

COMMITTEE ON SPATIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF
THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Draft Report of the 94th CSPD/BSR Meeting

Tallinn, 19-20 March 2025

Chairperson: Mr. Tiit Oidjärv (EE)

Participants: CSPD/BSR members: Mr. Jens Kurnol (DE), Mr. Piotr Piekut (DE), Ms. Helen Madison (EE), Ms. Mari Pohja-Mykrä (FI), Ms. Algimantė Treinienė (LT), Ms. Kinga Stańczuk-Olejniak (PL), Ms. Maxi Nachtigall (SE), *invited guests:* Ms. Julia Fredriksson (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency), Ms. Britta Bockhorn (ARL), Mr. Eedi Sepp (Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture), Ms. Lembe Reiman (Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture), Ms. Svea Horn (Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Senate Chancellery of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg), *VASAB Secretariat:* Ms. Egija Stapkēviča, Ms. Jana Patmalniece, Ms. Margarita Vološina, Ms. Tīna Šipkēviča and Ms. Liene Strazdiņa.

DECISIONS and OUTPUTS

1. The CSPD/BSR (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) adopted the Report of 93rd CSPD/BSR meeting held on 12-13 December 2024 in Tallinn, Estonia without changes.
2. The Committee adopted the Summary of 93rd CSPD/BSR meeting held on 12-13 December 2024 in Tallinn, Estonia without changes.
3. The Committee took note of the Report of the VASAB Open Troika online meeting on 4 March 2025.
4. The Committee agreed to change the name of Open Troika meeting to Open Trio meeting and agreed that VASAB Secretariat organises a written procedure to update 'VASAB Cooperation Rules of Procedure' section 'VASAB Troika' (Points 24, 25 and 26).
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 agreed to update the Country fiche on terrestrial spatial planning with additional questions to be prepared by Mr. Tiit Oidjärv, and agreed that VASAB Secretariat sends the updated Country fiche template to all Committee members for filling in.
8. The Committee took note of information on the results of VASAB webinar on national level spatial planning organised on 11 February 2025.
9. The Committee took note of the information about the upcoming Polish VASAB chairmanship.
10. The Committee took note of the information about EUSBSR PA 'Secure' and potential common spatial resilience related activities with VASAB as PA 'Spatial Planning' co-coordinator.
11. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat looks into the possibility for VASAB as PA 'Spatial Planning' co-coordinator together with PA 'Secure' and PA 'Culture' to organise a workshop at EUSBSR Annual Forum 2025.

12. The Committee adopted VASAB Work Plan 2025-2026 and agreed that the Work Plan should be published at VASAB website stating - 'Adopted in March 2025', and it should be mentioned that this is a living document, subject to periodic updates or changes as needed.
13. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat shares adopted VASAB Work Plan 2025-2026 with the Committee to update the living document when necessary.
14. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat in cooperation with Secretariat's hosting organisation's (State Digital Development Agency's) lawyers prepares a background document by the end of April on how to exclude Russia and Belarus from VASAB. The document shall also inform about the reasons given for both countries never contributing to VASAB budget.
15. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat should contact Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia to find out how a written procedure between ministers can be carried out to sign a Ministerial Declaration.
16. The Committee took note that Mr. Tiit Oidjärv will send the draft ministerial declaration to the Committee to comment until mid-April and in mid-April an online discussion will be organised to go through the declaration in order to prepare the final version.
17. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat should elaborate why a 'Memorandum of Understanding' should be signed with ARL (Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association), what would be an added value for VASAB, pros and cons for signing a 'Memorandum of Understanding', who would sign the document from VASAB side.
18. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat should prepare a list of organisations VASAB is in close cooperation with and with whom 'Memorandum of Understanding' could be signed and the added value of such a process.
19. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat should explore if and how VASAB Common Recommendations for Spatial Planning of the Coastal Zone in the Baltic Sea Region (1996) could be merged with HELCOM Recommendation 24/10R on Implementation of integrated coastal management and maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea.
20. The Committee took note of the information about EUSBSR Policy Area 'Spatial Planning' news and activities, technical assistance project 'PASPS'.
21. The Committee took note of the information about the outcomes of 6th informal consultation session of the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group online meeting held on 18 February 2025.
22. The Committee took note of the information about upcoming 6th MSP Planners' Forum within 'PASPS' project which will be held online on 25 March 2025 and hosted by VASAB Secretariat.
23. The Committee took note of the information about EUSBSR Annual Forum which will be held on 29-30 October 2025 in Pomorskie Voivodeship, Poland.
24. The Committee took note of the information about Baltic Sea2Land project final conference – 5th Baltic MSP Forum which will be held on 11-12 November 2025 in Riga, Latvia.
25. The Committee took note of the information about project 'Land-based Planners' Forum' stakeholder mapping, survey and possible interaction with Estonian spatial planners and agreed that reminders about the survey should be sent out to attract more respondents.
26. The Committee took note of the information about project 'NESBp' (Northern European Sea Basins project) progress.
27. The Committee took note of the information about upcoming informal consultation session of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group to be held on 7-9 April 2025 in Rostock, Germany.

28. The Committee supported that VASAB Secretariat prepares a project application for the Swedish Institute Ukraine Cooperation Programme to organise a VASAB Young Planners Summer School in 2026, with the Secretariat coordinating the process and Committee members from at least Poland, Sweden, and Germany contributing ideas and contacts.
29. The Committee took note of the information about operations of the VASAB Secretariat.
30. The Committee took note of the information about the new VASAB website and suggested not to create on the website a 'registered users' access but instead use, for example, Microsoft SharePoint.
31. The Committee took note of the information about VASAB social media accounts and agreed to open a new account on Bluesky social and stop posting on X.com (keep the account but be silent) and agreed that VASAB Secretariat organises a written procedure to update 'VASAB Cooperation Rules of Procedure' section 'Communication' (Points 20 and 22).
32. The Committee agreed to change the name of State Regional Development Agency to State Digital Development Agency in the 'Rules of Operation of the VASAB Secretariat' and agreed that VASAB Secretariat organises a written procedure to update 'Rules of Operation of the VASAB Secretariat'.
33. The Committee agreed to organise an open selection process for the Head of VASAB Secretariat.
34. The Committee agreed to hold 95th CSPD/BSR meeting in June 2025.