



**CPMR**  
BALTIC SEA COMMISSION



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**The 10th General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission in Finnish Naantali 27 May 2005:**

**EU-Commission has to listen regional level in development of territorial co-operation**

The member regions of the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) Baltic Sea Commission gathered to the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Finnish Naantali on 27 May 2005. The General Assembly gathered together regional decision-makers from 30 regions from eight Baltic Sea countries as well as representatives of several regional organisations from the Baltic Sea Area. The General Assembly did give a resolution for a balanced and effective development of European territorial co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region. The resolution is addressed to the governments of the Baltic Sea States and to the European Commission.

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission supports European Commission's proposals to continue the European Cohesion Policy in order to promote the development in all European regions and emphasised the importance of the role of the Cohesion Policy in the New Neighbourhood Policy. The Baltic Sea Commission also wishes that the Regions would be heard in the process of further negotiations of the prioritised areas.

The Baltic Sea Commission also wants to stress its concern about the European tendency of creating bigger projects. It should be noted, that especially in the new member states of the European Union, there might be problems in participating in the large European projects due to the small size of local actors. The Baltic Sea Commission wants to note that the principle of "one border, one programme" should have exceptions, when necessary due to operational, cultural or historical reasons.

The Baltic Sea Commission wants to express its opinion that the future ENPI Cross-Border Co-operation should have a good balance between the Cohesion and External Relations Policies. The balance should reflect the principles of the Cohesion Policy. It is also noted that the political support for the Cross-Border Co-operation should be soundly established between the European Union and Russia.

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission was founded in May 1996 for promoting EU Governance and a polycentric model of Europe. The CPMR regions aim to promote together a more balanced development of the European Union highlighting the value of all its geographical areas with a view to strengthening its economic, social and territorial cohesion. There are 29 member regions in the Baltic Sea Commission, representing all the Baltic Sea States except Russia. The Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) is one of six Geographical Commissions in the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR). CPMR brings together some 150 Regions from 25 States. European cohesion policy, European maritime policy, regional dimension in the European research and innovation sector are e.g. sectors at the moment of the effective lobbying work of the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission. There are also several thematic working groups in the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission which work on the interregional basis for finding solutions for balanced development of peripheral and maritime regions of Europe.

**More information:**

Inge ANDERSSON, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission +46 70 592 68 80  
Marko MÄLLY, Executive Secretary, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission +358 44 3719438  
and on internet [www.cpmr.org](http://www.cpmr.org) (Geographical Commissions/Baltic Sea)

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CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE – BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

Executive Secretary Marko Mälly, Telephone +358-3-8719 438 E-mail: [marko.mally@pajjat-hame.fi](mailto:marko.mally@pajjat-hame.fi)  
Assistant *Kati Oja*, Telephone +358-3-8719 424, E-mail: [kati.oja@pajjat-hame.fi](mailto:kati.oja@pajjat-hame.fi)  
Secretariat: P.O. Box 50, FIN-15111 LAHTI, FINLAND. Fax +358-3-8719411  
Visiting address: Hämeenkatu 9 A, LAHTI