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FROM THE BALTIC SEA TO LAKE VICTORIA

The High Level Visit to the Baltic Sea Region 1999



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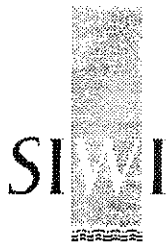
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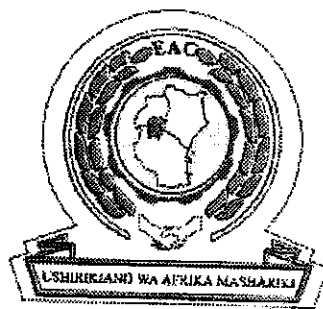


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1 INTRODUCTION

A delegation of 14 East African high-level officials visited the Baltic Sea region between May 31st and June 5th 1999 on invitation by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida. The purpose of the visit was to look into the experiences from the Baltic Sea co-operation and evaluate the relevance of these to Lake Victoria. For this purpose the Delegation met with selected institutions, organizations and networks (intergovernmental as well as non-governmental) in the Baltic Sea region. The list of participants and the program for the visit are found in *Annexes 1 and 2*, respectively.

The visit included, a tour covering the four countries Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Latvia, and a two-day seminar in Kalmar for discussions and summing up. The delegation visited or met with representatives from 20 institutions and organizations active in various sectors in the Baltic Sea Region. During the seminar in Kalmar the delegation made a first assessment of the applicability of Baltic Sea experiences for the Lake Victoria Region.

The visit was organized and carried out by the Stockholm International Water Institute, SIWI, on behalf of Sida.

2 THE TOUR OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION

The delegation arrived in Stockholm during Sunday, May 30. In the evening a reception was held at Sida in honor of the visit, hosted by **Mr. Lars Ekengren, Director, African Department, Sida.**

2.1 Sweden, Stockholm, 31 May

Sida

Mr. Bo Göransson, Director General of Sida, officially welcomed the delegation to Sida, Sweden and the Baltic Sea region. He acknowledged the great importance of the visit. Mr. Bo Göransson confirmed Sida's serious commitment to the initiative and underlined that Sida is prepared to make a long-term commitment in the Lake Victoria region. This visit would be the first step in outlining a plan for future activities. He therefore urged them to make use of the week by studying, listening, and "stealing" good ideas. He also asked them to use the time for creating networks both amongst each other, but also with people they were going to meet. Mr. Göransson concluded his introduction by requesting the delegation to expect success in their way forward, because the situation in the Lake Victoria region is such that failure can not be afforded.

Ambassador Francis Muthaura, Executive Secretary, East African Co-operation Commission, in his reply, expressed his gratitude for the invitation to EAC and its member countries to come and study the Baltic Sea co-operation and the experiences gained. He briefly introduced the Lake Victoria region and the challenges the East African countries are facing. He acknowledged and expressed his appreciation of Sida's commitment demonstrated by activities already taking place in the Lake Victoria region with Swedish support.

Mr. Anders Boheman, Director of International Affairs Division, Ministry of the Environment, started with a brief introduction to the Baltic Sea region, its geography, population and hydrological conditions. He described the initiatives and process leading up to the present multi-faceted co-operation on environmental protection, where the framework of the Helsinki Convention and its implementing organization, the Helsinki Commission, HELCOM, plays the major role.

The co-operation has been successful and although improvement in the environmental conditions of the Baltic Sea are being noted, it is still a long way to go to reach the objective of "restoring the marine environment of the Baltic Sea". However, throughout the process, many lessons have been learnt and some of the most important ones are:

- the need
- to have a strong commitment from highest political levels;
 - to build on existing structures;
 - to involve all stakeholders, from IFIs and governments to NGOs, etc.;
 - to have an open and transparent dialogue;
 - to raise public awareness to create support.

The presentation made by Mr. Boheman is enclosed in *Annex 3*.

Mr. Staffan Herrström, Director, Eastern Europe Department, Sida, described Sida's involvement in the Baltic Sea region. Out of the 132 "hot-spots" that have been identified in the Baltic Sea region Sida has been involved in 7. Support has been provided for technical assistance as well as for investments. In all cases institutional reform and development has been an important component, a prerequisite for Sida's involvement.

Mr. Lars Ekengren, Deputy Director General and Director, African Department, described Sida's Africa and East Africa program. He gave an account of the government White paper taken on last year entitled "Africa on the move" with the subtitle "Revitalizing Swedish policy towards Africa for the 21st Century". The new Swedish policy stresses the following basic objectives:

- supporting African-led processes of change towards democracy and sustainable development, focusing particularly on the poor;
- developing partnership between Africa and the surrounding world;
- strengthening the long term contacts between Sweden and Africa.

Action programs have been established in a number of areas including democracy, human rights, preventing conflicts, support to economic reforms, sustainable use of resources and capacity building.

The full presentation made by Mr. Ekengren is enclosed in *Annex 4*.

Mr. Bo Göransson, Director General, close the session at Sida by elaborating on Sida's vision for the Lake Victoria Initiative. He is convinced that the timing for action is right, the political commitment exists, on the Swedish as well as on the East African side. Sida's vision can be described as follows:

1. to provide for a good environment for humans, flora and fauna by creating a sustainable and healthy resource;
2. to provide for a sustainable economy in the region;
3. to foster democratic development and co-operation between governments and people;

4. to create mechanisms for solving disputes involving utilization of water and land and thereby contributing to the political stability in the region;
5. to achieve the above a mobilization of Sida's resources, experience and tools is needed.

This requires an interactive approach and a commitment not only from Sida but also from Sweden and possibly the Nordic countries as well as other co-operating partners.

Mr. Göransson wished the delegation a successful and pleasant trip.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mats Karlsson, Secretary of State, hosted a lunch for the delegation at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In his speech he emphasized that this delegation, with so many high level representatives from the four countries, was one of the most important groups of officials ever visiting Sweden. He underlined the ambition of the Swedish government to expand and improve the co-operation with the East African countries. He also expressed a hope that the group would find the Swedish experiences from the Baltic Sea co-operation valuable for the development of the co-operation in the Lake Victoria region.

Council of the Baltic Sea States

Mr. Lars Grönbjerg, Senior Advisor, informed the delegation about the work of the Council of the Baltic Sea States during a visit to the Council secretariat. The Council has 12 members, the Baltic Sea riparian states, Iceland and Norway as countries within the drainage area, and the European Union. CBSS was established in 1992 with the purpose of having an overall regional forum for an intensified co-operation and co-ordination in the Baltic Sea region to arrive at a genuinely democratic development and a greater unity amongst the member countries. The co-operation focuses on three fields,

- Participation and stable political development,
- Economic integration and prosperity, and
- The Baltic Sea environment.

CBSS organizes meetings with the Heads of the Baltic Sea governments and the parliamentarians. Various issues are brought up at the meetings such as economy and trade development, investments across borders, democratic institutions, children issues, freedom of travel, quality of public administration, reactor safety, and local authorities co-operation.

As one concrete action, the CBSS has appointed a Commissioner on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Including the Rights of Persons belonging to Minorities, for more proactive work.

A more detailed description of the CBSS is enclosed in *Annex 5*.

Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region, BALTIC 21

Ms. Christine Jakobsson, Secretary General, presented the co-operation in the Baltic Sea region related to the elaboration of an Agenda 21. The emphasis of Baltic 21 is on regional co-operation and on the environment and its bearing on economic and social aspects of sustainable development. The work focuses on seven sectors of crucial economic and environmental importance in the region. For each sector, goals and scenarios for sustainable development have been elaborated, as well as sector action programs including time frames, actors and financing. Sustainable development includes three mutually interdependent dimensions - economic, social and environmental. This means for the region:

- to strive for a safe and healthy life for current and future generations;
- to strive for a co-operative and prosperous economy and a society for all;
- to base local and regional co-operation on democracy, openness and participation;
- to maintain and restore biological and ecosystem diversity and productivity;
- to limit the pollution to the atmosphere, land and water to the carrying capacity of nature;
- to efficiently use and manage renewable resources within their regeneration capacity;
- to make material-flows of non-renewable resources efficient and cyclic, and to promote and produce renewable substitutes;
- to keep the awareness of the elements and processes leading to sustainability on a high level among different actors and sectors of society;

A more detailed description of Baltic 21 is enclosed in *Annex 6*.

The Baltic Sea and its Environment

Mr. Ulf Ehlin, Director, Stockholm International Water Institute, SIWI, introduced the delegation to the geography, hydrology and environment of the Baltic Sea. Its semi-enclosed nature makes it a very sensitive sea area, dependent on long-term variations in weather and climate. It has several times, in the past, transformed from lake to sea, from fresh water to saline water, thereby putting the ecosystems continuously under "natural" stress.

In addition, man had contributed by increased pollution. Out of the 85 million people living in the drainage area, about 30 million lack proper waste-water treatment. Agricultural practices, including intensive livestock husbandry are major contributors to the high nutrient load. The airborne pollution stemming mainly from the high traffic density contributes to approximately 30% of the annual load of nitrogen to the Sea. The result is eutrophication and excessive growth of biomass and intense algae blooms. The great amount of organic material consumes oxygen during its decomposition process causing oxygen depletion in deep water. In spite of the climatic and other differences between the two regions, there are many similarities with the environmental situation in the Lake Victoria region.

2.2 Finland, Helsinki, 1 June

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, Helsinki Commission, HELCOM

Mr. Tapani Kohonen, Secretary General, Ms. Anne Christine Brusendorff, Maritime Secretary and Mr. Ain Lääne, Technological Secretary, jointly gave an introduction to HELCOM. The history of co-operation on environmental protection in the Baltic Sea region dates back to 1974 when the first Helsinki Convention was signed by all the riparian states of that time. The process has now reached to the ratification of the Helsinki Convention of 1992 which constitutes the present framework for HELCOM's activities. All riparian and the European Union are expected to have ratified the 1992 Convention before the end of 1999.

The aim of the Convention is to protect and restore the marine environment of the Baltic Sea, and to cover all sources of pollution, both from land and from ships as well as airborne. The Convention also covers nature conservation and protection of biodiversity. The 1992

Convention expands the obligation of introducing relevant measures not only in coastal waters but also in the whole drainage area.

The Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme, JCP, was launched by Heads of Governments in 1992 as a concrete measure to reduce pollution load to the Baltic Sea and restore its ecological balance. The result, a 20 year action program, contains six components

1. Policies, Laws and Regulations,
2. Institutional Strengthening and Human Resource Development,
3. Investment Activities (point source and non-point source pollution),
4. Management Programs for Coastal Lagoons and Wetlands,
5. Applied Research, and
6. Public Awareness and Environmental Education.

The total cost, including investments, is estimated to ECU 18 billion (approximately USD18 billion). The responsibility of coordinating activities within the JCP has been put on HELCOM. HELCOM is organized in four technical committees and one task force, each responsible for co-ordination of activities within their field.

1. **The Environment Committee** works on joint monitoring programs covering different sectors of the marine environment, the open sea and the coastal waters. The data are compiled into joint databases and evaluated at regular intervals by experts from the Baltic Sea States, in order to assess the environmental conditions. It also co-ordinates issues related to nature conservation and biodiversity
2. **The Technological Committee** works on evaluation of waterborne and airborne pollution load to the Baltic Sea from land-based sources and on elaboration of technical measures to reduce discharges into waters and emissions to the atmosphere from urban areas, industry and diffuse sources, including agriculture and traffic. Recommendations are prepared on restriction of discharges and emissions and on banning or restricting the use of certain substances.
3. **The Maritime Committee** is responsible for the elaboration of measures for the protection of the marine environment as regards maritime shipping and offshore activities
4. **The Combatting Committee** elaborates measures for detecting and combatting spillage of oil and other harmful substances from maritime shipping and offshore activities. These measures are inserted in the HELCOM Manual on Co-operation in Combatting Marine Pollution to be used on board ships and surveillance aircraft
5. **The HELCOM Programme Implementation Task Force (HELCOM PITF)** is a special body that initiates, co-ordinates and facilitates the implementation of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Program. It shall take a proactive role in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Program, including improved co-ordination at all levels and assure an interactive role with international financial institutions and/or national, regional, municipal governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Members of the Task Force are the Contracting Parties, Norway, Czech and Slovak Republics, Belarus, Ukraine, international financial institutions and NGOs.

Ministry of Environment

Ms. Sirkka Hautojärvi, Permanent Secretary, hosted a lunch for the delegation. The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs was represented by Mr. Heikki Tuunanen. As the Ministry for the Environment also holds the responsibility for development aid the visit by the East African delegation was received with a dual perspective. Ms. Hautojärvi not only described Finland's deep involvement in the Baltic Sea co-operation and pointed out the similarities between the Baltic Sea and the Lake Victoria, but she also mentioned that Finland would be happy to contribute to the process in the Lake Victoria region.

Nordic Environment Finance Corporation, NEFCO

Mr. Harro Pitkänen, Managing Director, received the delegation and presented NEFCO. NEFCO's objectives are to finance environmental projects in Central and Eastern Europe, with the Baltic States and Poland in the forefront. It was established 1990 by funding from the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden). Its purpose is to facilitate the implementation of environmentally beneficial and financially viable projects in the neighboring region. Even though the intention has been to channel funding from institutions and the private sector, unfortunately, no channeling of private sector funding has been done so far. Instead NEFCO has relied on funds contributed by the Nordic Governments.

Many actors are involved in the region and NEFCO's participation in a project is generally in the range of 25-35% of the total financing and other institutions and organizations (banks, private sector, donors, etc.) are co-operating financing partners. Usually one third is provided from other external partners and the remaining part from local sources.

The projects are developed through various processes, such as the HELCOM/JCP, Baltic 21, CEG (nuclear safety) and bilateral co-operation to mention a few. Presently, about US\$ 120 billion is the estimated need for investments in the countries that now are applying for membership to the European Union.

The experience shows that a number factors are of great importance for a project to succeed, for example:

- policy reform prior to investment must be the guiding principle;
- institutional development is a crucial component of all investments and improved capacity for enforcement and control are needed;
- public awareness has to be raised through training and information campaigns;
- the "polluter pays" principle to be used and the local politicians have to follow up the financing obligations by setting tariffs etc;
- market demand leads in the right direction.

Copies of slides from the presentation are provided in *Annex 7*.

Nordic Development Fund, NDF

Mr. Jens Sörenssen, Managing Director, gave a brief introduction to the NDF, which is a multilateral development financing institution, promoting economic and social development in developing countries. This is done through participation in financing on concessional terms of projects of interest to the Nordic countries. NDF was established 1989 by the five Nordic countries and is funded from their national development aid budgets. NDF's total capital is about US\$ 750 million. Emphasis is put on social and economic infrastructure projects and special interest is given to projects with an envisaged positive impact on the environment and to projects with a profile of poverty alleviation and considerations for the situation of women and

children. About 50% of the credits are given to Africa and applications from least developed countries are given highest priority. NDF also co-operates with and disburses funds through the East African Development Bank and African Development Bank. At the moment the NDF is involved in projects in Tanzania and Uganda.

Copies of slides from the presentation are provided in *Annex 8*.

2.3 Estonia, Tallin / Matsalu, 2 June

International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission, IBSFC

Mr. Lauri Vaarja, Chairman of IBSFC and Director General at the Ministry of the Environment, gave an overview of the organization, its program and achievements to date. IBSFC is one of the oldest organizations for co-operation in the Baltic Sea region, established in 1974. The organization's mandate is to elaborate and issue recommendations on regulatory measures and to collect data and make it available to member states. Fish quotas are negotiated regularly based on available stock for different fish species. The secretariat has no resources for control and monitoring of agreements, these tasks are carried out by the individual member countries.

The Coalition Clean Baltic, CCB

Mr. Valdur Lathve presented the Coalition Clean Baltic, a network of 26 non-governmental organizations within the Baltic Sea riparian states. The role of the NGOs is three-fold, a) to be allies to government and channel political decisions to the grass-root, b) to be a pressure group by representing the public opinion, and c) to ensure that political decisions are possible to implement.

The CCB was established to join forces and to increase the co-ordination and co-operation among the NGOs in the Baltic region. It has the advantage of being able to work both on national and international policy levels. The CCB has access to high-level meetings in the Baltic Sea region, it has for example observers status at HELCOM. The target groups for activities are authorities, the public and NGOs (members as well as others). Their member organizations are involved in all types of activities ranging from research and lobbying to actual field operations and campaign activities. Its activities are financed primarily by member fees, but also through projects and grants from donors.

Ministry of the Environment of Estonia

Mr. Harry Liiv, Director General, described the work of the Ministry of the Environment related to the Baltic Sea. New environmental laws are in place and a new institutional framework has been established since Estonia's independence in 1991. High emphasis has been given to the HELCOM action program JCP and measures have been taken at a number of "hot-spots" to remove them from the list. For example new waste-water treatment plants have been constructed in Tallin and Hapsalu. High priority has also been given to the environmental issues related to the application of membership to the European Union, including adjusting the environmental legislation to harmonize with European Union standards.

The Baltic Agricultural Run off Action Programme (BAAP)

Prof. Enn Loigu, Tallinn Technical University, presented the Baltic Agricultural Run off Action Program (BAAP). It is one of the few projects in the Baltic Sea region focusing on "hot-

spots" within the agricultural sector. As nitrogen is the limiting factor for the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea and the levels have increased over the years, this program focuses on reduction of nitrogen leakage from both livestock and excessive use of fertilizers. A number of extension workers are providing advice free of charge, on how to handle and optimize the use of fertilizers as well as handling of wastes from cattle production. The aim is to improve the economical output for the farmer and at the same time reduce pollution.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

WWF hosted a visit to the Matsalu Nature Conservation Area including a typical Estonian lunch. **Mr Jüri Reismaa, Mayor of Lihula**, welcomed the delegation to his county. He was proud to have such an important group visiting the area and expressed his hope that further collaboration and exchange of experiences on nature conservation would be possible.

Prof. Lars Kristoferson, Secretary General of WWF Sweden, presented the various activities WWF Sweden is involved in, both in the Baltic region and in East Africa. As WWF is the lead-party for component no. 4 of the JCP, Management Programs for Coastal Lagoons and Wetlands, they wanted to take the opportunity of inviting the delegation to Matsalu and thereby introduce them to a good example of integrated coastal zone management.

Mr. Taivo Kastepuld, Director of Nature Reserve at the Matsalu Nature Reserve Centre, Penije, started the tour of the exhibition. He visualized the non-existing borders of nature and wildlife and the links between Matsalu and East Africa by two examples, birds that had been marked in Matsalu and one later found in Kenya and the other in Tanzania. The Matsalu Nature Reserve was founded in 1957 but over the past decades the rare nature (primarily wetlands) has been endangered by pollution and by change in land use. Under the project farmers are encouraged to adhere to traditional land-use and agricultural practices reducing leakage of nutrients used.

Mr. Alex Lotman, Vice Director, took the delegation on an excursion in the reserve to experience the rare landscape and its wildlife.

2.4 Latvia, Riga, 3 June

Riga Water Company

Mr. Uldis Bамbe, General Director, was proud to give the background of a company, which today is in the midst of a major transition. Riga has had centralised water distribution since 1620 and the Riga Municipal Enterprise has over the centuries provided a range of services, including gas and electricity. Only in 1956 it was decided that they would concentrate on water and waste-water treatment.

Riga Water and Stockholm Water Company entered into a five-year agreement of co-operation in 1995. The twinning arrangement between the two companies (organisations in the same area of operation) is a new way of transferring technology and know-how for institutional reform.

Mr. Steen Bjerggaard, Vice Manager and counter part from Stockholm Water Company has been involved in the project since the inception. Institutional reform was a requirement from the financing institutions to provide grants and credits for the massive investment plan. The twinning arrangement was set up to reform the organization to cope with the plan (USD150 million) and develop Riga Water into a self-sustaining enterprise. It is based on the Nordic model of public ownership, i.e. a publicly owned company operated on market rules, but with no profit interest.

The aims of the project are

- to improve the overall performance (develop strategies, human resource development, etc.);
- to fulfil the obligations towards the financiers (billing and collection, financial management and reporting, etc.);
- to develop a commercial attitude (improved public relations, etc.);
- to provide best possible services without subsidies.

Mr. Bjerggaard concluded his presentation with the following experiences from this project:

- companies in the same sector can learn much from one another;
- the importance of defining the role of politicians / owners;
- the importance of keeping close contact with both financiers and politicians / owners;
- the importance of creating a long-term collaboration and secure sustainable changes.

Mr. Ivars Zants, Director of PIU, Riga Water was the guide at the field trip to Riga Sewage Treatment Plant which completed the visit to Riga Water Company.

Copies of slides from the presentation are provided in *Annex 9*.

The Ministry of the Environment of Latvia

Mr. Rolands Arturs Bebris, Director and **Mr. Indulis Emsis, Advisor to the Prime Minister**, gave the Latvian perspective on environmental co-operation in the Baltic Sea region. Latvia is located in the middle of Baltic Sea drainage basin and most rivers in Latvia do not have their source within the borders of the country. Latvia is thereby extremely exposed to their neighbors. The river Daugava, for instance, has its source in Russia and flows through Belarus before entering Latvia and ending in the Gulf of Riga. Most of the pollution originates upstream and intensive negotiations have been going on to reach agreements on water management.

Mr. Emsis was previously the Minister of Environment and deeply involved in negotiating international agreements. According to his experiences the most difficult issues to reach agreements on have been:

- toxic waste management (agreement not reached, will be re-negotiated in 2000);
- water management in common catchment areas;
- sensitive or polluting industries placed close to borders by neighbor countries without prior discussions (for example, nuclear plants, giving one country all the benefits but sharing the potential problems and risks with its neighbor).

The best way to promote change has proved to be investments in control and monitoring stations to put pressure on polluters upstream.

The Baltic Environmental Forum, BEF

Ms. Heidrun Fammler, Director, told that BEF is active in all the three Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. It was set up as a discussion forum for environmental policy on a regional level by organizing workshops and meetings on regional environmental problems and policy. To support the communication and co-operation among the three countries in the field of environmental protection was one of the major goals of the projects carried out. One of the main goals of the BEF is to support Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the process of accession to the European Union.

The BEF has published a report, "Baltic State of the Environment Report", where the situation in the Baltic countries, both the country specific situations as well as the similarities are described in more detail.

A more detailed presentation of BEF is enclosed in *Annex 10*.

3 THE KALMAR SEMINAR, 4 – 5 JUNE

In addition to the delegation, a number of people were invited to Kalmar to contribute to a seminar and participate in discussions (*see Annex 2*). The venue for the seminar was Kalmar Castle, a symbol for Baltic Sea co-operation since many centuries.

