VASAB – Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea – is an intergovernmental cooperation of the ministers responsible for spatial planning and development of 11 countries of the Baltic Sea Region: 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. The highest decision-making body of VASAB is the Ministerial Conference.

The VASAB 2016 Report, adopted by the VASAB ministers in Tallinn in 1994, contained the first commonly agreed transnational vision of the Baltic Sea Region which played a significant role for the spatial development of the whole Region.

Mission

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 co-operation projects, co-operates with other pan-Baltic initiatives, and promotes a dialogue with sector institutions.

Vision

The VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region, prepared for the period till 2030, was presented at the 7th VASAB Ministers Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania in October 2009. It presumes the territorial cohesion perspective of the Region in 2030: the Region is a well-integrated and coherent macro-region; it has overcome the socio-economic development divides between its individual parts and has turned the global challenges into assets; it is regarded a model for successful implementation of the territorial cohesion policy and effective cooperation between the European Union countries and the neighbouring countries for the development of a transnational area; the Baltic Sea is acknowledged as a common asset and a development recourse of all the countries, and the maritime spatial planning principles alleviate the potential sea use conflicts for the present and future generations.

Since 1994 the ministers are supported by the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development in the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR), composed of representatives of the respective ministries and regional authorities of Russia and Germany. Since 2007 VASAB secretariat is located in Riga, Latvia.