

COMMITTEE ON SPATIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF
THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Draft Report of the 96th CSPD/BSR Meeting

Itawa, Poland, 17 September 2025

Chairperson: Ms. Emilia Malak-Pętlicka (PL)

Participants: CSPD/BSR members: Mr. Piotr Piekut (DE), Mr. Tiit Oidjärv (EE), Ms. Mari Pohja-Mykrä (FI), Ms. Donata Paulauskaitė (LT), Ms. Diāna Rasuma (LV), Ms. Kinga Stańczuk-Olechnik (PL), Ms. Martyna Gajowniczek (PL), Ms. Maxi Nachtigall (SE), VASAB Secretariat: Mr. Mārtiņš Ulāns, Ms. Egija Stapkēviča, Ms. Jana Laiviņa, Ms. Margarita Vološina, Ms. Tīna Šipkēvica, Ms. Liene Strazdiņa and Mr. Aksels Ruperts.

DECISIONS and OUTPUTS

1. The CSPD/BSR (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) adopted the Report of 95th CSPD/BSR meeting held on 16 June 2025 online without changes.
2. The Committee adopted the Summary of 95th CSPD/BSR meeting held on 16 June 2025 online without changes.
3. The Committee took note of the Report of the VASAB Open Trio online meeting on 4 September 2025.
4. The Committee took note of the information about news and major challenges regarding national spatial planning issues.
5. 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.
6. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat organises a written procedure to update 'VASAB Secretariat Rules of Operations' as discussed at this Committee meeting.
7. The Committee took note of the information on Mr. Mārtiņš Ulāns proposals for future VASAB Work Plan.
8. 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 17 September 2025'.
9. 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.
10. 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') which will take place on 29-30 October 2025 in Sopot, Poland.
11. The Committee took note of the information about 7th MSP Planners' Forum meeting within 'PASPS' project which will be held in-person on 12 November 2025 in Riga, Latvia and hosted by VASAB Secretariat.
12. The Committee supported VASAB Secretariat participation as an associated partner in the project proposal 'TOGETHER4HEAT: Collective and Inclusive Energy Futures for Rural

Areas' led by Heinrich-Böll-Foundation Schleswig-Holstein, to be submitted for Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2021-2027 Programme call for small projects.

13. 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 15-17 October 2025 in Helsinki, Finland.
14. The Committee took note of the information on the progress of updating VASAB Common Recommendations for Spatial Planning of the Coastal Zone in the Baltic Sea Region (1996).
15. The Committee took note of the information about the progress of Baltic Sea2Land project (Interreg BSR) and its final conference – 5th Baltic MSP Forum which will be held on 11-12 November 2025 in Riga, Latvia.
16. The Committee was invited to register for the 5th Baltic MSP Forum and share invitation with their network and colleagues.
17. The Committee took note of the information about NESBp - Northern European Sea Basins project (EMFAF) progress.
18. The Committee took note of the information about Interreg BSR project platform 'Baltic PlaNet' (Baltic Climate-Resilient Coastal Planning Network) progress.
19. The Committee took note of the information about 'Land-based Planners' Forum' project (co-funded by Swedish Institute) progress.
20. The Committee took note of the information on upcoming 'Land-based Planners' Forum' project online workshop on good planning & cooperation practices in the Baltic Sea Region to be held on 18 September 2025.
21. The Committee agreed to continue develop Land-based Planners' Forum especially considering and highlighting following aspects: 1) continuation of stakeholder mapping, attraction and involvement; 2) selection of the most actual spatial planning topics across BSR; 3) relevant forms of Forum organisation and dissemination of practices.
22. The Committee took note of the information on preparation process for the Young Planners Summer School in August 2026 in Gdansk, Poland.
23. The Committee took note of the information about operations of the VASAB Secretariat.
24. The Committee gave suggestions on several features on new VASAB website first page.
25. The Committee agreed to hold 97th CSPD/BSR meeting on 18-19 February 2026 in Warsaw, Poland and VASAB Open Trio meeting on 4 February 2026 online.