Mr. Anders Engström, former Mayor of Kalmar and President of Union of the Baltic Cities, welcomed the delegation to Kalmar by an introduction to the history of the venue. The oldest parts of the castle are dating back to 1180. Over the centuries the castle has been utilized for different purposes, it was used as the royal palace by the kings of Wasa, as a storage facility and in the late 19th century as a factory. The main use today (except for the daily visitors of exhibitions, concerts and the museum) is as conference venue for ministerial meetings, organizations, companies, etc.

3.1 Presentations

The Vision and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea 2010, VASAB 2010

Ms. Lisbeth Fall, Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning presented The Vision and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea 2010. In 1992 the Ministers of Spatial Planning gathered to discuss the view on spatial planning in the Baltic Sea region. The aims of the first meeting was

- to generate a common understanding;
- to promote the Baltic Sea region in an international context;
- to strengthen the regional development co-operation potential.

The basic values laying the foundation for the Vision are development, environmental sustainability, freedom and solidarity. The items putting the "pattern" together are

- the urban network (pearls),
- the effective and sustainable links between cities (the string), and
- the areas supporting dynamic and quality of life

The process of reaching common grounds for methods on spatial planning is very difficult and expensive. Since 1996 SEK400 million (about US\$ 50 million) has been spent and 35 projects (3 years each) have been started. The result of this work will be presented in a report within 2 years time.

A more detailed presentation of VASAB is enclosed in *Annex 11*.

The Union of the Baltic Cities, UBC

Mr. Anders Engström, President, presented the network that aims at promoting co-operation and exchange of experience between the cities in the Baltic Sea region, with special focus on cultural exchange for democratic, social, economic and environmentally friendly development of the Baltic Sea region.

With the fall of the "iron curtain" in 1990 new ways of communication opened up. As many representatives were invited to the celebrations of the first free elections in Poland a first informal meeting was held, that led to the establishment of the Union of the Baltic Cities in 1991. Only cities are members and the UBC draws much on experiences of previous co-operation between Nordic cities. The organization is financed through annual fees, (about US\$ 2,000) from the 90 members. Separate financing is received from donors for specific projects.

Two of the ongoing projects are

- a program for implementation of Baltic 21 at local level
- a program to help city administrations in countries applying for European Union membership, to carry out necessary preparation prior to becoming members.

A more detailed presentation of UBC is enclosed in *Annex 12*.

The Baltic University Program, BUP

Mr. Lars Rydén, Director, informed about the Program. It was established to cater for a need of education topics specific to the conditions around the Baltic Sea. Uppsala University coordinates the activities. A network of universities and other scientific institutions is created. It has 160 members and carries out activities in the fields of education, research and public relations.

The topics of common interest for the members are

- History; the region has a common history dating back several hundred years
- Environment
- Economy; with the enlargement of the European Union the common market will bring the countries closer together
- Security

Three different courses have been developed using experts from the whole region. The aim is to find the most suitable person in the region for the task, but also to involve experts from all member countries. The courses are given on distance using satellite television, radio, audio and videoconferences as well as communication on the internet.

A more brief presentation of BUP is enclosed in *Annex 13*.

Use and Management of Lake Victoria Resources and Environment

Mr. Bob Munro, Project Manager, SCC/Natura, gave an account of the status of the ongoing study Use and Management of Lake Victoria Resources and Environment and pointed out the highlights in the draft Inception Report to the audience. The report will be discussed in the Advisory group to the project in the end of June in Arusha.

3.2 Discussions

The afternoon of 4 June was spent in two separate groups, the East African delegation on one hand and Sida on the other. On the morning of 5 June the groups joined and continued the discussions.

Ambassador Muthaura, of the EAC, summarized the East African group discussion and concluded that they had already come a long way in their co-operation by the existence of the EAC and its program. They also concluded that they had experienced the co-operation in the

Baltic Sea region to be well founded on high-level political commitment as well as built on trust among the contracting parties.

The overriding goal for the Baltic Sea co-operation is not only a healthy environment but also sustainable socio-economic development for the region, the same priorities as for the Lake Victoria region. The Ambassador also pointed out a few items that will be necessary to take action on for the Lake Victoria initiative to proceed, such as

- creating a legal base such as the Helsinki Convention and an action program for interventions;
- promoting a more holistic view on environmental problems;
- extending and strengthening the network of institutions and organizations co-operating with the EAC, etc.

Regarding necessary assurances to proceed with the program, the delegation is in no doubt about Sida's commitment to the initiative and has recognized that EAC's role will be to emulate the same commitment in the region.

3.3 Conclusions

The seminar ended by the signing of a jointly developed statement, where the parties first of all accepted the hypothesis of the relevance of experiences (although also accepting the differences) from Baltic Sea co-operation in future activities in the Lake Victoria region.

The parties further agreed to work jointly on sustaining the vision, to build and strengthen networks, to develop capacity through training activities and twinning arrangements, to prepare for future investments by carrying out feasibility studies and to ensure that mapping of pollution sources in the Lake Victoria basin is done. The statement in full is found in *Annex 14*.

In addition to being a study tour the trip also provided an opening for formal and informal exchange of information, experiences, impressions and ideas for future activities within the group. The regional network Mr. Göransson was referring to in his welcoming speech is in the process of being created.

ANNEXES



ANNEX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



High Level Visit to the Baltic Sea Area

List of participants

5 June 99

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ANNEX 2

PROGRAM



HIGH LEVEL VISIT TO THE BALTIC SEA REGION BY OFFICIALS FROM EAST AFRICA

May 30 Stockholm

Arrival in Stockholm and transfer to Hotel Scandic Slussen
tel. +46-8-517 353 00 (fax: 517 353 11)

- 17.30 Information on the visit to the Baltic Sea, **Mr. Ulf Ehlin**, SIWI
17.45 *Departure to Sida*
18.00 Welcoming reception hosted by **Mr. Lars Ekengren**, Sida
20.00 *Departure to the hotel*

May 31 Stockholm

- 08.30 Departure to Sida (Sveavägen 20, tel. +46-8-698 50 00)
09.00 Introduction and welcome
09.00 Welcome; **Mr. Bo Göransson**, Director General, Sida
09.10 Response; **Ambassador Francis Muthaura**, EAC
09.20 Sweden and the Baltic Sea co-operation from an environmental perspective; **Mr. Anders Boheman**, Director, International Affairs Department, Ministry of the Environment
09.50 Sida and the Baltic Sea co-operation; **Mr. Staffan Herrström**, Director, Eastern Europe Department, Sida
10.15 Tea and coffee-break
10.45 Sida's Africa and East Africa program; **Mr. Lars Ekengren**, Director, African Department, Sida
11.15 Sida's vision for a development co-operation program for the Lake Victoria region; **Mr. Bo Göransson**, Director General, Sida
11.45 *Departure to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
12.00 Lunch hosted by **Mr. Mats Karlsson**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
14.00 *A guided walk along the waters of Stockholm*

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- 14.30 Visit to the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and Baltic 21. (Strömsborg, Tel. +41-8-440 19 20 or 405 24 19)
- 14.30 Presentation of CBSS by **Mr. Lars Grönbjerg**, Senior Advisor
- 15.15 Presentation of Baltic 21 by **Ms. Christine Jakobsson**, Secretary General
- 16.00 *Departure to the harbour for travel by ship to Helsinki, Finland*
- 16.30 Boarding (*Ship departs at 18.00*)
- 17.00 Setting the political scene of the Baltic Sea Region, Not confirmed
An introduction to the Baltic Sea and its environment, **Mr. Ulf Ehlin**, Director, SIWI
- 19.00 Coctails in the Sky bar
- 20.30 Dinner

June 1 Helsinki

- 09.00 *Arrival in Helsinki, transfer to HELCOM*
- 09.45 Visit to the Secretariat of the Helsinki Commission (the Baltic Sea Marine Environment Protection Commission). **Mr. Tapani Kohonen**, Executive Secretary, **Ms. Anne Christine Brusendorff**, Maritime Secretary, and **Mr. Ain Lääne**, Technological Secretary.
- 11.15 *Departure to the restaurant G. W. Sundsmans, Södra Kajen 16*
- 11.30 Lunch with, **Ms. Sirkka Hautojärvi**, Permanent Secretary, and other staff members at Ministry of the Environment (tel.: +358-9-1609401, Contact person Ms. Merja Pylkkänen, merja.pylkkanen@vyh.fi)
- 14.00 *Departure to NEFCO*
- 14.15 Visit to the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO); **Mr. Harro Pitkanen**, Managing Director (Tel.: +358-9-18001, harro.pitkanen@nib.fi)
- Presentation of the Nordic Development Fund (NDF) by **Mr. Jens Sörenssen**, Managing Director
- 16.00 *Departure for the harbour and travel to Tallinn, Estonia*
- 18.45 Arrival in Tallinn and transfer to Hotel Olympia
tel. +372-6315 315 (fax: 6315 675)
- 20.00 Dinner in the hotel dining room

June 2 Tallinn

- 08.15 *Transfer to the Ministry of Environment*
- 08.30 Visit to the Ministry of Environment
- 08.30 Presentation of the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission; **Mr. Lauri Vaarja**, Chairman and Director General at the Ministry of the Environment (Tel.: +372-66 03 348)
- 09.15 Presentation of Coalition Clean Baltic; **Mr. Valdur Lathve**
- 10.00 Environmental actions in Estonia; **Mr. Harry Liiv**, Director General, Ministry of the Environment (Tel.: +372-626 28 40)
- 10.30 Presentation of the Baltic Agricultural Run off Action Programme, **Prof. Enn Loigu**, Tallin Technical University

11.00 *Departure for Matsalu Nature Conservation Area*

13.00 – 16.00 Matsalu Nature Conservation Area

13.00 Lunch in Matsalu, "Reed Roof Restaurang"

Welcome by Mr **Jüri Reismaa**, Major of Lihula

Short presentation of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) by
Prof. **Lars Kristoferson**, Secretary General of WWF Sweden

14.00 *Bus transport to Matsalu Nature Reserve Centre at Penije*

14.15 Visit to Matsalu Nature Reserve Centre at Penije Welcome by Mr
Taivo Kastepuld, Director of Nature Reserve

Presentation of Nature Reserve Exhibition and an Introduction to
Wetland Management in Matsalu Nature Reserve, by Mr **Alex
Lotman**, Vice Director of Matsalu Nature Reserve

15.00 Bus excursion within the Matsalu Nature Reserve - demonstrations of
alluvial meadows (bird tower at Kloostri), wooded meadows, and
coastal natural pasture land (bird tower at Keemu), Alex Lotman

16.00 *Departure for Riga*

20.00 (approx.) Arrival at Hotel SAS Radison,
tel. +371-706 11 11 (fax: 706 11 01)

20.30 Dinner

June 3

Riga

09.00 *Departure to the Riga Water Company*

09.15 Visit to Riga Water, Mr. **Uldis Bambe**, General Director and Mr. **Steen
Bjerggaard**, Vice Manager

10.45 Field trip to Riga Sewage Treatment Plant, Mr. **Ivars Zants**, Director of
PIU, Riga Water

12.00 Lunch

13.00 *Departure to Ministry of the Environment*

14.00 Environmental actions in Latvia; Mr. **Indulis Emsis**, Advisor to the
Prime Minister, and Mr. **Rolands Arturs Bebris**, Director, Ministry of
the Environment

16.00 Meeting with a representative of Baltic Environmental Forum,
Ms. **Heidrun Fammler**, Director

17.00 *Departure to the airport and chartered flight to Kalmar, Sweden.*

19.00 (approx.) Arrival in Kalmar, Check in to the Comfort Home Hotel
Tel: +46-480-570 00, Fax: +46-480-866 42

19.30 Dinner

June 4

THE KALMAR SEMINAR

Chairman: Mr. Johan Holmberg, Director Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, Sida

- 09.00 Opening and Welcome; **Mr. Anders Engström**, City of Kalmar
- 09.10 Introduction; **Mr. Johan Brisman**, Programme Manager, Sida
- 09.30 The Vision and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea 2010, the view on spatial planning in the Baltic Sea region, **Ms. Lisbeth Fall**, Swedish National Board of Housing Building and Planning
- 10.00 A presentation of Union of the Baltic Cities, a network to promote co-operation and exchange of experience in the Baltic Sea region, **Mr. Anders Engström**, President
- 10.30 Tea and coffee break
- 11.00 The Baltic University Program, a region-wide network of universities; **Mr. Lars Rydén**, Director
- 11.30 Presentation of the ongoing study "Use and Management of Lake Victoria Resources and Environment"; **Mr. Bob Munro**, Project Manager.
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Press Meeting (Selected persons)

The way forward (Internal EAC discussions)

- 14.00 Discussions on Baltic Sea experiences and how the experiences gained can be of use in the Lake Victoria context
- 19.30 Dinner at the Castle, hosted by the City of Kalmar

June 5

The way forward

Chairman: Mr. Ralph Ochan, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uganda

- 09.00 General discussions, elaboration of conclusions and possible recommendations.
- 12.00 Lunch

ANNEX 3

SPEECH GIVEN BY MR. BOHEMAN





REGERINGSKANSLIET

**Ministry of the Environment
Sweden**

*presentation made by Mr Anders Boheman,
Director,
Division for International Affairs,
at High Level visit by Official from East Africa.*

Experiences of Baltic Sea region co-operation

1. The political development of the Baltic Sea region

It is a pleasure for me as a representative of the Swedish government to have this opportunity to address you about a subject which is very close to our hearts in Sweden - **co-operation in the Baltic Sea region**. It is also a pleasure for me to welcome our distinguished guests from the East African Countries to Sweden and Stockholm on this first stop on your trip to the Baltic Sea region. In this introductory presentation I would like to review the Baltic Sea regional co-operation and then try to draw some conclusions, which hopefully will be relevant also to the Lake Victoria region and the co-operation there now being discussed.

Let me say right from the beginning that Sweden since a long time back puts a very high priority on the Baltic Sea region. Sweden has the longest coast line facing the Baltic Sea of all the riparian countries. The Baltic Sea and the surrounding regions have played a major role in the history of Sweden. Historically this is the region where Sweden has seen most of its

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ups and downs over the centuries. At one time Sweden was a mighty power. However, Sweden's involvement with its neighbours has not always been friendly and peaceful. But since 1809 Sweden has enjoyed peace with its neighbours.

In the old times of the Vikings, some thousand years ago, the Baltic Sea was the main facilitator of trade and cultural exchange in the region. The Baltic Sea was the gate to eastern Europe and the rivers ending in the Baltic Sea were often the beginning of long journeys by Swedish tradesmen all the way down to Constantinople. All of this is beautifully recorded in numerous archeological findings in Sweden and elsewhere.

But modern history finds the Baltic Sea not as a uniting body of water but as a division line between the eastern, Soviet, and the western political blocs during the cold war. Since the erection of the Berlin Wall in 1949 the Baltic Sea was a divided sea up until the fall of the wall and the down fall of the Soviet Union. The 1990s started with a completely different political geography. The three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were created as free democracies. Germany was united again and the Russian Federation was created of the remaining Russian parts, of the Soviet Union. Poland, that had actually started its progress towards democracy earlier than any other of the Warsaw pact countries, is well ahead of the other countries with economies in transition regarding economic growth, democracy and social development. As a matter of fact Poland was recently accepted as member of the OECD.

The integration of eastern and western Europe is very important for providing stability in Europe and it is an important political issue to Sweden. In this process the Baltic Sea region plays a very important role. Here the distance is at its closest between the Russian Federation, the new Baltic republics and the European Union. Here the historical ties are very strong and, not the least, the potential for growth and development very good.

Sweden wants to play its role and make a major contribution to the process of integration, stabilization and growth of the Baltic Sea region, thereby benefitting the whole European integration process. One must also keep in mind that Poland and the three Baltic republics all have applied for membership in the European Union.

2. The Baltic Sea and the environment

In one respect, however, it was possible to break through the Iron Curtain. Already in the late sixties and particularly in the early 70s the countries around the Baltic Sea realized that the Sea was in a very bad shape. Actually, the Baltic Sea suffered from the strong industrialization of the region since the beginning of the 20th century. Agriculture and waste water supplied large amounts of excess nutrients to the sea leading to eutrophication, i.a. made visible through wide spread algal blooms and decline of the cod stocks. Various chemicals like DDT and PCB threatened the existence of the Baltic Sea eagle and the seals and made it dangerous to eat Baltic Sea fish to exposed populations in the whole region. This

prompted international cooperation between the then 7 riparian states despite the cold war.

But before going into the remedial actions taken let us take a look at the Baltic Sea itself.

The Baltic Sea is a semi-enclosed sea and covers an area of about 400.000 km². That is roughly four times as large as the Lake Victoria. It's drainage area covers more than four times the size of the sea, and extends into another five countries. Almost 80 million people live in the drainage area, but unevenly distributed with almost 50 million living on the southern side of the Sea. It is a highly industrialised and intensively farmed region. The geographical conditions of the drainage area varies from mountainous areas in the north-west, to forests, wetlands and lakes in the north and east. In the south and west, agricultural land is predominant.

Due to its specific features, the Baltic Sea is a unique and sensitive ecosystem. It consists of eight different zones, each zone with different biogeochemical characteristics. The average depth is 52 m, the depth of the main sea basins are 100-200 m and the maximum depth is about 450 m. The salinity varies from pure marine water conditions in Kattegat through its connection to the North Sea, to almost fresh water conditions in the Bothnian Bay where many rivers discharge fresh water.

The deteriorating situation in the beginning of the 70s lead to the elaboration of two important international agreements, two of the first international

conventions on the protection of the marine environment and the management of natural living resources.

Finland organized the first conference on the Baltic Sea in 1973. The Helsinki Convention for the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea was signed in 1974 and entered into force in 1980. In 1992 the Convention was revised and modernized.

The aim of the Helsinki Convention is to protect the Baltic marine environment from all pollution sources. This means pollution from land, sea (shipping) and air.

The Helsinki Commission was established to implement the provisions of the Helsinki Convention and monitor progress. The Commission defines pollution control criteria, makes recommendations concerning various issues and has the executive responsibility for the implementation of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme, JCP adopted in 1992.

HELCOM has organised its work in four main committees, the Environment, Technological, Maritime and Combatting Committees, responsible for monitoring and assessment, BAT-related recommendations, shipping and combating of oil spills respectively. However, HELCOM is currently undergoing a comprehensive review of its organisation and modes of work. The final decision on a new organization will be taken in September this year.

The other important achievement was the signing of the Gdansk Convention, also in 1974.

The IBSFC-the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission- is based on the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and the Belts. Its objectives are to preserve and increase the marine living resources in order to obtain rational management and optimal yield. The parties agree on annual recommendations to national governments on regulations and catches and national quotas for relevant fish stocks. Naturally there is a strong relationship and interlinkage between IBSFC and HELCOM.

Sweden went on supporting the IBSFC and the Helsinki Commission during the Cold War era. Scientific exchange was established between the countries and monitoring activities initiated. However, it later turned out that the Soviet Union never implemented the commitments in the recommendations adopted by the Helsinki Commission and the conditions of the Baltic Sea did not improve significantly over these years. However, decisions to phase out DDT and PCB have actually shown some results in the recovery of the eagle populations and the number of seals has increased significantly the last decade.

In 1990 when the Berlin wall had fallen and the disintegration of the Soviet Union had started the Swedish and the Polish Prime Ministers invited the other countries in the region to a summit in the Swedish town of Ronneby to discuss the future development of the environmental situation of the Baltic Sea and the region. It had become evident that the environmental situations

in the former eastern bloc was much worse than expected. The Prime Ministers of the region requested in response a programme to be developed to restore the ecological balance of the Baltic Sea to almost pre-world war II conditions.

As a result of the Ronneby meeting the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP) was elaborated and adopted in 1992. A novel feature at the Ronneby summit was the presence of the IFIs- the International Financing Institutions like the World bank, the EBRD and the Nordic Investment Bank.. This created an atmosphere of openness, cooperation and participation which greatly facilitated the further work on developing the JCP and the sharing of priorities and actions needed.

The JCP action programme includes activities related to institutional strengthening, human resource development, investment activities, research, education and awareness raising. In addition 132 major sources of pollution, so called 'hot-spots', were identified, analysed and included in the investment part of the action programme. The costs of the JCP was estimated at Euro18 billion over a 20 year period but has later been revised down to about 14 billions.

The implementation has been surprisingly successful so far. Out of the 132 hot-spots 17 have been removed from the list and only 27 are yet to be addressed. For the remaining sources of pollution, investments are in various stages of progress.

The JCP signified a new way of approaching international co-operation and the environmental problems of the region. It took into account the need for assistance to the former Soviet republics and the different economic conditions of the region. It was based on a sharing of mutual priorities. The Baltic Sea is a common resource of great importance to all countries. The JCP was action oriented and supplemented HELCOM's more legalistic approach. The Programme Implementation Task Force-the PITF - includes members from all countries in the catchment area of the Baltic Sea, that is also including Belarus, Ukraine, Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Norway, as well as a number of NGOs. NGOs include for example WWF and the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC). In addition the IFIs are also members of the PITF. In this way PITF represents all major stakeholders in the JCP. It also means that membership is not exactly the same as for HELCOM itself.

The jointly established list of hot spots has played an important role in receiving strong political support as well as facilitating investment envelopes to be created in co-operation between recipient countries, IFIs and bilateral donors. A major part of the investments has so far has been directed towards municipal waste water treatment plants.

I have dwelled on the JCP at some length because of its important role in opening up new vistas for co-operation in the field of environment. This does not mean that the implementation of the JCP has been without problems and bottlenecks. But it has been possible to a large extent to overcome these difficulties within the framework set up.

3. Sustainable development

The picture of Baltic Sea co-operation would not be complete if we did not carry the development up to the present date. The relative progress of the JCP and the parallel economic development of the countries with economies in transition has laid the foundation for the most recent step in the broadening and deepening of co-operation in the region. Again Sweden had the opportunity to play an instrumental role in this respect. In 1996 the Swedish Prime Minister hosted a second summit of the Baltic Sea region in the old Hanseatic town Visby on the island of Gotland, in the middle of the Baltic Sea. At this time environment was not the only issue on the agenda. The meeting considered several aspects of co-operation and exchange in the region in three action programmes; one on democracy and people to people exchange, one economic development programme and one environmental action programme. In addition the meeting requested an Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea region to be developed. In fact in the declaration from the meeting the Heads of Government clearly communicated their wish for the economic development to take place within a framework of sustainable development, sustainable use of natural resources and protection of the environment. The principle of integration of environmental concerns into the various economic sectors of society was actually used in these action programmes for the first time. It was clear from this meeting that the Heads of Government saw both the great potential for economic growth in the region and the possibilities for increasing welfare of the people of the region and the risks associated with rapid economic development and the possible detrimental effects this might have on the prospects for long term

sustainable development of the region. These two concerns had to be integrated. The Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea region can be seen as a response to these concerns.

The Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea region, or Baltic 21 as it is called for short, was adopted in Nyborg in Denmark by the Foreign Ministers of the region within the framework of the Council of the Baltic Sea States- the CBSS- in June 1998 and is presently being implemented.

