship Office), Mr. Sebastian Żukowski (Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship Office), Mr. Odd Godal (Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development), Ms. Ann Martensson (Region Halland), Ms. Nina Kvello (DG REGIO), Ms. Natalia Zajac (Ministry of Infrastructure), Mr. Kamil Rybka (Ministry of Infrastructure), Mr. Pasi Pitkänen (Regional Council of North Karelia), *VASAB Secretariat:* Mr. Mārtiņš Ulāns, Ms. Egija Stapkēviča, Ms. Jana Laiviņa, Ms. Margarita Vološina, Ms. Tīna Šipkēviča, Ms. Liene Strazdiņa and Mr. Aksels Ruperts.

DECISIONS and OUTPUTS

1. The CSPD/BSR (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) adopted the Report of the 96th CSPD/BSR meeting held on 17 September 2025 in Ilawa, Poland without changes.
2. The Committee adopted the Summary of the 96th CSPD/BSR meeting held on 17 September 2025 in Ilawa, Poland without changes.
3. The Committee took note of the Report of the VASAB Open Trio online meeting on 4 February 2026.
4. The Committee took note of the information about spatial planning system in Poland at local level.
5. The Committee took note of the information about news and major challenges regarding national spatial planning issues.
6. The Committee was reminded that all VASAB member countries are invited to regularly update the Country fiche on terrestrial spatial planning and send it to VASAB Secretariat for publishing on VASAB website.
7. The Committee members informed that terrestrial country fiches of Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden are up to date and VASAB Secretariat was tasked to republish these country fiches at VASAB website <https://vasab.org/support-for-planners/country-fiches/> with an updated date - February 2026.
8. The Committee took note of the information about VASAB Vision 2040 implementation approach.
9. The Committee took note of the information about 'ESPON TERRES' project learnings and results. All project materials are available at ESPON website: <https://gis->

portal.espon.eu/arcgis/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=9e3c7ccaabdd4cf2b1bc32b5bf30199f&page=Home.

10. The Committee took note of the information about ESPON Targeted Analysis ‘Baltic ReSeaLand - Territorial Resilience of Land and Maritime Space in the Baltic Sea Region’ indicative timeline and agreed that Lead stakeholder of the project will send an e-mail to all project stakeholders and VASAB Committee members inviting to suggest representatives for procurement preparation (development of Terms of Reference, evaluation and selection of service provider). These representatives will be obliged to sign a declaration of confidentiality.
11. The Committee adopted the latest version of VASAB Work Plan 2025-2026 and agreed that the Work Plan should be published at VASAB website stating - ‘Updated on 18 February 2026’.
12. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat in close cooperation with upcoming Swedish chairmanship start working on the new VASAB Work Plan 2027-2028, considering improving the template.
13. The Committee took note of the information about EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial Planning news and activities, technical assistance project ‘PASPS’ and EUSBSR Action Plan update.
14. The Committee took note of the information about EUSBSR Annual Forum 2025 (including information about parallel session ‘Towards a Climate-Resilient Baltic Sea Region’ organised by VASAB / Policy Area Spatial Planning jointly with Policy Area Energy and Policy Area Secure) held on 29-30 October 2025 in Sopot, Poland.
15. The Committee took note of the information about 7th MSP Planners’ Forum meeting within ‘PASPS’ project held in-person on 12 November 2025 in Riga, Latvia and hosted by VASAB Secretariat.
16. The Committee took note of the information about upcoming EUSBSR Annual Forum 2026 to be held on 11-13 May in Tallinn, Estonia and 4 breakout session applications submitted by Policy Area Spatial Planning.
17. The Committee agreed that VASAB Young Planners Summer School should be organised in August 2026 in Gdansk, Poland and Summer School’s title should be – Navigate Planning Through Changes.
18. The Committee supported proposed content of the Young Planners’ Summer School.
19. The Committee agreed that list of participants should be decided by organisers (VASAB Secretariat and Gdansk University of Technology) and participants from all VASAB members countries plus participants from Ukraine, Norway and Denmark are welcome to apply.
20. The Committee approved to finance organisation of Young Planners’ Summer School from VASAB 2026 Budget line ‘Activities to be decided by CSPD/BSR’ according to the proposed budget estimate 46 054,70 EUR.
21. The Committee tasked VASAB Secretariat to continue attraction of external funding for the organisation of Young Planners’ Summer School.
22. The Committee took note of the information about ‘NESBp - Northern European Sea Basins project’ (EMFAF) progress.
23. The Committee took note of the information about finalisation and key results of ‘Baltic Sea2Land’ project (Interreg BSR) and its final conference – 5th Baltic MSP Forum which was held on 11-12 November 2025 in Riga, Latvia.
24. The Committee took note of the information about Interreg BSR project platform ‘Baltic PlaNet’ (Baltic Climate-Resilient Coastal Planning Network) progress.

25. The Committee took note of the information about 'Land-based Planners' Forum' project (co-funded by Swedish Institute) results and final event held on 11-12 February 2026 in Tallinn, Estonia.
26. The Committee agreed to continue Land-based Planners' Forum and tasked VASAB Secretariat to prepare a short-term action plan on how to pilot the Forum, as well as explore possibilities for external funding.
27. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat organises a written procedure to approve the revised Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in maritime spatial planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea area.
28. The Committee took note of the information about outcomes of 7th Informal Consultation Session of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group held on 15-17 October 2025 in Helsinki, Finland.
29. The Committee nominated Mr. Kamil Rybka from Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland for Vice-chair position (VASAB side) of Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group.
30. The Committee took note of the information on the need to analyse the current situation of the Baltic Sea coast and coastal regions and on the Baltic Sea MSP Task force initiated by the HELCOM Secretariat to draft a comprehensive recommendation on maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea and spatial planning of the coastal zone, applying an ecosystem-based approach and addressing protection of the coastal strip. The aim is to develop one joint HELCOM-VASAB recommendation replacing the existing: HELCOM Recommendation 24/10R on implementation of integrated coastal management and maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea, HELCOM Recommendation 15/1 on protection of the coastal strip, and VASAB Common Recommendations for Spatial Planning of the Coastal Zone in the Baltic Sea Region (1996).
31. The Committee took note of the information on prepared Draft Terms of Reference for Report on current spatial development situation in the region's coastal areas and feasibility study on estimated budget and timeline.
32. The Committee agreed that Committee members will consider their participation in the Baltic Sea MSP Task force or nominate other relevant national representatives from the VASAB side.
33. The Committee tasked VASAB Secretariat to send an invitation to Committee members to indicate their willingness to engage in the Baltic Sea MSP Task force.
34. The Committee took note of the information on Mr. Mārtiņš Ulāns proposal on stakeholder engagement and distribution of VASAB work results.
35. The Committee took note of the information about operations of the VASAB Secretariat.
36. The Committee took note of the information about VASAB participation at the round table discussion at the World Planning Schools Congress on 29 June – 3 July 2026 in Helsinki, Finland.
37. The Committee tasked VASAB Secretariat to make several changes in the new VASAB website according to the Committee feedback and send the final version to the Committee for approval before making the website public.
38. The Committee agreed to hold the 98th CSPD/BSR meeting on 2 June 2026 online at 9:00 CET and VASAB Open Trio meeting on 19 May 2026 online at 14:00 CET.