



The General Assembly of the Baltic Sea commission is asked to revise the membership fee during the period 2009-2012 by when all member regions will be charge the same sum.

The Executive Committee suggest that the General Assembly of the BSC will adopt a scheme with annual minor increases, starting from 2009 and closed by 2012 when all members would be paying the same fee. The president likes to stress that the change would still leave the opportunity open to our small Baltic State regions sharing a fee.

The BSC member regions, now paying 50% of our annual fee (that is € 800 of €1600) by 2009, will continue to scale up their contribution until they reach our nominal level.

The motivation for this increase is:

- 1) The BSC have a low annual fee as compared to other geographical commissions.
- 2) The new member states have had a positive economic development and has now reach an economic maturity that no longer give reason to have two member categories.
- 3) This increase, to the nominal level will tie in well with the start of the new program period.

The increase of membership fee will take place during 2009-2012 by when all members have reached the same level of payment. The secretariat has been in contact with the regions concerned and by them this longer period of minor increase has been preferred to single step-up over one year.

The changes will have an impact on the following BSC members: Pärnumaa, Hiiumaa & Saaremaa (joint contribution), Riga, Tukums, Klaipeda and Podlaskie.

New regions in these countries entering the BSC during the 2009 – 2012 periods will pay the same as their fellow regions at the time are charged.