Baltic 21 emphasises economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development and focuses on regional co-operation. All major institutions, NGOs, intergovernmental organisations and financial institutions are represented on the steering group in addition to governments, including the EU. The work focuses on seven sectors, agriculture, fisheries, energy, forestry, industry, tourism and transport, of crucial economic and environmental importance. The Baltic 21 comprises an action programme for sustainable development and common views on how to reach the goals for sustainable development.

In Baltic 21 sectors were responsible for the development of their sector action programmes and are now responsible for the implementation of these programmes. The sector programmes are coordinated by lead parties established for each sector. For example, Sweden and the Russian Federation are responsible for the industrial sector of Baltic 21.

Sweden is presently hosting the Baltic 21 secretariat and I know you will be visiting with them later today.

With Baltic 21 the agenda for action in the Baltic Sea region is well filled up. HELCOM with its focus on the marine environment of the Baltic Sea complements Baltic 21 and continues its work in this respect, both through its commission and through its action programme. Baltic 21 provides for the long term perspective of sustainable development of the whole region with all its development problems and potentials in the different sectors of society. Both the JCP and the Baltic 21 originates from strong political commitments which have been filled with a very concrete content involving all relevant stakeholders and actors in the region. JCP is well under way while Baltic 21 is still in its infancy. Cleaning up is more down to earth than changing the course for the future towards sustainable development.

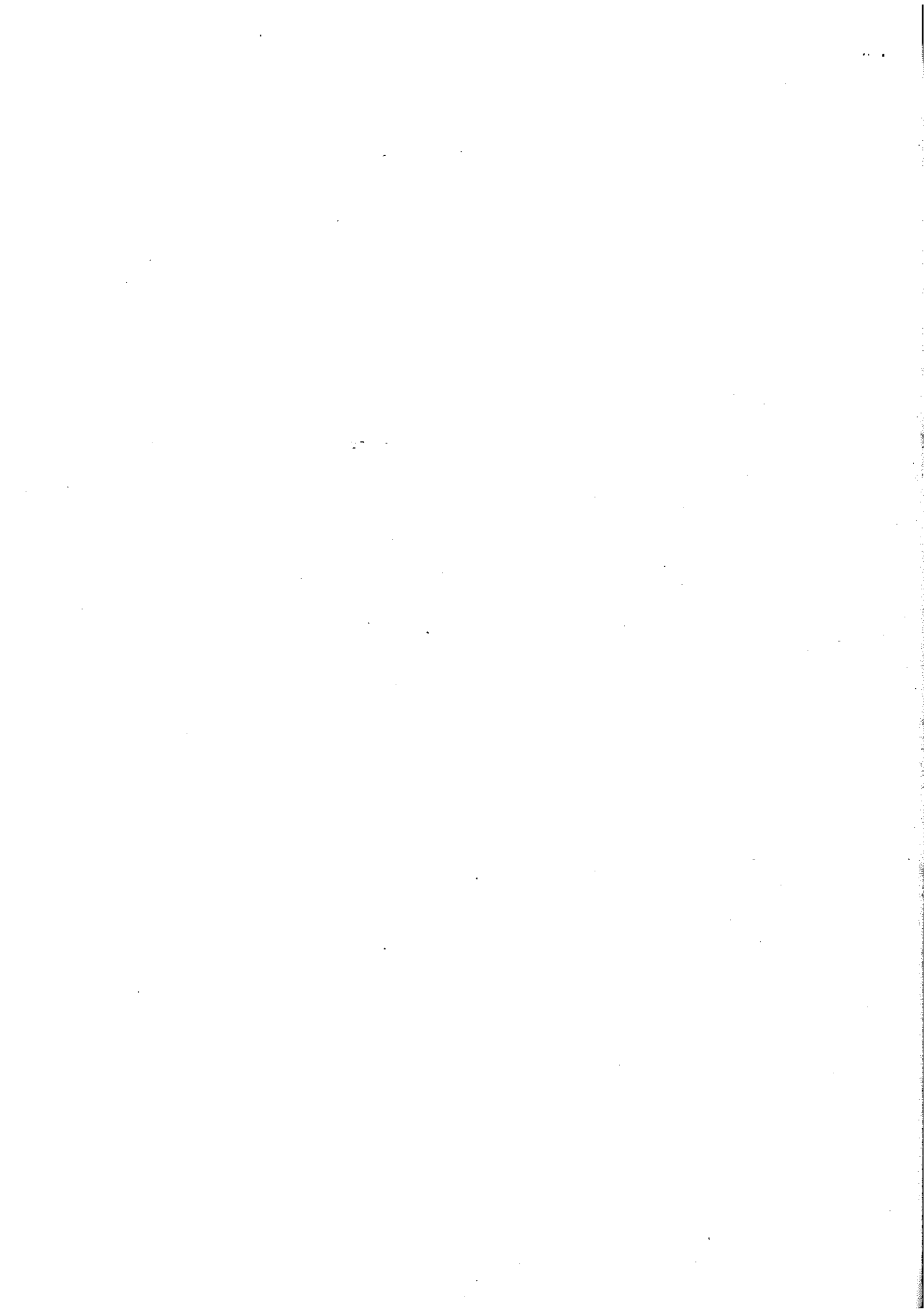
4. Concluding remarks

We feel very happy to have had the chance to both witness, participate in and contribute to the explosive development in the Baltic Sea region during the last decade. This concerns economic development, social improvements and improvements of the environment. Democracy and market economies now prevail in the region and have become a shared value base. The region is however still not on a track towards sustainable development but the "Baltic Sea Region ship" has now been equipped with navigation tools that make it possible to find the course towards sustainable development.

The Swedish government has strongly committed itself to sustainable development and started an ambitious national programme for this end. We are ready to share experiences and assist other countries in this respect whenever possible. But let me in ending this presentation try to summarize what I think the past ten years of international, regional co-operation has taught us, in particular our experiences from the JCP and the elaboration of Baltic 21. To achieve success and progress it seems to be necessary to

- have a strong and sustained commitment from the highest political levels of all the countries
- build on existing political and other structures in the region
- involve all major stakeholders and actors at an early time in the process in order to make them share common goals, visions and actions. This includes for example the IFIs, IGOs and NGOs, both industrial and green.
- allow for broad participation in an open, democratic and transparent way.
- establish joint priority actions to the benefit of all countries
- be ready to support and assist other countries in various stages of the process
- create a public awareness about the state of the environment, its relation to economic development and what is required to achieve improvements

Some of these conclusions might only be relevant to the Baltic Sea region but it is my conviction that most of them, if properly adapted to the conditions at hand, are of a more general nature and may very well provide a starting point also for discussions on the development of a deepened and broadened co-operation in the lake Victoria region.



ANNEX 4

SPEECH GIVEN BY MR. EKENGREN



Speech given by Lars Ekengren, Deputy DG of Sida, at the High Level Lake Victoria seminar on 31 May, 1999

Let me once again wish all the delegates from East Africa as well as those Swedes participating in the High Level Visit to the Baltic Sea Region a very warm welcome. I trust that all of you will have an interesting week in the region and that the visits to our neighbouring countries - Finland, Estonia and Latvia will be enlightening and will give you new ideas. Ideas which will encourage further cooperation in fostering development in the Lake Victoria region and in improving the living conditions for the region's population of some 26 million men, women and children.

My task this morning is to talk about Sweden's Africa policy in general, our policy in regard to regional cooperation in general as well as what we can do to foster development in the East African region.

We have supported Africa for some 40 years now and our policies have evolved over time. In a government bill adopted in 1962 basic policies were established which still remain the foundation for our aid program. It was established that the overriding goal of our development cooperation would be to raise the standard of living of the poor and thus to fight poverty. Four specific objectives were established, viz Economic Growth; Economic and Social equality; Economic and Political Independence and Democratic development, i.e. that the peoples should have greater opportunities to influence their own situation and their own living conditions. Since that time two new objectives have been added: Environment protection and Sustainable development and Gender equality, making the number of objectives six.

A vital reassessment of our collaboration with Africa has been made during the last few years ending in a government White paper taken on last year entitled "Africa on the move" with the subtitle "Revitalising Swedish policy towards Africa for the 21st Century". There we took stock of what has transpired during the last few decades and take a fresh look at the policy environment and development a new set of policies for the millennium. We note that the misdirected policies of the 70s and the 80s adopted by most African countries are behind us and advances are under way in the democratic, social and economic arena. At the same time immense problems persist. Armed conflict affects several countries and the instability is severe in several regions. Environmental degradation and the spread of AIDS are growing problems. Corruption has become a major issue. We note that the challenge for Africa is to avoid marginalisation in a globalised world and that the only way to do this is to continue with the efforts to foster democratic, social and economic progress.

It should be noted that the new Africa policy is not an aid policy only but includes ideas and proposals for cooperation in a number of other fields - in bilateral and multilateral fora, in trade and investment, and in culture etc. It is also noted that Sweden has got a population of some 35000 who have been born in sub-Saharan Africa and who should and would play a role in our own development as well as in our interface with Africa.

As we all know Partnership is concept, which has gained ground and where we have taken initiatives in our bilateral cooperation as well as in multilateral fora. Partnership should be seen as an attitude to cooperation, which is based on, shared values and mutual trust and which includes jointly formulated clear objectives, roles and responsibilities. The aspiration should be to bring about increased equality and mutual respect in the relationship between us and our African partner country - in awareness of the fundamental inequality represented by the donor's upper hand in terms of resources. This new Partnership concept has been pioneered by ourselves in collaboration with our Nordic sister institutions in i. a. the Nordic-Tanzanian Partnership Agreement from 1966, where the delegations from the Nordic side were coordinated by Sida's Director General, Bo Göransson.

Let me add a few salient points on the Partnership concept. The qualitative side of partnership should include a code of conduct encompassing openness and clarity concerning the values, which govern cooperation. It should include a substantial ownership by the partner, which is responsible for implementation. Further it requires clarity on resource commitment, payment procedures and reporting principles as well as a commitment to co-ordination among donor countries and agencies. Partnership is a prerequisite for sector programme support where the resources of the recipient countries and those of all donors who are willing and able to support a sector, e g the education sector, are put together under joint steering, programming, monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

To further develop the ideas of Partnership a conference will be held here in Stockholm on 30th and 31st August this year organised by the World Bank and the Nordic countries with participation by government and civic society representatives from four pilot countries, of which Tanzania and Uganda are two - Vietnam and Bolivia being the other two.

As I indicated earlier the new Africa policy entails a renewed focus on Africa. It entails a revitalised and strengthened Swedish interest in Africa. In doing that it stresses the following basic objectives:

- Supporting African-led processes of change towards democracy and sustainable development, focusing particularly on the poor
- Developing partnerships between Africa and the surrounding world

- Strengthening the long term contacts between Sweden and Africa

It includes programs in areas such as

- democracy, human rights and good governance
- preventing and managing of conflicts
- support to economic reforms
- the responsibility to foster the rights of the poor and to encourage gender equality
- the sustainable use of resources
- capacity building through national and regional institutions, research institutes etc
- support for the creation of enabling environments through structural reforms, institution building
- support to the private sector and the civil society

Action programmes have been established in all these areas.

In terms of the mode of collaboration the basic method have been through long term development cooperation agreements which we sign with our partner countries in which an annual country frame is set out as well as the sectors and areas of collaboration. These are based on our best analysis of the economic and social situation in the recipient country, on the results of our collaboration in the past and our best judgement on how we in the country could, through partnership, foster the overall objectives of our development cooperation. We have such programs with more than 10 African countries, including Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. With other African countries we have not entered into long term agreements based on a coherent country strategy but have more specific agreements. Rwanda is a case in point where our strategy is basically to provide humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of the civil war but where we now are looking into the possibility to increasingly provide long term development assistance.

In the consultations with the partner countries we increasingly involve representatives from the private sector and from the NGO community as well as the civil society at large.

Approximately half of our bilateral aid funds are disbursed in Africa south of Sahara. Out of that half, one half is covered by such development cooperation agreements as I just referred to. The other half, which includes research cooperation, humanitarian assistance, support through NGOs and various special development cooperation programs are programmed and disbursed in other ways and where the methods of applying the partnership concepts differ. To take one concrete example our collaboration with Kenya covers health, soil conservation, water and sanitation and rural roads financed under the country program while

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support to democracy and human rights and support through Swedish NGOs are financed from other budget allocations.

Let me now move from our country-based cooperation to our regional cooperation. Here you will find us involved in the cooperation in Eastern and Southern Africa and at a much lesser extent in Western Africa. Already some 30 years ago we provided development credits to the East African Community organisations, e.g. EA Post and Telecommunications, EA Railways and EA Development Bank. As we all know when the EA Community finally broke up in the late 70s the assets and liabilities of the institutions were split up among the EA member states - except for EADB which remained intact and which since then has formed a nucleus for EA cooperation. The Bank is very close to me personally as I served as its Director General during 3½ years in the early 80s and one of the directors then working for me Fabian Tibeita is now its Director General.

In the early 80s the focus of regional cooperation moved to SADC. Its initial main task was to act as a channel for assisting the neighbouring countries to maintain their independence from a South Africa plagued by apartheid. Substantial infrastructure and energy investments - in 1990 alone some 200 MusD - were made by Sweden under the SADC umbrella. Part of the support was coordinated within the framework of a special Nordic program meant to be transformed into a political dialogue. As SADC's focus upon the transformation of South Africa into a democratic society was changed from infrastructure-related investments towards economic cooperation, trade and investment, food security etc, so has the Swedish assistance to SADC changed and been reduced substantially in terms of funds disbursed. The new political dimension of SADC as a special conflict-resolving mechanism has moreover had a difficult start which the present conflict in DRC bears witness to.

Coming back to East Africa the new EAC gives us new encouragement. It is more broadbased than the previous one, not only involving governments but also the civic society and the private sector, and it has a realistic agenda, an agenda with an ultimate objective of creating a win-win situation for its member countries. To our understanding EAC has got very much going for her as compared to the much broader Comesa. On the problems of Comesa, it suffices to quote from President Museveni's book *Sowing the Mustard Seeds* where he writes: "Comesa, which is EAC on a bigger scale, is still rather theoretical than real, again because of lack of reasonable roads across the area covered by the organisation. There are no roads between Kenya and Ethiopia, although Ethiopia is a very big market, nor are there roads between Uganda and Zaire, and none worth mentioning between Tanzania and Mozambique".

But support to regional cooperation does not only cover support to large African organisations with broad mandates and with governments as members. It also includes various forms of exchanges of information between colleagues in African countries and between actors in their civil societies. There are a number of initiatives in this area worth supporting - exchanges between auditors, between researchers and between actors in the cultural fields to mention a few examples. An area of specific interest here is to create meeting opportunities for colleagues in different countries who have the task of creating mechanisms of solving conflicts or finding innovative ways of addressing poverty issues or issues related to the promotion of a democratic culture.

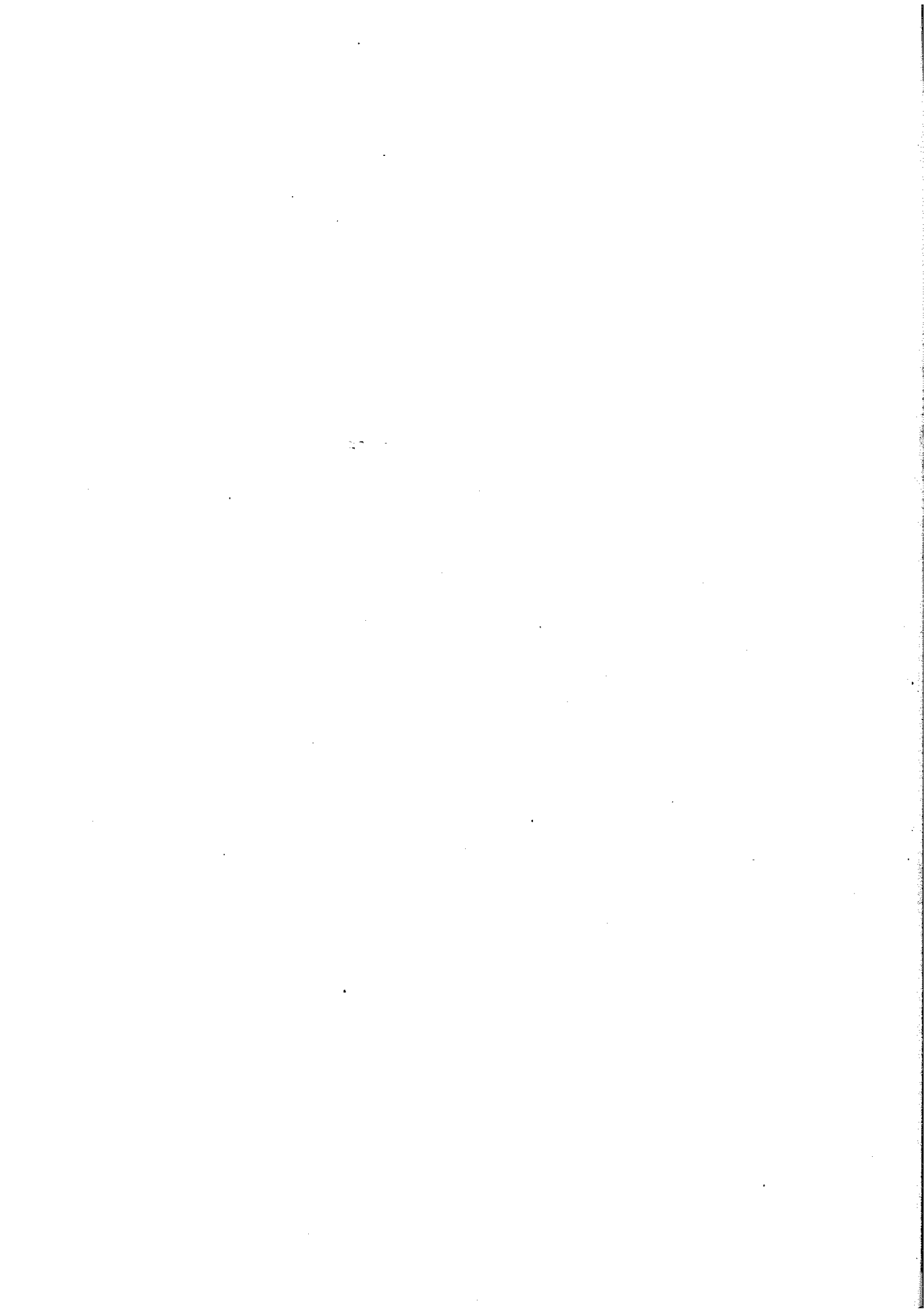
A further area of support for regional cooperation is to address problems, which are regional in nature. Here let me quote our initiative of addressing land management and soil conservation issues through the creation of Relma, the Regional Land Management Unit based in Nairobi which carry out various activities and projects in a number of countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. A new initiative is the creation of a HIV/AIDS unit in Harare, which will assist governments and organisations on how to increase the awareness on this scourge and the possibilities of abating it. As water management is a common issue among countries in Southern Africa and the large rivers of the continent tend to form borders between countries and have a riparian area, which is shared by many countries, this is an area to address through regional solutions. This we do through a specific regional project based in Harare. And indeed, the Lake Victoria initiative has a similar background and lends itself as we all know to regional solutions.

To sum up. I have talked this morning about partnership and about regional cooperation. As I see it the process all of us here have started in regard to Lake Victoria seems to include a perfect combination of both of these aspects. As I learned last night from talking to some of you last night, this is the path, which we have entered on and which we have decided to find a good solution to. Let me by these few words thank you for your attention.



ANNEX 5

PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES



Council of the BALTIC SEA STATES



- Members:** Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, and the European Commission
- Level of representation:** Foreign Ministers
- Working bodies:** Committee of Senior Officials and 3 Working Groups
- Chairmanship:** Rotating
- Ministerial Sessions:** Once a year.

History

In March 1992 the Danish and German Foreign Ministers invited the Foreign Ministers from Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden and a member of the European Commission to meet in Copenhagen. The meeting aimed at strengthening and put into relief existing co-operation among the Baltic Sea States and to decide on the establishment of a "Council of the Baltic Sea States" - CBSS.

The Ministers found that the recent dramatic changes in Europe heralded a new era of European relations where the confrontation and division of the past had been replaced by partnership and co-operation. An enhanced and strengthened Baltic co-operation was a natural and logical consequence of these events. The Ministers agreed that The Council of the Baltic Sea States should serve as an overall regional forum focusing on needs for intensified co-operation and co-ordination among the Baltic Sea States. The aim of the co-operation should be to achieve a genuinely democratic development in the Baltic sea region and a greater unity between the member countries, as well as to secure their favourable economic development.

At the end of the meeting the so-called Copenhagen Declaration was signed, establishing the Council of the Baltic Sea States - CBSS.

The Copenhagen Declaration

The Declaration is divided into four main parts:

- PART I** lays out the political framework for the regional co-operation and the need for intensified co-ordination among the states.

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- PART II** deals with the actual Council, and identifies six specific areas which should be given particular attention, namely: 1) assistance for new democratic institutions, 2) economic and technological assistance and co-operation, 3) humanitarian matters and health, 4) environment and energy, 5) culture, education, tourism and information, 6) transport and communication.
- PART III** emphasises the openness of the co-operative effort, calls for active participation by political decision-makers at all levels and by all regional initiatives, public or private, as long as they contribute to the general aims set forth in the Declaration.
- PART IV** focuses on the follow-up and charges a Committee of Senior Official to consider ways to implement the ideas in the Declaration, stating that particular attention should be given to assistance for new democratic institutions as well as economic and technological assistance and co-operation.

Organisation

The Council of the Baltic Sea States' organisational framework is based on the Terms of Reference accepted by the Foreign Ministers of the participating states. The work of the Council is based also on the principles laid down in the UN Charter as well as in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other OSCE documents. The co-operation model is of a traditional intergovernmental nature.

The Council

The Council consists of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of each Member State and a member of the European Commission. Chairmanship of the Council rotates on an annual basis.

The role of the Council is "to serve as a forum for guidance and overall co-ordination among the participating states". The annual session is held in the country currently in the chair.

The Foreign Minister of the presiding country is responsible for coordinating the Council's ongoing activities between the Ministerial Sessions and is assisted in this work by the Committee of Senior Officials.

The Committee of Senior Officials - CSO

The Committee of Senior Officials consists of high-ranking representatives of the Ministries for Foreign Affairs of the Member States as well as of the EU Commission. Inter-sessional work takes place in the Committee, which serves as a discussion forum for both practical and other matters related to the work of the Council. The Committee of Senior Officials can designate specific tasks to the three Working Groups.

The "Troika"

The "Troika" consists of the present, the previous and the future chair-holding Member State. The purpose of the "Troika" is to assist the chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials, to maintain informal co-ordination, promote better exchange of information and ensure more effective decision-making.

