



BSC NEWSLETTER SEPT. 2010

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## HERE IS A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

- I aim to make the CPMR the major player among regional organisations in the Baltic Sea Region, says BSC President Dr Erik Bergkvist.

CPMR and the Baltic Sea Commission are a mother - daughter constellation well adapted to our time.

- 'As soon as the EU administration started to speak about regional strategies I knew that CPMR Baltic Sea Commission should be a winner', says newly elected BSC President Erik Bergkvist.

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, CPMR, was set up in 1973 on the basis of a three fold observation: • Need for greater involvement of the Regions in European integration. • Disparities in competitiveness between the central part of Europe and its peripheries. • Insufficient enhancement of Europe's maritime interfaces.

Together with its 161 member regions in 28 EU member- and non-member states it represent a significant independent lobbying organisation with approximately 200 million inhabitants. CPMR is a strong lobbying organisation and think tank for Europe.

Organised with six geographical commissions CPMR is also the only pan-European organisation built to meet the development of European regional strategies.

- 'I vision the EUSBSR (EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region) as our main mission', says Mr Bergkvist. The regions were all very much engaged during the consultation period, involving politicians, organisations, businesses and citizens. Then, alas, only four regions are leading EUSBSR-flagship projects (all of them do also happen to be BSC members).

- 'Ours is the mission to strengthen the influence of the regions in the EUSBSR implementation process - as it is a fact that most of the implementations is done at regional level close to our citizens'.



**Dr Erik Bergkvist** *New man at the BSC helm.*

Mr Bergkvist, PhD Economics is the **CPMR Baltic Sea Commission** President 2010-2012.

Mr Bergkvist also holds the political positions as:  
Regional Councillor (SPD),  
Chairman Executive Board Regional development  
County Council of Västerbotten (SE),  
President Executive Committee Region Västerbotten (SE)



## Our member regions

The BSC members make up a strategic important mix of welfare states and rapidly developing states around one of Europe's most dynamic and innovative maritime basins – the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sea Commission members share the belief that the Baltic Sea is a strategically important region.

The experience from the consultation period of the Baltic Sea Strategy has reinforced our belief that regions should take an active part in the shaping of EU policies. Likewise the financial crises have given evidence of how frail economic- and social progress is in the small Baltic states and that the crisis is having serious effects on Baltic Sea regions.

## Our common goals together with CPMR

The CPMR and its geographical commissions' goals for the work over the next few years:

- Reducing peripherality with cohesion
- Developing balanced competitiveness
- Enhancing the maritime dimension
- Consolidating regional governance
- Ensuring sustainable development
- Making the voice of the Regions heard in globalisation

## CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

### Member Regions



**Finland:** *Uusima, Itä-Uusima, Kymenlaakso, Päijät-Häme, Oulu-Region, Osterbothnia, South-West Finland, Åland*

**Sweden:** *Stockholm, Blekinge, Gotland, Gävleborg, Norrbotten, Regional Council of Västerbotten, Västernorrland, Region Västra Götaland, Region Skåne, Örebro Regional Development Council*

**Germany:** *Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Lithuania:* *Klaipėda, Denmark:* *Central Denmark, Southern Denmark Region*

**Norway:** *Nordland, Poland:* *Podlaskie,*

**Estonia:** *Pärnumaa, Saaremaa, Hiiuma, Ida-Virumaa*



*Baltic Sea Commission has set sail to reach more members.*

## There is always room for more members

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission consist of some 30 regions in the Baltic Sea Area and in northern Norway.

Membership is open to all governmental bodies below the national level\*.

Our ambition in the years to come is to grow, particularly in the southern- and eastern parts of the Baltic Sea region. BSC is confident that regions in the Baltic Sea, and in the Barents Region, would benefit from membership.

With our strong tradition of successful lobbying and a structure made to meet an EU model built around regional strategies the Baltic Sea Commission will be the voice of the Baltic Sea Regions in Brussels.

'Member regions expect two things', says Mr Erik Bergkvist:

Members need to feel **involvement** at a political- as well as other levels.

Members must experience the **added value** of being a part of BSC.

\* The membership fee is €1.600 for regions with a GDP above the 50% of an EU average and €800 for the regions below the 50% EU average. For more information write us at [cpmr\\_bsc@me.com](mailto:cpmr_bsc@me.com).



## CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Activity Plan 2010-2011

- BSC will add our input to open **EU consultations** that have relevance to our region and organisation;
- BSC will further develop our strength through the work of our thematic working groups, drawing together our regions' ability to **present papers that bring new perspectives**;
- BSC will continue to develop **cooperation** with other Baltic Sea organisations as well as with the CPMR Commissions;
- BSC will find a solution for alternative **membership** in countries where the regional level is disappearing. The BSC should be able to have members from all regions around the Baltic Sea;
- BSC should keep adding the **Northern Dimension** in our answers;
- BSC will actively look to enrol more members, in particular in **Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia**;
- BSC aims to include Russia (**Russian regions**) in the BSC and the development of the Baltic Sea Region;
- BSC will follow up on the implementation of the EUSBSR (**EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**).
- BSC will focus on influencing the **Territorial Cohesion Policy**;
- BSC should contribute to add the Baltic Sea Region and Northern Dimension to the **TEN-T**;
- BSC prioritises the **neighbourhood policy** – specially noting the importance of including non-EU-member regions in Eastern Europe;
- BSC works for a **sustainable** Baltic Sea Region;

## Our main activities together with CPMR

*'There is strength in numbers'.*

Together, the six geographical commissions and the CPMR have focused on six main activities in the coming years:

- Territorial cohesion
- Balanced competitiveness
- Maritime issues
- Governance
- Sustainable development
- External cooperation and neighbourhood



In addition there is a strong focus on the influence of regions as regional strategies are rolled out over Europe.



## Welcome to the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission (BSC)



- 'As the BSC President I look forward to meeting as many regions as I can over the next two years. I believe that when all is said and done, Baltic Sea Regions do have a lot of commonalities and by joining forces we could make our voice heard in Europe.

Together we will have the strength to deliver a strong Baltic Sea Region voice to the The European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council, the Committee of the Regions and Global bodies'.

I look forward to meeting you',

*Erik Bergqvist*

President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

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