



Conclusions of the First Conference of Ministers for Spatial Planning and Development

Karlskrona, August 20-21, 1992

CONCLUSIONS - A STARTING POINT

The conclusions drawn by the chairperson of the Karlskrona Conference at Ministerial level, the Swedish minister for Physical Planning Görel Thurdin, and read by her at the end of the conference can be regarded as the starting point for the drafting of the first spatial development concept for the Baltic Sea region. The key word was consensus.

"There is consensus among the participating countries and regions that a document "Vision and Strategies for the Baltic Sea Region 2010" should be worked out in common. The basic document elaborated by the Baltic Institute - in Karlskrona has been considered as a useful starting point for the drafting of a spatial development concept for the area. On the basis i.a. of the Conference in Karlskrona, a first report on the work should be presented as the basis for political guidance at a second Conference at Ministerial level in Poland in 1993.

Each country/region undertakes to furnish national spatial, economic and the necessary-ecological plans of interest for the Baltic Sea region. Close contacts will be maintained with the Baltic Council, Helcom, the Conference of Transport Ministers of the Baltic Sea Region, the Commission of the EC, the Nordic Council and other relevant international bodies. Duplication of work should be avoided.

A Group of Focal Points from interested countries and regions is set up which will monitor the work on the Final report. The Baltic Institute will organize a first meeting, where the Group will decide on its own working methods.

Sweden undertakes to assure secretariat functions of the Group of Focal points through the Baltic Institute in Karlskrona. Other costs for the work are in principle to be assured nationally.

The special problems and needs of countries and regions in the process of developing social market economies will be born in mind and efforts in order to facilitate their full participation should be made e.g. through grants, special training programs, co-operation in the field of national spatial development policies, etc.

Countries and regions may undertake special studies in areas of interest to the Baltic Sea region and open for participation by other interested countries. Information on this work should be shared with other countries and regions through the Baltic Institute.

The importance is underlined of involving governmental and local authorities, economic circles and business administrations, universities, governmental and non-governmental organisations etc at all levels in the work."