The Working Groups

There are three Working Groups under the auspices of the CSO:

- Working Group on Assistance to Democratic Institutions (WGDI)
- Working Group on Economic Co-operation (WGEC)

- Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (WGNRS)

The Working Groups consist of specialists within the stated areas from relevant ministries in the Member States. Their tasks are to formulate status reports, carry out in-depth reviews, forward recommendations for action within their areas of competence and to serve as knowledge basis for the CSO and the Council.

The CBSS Secretariat

The permanent international Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States was established following a decision adopted by the 1998 CBSS Ministerial conference in Nyborg, Denmark.. It started its operations in mid-August and was officially inaugurated on 20 October 1998

Address of the Secretariat:

CBSS Secretariat
Strömsborg, P.O. Box 2010
103 11 Stockholm
SWEDEN

Tel: (46)(8) 440 19 20 (operator)

Fax: (46)(8) 440 19 44

e-mail: cbss@baltinfo.org

The **mandate** of the Secretariat includes:

- providing technical and organisational support to the Chairman of the CBSS and the working bodies and structures of the Council (Committee of Senior Officials and the three Working Groups),
- ensuring smooth continuity and contributing to enhanced co-ordination of CBSS activities,
- carrying out the Information/Public relations strategy of the CBSS,
- establishing and maintaining the Council's archives and information database,
- maintaining contacts with other organisations operating in and around the Baltic Sea region, national authorities of the Member States and the media community.

The **staff** of the Secretariat includes four full-time professional members, one part-time professional member and two administrative/technical. The staff members are employed on the basis of three-year individual contracts; rotation (replacement upon termination of contracts) of staff members is foreseen, with consideration given to the professional skills of candidates, as well as to adequate geographical and gender representation.

The **budget** of the Secretariat is formed through contributions paid by the governments of the 11 CBSS Member States.

The Secretariat edits and publishes the official monthly newsletter of the CBSS, BALTINFO (issue No. 19 came out of the print shop in April 1999) and the CBSS Internet Home page, www.baltinfo.org

Summit Meetings

Following a decision that the Heads of Government of the States represented in the CBSS should meet on an informal basis., the first of these meetings was held in May 1996 in Visby,

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Sweden. The second was held in January 1998 in Riga Latvia, during the Danish presidency. The summit meetings do not occur at regular intervals, but the Heads of Government decided in Riga to meet again.

The summit meetings have given strong momentum to the interaction in the Baltic Sea region. The Presidency declarations from the Heads of Government meetings give overall political guidance to the co-operation. The CBSS is responsible for the follow-up of the summit meetings.

Commissioner on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Including the Rights of Persons belonging to Minorities

In May 1994 a Commissioner on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Including the Rights of Persons belonging to Minorities was appointed. Since 1994 the office has been held by Professor Ole Espersen, Denmark. A revised mandate was adopted in 1997 and Mr. Espersen was re-appointed for another 3-year term.

The aim of the Commissioner is to contribute to the promotion and consolidation of democratic development, to co-ordinate the activities of human rights organisations and to act as a spokesman for the Baltic Sea Region. The Commissioner is independent and reports directly to the CBSS.

In view of the sub-regional nature of the CBSS the Commissioner co-operates closely with the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

The Commissioner has issued a number of surveys and reports on specific issues. These publications always include recommendations.

The Commissioner participates in the annual meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Every year he publishes an annual report.

For additional information please visit the Commissioner's Home page on the Internet::

<http://www.cbss-commissioner.org>

EuroFaculty

In March 1993 at the Second Ministerial Session in Helsinki it was decided to establish the EuroFaculty. The initiative came from Mr. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher then Foreign Ministers of Denmark and Germany, respectively. The EuroFaculty statutes were adopted at the Third Ministerial Session in Tallinn in May 1994. The aim of the EuroFaculty project is to assist in reforming higher education of law, economics, public administration and business administration at the leading universities in the Baltic Sea Region.

The participating institutions are Tartu University, Estonia, the University of Latvia in Riga, Vilnius University in Lithuania, and Kaliningrad State University, Russia.

The contact group consists of 15 universities and other higher education institutions in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Poland, and Sweden. The EuroFaculty Directorate is located in Riga, Latvia. The Directorate operates the EuroFaculty Centres in the three Baltic states and Kaliningrad and is responsible for programme administration and co-ordination of contributions from the donors.

Funding is provided by the Foreign Ministries and Ministries of Education of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and the EU Commission.

The Steering Committee has the overall responsibility for the projects and consists of one representative appointed by the government. Furthermore, one is appointed by the Conference of Rectors of each participating state, and the European Commission has one representative. The Steering Committee approves the budgets, appoints the Director of the EuroFaculty, and sets the overall policy for the EuroFaculty in co-operation with the CSO.

The Chairman of the EF Steering Committee is Prof. Nikolai Petersen of the University of Aarhus, Denmark. The Director of EuroFaculty is Professor Arild Saether of Norway.

EuroFaculty offers courses taught by local academic personnel, lecture series held by visiting teachers from donor institutions and, in addition, short intensive language courses in English and German.

For additional information please visit EuroFaculty's Home page on the Internet::

<http://www.eurofaculty.lv>

The CBSS Action Programme

The so-called Action Programme was adopted at the Council meeting in Kalmar, Sweden in July 1996 and serve as an additional guideline for CBSS activities. The programmes represent a step forward for the Baltic Sea Co-operation and comprise the following fields:

I Participation and Stable Political Development Including:

- Essence of Democracy: Participation
- Local Initiatives
- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Civic Security and Combating Organised Crime
- Free Travel whilst Fighting Abuse
- Educational Co-operation and Exchange
- Common Culture and Creative Co-operation

II Economic Integration and Prosperity including:

- Economic Integration and Transition
- The Baltic Sea Region and the European Union
- Transport: Efficiency, Safety and Protection of the Environment
- Spatial Planning - The Baltic Sea Vision
- Energy: Supply, Environment and Safety

III A matter of Solidarity - The Baltic Sea Environment including:

- Commitment to the Baltic Sea: The Joint Comprehensive Programme
- Trans-boundary Water-Management
- Waste and Chemicals
- Oil Pollution
- Atmospheric deposition into the Baltic Sea
- Agriculture: Call for Urgent Action
- Protection of Marine Ecosystem: Pollution and Sustainable Fishing
- Nature Conservation: Protecting Diversity

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The CSO has been instructed to follow up and co-ordinate the implementation of the programmes. Since the adoption the Action Programmes have provided the guiding principles for the work programmes of the Working Groups.

Task-Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region

Established following a decision of the Heads of Government at the Baltic Sea States Summit meeting in Visby held in May 1996. Mandate extended in December 1998 until the end of the year 2000.

Structure: Composed of special representatives of Heads of Government of CBSS Member States, of the Presidency of the European Union and of the European Commission. Reports directly to the Heads of Government.

Operative Committee (OPC) established in February 1998 under the auspices of the TF. Several expert groups.

Members: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, Presidency of the EU, EC.

Chairman: Mr. Pär Nuder, State Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Sweden

Fields of Activity:

- *Improved and increased exchange of information*
- *Joint concrete and operative measures/actions*
- *Judicial co-operation*
- *Special surveys, training and other co-operation*

TF Secretariat: Mr. Ulrik Åshuvud (Head), Deputy Director, Ministry of Justice, Sweden
Contact Person: Ms. Agneta Essen

Home page: www.baltinfo.org/taskforce .

Co-operation with Sub-regional actors

As an umbrella forum for co-operation, the CBSS also maintains close ties to a number of sub-regional actors. Below some of the sub-regional organisations are presented.

The Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation

The Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation (BSSSC) was established in 1993 as a response to the wish of the CBSS to improve sub-regional co-operation in the Baltic Sea region. The BSSSC is open to all 162 sub-regions in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden. More than 100 sub-regions participate in the annual conference of the BSSSC. The objectives of the BSSSC are:

- to promote co-operation among sub-regions around the Baltic Sea,
- to formulate a coherent Baltic Sea policy on the regional level,
- to represent the interests of the sub-regions towards national governments as well as European and international organisations.

The secretariat of the BSSSC is presently located in Copenhagen.

For further information on the BSSSC please visit their home page on the Internet:

<http://www.arf.dk/bsssc/>

Parliamentary Conferences on Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Area

The aim of the Parliamentary Conference is to develop existing co-operation between all parliamentary institutions of the Baltic Sea area (both on a regional and national level) and to discuss major regional issues. The Conferences in 1997 was the fifth one.

The CBSS Presidency presents a report on its activities to the Parliamentary Conference. Between sessions a standing committee of five parliamentarians, assisted by the secretariat of the Nordic Council, is responsible for co-ordinating the on-going activities.

The Chairman of the CBSS normally participates in the Parliamentary Conference and presents the work programme of the CBSS.

Union of Baltic Cities

The Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) was established on 20 September 1991. The UBC secretariat is situated in Gdansk, Poland. The UBC is a network of currently 71 member cities from all 10 Baltic countries, with the following mission:

- to develop co-operation and exchange between the UBC-members,
- to contribute to democratic, economic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea region,
- to follow closely the developments of the European Union and prepare its Eastern member cities to smooth transition to the prospective EU membership.

Business Advisory Council

Set out in the European Commissions Initiative towards the Baltic Sea, the Economic Working Group of the CBSS took up the initiative to establish a Baltic Sea Business Advisory Council (BAC) with the aim of speeding up the process of privatising and restructuring enterprises in the countries in transition and to promote small and medium-sized enterprises.

Due to its composition of business experts, the BAC is considered - not least on account of its proximity to the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association and the business community - an important speaker for business in the region and adviser to decision makers.

The secretariat of the BAC is presently located in Kiel.

Baltic Chambers of Commerce Association

The Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA) was founded 4 June 1992. Chambers of Commerce and Industry representing member states of the EU, the EFTA and the former COMECON recognised the need to establish an organisation, with a common ground for industries and businesses operating in the Baltic Sea area, to turn for assistance, guidance and support. Today, the BCCA has 45 Chambers of Commerce as members, representing more than 350,000 small and large companies within all sectors.

The secretariat of the BCCA is presently located in Kiel.

For further information on the BCCA please visit their home page on the Internet:

<http://www.ihk.de/kiel/bcca/bcca1.htm>

Annex 5

Baltic Sea Tourism Commission

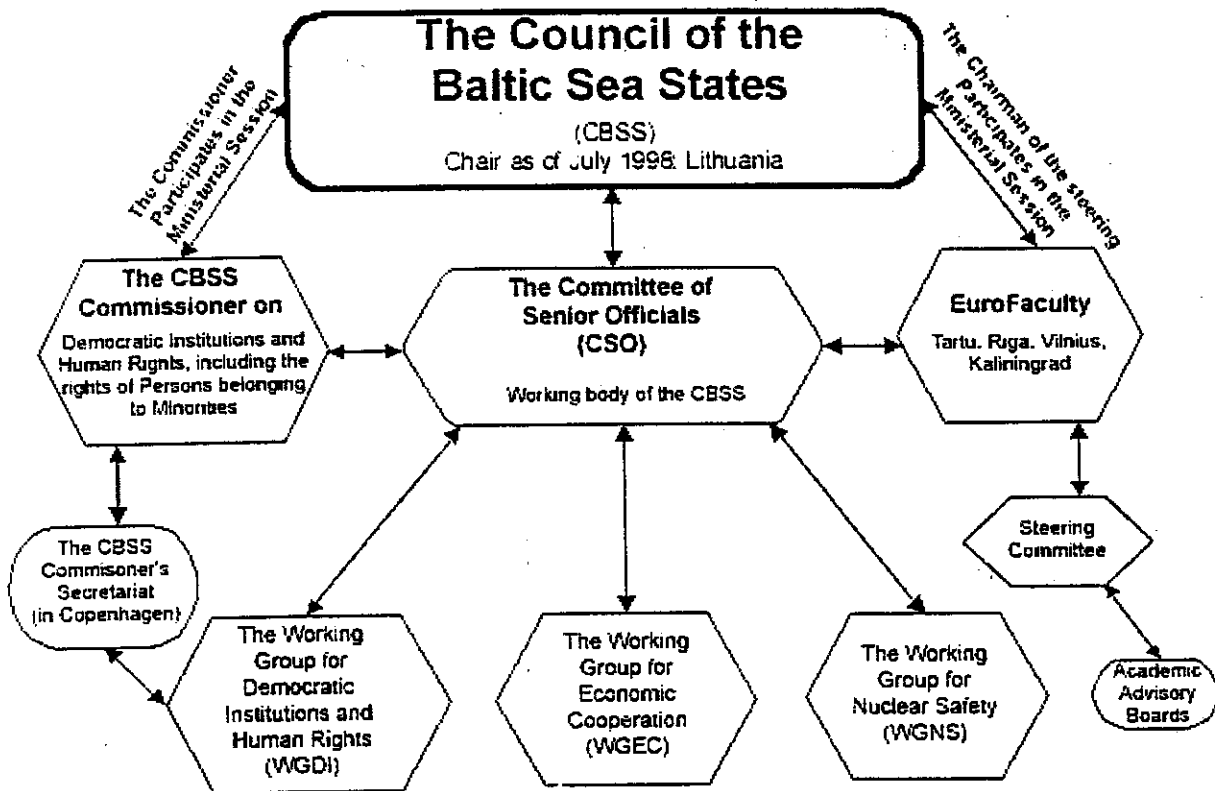
The Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC) is a non-profit organisation, created by the countries around the Baltic Sea and is open for every organisation and company interested in the aims of the BTC. The BTC was founded in 1983 on an initiative of the Lübeck Chamber of Commerce. The BTC is located in Sweden.

The aims of the BTC are to promote a natural and sustainable development of travel and tourism within and to the Baltic Sea region.

For further information on the BTC please visit their home page on the Internet:

<http://www.balticsea.com>

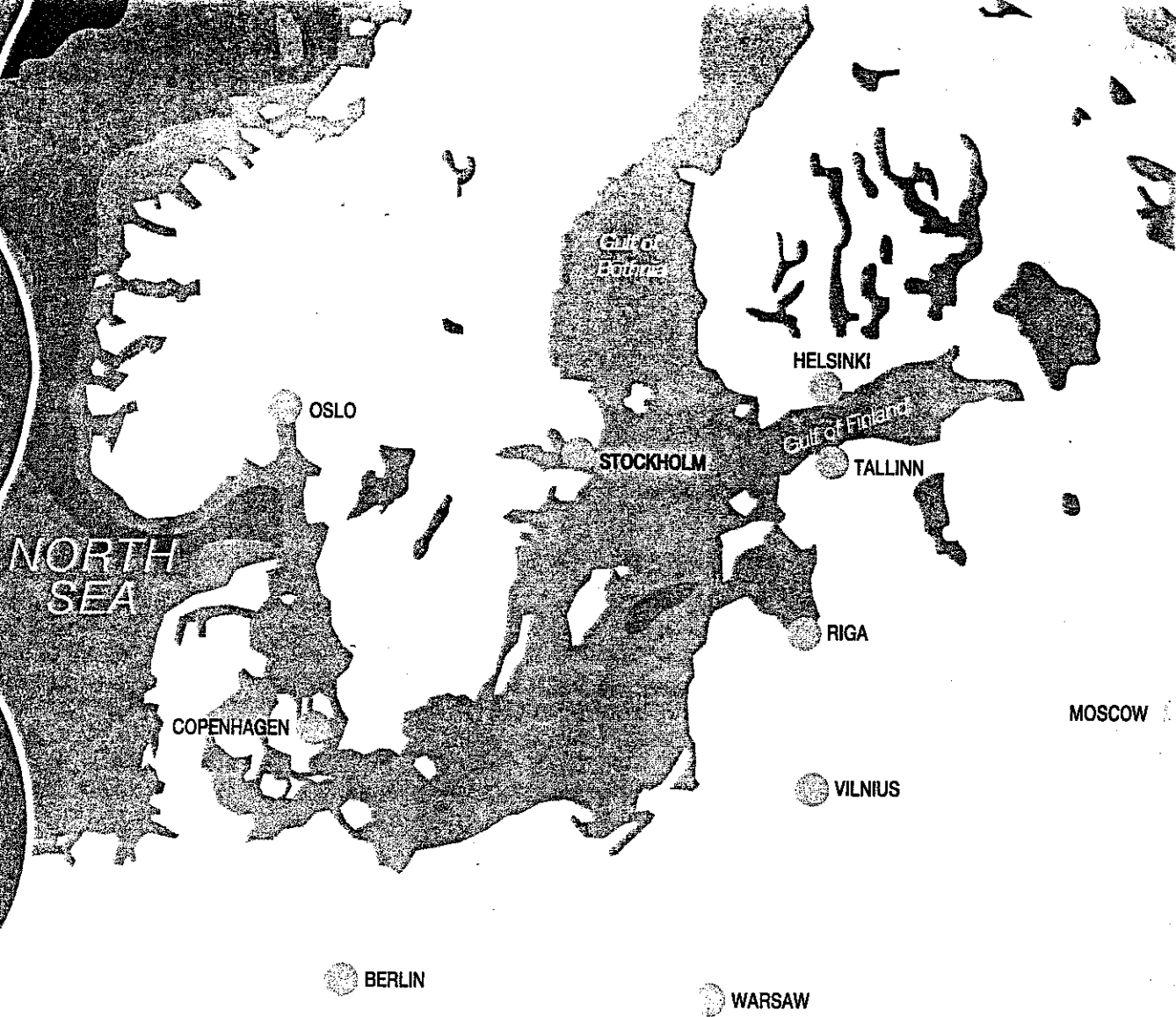
Organigram for the Council of the Baltic Sea States



ANNEX 6

PRESENTATION OF BALTIC 21





Baltic 21 – Towards Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region

Baltic 21 – An Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region has been elaborated in a joint effort by countries, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and many other actors in the region.

During less than two years of work, networks and contacts have been established within the agricultural, energy, fishery, forest, industrial, transport and tourism sectors, as well as between sectors, and resulted in new or expanded regional sectoral and cross-sectoral co-operation. In the process of discussing sustainable development goals for the sectors and for the region as a whole, a common view of a possible future of the Baltic Sea Region has evolved. The next step in this process will be taken with the actual implementation of Baltic 21 Action Programme.

A Baltic 21 Vision

"It is the year 2030 in the Baltic Sea Region..."

Countries and actors in region have since the late 1990's jointly managed to use the region's great potential for dramatic economic and social improvements in a way that has allowed its economy to develop in a sustainable way. The fast economic development – primarily in the new democracies – has provided a basis for a safe and healthy life with an equal distribution of wealth, unemployment reduced to a minimum, and no major differences in living standard in the region.

Regional greenhouse gas emissions have been cut to almost half of what they used to be. Acidification of soils and waters is reduced to levels where productivity and diversity of ecosystems are secured. The much improved state of the Baltic Sea marine environment, due to measures in the energy, transport, industrial and agricultural sectors, has given new options for long-term maintenance of healthy marine ecosystems. All pollution "hot spots" have long been eliminated.

The economic, social and environmental dimen-

sions of sustainable development are integrated and interacting, and human activities are safely kept within the carrying capacity of the region's natural ecosystems. There is close regional co-operation on harmonisation and introduction of new policies. Each Baltic municipality is implementing its own local Agenda 21, and monitoring systems have been established.

Development and use of efficient and clean technologies, as well as decoupling of economic growth from resource use, has made regional economic growth possible without violating ecological goals. Foresighted business and industrial investment and management policies have resulted in considerable improvement in resource productivity. A pronounced change in production and consumption patterns has taken place, and the overall energy and material use has decreased. Subsidising of unsustainable activities has been phased out in the region, and investment decisions take sustainability fully into account.



Three Dimensions

How can regional co-operation contribute to sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region? The Scenarios, Goals and Action Programme presented in Baltic 21 are intended as a set of primary answers to that question.

It is emphasised that sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region must include economic, social and environmental aspects as three mutually interdependent dimensions. As an important prerequisite for sustainability, the carrying capacity of the natural environment must be respected. The richness of the region's natural resources and a healthy environment should prevail as the fundamental basis for development. The tools to make this possible are, however, of an economic and social nature. Well-

functioning societies are required, as well as a regional economy that is globally competitive, new technical solutions that do not contradict sustainable development, the application of new consumption and production patterns, and a phasing out of non-sustainable systems and practices.

A Programme for Regional Action

Baltic 21 is an important step in the transition towards sustainability. Its goals should be viewed as milestones in a long-term dynamic process, constituting a guide for policy-making and regional co-operation, as well as the first steps towards a common and harmonised regional view of the work ahead. In this

impact of municipalities, industrial plants, agriculture and transport. The IBSFC (International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission) for co-operation on fisheries, and VASAB 2010 (Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea Region 2010) for spatial planning, are other important examples.

Besides ongoing work of this kind, regional networks have been established also between various governmental and non-governmental organisations representing cities, municipalities, universities and schools, business and trade, etc. The purpose of these initiatives is to promote exchange of knowledge and experience and to launch common projects on sustainable development.

Furthermore, sustainable development is now a political issue in all countries of the region. The development and implementation of National Agenda 21 programmes, including national goals, strategies and actions are very important to support regional and local initiatives.

... But Also New Doors to Open

Although far-reaching, the existing regional co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region does not yet address the holistic and long-term perspective of sustainable development. Not all important sectors are included, and the integration of sectoral, spatial, economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects is insufficient.

Better integration is needed also in national policies and decision-making. Much remains to be done in terms of promoting co-operation between different sectors of society in order to avoid generating problems as well as to find cross-sectoral solutions. An increased public awareness of the need for sustainable development and a change towards sustainable consumption patterns is essential.

Foresighted political decisions and efficient democratic decision-making processes are of course decisive for success in the efforts towards sustainable development. An enhanced national and regionally harmonised regulatory framework, as well as harmonised economic instruments incorporating sustainability aspects, are also called for. The efficient use of resources needs to be improved, emissions

must be reduced, and international agreements relevant for regional environment need to be implemented. The Polluter Pays Principle and the Precautionary Principle have to be further incorporated into national regulations as to steer market activities.

The **Baltic 21** work has, initially, been focused on seven sectors of crucial economic and environmental importance in the region. In addition, cross-sectoral aspects of spatial planning have been considered. However, the interlinkages and dependencies between different sectors on the one hand, and between sectoral and spatial development on the other, cannot be overlooked. Environmental concerns and responsibilities need to be integrated into sector policies in many areas. Several of the sector activities and actions proposed affect or depend upon what happens in other sectors. It is evident that joint and cross-sectoral initiatives and strategies are called for in order to foster a holistic approach in the region. Sustainability priorities should be integrated into investment plans.

A Regional Responsibility

Progress in the implementation of the proposals put forward in **Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region**, will be reviewed, followed, and promoted at the political pan-Baltic, national and local levels. The steering group, Senior Officials Group (SOG), will maintain its responsibility for the co-ordination and steering of the implementation of Baltic 21, as well as for the development of plans for implementation and regular reporting back to the highest political level on the progress of implementation.

