



CPMR
BALTIC SEA COMMISSION



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CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Seminar "Motorways of the Baltic Sea and Nature Conservation"
Motorways of the Baltic Sea give added value to the competitiveness of the regions

The member regions of the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) Baltic Sea Commission gathered in connection to the 10th General Assembly in the seminar "Motorways of the Baltic Sea and Nature Conservation" in Finnish Naantali on 26 May 2005. The seminar 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 Seminar was devoted to the future of the transport and infrastructure solutions in the Baltic Sea Area and how we may protect our common environment by making decisions based on the sustainable development. The speakers represented coastal regions, harbours and ports, states and environmental organisations of the Baltic Sea Area. The Chairman of the Board of the Regional Council of Southwest Finland, Mr Ilkka Kanerva and President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Mr Inge Andersson, stressed that the political weight and importance of the Baltic Sea Area in the European Union will increase in the future. The motorways of the Baltic Sea as a part of the more effective transport networks will bring added value into the Baltic Sea economy and support the efforts in implementing the Lisbon strategy.

Ports of Turku and Naantali together with other partners of the region prepare at the moment a project application for receiving EU financing from the TEN-budget line of Motorways of Seas. The aim of the project is to develop container and ro-ro transport between several harbours on the basis of the so called Northern Triangle strategy as well as the intermodal transport modes between several harbours without forgetting environmental values and the land based logistic chains. The partners in the project will be regions and harbours of Stockholm, Bremen and Kristiansand as well as harbour operators and representatives of the public administration. The main goal is to increase co-operation between the actors and organisations in the sphere.

CPMR Baltic Sea Commission also prepares at the moment a large Baltic Sea wide project to work towards a Pan-Baltic master plan and transport strategy that focuses on coherent transport and communication solutions across regional and national borders and across modes of transport. In compliance with EU policy, the main focus is on shifting transport from road to railway and sea. The Baltic Sea Commission also emphasises that a common strategy and action plan for developing transport and communications within the Baltic Sea area, and in and out of the area, is essential for the economic development of the whole region.

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.

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