



TOP OF EUROPE

**This is who we are - the Baltic Sea Commission (BSC)**

The Baltic Sea Commission is established to work for a sustainable society with the aim of promoting democracy, exchanges, co-operation and solidarity between the coastal zones and islands of the Baltic Sea including the Regions of the non-European Union Countries.

**This is how we work**

- EU lobbying
- Baltic Sea Commission as a member of the 'Conference of the Peripheral Maritime Regions' (CPMR) creates awareness among EU institutions to take better account of territorial specificity's when drawing up European policies and legislation.
- Monitoring of EU policies
- Baltic Sea Commission is directly feed through CPMR with first hand information on the main current affairs within the European Union, specifically with regards to regional, peripheral and maritime issues.
- Networking
- Baltic Sea Commission is actively networking within three main spheres:
  - With regions and other organisations in the Baltic Sea area.
  - Together with the North Sea Commission (NSC) and Russian regions to bring the Northern Dimension to the table.
  - Together CPMR and its Geographical Commissions contribute towards creating partnerships, setting up projects and networking territories on a European and Global level.
- Benchmarking
  - As a part of workgroup activities benchmarking, finding 'best practice' is essential.
  - All workgroup activities shall include the effect of climate change, were applicable.

**The strength of the Baltic Sea Commission:**

- We are an independent regional owned entity in the Baltic Sea Region representing a population of 14 million in nine countries.
- We are used to organise and act jointly both within the Baltic Sea Area and together with the North Sea Commission and other major Baltic Sea organisations.
- Through CPMR, with a long standing and excellent network within the European Commission and its organisation and the UNDP, our voice is carried further and stronger than if regions acted individually.

**This we have achieved:**

What the Baltic Sea Commission achieved is the Baltic Sea and Northern Dimension influence on all the issues, listed below, carried to success through the CPMR.

**A few of the changes to which the CPMR and its geographical commissions has contributed. - All of them have significantly changed the position of Regions as regards the building of a wider Europe:**

- the creation of trans-national, intra-European cooperation,
- the continuation of a regional policy for all European Regions during the 2000-2006 and 2007-2013 periods,
- the inclusion of ports and maritime transport in the Trans-European Networks - Transport,
- the acceptance of a more stringent Maritime Safety and Security policy,
- the inclusion of the Regions in the Regional Consultative Committees on Fishing,
- the birth of the Structured Territorial Dialogue,
- the opening up of the Union's foreign policies to include regional involvement,
- the inclusion of the Regions and territorial cohesion in the draft Constitutional Treaty,
- the involvement of Regions in rural development, energy, sustainable development and work/training policies,
  - the introduction of the Green Paper on the maritime dimension of Europe
  - the involvement of Regions in the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy,
  - the continuation of a Regional State Aid Policy
  - the consideration of the Regions by United Nations Agencies
- BSC have through HELCOM achieved the establishment of the Baltic Sea Action plan

**This is of future importance to us:**

- to be the voice of the Baltic Sea Regions the Baltic Sea Commission will have to become a major regional actor with member regions all around the Baltic Sea.
- to promote interests of the Baltic Sea Commission regions in the EU policy
- to support interregional co-operation to achieve an integrated space around the Baltic Sea
- to act for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Area

**Our focus in the coming two years:**

1. Follow the implementation phase of the Baltic Sea Strategy and the development of macro-regions within the EU.
2. Strengthen regions facing technological and demographical challenges' in developing their economic activities through finding best practice in regional innovation and development of human resources.
3. To play an active part in the development of CPMRs future.
4. In all activities to add the dimension of Ecological balance - Global heating.
5. Strengthen and develop the Northern Dimension through the co-operation with the North Sea Commission.
6. Further develop our strength through cooperation with other Baltic Sea Organisations, the Barents Cooperation as well as with global organisations, like the Northern Forum, with relevance to our goals.
7. Through the CPMR have a Baltic Sea Region influence on the EU agendas on Maritime Policy, Fishery, Maritime safety and Security, regions in a single global market, environmental issues, energy, transport, regional innovation and EU regional policy post 2013 and together with the CPMR act to include Russian regions.
8. Together with the CPMR proceed to follow up the implementation of the Maritime Policy through the Aquamarina group.
9. Together with the CPMR focus on the development of Territorial Cohesion.
10. The ambition is to give input on all green books presented by the commission with relevance to our region and organisation.
11. To continue the development of our organisation through our thematic work groups by presenting high standard papers.
12. Focus to attract more member regions.

**BSC Member Regions**

| <b>FINLAND</b>     | <b>SWEDEN</b>                       | <b>GERMANY</b>          | <b>NORWAY</b>  |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Uusimaa            | Stockholm                           | Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  | Nordland       |
| Itä-Uusimaa        | Blekinge                            |                         |                |
| Kymenlaakso        | Gotland                             | <b>LATVIA</b>           | <b>POLAND</b>  |
| Päijät-Häme        | Gävleborg                           | -No regional level -    | Podlaskie      |
| Oulu Region        | Norrbottn                           |                         |                |
| Ostrobothnia       | Skåne                               | <b>LITHUANIA</b>        | <b>ESTONIA</b> |
| South-West Finland | Regional Council of Västerbotten    | Klaipeda                | Hiiumaa/Dagö   |
| Åland              | Västragötaland                      | <b>DENMARK</b>          | Pärnumaa       |
|                    | Västernorrland                      | Central Denmark         | Saaremaa/Ösel  |
|                    | Örebro Regional Development Council | Southern Denmark Region | Ida-Viru       |