The seven sectors will be assigned responsibility for the implementation of their own action programmes. Each sector has suggested specific indicators for the follow-up, and there is a need to continue the elaboration of a common set of indicators to monitor and evaluate overall progress in the region.

respect, the long-term perspective of **Baltic 21**, with a time-scale from now to the year 2030, is vital.

The emphasis of the **Baltic 21** Action Programme is to strengthen the basis for comprehensive regional co-operation and to build a solid foundation for the common, long-term transition to sustainable development in the region. Consequently, the programme is mainly focused on structures and other non-technical initiatives. An overall objective is to fill identified gaps and to avoid duplication of work. The implementation of cross-sectoral and joint actions between the sectors will contribute to the added value of the Baltic 21 process.

The Baltic 21 Action Programme is focused on creating fora and networks for promoting education and training, and for exchanging experience and knowledge on sustainability issues. A number of demonstration areas will be established and pilot projects undertaken to gain practical experience on technologies, methods, infrastructures and organisations that support an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development.

Most actions are proposed to be taken now, but

their impact will be important in the long term. It will be the responsibility of the sectors to implement the programme, and achieving sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region in the 2030 perspective has not been considered to be impossible (although more or less difficult). In fact, if necessary policy changes are made, all sectors in the region will be able to make considerable short-term as well as long-term contributions to the transition to sustainable development.

Co-operation to Build on ...

A good foundation is already in place for future efforts in the Baltic Sea Region, with its long history of successful regional co-operation in various forms and fora on important issues like environment, security and development. For instance, the work carried out since the early 1970's by HELCOM (the Helsinki Commission) for the protection of the Baltic Sea environment is a globally recognised example of regional governmental co-operation to reduce the



Overall goal for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region

"The essential objective of co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region is the constant improvement of the living and working conditions of the people in the region within the framework of sustainable development, sustainable management of natural resources, and protection of the environment". Sustainable development includes three mutually interdependent dimensions – economic, social and environmental.

For the Baltic Sea Region, this means:

- a safe and healthy life for current and future generations;
- a co-operative and prosperous economy and a society for all;
- that local and regional co-operation is based on democracy, openness and participation;
- that biological and ecosystem diversity and productivity are restored or maintained;
- that pollution of the atmosphere, land and water does not exceed the carrying capacity of nature;
- that renewable resources are efficiently used and managed, within their regeneration capacity;
- that material flows of non-renewable resources are made efficient and cyclic, and that renewable substitutes are created and promoted;
- that awareness of the elements and processes leading to sustainability is high among different actors and levels of society.

The Baltic Sea Region recognises its interdependence with other parts of the world and makes its contribution to the fulfillment of sustainable development goals at the global and European levels.

Summary of Goals and Action Programme

The Action Programme highlights regional co-operation projects and projects are drawn from the sector and VASAB reports. They are related to the overall and sectoral goals agreed by Baltic 21 and summarised together below. Sustainable Development involves all sectors of society and

Joint actions, concerning several sectors

- Increased use of bioenergy and other renewables.
- Establishment of regional fora and networks for the follow-up process.
- Establishment of demonstration areas and pilot projects to demonstrate sustainable development.
- Continued and increased city and community co-operation, as their development and interrelation with surrounding areas are key factors for the success of sustainability transition.
- Procurement policies to stimulate development and dissemination of sustainable technologies.
- Establishment of an indicator-based information and report framework.
- Increasing consumer awareness of sustainable development through local Agenda 21 projects, projects for environmental education, eco-labelling systems, etc.

Goals and actions for sustainable agriculture

Goals: Long-term production (not threatening human or animal health or degrading the environment) of high-quality food and other agricultural products and services with consideration taken to rural economy, living standard and social structure and done in a way that maintains the resource base. Gradual replacement of non-renewable resources by renewable ones. Preservation of the landscape, cultural values and the historical heritage of rural areas.

Actions: Education and training. Development of a "Virtual Research Institute" for sustainable agriculture. Elaboration and implementation of agro-environmental legislation and policies.

Goals and actions for sustainable energy

Goals: Security of supply by resource management, carrying capacity of the environment, economy and safety. Energy savings, increased energy efficiency (including combined heat and power production) and increased use of renewable energy sources.

Affordable basic energy services on the basis of modern technology. No pollution exceeding critical loads or levels of acidification, eutrophication, tropospheric ozone and global climate change. Limitation of hazards related to nuclear energy.

Actions: Strengthened co-operation between authorities. Creation of instruments to increase renewable energy by regional "protected" competition. Promotion of increased energy efficiency and energy savings by using regional competition. Co-operation on research and development.

Goals and actions for sustainable fisheries

Goals: Assurance of a high probability of fish stocks being able to replenish themselves over a long period of time within a sound ecosystem, while offering stable economic and social conditions for all those involved in the fishing activity. Economically and socially sustainable, environmentally safe and responsible fisheries. Distribution of benefits of open sea and coastal fishery resources between local communities in an equitable manner.

Actions: Developing long-term strategies for major Baltic fish stocks (cod, salmon, herring and sprat). Restoring habitats important to fish and fisheries in inland waters. Achieving sustainable aquaculture.

Goals and actions for sustainable forest management

Goals: Stewardship and use of forests and forest land in a way and at a rate that maintains biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global level, and not causing damage to other ecosystems.

Actions: Promotion of sustainable regional forest management and efficiency in private forestry through existing organisational structures or networks of forest owners and leasers of forests. Exchange of information on ways and means of advisory services between organi-

require crossing of sector and disciplinary borders. The identification of cross-sectoral and joint actions therefore contributes much to the added value of Baltic 21. A detailed account of the goals and actions can be found in the Baltic 21 Document or in the background reports.

sations and authorities that advise forest owners and managers. Gap analysis on protected forest areas. Promotion of the use of wood and wood-based products, as a natural renewable resource and environmentally-friendly material, and changing of consumption patterns in a more sustainable direction.

Goals and actions for sustainable industry

Goals: Maintained continuity of economic, social, technological and environmental improvement. Reaching eco-efficiency by the delivery of competitively priced goods and services to satisfy human and social needs and bring quality of life while progressively reducing ecological impacts and resource intensity throughout the life cycle. Improved working environment and industrial safety for the work force.

Actions: • Improvement of the framework for business operations: Development of economic incentives improving the management of environment in industry. Harmonisation of legislation pertaining to industry as regards state aid, competition, trade and environmental policy (including working environment and industrial safety) without impairing existing international environmental standards. Implementation of international conventions and agreements relevant to sustainable development in the region.

• Implementation of eco-efficiency in industry: Development of eco-efficiency tools for different industries. Implementation of Environmental Management Systems with consideration of the special circumstances for SME. Consideration of environmental factors in all activities and reporting, especially with regard to financial reporting of enterprises. Promotion of pilot projects aiming at sustainable development.

• Extended and improved co-operation on research and development, knowledge and technology transfer in the region.

Goals and actions for sustainable tourism

Goals: Tourist development or

activities respecting the environment, ensuring long-term conservation of natural and cultural resources. Tourism that is socially and economically acceptable and equitable, and integrating natural, cultural and human environments.

Actions: Enforcement of legislation regarding sustainable development and tourism, e.g., coastal codes and HELCOM recommendations, spatial planning and land use. Presentation of Environmental Management Systems to the tourism industry, and development of monitoring methods.

Goals and actions for sustainable transports

Goals: Minimising negative environmental effects, consumption of non-renewable resources and use of land for transportation purposes, in order to protect human health and the environment, in particular the sensitive ecosystems of the region.

Actions: Projects to develop guidelines, criteria and recommendations for infrastructure investments in a sustainable transport system. Established and strengthened collaboration among the governments with regard to measures for more efficient goods transportation, in particular by improving railway and ship connections. Development of regional strategies to support sustainable transport.

Goals and actions for spatial planning

Goals: Promotion of economic and social development, while simultaneously ensuring the protection and conservation of the natural environment and cultural heritage (through procedures and organisational principles building on public participation, partnership and subsidiarity). Contribution to the international competitiveness of the region.

Actions: Implementation of the Stockholm Declaration on Sustainable Spatial Development Policy. Further development of coastal zone management. Integration of Baltic 21 into European spatial planning documents.

Basic facts about the Baltic 21 process

■ In May 1996, the Heads of Government at their Baltic Sea States Summit, and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs at their meeting of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), gave the mandate for the development of an **Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region**. In October 1996, the project was officially launched by the Ministers of Environment in the Baltic Sea Region and formulated in the Saltsjöbaden Declaration.

■ **Baltic 21** complements international, national and local initiatives, as well as the work carried out within the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) and the Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea Region 2010 project (VASAB 2010). It also takes account of the European Union dimension, as four of the countries are members of the EU and another four have applied for membership.

■ Eleven countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Iceland, Poland, Russian Federation, and Sweden) and the European Commission have participated in the **Baltic 21** process, together with a wide spectrum of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations in the Baltic Sea Region, and the major International Financial Institutions active in the region.

■ From the outset, **Baltic 21** has been a democratic, open and transparent process committed to wide public participation. In principle, it has been possible for anyone in the region to follow the work. All documents have consecutively been published on the **Baltic 21** web site. To increase local participation, a series of public seminars have been organised by regional NGOs.

■ The **Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region** was officially submitted to the Council of the Baltic Sea States for endorsement in June 1998.

This brief summary of the **Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region – Baltic 21** is based on the draft document. It has been produced by the Ministry of the Environment in Sweden. The final document is available on the **Baltic 21** web site: <http://www.ee/baltic21>



REGERINGSKANSLIET

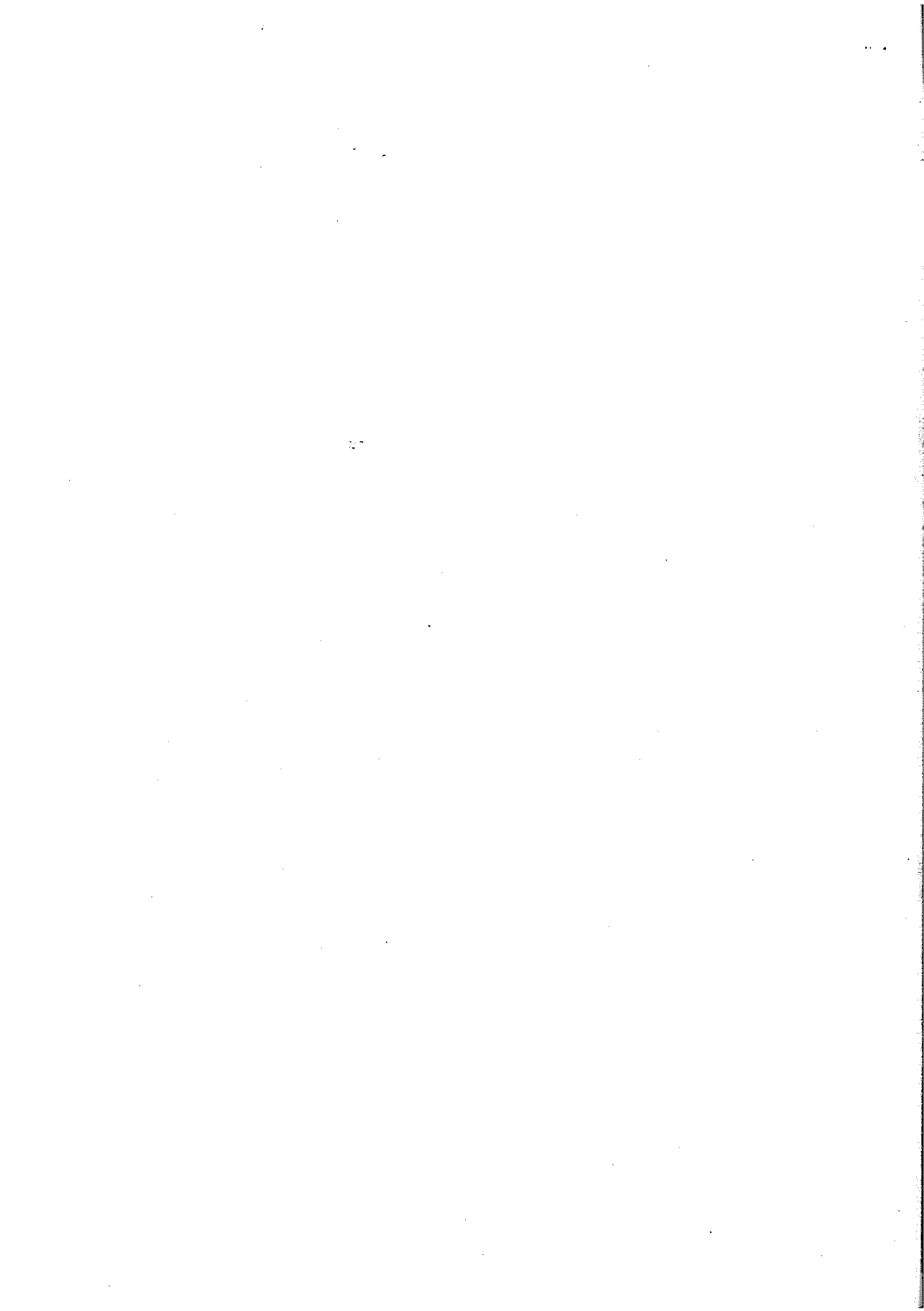
Ministry of the Environment

SE-103 33 Stockholm

Tel +46 8 405 10 00

ANNEX 7

SLIDES FROM PRESENTATION OF NEFCO



Environmental investments in the framework of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Action Programme

SEVERAL REGIONAL / SUB-REGIONAL PROCESSES (PARTLY OVERLAPPING)

- HELCOM / JCP
- ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE / EAP
- BEAR / EAP
- AEPS > ARCTIC COUNCIL
- BALTIC AGENDA 21
- NUCLEAR SAFETY / CEG
- NORDIC ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY
- BILATERAL COOPERATION

SEVERAL ACTORS

- TREATY ORGANISATIONS
- IFIs (WORLD BANK, EIB, EBRD, NIB, NEFCO)
- EU PROGRAMMES
- NORDIC COOPERATION
- BILATERAL ASSISTANCE
- LOCAL AUTHORITIES / ENTITIES
- THE PRIVATE SECTOR

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- PROGRAMME COORDINATION
- POLICY REFORM, LEGAL INSTRUMENTS
- INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AUTHORITIES
- RESEARCH (STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CAUSES AND EFFECTS, TECHNOLOGIES, REMEDIES AND SOLUTIONS)
- PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- NATURE PROTECTION , PRESERVATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
- ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENTS
 - POLLUTION ABATEMENT IN INDUSTRY AND MUNICIPALITIES
 - ENERGY, TRAFFIC, AGRICULTURE

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

JCP - The Joint Comprehensive Baltic Sea Environmental Action Programme

- Helsinki Convention 1974
- HELCOM 1980
- Baltic Sea Declaration (Ronneby) 1990
- JCP 1992
- Baltic Sea States Summit (Visby) 1996
- Updating and strengthening of the JCP 1998

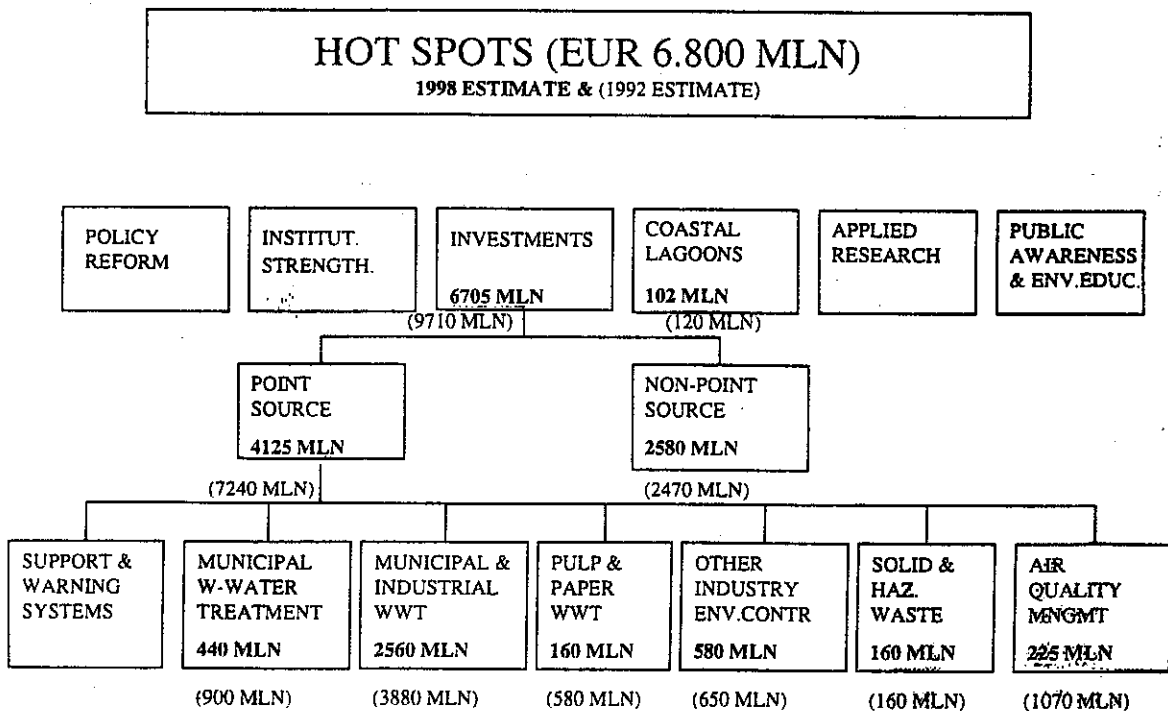
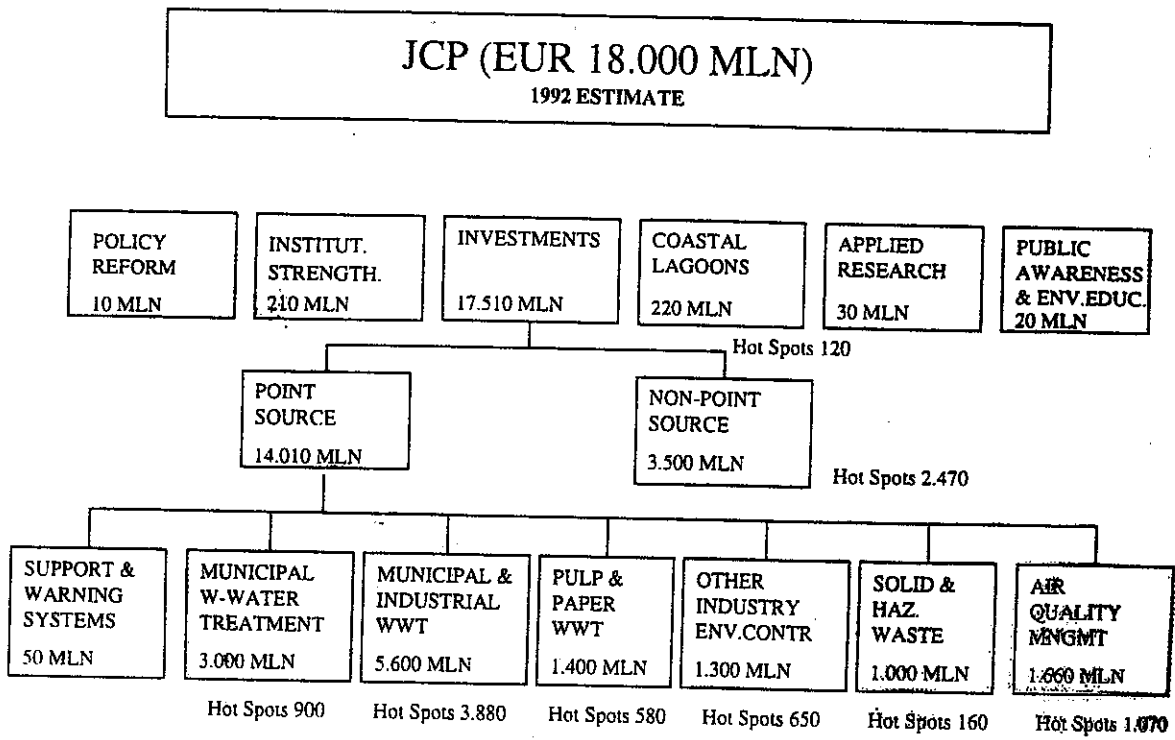
RESULTS SO FAR

Investment need estimate for Hot Spots

approx. euro 10 bn \Rightarrow approx euro 7 bn
(est. 1992) (est. 1998)

- Originally 132 hot spots
- 14 have been completed, 3 have been deleted
- euro 409 mn has been invested
- In addition substantial resources have been invested in ongoing projects
- 115 hot spots remain with an estimated investment need of euro 6.800

- Several other investments have been started or are under preparation, particularly in municipal water and sewage treatment (e.g. close to 100 projects in the Baltic States - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)
- Difficult to tackle non point-source pollution; agriculture, traffic, energy



LESSONS LEARNT

- Policy reform and setting of priorities is the starting point
- Institutional development is a key issue
- Public awareness must be increased (including “training of politicians”)
- Tariff adjustment is difficult but necessary to give the right signals (Polluter Pays Principle)
 - REDUCED CONSUMPTION
 - CORRECT SIZING
 - SUSTAINABLE UTILITY ACTIVITIES, OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

- Strong project activities lead to capacity bottlenecks and pressure on prizes
- Improved local resource mobilisation is a necessity
- Continued ifi involvement is a catalyst

NORDIC EXPERIENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COOPERATION WITH THE ADJACENT REGION

- ◆ TRADITIONAL INTER-NORDIC COOPERATION
- ◆ CONCERN ABOUT THE DEGRADING STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
- ◆ NORDIC ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY
- ◆ ENVIRONMENTAL SELF INTEREST: POLLUTION DOES NOT RECOGNIZE POLITICAL BORDERS
- ◆ BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY; EACH HALVING (FOR EXAMPLE PURIFICATION OF 0 % ⇒ 50 % AND 90 % ⇒ 95 %) " COSTS THE SAME". JOINT IMPLEMENTATION (AIJ)

10

NEFCO

- ◆ PROVIDES RISK CAPITAL (SHARE CAPITAL AND LOANS) FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS: INVESTMENTS ≠ GRANTS
- ◆ ONLY FOR THE ADJACENT REGIONS : BALTIC SEA AND BARENTS
- ◆ CAPITAL FUND ECU 80 MILLION → PORTFOLIO OF APPROX. 60 PROJECTS IN A REVOLVING SCHEME
- ◆ > 50 PROJECTS SO FAR
- ◆ PURPOSE TO INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENT INTO CORPORATE ACTIVITIES (COMBINE ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY IN THE SAME PROJECT)

11

- ◆ "GREEN EQUITY" INVESTMENT FUND CONCEPT = NOT SEEKING CONVENTIONAL YIELD MAXIMIZATION
 - ① WIN/WIN PROJECTS (PROCESS MODERNIZATION, ENERGY EFFICIENCY CLEANER PRODUCTION / TECHNOLOGIES)
 - ② UTILITY SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH SELF-SUSTAINING UTILITY ENTERPRISES (CORPORATIZATION ≠ PRIVATIZATION)
 - ③ PRODUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS OR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

12

THE NORDIC ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

- ◆ EXTENSION OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES
- ◆ APPROX. ECU 5 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR 1996-2003
- ◆ FOR PROJECTS OF SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTANCE

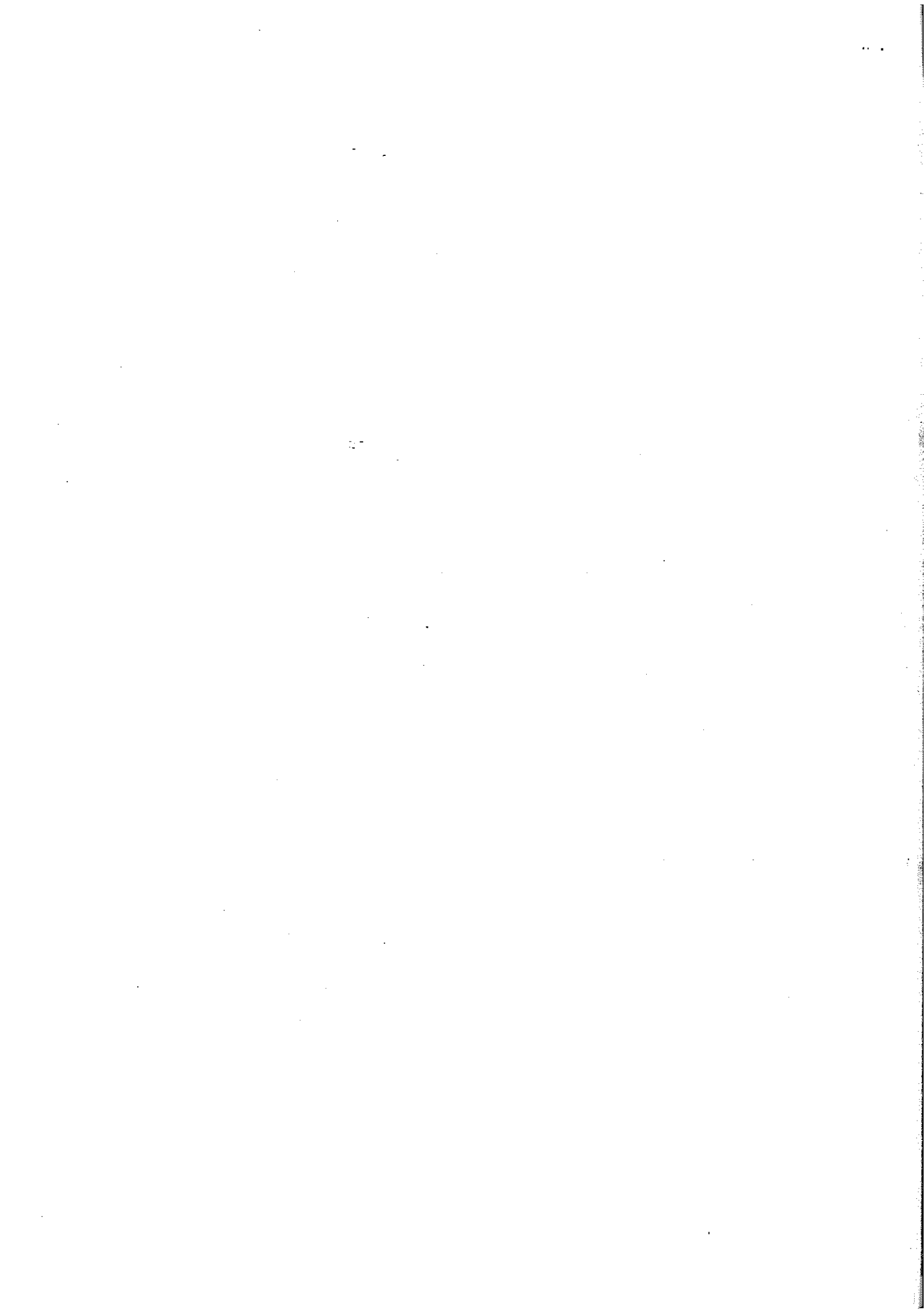
13

-
- ◆ ONLY WHEN ADDITIONALITY CAN BE OBTAINED
 - ◆ GRANT FINANCING, CONDITIONAL GRANTS, SUPPORT FOR LOANS FROM IFIS (NEFCO, NIB, WORLD BANK, EBRD, EIB)
 - ◆ AIMS AT ACHIEVING A CATALYTIC EFFECT (MOBILIZATION OF IFI, BILATERAL AND/OR LOCAL FINANCING)
 - ◆ RECIPIENT PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED
 - ◆ SO FAR 21 PROJECTS (2/3 IN NW RUSSIA)



ANNEX 8

SLIDES FROM PRESENTATION OF NORDIC DEVELOPMENT FUND





NORDIC
DEVELOPMENT
FUND



‘The Nordic Development Fund, ..., is established for the purpose of promoting economic and social development in developing countries through participation in financing on concessional terms of projects of interest to the Nordic countries.

Agreement Statutes, Article 1



Characteristics

- Nordic multilateral development financing organization
- Priority to poor countries
- Co-financing organization
- Nordic Competitive Bidding (NCB)



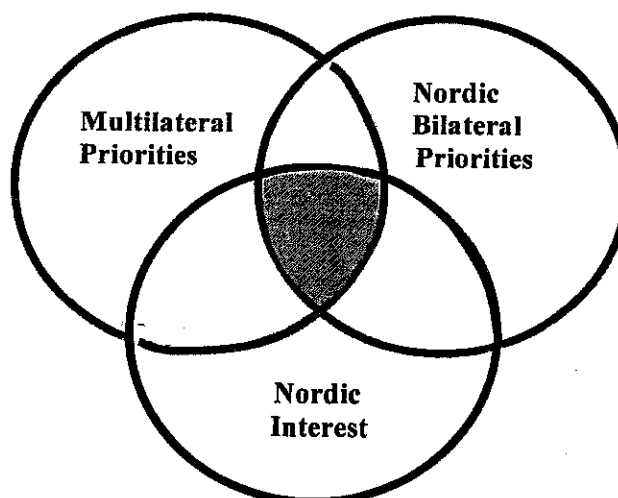
Nordic Finance Group

- the multilateral finance institutions in Helsinki

- NDF - Nordic Development Fund (1989)
- NEFCO - Nordic Environment Finance Corp. (1990)
- NIB - Nordic Investment Bank (1976)
- NOPEF - Nordic Project Fund (1982)



NDF's Niche



Nordic bilateral priorities

- poverty alleviation
- environmental concern
- sustainable development
- women and children
- democracy



Nordic interest

- Nordic Competitive Bidding (NCB)
- Transfer of Nordic know-how and technology
- Nordic co-operation
- Promotion of Nordic companies in multilateral institutions and new markets



Multilateral priorities

- only joint Nordic multilateral development aid institution
- sovereign lending
- supplement Nordic bilateral development financing
- direct private sector lending



Financial instruments

- credits to governments on IDA terms
- direct private sector lending



Sovereign lending

- direct lending to governments
- government guarantee
- 40 years' maturity, 10 years grace period
- interest-free
- 0.75% service charge
- 0.50% commitment fee



Direct private sector lending

- sub-ordinated loans (quasi equity)
- no government guarantee
- maximum 25% of equity capital
- joint ventures with Nordic interest
- co-financing with multilateral and bilateral institutions



Co-financing institutions

- Multilateral:
AfDB, ADB, EIB, IBRD, IDA, IDB, IFC,
IIC and NIB
- Bilateral:

Denmark	- Danida and IFU
Finland	- Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Finnfund
Iceland	- Iceida and NBVF
Norway	- NORAD and Norfund
Sweden	- Sida and Swedfund

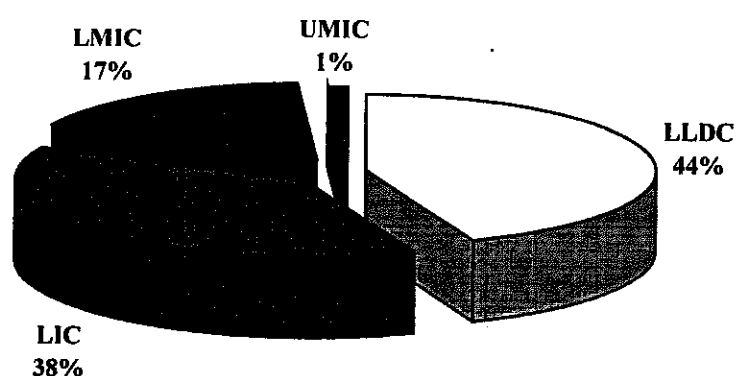


Project identification

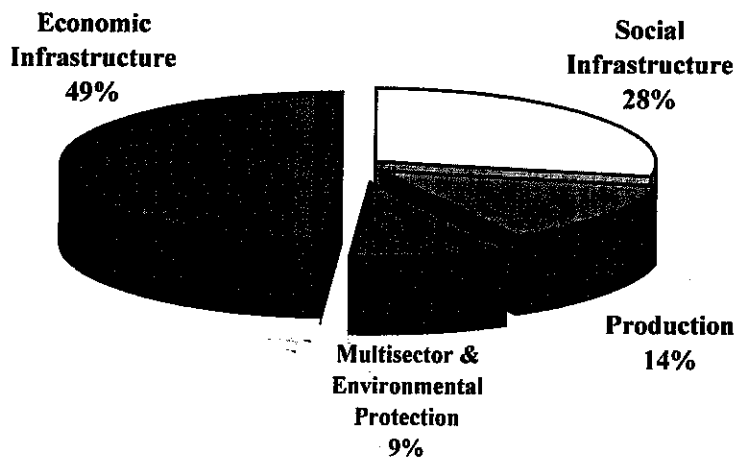
- multilateral financing institutions
- governments of borrowing countries
- Nordic bilateral institutions
- the Nordic business community



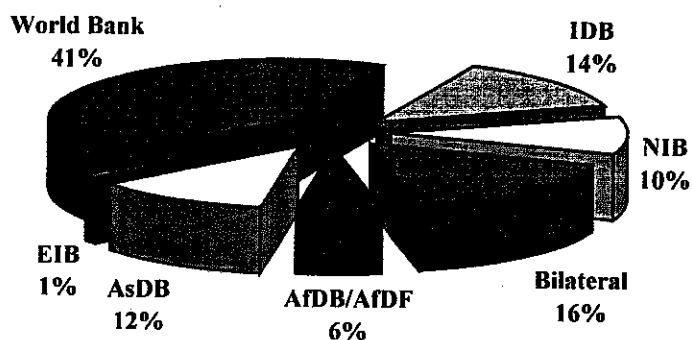
Distribution by Income Level (sovereign lending, 1989 - 1998)



Distribution by Sector (sovereign lending, 1989 - 1998)

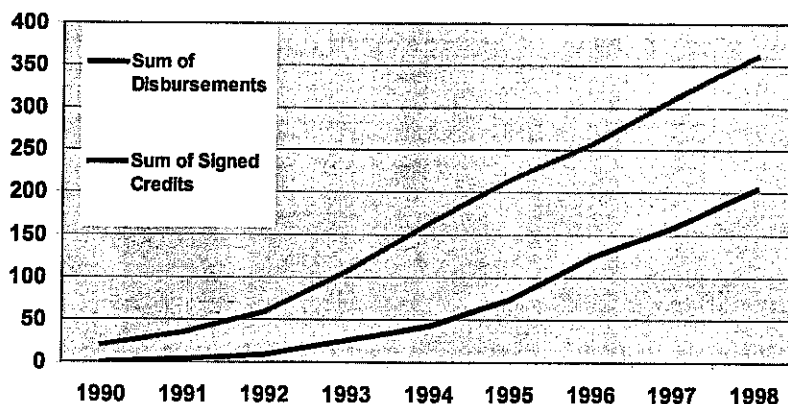


Distribution by Lead Agency (sovereign lending, number - %, 1989 - 1998)



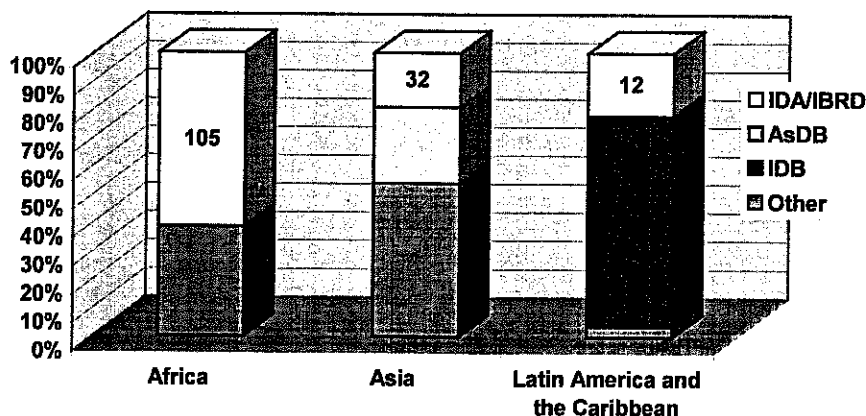
Credits and Disbursements

(cumulative SDR million, 1998)



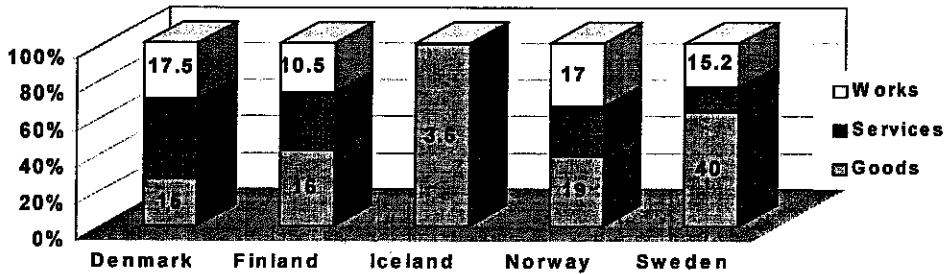
Co-financing with the World Bank

1989- 1998 (SDR million)



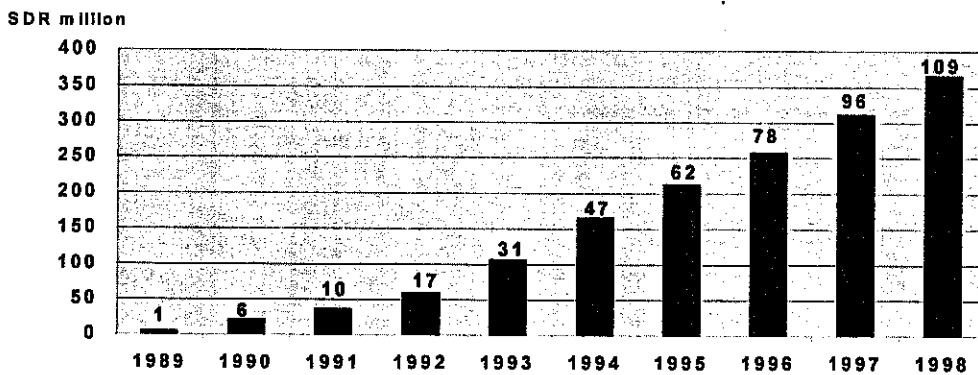
NDF Procurement

Nordic Contracts by Expenditure Category (as of April 1999)



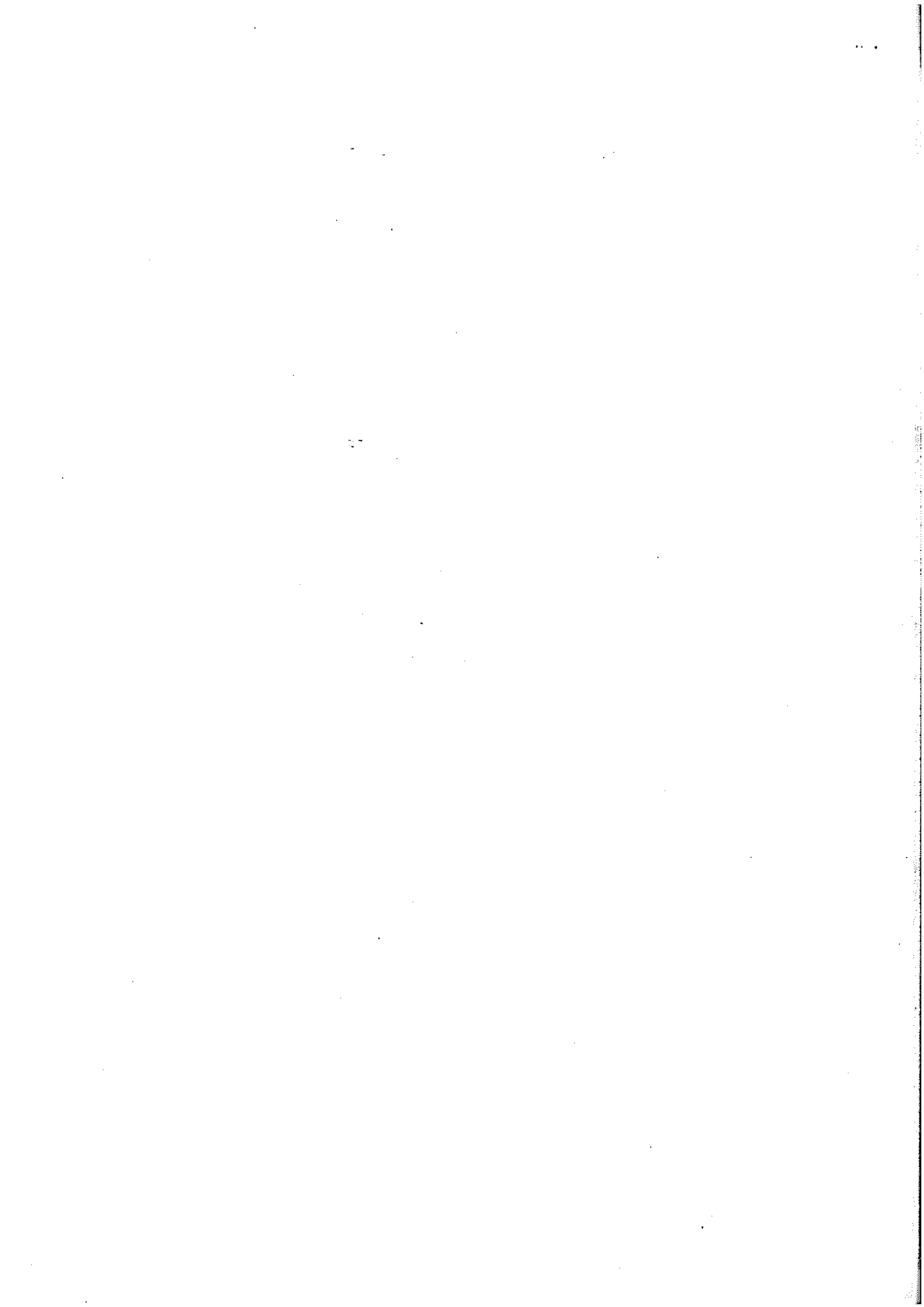
Signed Credit Agreements

Volume (SDR million) and number (cumulative) 1989-1998



ANNEX 9

SLIDES FROM PRESENTATION OF RIGA WATER COMPANY



RIGA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT PROJECT 1997-2001

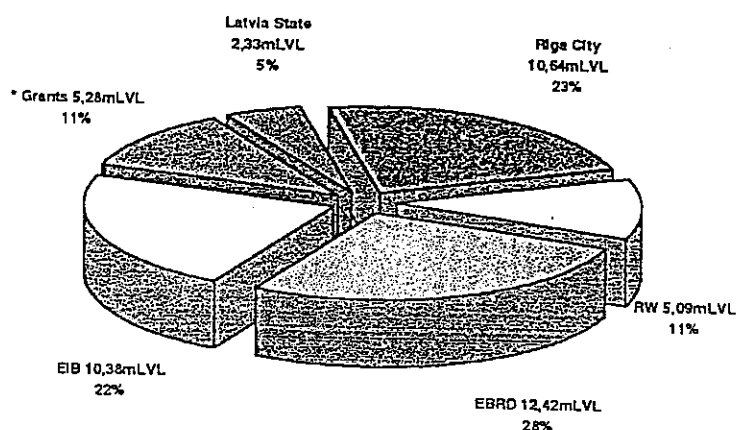
Riga Municipal Enterprise "Riga Water"

(Abridged translation of the prospectus)

The main objectives:

- to establish safe and high quality water supply system;
- to ensure waste water treatment corresponding to European standards;
- to transform the municipal enterprise Riga Water into a modern company

STRUCTURE OF FINANCIERS



* Foreign Grants. Sweden 2,52 mLVL, Switzerland 2,05 mLVL, Finland 0,71 mLVL
(In June, 1997 the Ministry of Environment of Finland allocated additional grant in the amount of 0,62 mLVL (5,6 mFIM) for the rehabilitation of WWTP "Daugavgriva" aeration system)

WATER TREATMENT STATION "DAUGAVA"

Objectives:

- to ensure the protection of drinking water against viruses;
- to improve the taste of the drinking water and introduce ozonation;
- to stop the pollution of the environment by sludge that is generated by technological process;
- to reduce the consumption of chemicals.

In order to determine the choice of an optimal technological scheme for water treatment process, investigations using pilot equipment were done for 1 year (pilot model of the station).

WATER SAVING PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES IN 1998

- installation of 3900 water meters in municipal houses;
- supply and installation of water meter test table and the establishment of testing laboratory;
- construction of 220 water main connection pipes with water meters for municipal houses.

PILOT PROJECT OF WATER AND WASTEWATER NETWORK REHABILITATION

- establishment of a modern planning system of water and wastewater network rehabilitation;
- supply of the necessary leak detection equipment, sewage network cleaning vehicles and water network inspection equipment;
- elaboration of projects for the rehabilitation of water and wastewater networks and connection of the new districts;
- design and construction of the new water main from drinking water treatment station "Daugava" to the city centre.

THE REHABILITATION OF WASTEWATER AND GROUNDWATER PUMPING STATIONS

- reconstruction of the main wastewater pumping station;
- reconstruction of 3 prefabricated pumping stations;
- design and construction of a new gravity sewer main;
- reconstruction of "Baltezers" groundwater intake;
- design and construction of pumping station "Baltezers".

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT "DAUGAVGRĪVA"

- elaboration of plant reconstruction project, rehabilitation and improvement of the main technological stages;
- reconstruction of biological treatment system (Swedish and Finnish grants);
- rehabilitation of pretreatment and sludge handling system, construction of sludge deposit.

SIWI High Level Visit to the Baltic Sea Region

Moves Towards Municipalities Working Closer Together


Steen Bjerggaard, BSc CEng (Hon) M.J.D.A
 Head of international projects
 Stockholm Water Company

1999-05-03/steen SIWI High Level Visit to the Baltic Sea Region 1

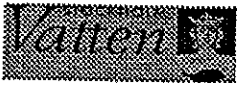
STOCKHOLM WATER COMPANY

A Public Water Management Company

- Holistic Perspective
- Ecocycle Approach
- Contribution to improved Water Environment in the Baltic Sea Area



1999-05-03/steen SIWI High Level Visit to the Baltic Sea Region 2



- 1.000.000 customers
- 640 employees
- Annual Turnover: 130 million USD
- Own Investment Project: 83 million USD
 Henriksdal WWTP 1996-1998

1999-05-03/steen SIWI High Level Visit to the Baltic Sea Region 3

SWC's INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

- Nordic Baltic Cooperation, NBC
- Corporate Development Programmes, Kaunas, Riga & St Petersburg
- Swedish Water Development, SWD
- Stockholm International Water Institute, SIWI
- Stockholm Water Symposium & Prize
- Collaboration with UNDP and World Bank

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Baltic Sea Area



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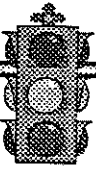
Corporate Development Programmes

- Water company to water company
 - Twinning programmes
- Public ownership - Nordic model
- Private participation in non-core business
- Inter-municipal collaboration
- Public & Private Partnership:
 - Consortium
 - Joint venture




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The Project Phases

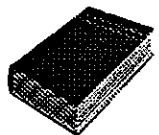



- A. Feasibility study
 - Project verification
- B. Project preparation
 - Twinning phase I - one year
- C. Project implementation
 - Twinning phase II - four to five years

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A. Feasibility Study


- Project Identification
- Search for Financing
- Study Presentations
- Go ahead!



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B. Project Preparation - TA I


- Facts-finding & investigation
- Priority investment programme
- Procurement plan & work programme
- Project presentations
- Loan & grant agreements
- Financial & managerial assistance
- Know-how transfer

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C. Project Implementation - TA II


- Institutional development assistance
- Project management assistance
- Know-how transfer programmes
- Public relations activities
- Ownership support




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ONGOING CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

✓ KAUNAS	Lithuania
✓ RIGA	Latvia
✓ ST. PETERSBURG	Russia


Case studies 

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KAUNAS

★ TWINNING PROGRAMME 


- 400.000 customers
- 990 employees
- Annual Turnover: 16 million USD
- The Investment Project: 104 million USD
- TA-Phase I: 1994-1995
- TA-Phase II: 1996-1999

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
RIGA


• **TWINNING PROGRAMME** 

- 800.000 customers
- 1600 employees
- Annual Turnover: 40 million USD
- The Investment Project: 115 million USD
- TA-Phase I: 1995-1996
- TA-Phase II: 1997-2000


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The Institutional Strengthening in KAUNAS & RIGA

- Improve company overall performance
- Fulfil obligations towards financiers
- Implement investment programme
- Develop a commercial attitude 
- Provide best possible service without municipal or government subsidies in the future

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The Investment Projects in KAUNAS & RIGA

- Rehabilitation and development of water supply services
- Rehabilitation of water and waste water networks 
- Upgrading of pumping stations
- Extension or construction of new waste water treatment plant

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ST PETERSBURG

• **CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME** 

Consortium:


- SEVERN TRENT INTERNATIONAL
- HELSINKI WATER
- STOCKHOLM WATER

Swedish Water Development


1999-05-02/steen SIWI High Level Visit to the Baltic Sea Region  16


Vodokanal of St Petersburg

- 5.000.000 customers
- 9.500 employees
- Annual Turnover: 330 million USD
- The Investment Project: > 3.000 million USD
 - Short Term 1998-2000
 - Medium Term 2001-2005
 - Long Term 2006-2015
- Corporate Development Support Project 1998-2000

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The Institutional Strengthening

- Corporate Development Strategy 
- Capital Investment Programme
- Change Management
- Human Resources Development
- Information Technology
- Billing & Collection
- Financial Management & Reporting
- Improved Environmental Norms
- Water Demand Management
- Public Relations

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Key Points & Experiences

- Water company to water company
- Establish close relations & trust
- Be present at site & have patience
- Define role of politicians & get support
- Strengthen financial management
- Keep close contact with financiers and owners / politicians
- Create long-term collaboration & secure sustainable changes



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Thank You!




SWEDISH WATER DEVELOPMENT

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Stockholm Water Company

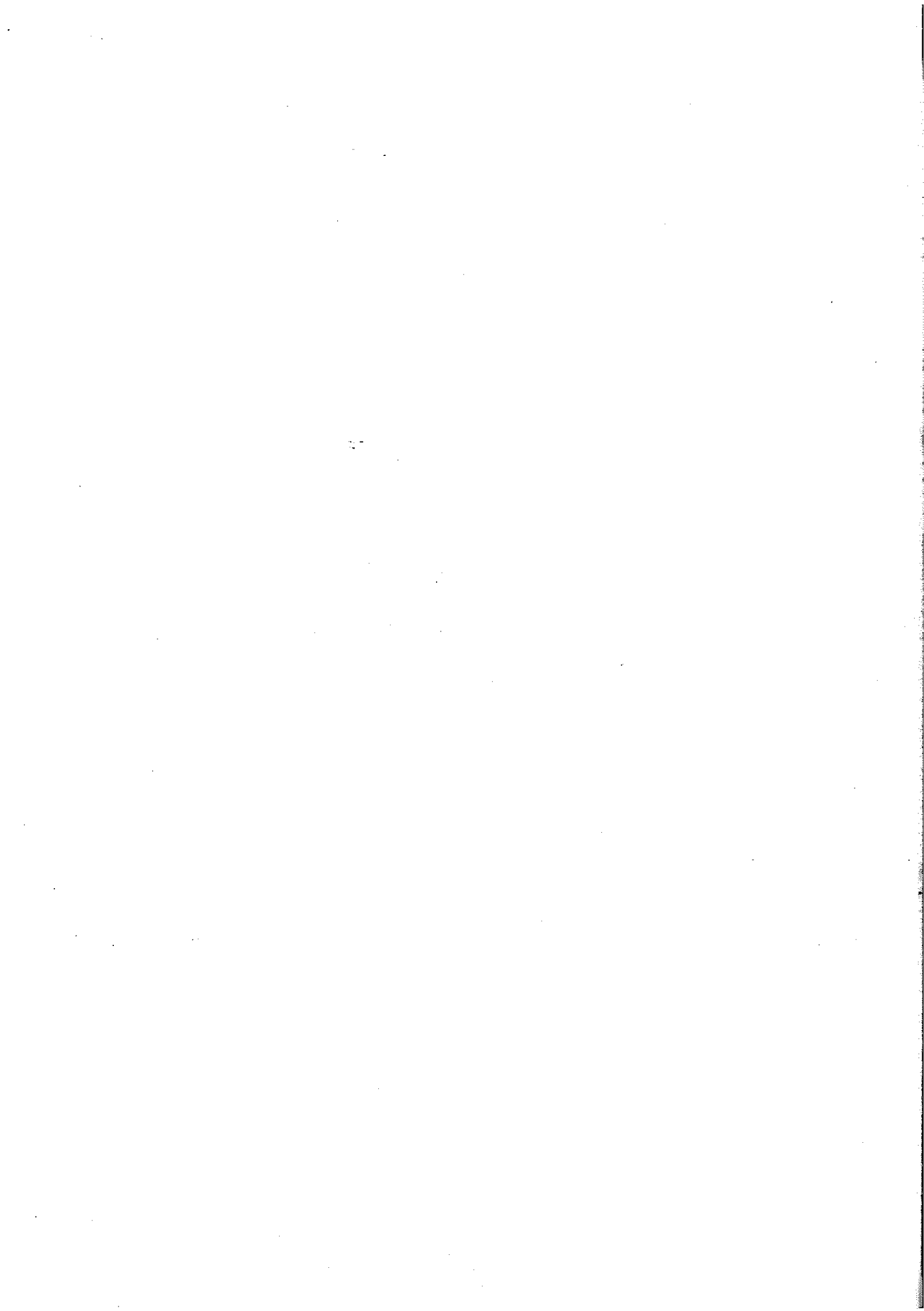
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ANNEX 10

PRESENTATION OF BALTIC ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM





The History:

The BALTIC ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM (BEF) project started operating in June 1995. It was founded to enable the three Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, to co-ordinate information, expertise and experience exchange in the environmental field. It provides practical support for the environmental co-operation as laid down in a trilateral agreement of the three governments in 1995. In the context of this agreement the *Technical Protocol on Practical Aspects of Co-operation (from 25 October 1995)* defined each partner's role in the BEF project. This Protocol was prolonged for two more years on 25 June 1997.

In the beginning the response to the idea of strengthening regional co-operation was cautious. Over time the BEF has become well-known and accepted by the officials of all three Ministries of Environment and numerous environmentalists as well as by international organisations. The level of participation in events is very high.

The Philosophy of the BEF:

The main goal of the BEF is to support Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the process of accession to the European Union.

The BEF acts mainly as a facilitator for information exchange and active co-operation among the Baltic States. It also functions as an information resource centre for the European Commission, its member states, and international organisations.

The goal of the BEF is to strengthen the influence of the Baltic States on decision making at international level by co-operating and co-ordinating activities. With regard to EU accession this means to discuss, and prepare common positions for the negotiations.

The BEF is bridging EU experts with a wider public in the Baltic States and bringing decision makers together with the middle and lower management of the administrative bodies to ensure that the information discussed at the international and national levels by only a few persons is more widely disseminated.

The BEF Administration:

A Steering Group with representatives from the three Baltic Environmental Ministries, European Commission (DG XI), the Ministries of Environment of Germany, Finland and Sweden, as well as the Latvian Environmental Protection Fund, adopts the work programme bi-annually. The BEF reports on its schedule and budget to the Steering Group. Funds for BEF activities or personnel are mainly provided by the above mentioned organisations.

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The BEF Contacts and Partners:

Representatives from the Baltic Ministries of Environment and their subordinated institutions are the main target group of BEF events. If EU requirements demand integration of other policy sectors, relevant representatives are invited to the BEF event.

The BEF regularly participates in the meetings of the *Senior Officials of the Committee of the Environment of the Baltic Council of Ministers*. The BEF work programme is on the Committee's agenda and the Committee has attested that the project is an effective instrument for facilitating regional co-operation.

The BEF co-operates actively with the REC (Regional Environmental Center) as both organisations operate on the regional level and work on EU approximation issues.

The BEF is represented in the BALLERINA Advisory Board and participates in the Baltic Sea Region's discussion on environmental information systems and indicators.

The BEF's expertise is also hired by different donor organisations when conducting seminars.

The BEF activities:

The BEF organises different types of **workshops and meetings on environmental issues**. In the four years of its existence about 90 events of different size were carried out with a total of c.a. 2000 participants. The BEF data base registered 850 individuals participating in the events, many persons participated more than once.

The BEF organises its events and is responsible for, amongst others, logistics, preparation of content, invitation of participants, chairing or facilitation and follow up on content and organisation. Western and local experts are invited to provide their input on content or process.

Additionally to its environmental programme BEF is organising **management training courses** such as facilitation and moderation of workshops, project management, communication, public speaking course and leadership. The participants are mainly from the three Ministries of Environment and their subordinated institutions. The courses enjoy great popularity.

Under umbrella of the BEF three regional **sub-projects** are currently implemented: "Baltic State of the Environment Report", "Baltic Regional Project on Chemicals Control" and "Baltic States' Regional Preparation for Natura 2000 Network", partly with external funding.

EU Approximation as Headline for the Programme:

The integration of the three Baltic States into the European Union has become an increasingly important issue in the BEF programme. Nowadays nearly all BEF events are dealing with this question. A working group meets frequently to discuss the development of EU Approximation Strategies in the three countries and to exchange information on the latest initiatives. The main objective is to share the work load and resources through an open information policy and to provide the opportunity to benefit from each others activities.

The EU-Workshops are mainly focused on transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU directives and regulations into national legislation. Under this headline the BEF works on both, traditional

environmental sectors such as water, air and nature protection, waste and hazardous waste management as well as on new ones like chemicals control and genetically modified organisms.

The workshops are seen as an important tool for information exchange and active co-operation among the different stakeholders and attended by many participants.

Baltic State of the Environment Report (BSoER):

The process of EU integration creates, amongst others, a need for appropriate communication and assessment tools to measure progress and set it in relation to policy targets. Environmental Indicators are one such tool and they are world-wide discussed at the moment. The BSoER is an attempt to combine several on-going processes in Europe in the field of Environmental Reporting.

The BSoER is based on environmental indicators which were developed by BEF in co-operation with approximately 200 experts from the Baltic States over 2 years. It was published in June 1998 and is available on the BEF homepage.

The Report reflects priority environmental issues in the Baltic States and consists of a short description on environmental conditions, data according the relevant indicators and assessment of the trends. It shows both, the specific environmental situation of each country and the similarities among all three countries.

The work on the Baltic State of the Environment Report and the result achieved was a strong motivation to continue the discussion among representatives from all three countries. Therefor the BEF is currently producing the second edition which is expected to be published by end 2000.

For further information, please, contact Kristina Veidemane at BEF

Baltic States' Regional Preparation for Natura 2000 Network (BANAT):

Nature Conservation legislation is currently being reviewed in the Baltic States to check its compliance with EU legislation. As first conclusion can be drawn that implementation and enforcement of the EU requirements will be much more difficult and costly than expected and that it needs intensive discussions with all stakeholders.

To provide a forum for discussion and information exchange among the three Baltic States as well as with Nordic neighbouring countries the BANAT project was set up. It shall support the co-operation among the countries to prepare potential common positions for the negotiations with the EC and to discuss strategies and methodologies for Natura 2000 implementation jointly.

The BANAT project started in April 1999 and is planned to act over next 1.5 years with a series of workshops and meetings, background papers and information for different stakeholders groups. It is financed by Finland, Sweden and the Baltic States.

For further information, please, contact Anda Platniece at BEF

Baltic Regional Project on Chemicals Control: BACCON

BACCON started in August 1998 and is planned till January 2000. It is meant to develop skills of experts in trade, industry, customs and governmental authorities to implement EU requirements for classification,

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labelling and packaging of chemicals and to identify a strategy how to establish an information basis on types, volumes and use patterns of chemicals on national markets.

Expected results:

- a training program on classification and labelling of chemicals in the three national languages;
- inventories of chemicals used in three relevant sectors of industry;
- a chemicals market profile providing an overview on import, export, production and use of chemicals in the Baltic States;
- a strategy on how to obtain information on chemicals and their use patterns on the national markets.

The Goals for 2000+

- to ensure the training programme to be carried out frequently in the three countries;
- to continue the work with Baltic chemical enterprises under the headline "Greening of Industry", means EMAS/ISO 14.000+.

BACCON is financed by Sweden, Finland and the Nordic Council.

For further information, please, contact Jana Simanovska at BEF

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ANNEX 11

PRESENTATION OF VASAB





VASAB

On 21 August 1992, representatives from national and regional ministries of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) responsible for spatial planning and development met in Karlskrona in Sweden to discuss the perspectives of future spatial development of the Region. They decided to establish permanent co-operation in the field of BSR spatial planning at the governmental level to prepare jointly a document on spatial development concept of the BSR entitled „Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010” (VASAB 2010). The Focal Point Group (renamed in 1994 into the Committee on Spatial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSD/BSR)) was established to conduct the work. The Committee has been composed of representatives of: Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany (both federal and regional level - Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Schleswig-Holstein), Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia (Kaliningrad, Karelia, St. Petersburg regions), and Sweden.

The following goals were decided to guide the VASAB 2010 work:

- support the development of networks for co-operation in the BSR,
- provide a practical forum for the transfer of competence to the countries in transition to democratic market economies,
- improve the level of information in BSR countries on current trends and problems in other countries of the region,
- assess important infrastructure projects to receive international financial contribution,
- promote spatial planning in the participating countries and regions.

In the course of several brain-storming sessions, seminars and workshops the common vision (concept) of strategic spatial development of the BSR was prepared and approved by the **Third Ministerial Conference in Tallinn 1994**. Four basic values, aiming at the improvement of the quality of life, constitute the „heart” of the vision:

- **development**, going beyond economic prosperity and growth,
- economic, social and environmental **sustainability**, since development must not deprive future generations of their chances,
- **freedom**, as it implies the possibility to choose in accordance with individual/regional preferences,
- **solidarity**, the characteristic of caring society, sharing benefits from development.

In the vision spatial structures are described through three basic elements: the system of cities and urban settlements („pearls”), the interlinking infrastructure networks („strings”), and selected types of land uses („patches”) in non-urban areas. They are promoted by „the system”. i.e. planning institutions, rules and procedures.

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The focus in VASAB 2010 work after the Third Ministerial Conference (from 1995) is on implementation of the approved vision and strategies. The ministers decided to concentrate efforts on:

- spatial and regional development of the Trans European Network transport corridors in the BSR
- strengthening of BSR urban system,
- trans Baltic tourism development of the areas lagging behind,
- cross- border co-operation with spatial planning component,
- exchange of knowledge,
- common recommendations for spatial planning of the coastal zone in the Baltic Sea Region,
- multimodal transport centres,
- preparation of training programme for spatial planners,
- examining the spatial impacts of new form of telecommunication,
- preparation of BSR spatial planning compendium and multi-language glossary for spatial planning,
- improvement of port hinterland infrastructure,
- development and protection of valuable natural and cultural landscapes.

Some of these actions are now fairly advanced in a form of pilot projects, workshops, seminars or international agreement already signed up. The list of the most successful VASAB 2010 pilot projects and common actions in 1995-1996 is presented in the table below.

Pilot Project and Common Actions	Time frame	Responsibility	Other participating countries
1. Transport corridors as a zones of accelerated development			
- Orsha -Minsk- Brest	finalised in 1996	Germany	Belarus
- THTR (Tempere-Helsinki-Tallinn-Riga)	1995-97	Finland	Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania (observer)
- Karelia-Atlantic (Petrozavodsk-Vaasa-Umea)	1995-97	Finland	Karelia, Sweden
- TEM (Katowice-Gdynia-Karlskrona)	1996-97	Poland	Sweden
2. Urban system.			
- Luleå - Oulu city co-operation		Sweden / Finland	
3. Specific areas			
- Tourism development of Germ-Pol.border region	finished in 1995	Germany / Poland	Kaliningrad as an observer
- Transborder co-operation of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus	1995-97	Germany	Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus

4. Exchange of knowledge

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| - Compendium of Planning Legislation
(linked with EU Compendium) | 1995-1997 | Estonia | All the Baltic
countries |
| - Seminar on National Strategic
Planning Concepts | Stockholm, September
6-8, 1995 | Sweden | All the Baltic
countries |

5. Planning system

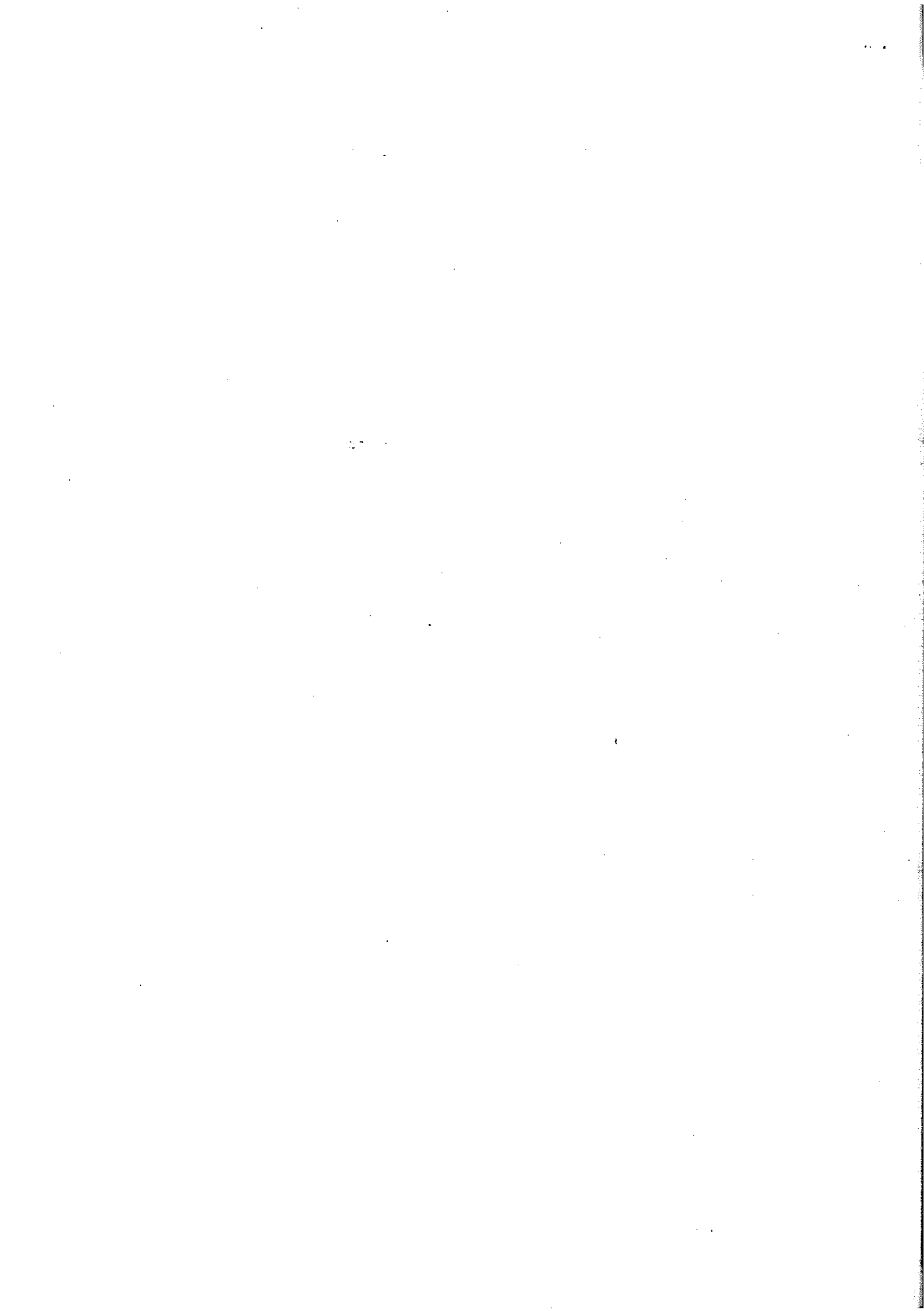
- | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| - Common recommendations for
spatial planning of the coastal zone in
the Baltic Sea Region | signed in 1996 | Denmark | All the Baltic
countries |
|--|----------------|---------|-----------------------------|

The Fourth Ministerial Conference was held on October 22 in Stockholm under German chairmanship. The main aim of the Conference was to establish regional AGENDA 21 for the Baltic Sea Region. The Conference has also approved VASAB 2010 action plan for coming years called "From Vision to Action" and adopted "Common recommendations for spatial planning of the coastal zone in the Baltic Sea Region". The Ministers discussion has been summed up in their political declaration ("Stockholm Declaration") adopted by the Conference.

VASAB 2010 and Committee on Spatial Development of the Baltic Sea Region is served by three person Secretariat located in Gdansk. Secretariat performs following tasks:

- pushing forward the approved actions,
- assisting in the preparation of the BSR Ministerial meetings and CSD/BSR meetings,
- organising the ongoing concertation process with other institutions, co-operation with international and regional programmes, that deal with spatial and regional development in the BSR,
- proposing and accompanying research and pilot projects,
- publishing brochures on spatial planning in all the countries participating in the programme.

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ANNEX 12

PRESENTATION OF UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES





The Union of the Baltic Cities

The Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of currently **86** member cities from all 10 Baltic countries, with the following mission:

"The Union was initiated for the purpose of developing cooperation and exchange between the Cities - Union members."

The overriding goal of the Union is to contribute to democratic, economic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.

The Union has an observer status with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE).

The Union is governed by the General Conference, the President, two Vice-Presidents and the Executive Board consisting of one member city representative from each Baltic Sea country.

The Union has based its operational activities on ten working Commissions on business co-operation, communication, culture, education, environment, social and health affairs, sport, tourism transportation and urban planning.

The Commissions coordinate and execute specific projects, activities and special events. Each city is capable to have its own creative and fully independent input to the Commissions' work. The Union is open for new members. Any coastal city of the Baltic Sea or any other city interested in the development of the Baltic Sea Region may become a member of the Union by making a written declaration of its will to enter UBC.

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Please contact the Union's Secretariat in Gdansk for more information about the UBC

UBC Secretariat
Długi Targ 24
80-828 Gdansk, Poland
phone/fax +48 58 3017637
phone/fax +48 58 3010917
phone/fax +48 58 3019123
e-mail: info@ubc.net

The UBCis:

- a voluntary organisation established according to the will of the 32 founding cities;
- an organisation open to all the cities in the Baltic Region which declare their eagerness for cooperation based on tasks and aims included in its Statute;
- a reference to the best historical traditions of cultural, commercial and economic cooperation among the cities lying by the Baltic Sea;
- an organisation that contributes to creating peaceful and harmonious relationships between the European nations according to the spirits of the Conference for Safety and Cooperation in Europe;
- a democratic organisation where each city, regardless of its size, has equal rights. An organisation whose authorities are elected by all the members;
- an European organisation implementing the idea of integration based on respect for sovereignty and cultural distinction of everyone taking part in the creation of the united Europe;
- a community of cities willing to enter the 21st century as a new civilisation of balanced development, respect for rights and duties, democracy and economic development;
- an organisation striving to achieve a common wealth development and a better standard of life for its citizens of various cities located by the common Sea;

The strategic aims of the UBC are:

- to promote the Baltic Sea Cooperation on both national and international level;
- to be a major actor on the international level and forum of the Baltic Sea Cooperation;
- to seek and build connections to the rest of Europe and other continents of the world;
- to promote stability and economic growth in the Baltic Sea Region;
- to work for prosperous Baltic business environment on local, national and international;
- to offer the new generation development in the shared economic space, cherishing a tradition of non-restricted spiritual and cultural;

- to promote projects in facilitating the intercultural cooperation and understanding in the Baltic Sea Region;
- to promote cooperation between all its member cities and city officials regardless of their political inclinations;
- to follow closely the developments of the European Union and prepare its Eastern member cities to smooth transition to the prospective EU membership;

Introduction to UBC commissions

Most of the work of the Union is carried out by the UBC commissions. They have numerous activities in their respective fields ranging from music festivals and sports events to concrete projects and training seminars. Today there are ten commissions working on the issues: business co-operation, communication, culture, education, environment, social and health affairs, sport, tourism transportation and urban planning.

But even an energetic and innovative commission without active member cities and partners is like a bicycle without wheels, so our devotion is necessary to keep these vehicles on the right track and moving. The following pages aim at briefly presenting the different commissions and their activities.

UBC Working Commissions

Commission on Business Cooperation

The Commission on Business Cooperation was established at the General Conference of the UBC in Gdansk in September 1997. The Commission aims at increasing the exchange of experiences and information between the UBC member cities. Promoting contacts between the business communities is also an important goal. In addition to facilitating the mutual cooperation between the member cities the commission will act as an opinion maker towards the European Union. The Commission will arrange one meeting per year. A network of civil servants dealing with trade and industry in the member cities will be established. City of Stockholm will build up an information system for the network.

Commission on Education

The Commission on Education was established at the 21st Executive Board Meeting in Klaipeda, 26-27 June 1998.

The aim of the Commission are:

- to offer the member cities good possibilities for exchange of experiences,
- to identify new initiatives for joint EU-projects on competence improvement

The new Commission will start up with the following main fields of activities:

- pupils and students exchange

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- distance education projects
- other adult education projects

Commission on Communication

Internet

Information on UBC and the member cities as well as links to the cities homepages can be found at <http://www.ubc.net>. UBC website provides an instant and easy access to the contact information for all UBC member cities. The Internet mailing list serves as a channel for information exchange and discussion reaching all UBC member cities. UBC Baltic Cities Bulletin and Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin are also available on the website.

Baltic Sea Alliance (BSA)

The initiative was launched in October 1996. The BSA is an Internet based platform for cooperation and communication between Baltic organisations. The core of BSA consists of three organisations i.e. UBC, BSSSC and BCCA.

Task Force for Public Relations and Communication

It is a functional group of contact persons from UBC member cities who promote practical and project-level cooperation between the cities. The aim of the TF is essentially to develop communication about international projects, partnerships, events and other developments regarding cities and the region. Until now TF has had its meetings in Tampere, Kalmar and Szczecin. During the last meeting three teams were created:

1. The EU Team - will work with EU programme implementation practices, Project Auctions and distribution of EU related information
2. The PR Team - will work with internal and external marketing, publicity and lobbying issues and it is in charge of the current UBC Publicity campaign. The Major UBC Publicity Campaign will commence with a Baltic Children's Drawing Competition aimed at increasing positive UBC publicity in all member cities and in all levels.
3. The WWW Team - will work with communication and www tool development issues as well as site and publication development.

UBC Drawing Competition - The Children of the Baltic Sea

In October 1998 The Union of the Baltic Cities announced the art competition entitled The Children of the Baltic Sea. The idea of the competition was put forward during the second Task Force meeting in Kalmar and it was specified by the members of the Public Relations Team during the third Task Force meeting in Szczecin.

The aim of the competition was to promote the idea, structure and activity of the organisation among inhabitants of the member cities, especially among the youngest generation. The competition raised much interest among member cities and the primarily aims were achieved.

Commission on Culture

UBC Festivals

Annual UBC Art & Culture Festival have so far been held in Kaliningrad (1993, 1994), Szczecin (1995, 1996), Gdynia (1997) and Klaipeda (1998) with the participation of thousands of artists from UBC member cities.

Events

Events in 1998:

- Choir Music in UBC cities, Szczecin, 28-31 May
- Games in sand, Klaipeda, 24-26 July
- Off-Theatre Days, Klaipeda, 1-14 August
- Baltic Contemporary Drama Theatre Meetings, Szczecin, 9-12 October.

The Magazine "Mare Articum"

The main purpose of this magazine is to initiate a joint discussion and a promotion forum for the under-developed artistic movement in the Baltic region. The first issue of the magazine was published in September 1997 and focused on the theme of national identity in the context of developing universal art language. This year's first issue was printed in July.

Catalogue of Institutions

The UBC Catalogue of Cultural Institutions was first published in 1995 by the city of Visby. The catalogue includes contact addresses and descriptions of over 650 municipal culture offices, museums, libraries, art schools and other culture institutions. The catalogue is designed as a practical tool for culture managers looking for project partners or information exchange. The catalogue of cultural institutions is regularly updated and presented on the UBC Internet homepage.

Commission on Environment

MEA Project

The Commission on Environment developed in a two-year pilot-project a model for municipal environmental auditing in the Baltic cities (MEA). The model was first tested in the pilot audit in Tallinn. This project was financed by the LIFE Program of the EU, the World Bank, the Finnish and Estonian Ministries of the Environment, and the participating cities.

Now the model is available to be used in all interested cities. All the necessary manuals, formulas and other tools are translated into several languages, and they are available from the commission secretariat. The Commission on Environment co-ordinates the audits and also helps the member cities to find funding. The cities that are interested in carrying out a MEA are warmly welcome to contact the secretariat for further information.

At the moment there are on-going MEAs in Pärnu (EST), Panevezys and Klaipeda (LT), and in Pori and Turku (FIN). The present activities are co-funded by the cities, the Commission on Environment and the Nordic Minister Council.

SAIL Project

The UBC member city Lahti co-ordinates this Local Agenda 21 project which was co-initiated

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by the ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) and the UBC. The project is being run in the framework of the Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum network. The Project was started in January 1999 and the goal is to create a basic set of Local Agenda 21 briefing materials in Estonian, Latvia, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian, and consolidate the Local Agenda 21 networks. SAIL is an acronym of Spreading Awareness and Fostering the Implementation of Local Agenda 21 Around the Baltic Sea.

BAMELA Project

Another (planned) Local Agenda 21 project is BAMELA - Baltic Mediterranean Local Agenda 21 Project. This large three-year project on Local Agenda 21 would involve several partners and many well-targeted activities concentrating on the following key components: education, information, and research & analysis. The project partners and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment have already committed to co-fund the activities. A funding application was submitted to the European Commission in February 1999 and the decision is expected during this summer. If the decision is positive, the project activities will start in Autumn 1999.

UBC Local Agenda 21 Survey

In order to create a solid basis for UBC's Local Agenda 21 activities, the commission together with Abo Akademi University carried out the UBC Local Agenda 21 Survey in 1998. The survey was co-funded by the Finnish Ministry of the Environment. 70% of member cities answered to the survey and the results include a lot of relevant information for anyone who is planning or running Local Agenda 21 activities in the Baltic Sea Region. The Survey Report is available from the commission secretariat.

Archipelago Sea and Sustainable Harbour Policy

This project started in August 1997 and ended in June 1998. The goal was to build basis for harmonising the harbour policies of the participating cities of Turku, Mariehamn and Stockholm. The project was funded by the EU Interreg II A Skärgården Structural Fund. In the project, a survey was carried out about the solid waste management, waste water management and the emissions to air of the passenger car ferry traffic between the participating cities.

On the basis of the survey the parties (cities and harbours) created an action programme to reduce regular passenger car ferry traffic -related environmental impact in the Archipelago Sea. The action programme is to be evaluated through follow-up meetings and seminars. The Commission on Environment would also like to recommend a similar model of co-operation to be used between other UBC Member Cities that have regular ferry traffic between their harbours.

Programme on Institutional Strengthening and Human Resource Development

In 1996-1998, the Commission on Environment carried out a training program consisting of five events, where approx. 400 environmental specialists and decision-makers were trained. The programme was supported financially by the Nordic Minister Council. The events organised focused on the following topics: Physical Planning and the Environment, Recycling as an Element of Solid Waste Management, and Treatment of Contaminated Soils.

Commission on Sport

The major sport events:

- Grand Prix Regatta in windsurfing in Leba,
- Christmas Football Games in Karlskrona in 1996,
- Twin Cities Sporting Competition, both in 1996 and 1997 in Gdynia,
- Yachting, Surf Board, Beach Leg Volleyball and Canoe Competition in Klaipeda, 23-26 July 1998
- Handball and Rugby Tournament in Siauliai, 17-20 September 1998
- Tennis Tournament in Turku, 16-21 November 1998,
- the first UBC Commission on Sport Games will be held in Siauliai and Klaipeda in 1999. The competition will be supported by the Lithuanian Ministry of Sport.

Commission on Tourism

Baltic Tourism Academy

Together with the Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC) the Commission intends to develop the tourism education under the name of Baltic Tourism Academy.

Projects

- EU-LIFE project concerning Curonian Spit and Vistula Spit in Kaliningrad region.
- Training courses within Baltic Tourism Academy.

Commission on Transportation

The Commission on Transportation:

- works with is the Baltic sea-land transportation systems
- designs the logistic centres located in Baltic cities
- lobbies for the construction of Trans European Motorway North-South (TEM), Via-Baltica and Via-Hanseatica motorways.

Other activities

UBC Women's Network

The aim of the UBC Women's Network is to involve women from member cities in UBC activities and projects and to solve women's problems such as unemployment, discrimination etc. Each year the network organises a seminar to deal with the above mentioned issues.

Baltic Cities Bulletin

The major focus of the Baltic Cities Bulletin is directed towards information about the work of the Union and the actions of the member cities. In addition, more emphasis is placed on covering some specific fields of general interest, which are presented as main themes for each issue. The bulletin is printed in 4000 copies and sent out to over 200 Baltic cities as well as a number of organisations and institutions.

Annex 12

UBC Member Cities and the European Union (UBCEU)

The purpose of the UBC EU-project is to prepare the cities in the Baltic Sea area for the EU enlargement in the region. The strategic situation of cities, both from the present EU member states and the applicant states, will change considerably in the next few years. The EU gives access to the funds for development projects, but it also affects the city's position and operations in a substantial way. The cities must be well acquainted with the laws and regulations binding in the European Union. Until now, two seminars and a conference (in Tallinn) open to all member cities have been carried out. The project will continue until the EU accession process is finished.

Public Transportation in eastern cities

The purpose of the project is to build long-lasting contacts between the Public Transport authorities in the Swedish and Lithuanian cities, and to support the change of public transport organisation to a more sustainable and efficient system. The project has carried out a number of study-visits and seminars, and more are planned. The Swedish government allocated 38,5 million SEK for upgrading public transport in cities in Lithuania and in Latvia.

Adults Education

The project was initiated in Kaliningrad by the UBC together with the residential college for adults - the Öland Folk-highschool. The purpose of the project is to popularise the Scandinavian model of Folk-highschools for people education. The activities included five courses held on Öland directed to English teachers from Kaliningrad University and to cultural workers. A school similar to the Scandinavian study model called "All Together" was established in Kaliningrad and around 20 courses have been given. On the 1st of October 1997 the Kaliningrad Folk-highschool was inaugurated. It will concentrate on education of English, Swedish and Media.

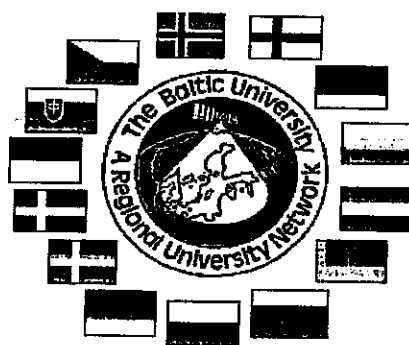
EU Coordinator

The purpose of the project is to shape a network of EU coordinators in the UBC member cities. The network will facilitate the efficient dissemination of EU related matters between the cities. The EU coordinators will share experiences and know-how as regards project generation and fund raising for its implementation. The network will also help to find partners for new joint projects.

ANNEX 13

PRESENTATION OF BALTIC UNIVERSITY PROGRAM





The Baltic University Programme

Universities have key roles in the transformation of the societies in the Baltic region. This role of universities is emphasised in the Baltic University Programme. BUP is a network of universities, initiated by Uppsala University in Sweden in 1991. Today some 160 universities in the 14 countries entirely or partly within the Baltic Sea Basin take part in the programme. These include classical universities, as well as universities of technology, agriculture, culture, economics, pedagogic etc. The Organization consists of a Coordination secretariat at Uppsala University and 13 national BUP centres.

A large network of researchers and teachers from all faculties, have developed courses on environmental science, democracy, security, social change, and sustainable development. All courses are, problem-oriented and thematic. They are all produced in English language but recently translated into other Polish, Russian and Latvian. About 3.000 students follow the courses every year.

Main financiers of the Programme are Swedish Governmental funds for cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe though Sida and the Swedish Institute, but also Finnish funds have been important. In addition the participating universities contribute importantly to the Programme.

The network depends heavily on information technologies. Satellite TV has been used extensively to reach everybody, especially important in the early years. Information technology is also used to create interactivity. Space bridges, live TV broadcasts from two or three places, have allowed students and teachers to discuss with each other. Today video conferencing over ISDN, computer conferencing over Internet, or just telephone, is used preferably.

The most recent basic course *A Sustainable Baltic Region* was first offered in 1997 for 1,700 students at 68 universities. It deals with the long-term future of the region with an emphasis on resource management. The course material consists of 500 pages of text, and the TV series *Mission Possible*. The ten TV programs in the series are a co-production of 17 companies in ten countries. They have in addition to the course been shown to the general public in e.g. Finland, Latvia, Poland and Belarus.

At present the emphasis in the programme is to produce courses on master level. Thus a master level course on Sustainable Water Management has in spring 1999 been conducted for the first time in a cooperation where 43 universities take part. The material consists of three books, and a series of case studies. Extensive use of video and computer conferencing will allow the students to take part in international seminars. In a co-operative project with municipalities in seven countries, we will next produce a course on urban planning, a key issue in the region. The material will this time also be adapted for professionals, e.g. at municipalities. We hope that a cooperation between the more fundamental level, i.e. the universities, and the applied level, i.e. the municipalities, will be a winning recipe for successful implementation of sustainable strategies in the region.

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ANNEX 14

STATEMENT FROM THE KALMAR SEMINAR





Statement at the End of the Visit of the High Level East African Delegation to the Baltic Region

A High Level delegation from East Africa visited the Baltic Sea region during May 31-June 5, 1999. The visit was part of an ongoing process between the East Africa Cooperation (EAC) and Sweden to develop a coordinated program for sustainable development in the Lake Victoria Basin.

After the visit to the Baltic Sea area, the delegation had a joint session with Sida to conclude on the experiences gained and lessons learned, and suggest a way forward for the further development of the Lake Victoria program.

The following was agreed:

Accepting the Hypothesis

The discussions about Swedish support for the development of the Lake Victoria region have rested on the hypothesis that experiences from the Baltic Sea cooperation would, as suitably modified, be relevant and applicable to the Lake Victoria region.

The participants were fully cognizant of the differences that exist between the Baltic Sea region and East Africa. In several respects, cooperation in the East Africa region has developed further than in the Baltic Region, and the East Africa region is more homogeneous. Nevertheless, there are several principles and important lessons which can be applied in the Lake Victoria region. This will be in line with a shared vision for sustainable economic and social development and environmental management.

Sustaining the Vision

There is already in East Africa a vision which has been embraced by the Heads of State for the economic and social development of the Lake Victoria region. However, there is a need for that vision to be sustained and embraced not only by Heads of State but by society at large. This will call for regular meetings between senior officials, creation of public awareness, and increased contacts between local authorities, city administrations and other civil society institutions in the countries involved.

Building/Strengthening Networks

There are already in existence in East Africa networks between cities, like-minded institutions, and NGOs, and these networks are expanding. There is a need to broaden them further with a view to raising awareness of the economic and social objectives for development of the Lake Victoria region and assuring maximum utilization of the resources. This is also important for building a broad-based consensus on shared approaches to development within the region and indeed to sustain the political vision from below.

Participants affirmed the need to develop closer networks also with other intergovernmental and bilateral institutions, in particular from the Nordic countries interested in the development of the Lake Victoria region.

Developing Capacity

There will be a need to strengthen institutions concerned with development within the region through focused training activities and research, and the dissemination of knowledge and findings from research. Forging closer links between the Universities in the region on activities relevant to the economic and social development of the Lake Victoria region, would be one essential step in that direction. Twinning of cities and institutions in the Lake Victoria region and the Baltic Sea region would also be important. A third aspect could be the development of key institutions for enhanced economic and social development as well as improved environmental strengthening in the region.

Preparation for Investment

A program to develop the Lake Victoria region would necessarily involve selected investments in different economic sectors important for environmental management, such as industry, agriculture, water treatment, fishing, and tourism. The lead time for such investments is long and it would therefore be desirable to begin to initiate as soon as possible on a selected basis the process of identification, pre-feasibility studies, and opportunity analysis.

Mapping Pollution Sources

Any investment program would need to set priorities related to actual sources of pollution in the Lake Victoria region. This would entail a survey of point and nonpoint sources of pollution. While the three countries are undertaking an action program in this regard within the Lake Victoria Environment Management Project (LVEMP) with the sponsorship of the World Bank, it will be necessary to closely interact with that project with a view to eliciting improved cooperation, avoiding duplicating activities, and accelerating the work.

Commitment

Sida confirms the strong Swedish commitment to support a Lake Victoria development program. The East African participants reaffirmed that they will demonstrate an equally strong commitment since it is their program. They concluded by emphasizing that a partnership of this kind, based on strong commitment, cannot fail.

The participants of the East African delegation wish to avail themselves of this opportunity to express their appreciation for the study tour and the constructive discussions that they feel will contribute to developing further the productive cooperation between Sida and the EAC, and between the East African countries and Sweden.

Signed on this day, 5 June, 1999, in Kalmar, Sweden

For: EAC
Ambassador Francis K. Muthaura
Executive Secretary
East African Cooperation Secretariat

For: Sida
Mr. Johan Holmberg
Director
Department of Natural Resources and the Environment

The logo for the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). It features the letters 'SIWI' in a large, blue, serif font. The letters are positioned to the left of a vertical blue bar that extends downwards. At the bottom of this bar, there are three wavy lines representing water.The logo for the Stockholm Water Prize. It consists of the words 'STOCKHOLM', 'WATER', and 'PRIZE' stacked vertically in a black, serif font. The text is centered between two sets of three wavy lines representing water.The logo for the Stockholm Water Prize. It consists of the words 'STOCKHOLM', 'WATER', and 'PRIZE' stacked vertically in a red, serif font. The text is centered between two sets of three wavy lines representing water.The logo for the Stockholm Water Symposium. It consists of the words 'STOCKHOLM', 'WATER', and 'SYMPOSIUM' stacked vertically in a black, serif font. The text is centered between two sets of three wavy lines representing water.

THE STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL
WATER INSTITUTE (SIWI)

The Stockholm International Water Institute is a scientific, technical and educational organization that contributes to international efforts to combat the escalating global water crisis. SIWI facilitates research, raises awareness and stimulates action on world water issues.

SIWI's work is based on the knowledge and experience gained during years of innovative water-related activities in Stockholm and on close cooperation with universities, technical societies and scientific institutions from around the world.