

**Partnership Annual Conference (PAC)
Seventh Conference
Copenhagen, Denmark
28 October 2010**



Reference	PAC 7/6/Info 1
Title	Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Work Programme 2010 – 2011
Submitted by	BSPC
Summary / Note	<p>This document was adopted by the 19th BSPC on 31 August 2010. It stipulates that one of the objectives of the BSPC in 2010-2011 is “to develop contacts and exchange with the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being with a view to arranging a joint activity on a relevant health-related topic.”</p> <p>This provision was included in the BSPC Work Programme following the working contacts between the two organizations (NDPHS participated in the BSPC Enlarged Standing Committee on 3 June 2010 and in the above-named conference on 31 August 2010).</p> <p>Information about the BSPC can be found at http://www.bspc.net.</p>
Requested action	For information



Adopted by the 19th BSPC on 31 August 2010

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

Work Programme 2010 – 2011

1. BSPC Mission

The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) was established in 1991 as a forum for political dialogue between parliamentarians from national parliaments, regional parliaments and parliamentary organizations in the Baltic Sea Region. BSPC also interacts with other parliamentary and governmental organizations in the Baltic Sea Region and the Northern Dimension area.

BSPC aims at raising awareness and opinion on issues of current political interest and relevance for the Baltic Sea Region. It promotes and drives various initiatives and efforts to support a sustainable environmental, social and economic development of the Baltic Sea Region. It strives at enhancing the visibility of the Baltic Sea Region and its issues in a wider European context.

The BSPC Standing Committee may consider any matter of specific interest and relevance for the Baltic Sea Region, and may also give its opinion on such issues.

2. BSPC Priorities in 2010 - 2011

The priority issues for the BSPC Standing Committee in 2010 – 2011 are:

- Integrated Maritime Policy, especially infrastructure and logistics
- Civil Security, especially trafficking in human beings

3. Objectives of BSPC in 2010 - 2011

The objectives of the BSPC in 2010 – 2011 are:

- To disseminate the 19th BSPC Resolution to Parliaments and Governments in the Baltic Sea region, as well as to the CBSS and the EU, and to take initiatives and action – such as interpellations, parliamentary debate and questions to the governments - to follow-up the implementation of its political recommendations;

- to contribute to the strengthening of dialogue and coordination between intergovernmental and interparliamentary organizations in the Baltic Sea Region and in Northern Europe as a whole. This issue shall be advocated and raised in contacts with such organizations and in international conferences and meetings;
- to support the policies of the CBSS and to further the co-operation between the CBSS and the BSPC, for instance by sustaining contacts and cooperation between secretariats, by attempting to synchronize priorities, and by maintaining an interaction between working bodies of the BSPC and the CBSS, such as the BSPC Working Groups and the CBSS Expert Groups and Task Forces;
- to promote the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, including measures against Eutrophication, for instance by active participation in various HELCOM meeting formats;
- to follow-up the BSPC commitment to the Baltic Sea Action Summit in February 2010;
- to promote the further development of the Northern Dimension and the European Neighbourhood Policy, for instance by actively taking part in relevant activities and by exchanging views and positions with relevant bodies of the European Parliament;
- to support the development of a EU Baltic Sea Strategy that is fully aligned with the Northern Dimension, including regular reports from the European Commission;
- to develop contacts and exchange with the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being with a view to arranging a joint activity on a relevant health-related topic;
- to actively participate in and contribute to the further progress of the project Baltic Sea Labour Network (BSLN);
- to promote the development of an EU Integrated Maritime Policy; Guidelines and practical political proposals to this end will be elaborated by the BSPC Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy. The Working Group shall also aim at elaborating political positions and recommendations on other infrastructural issues;
- to elaborate political positions and recommendations on civil security issues; Guidelines and practical political proposals to this end will be elaborated by the BSPC Working Group on Civil Security. The Working Group shall have trafficking as its main focus, but could also address other civil security issues;
- to arrange a seminar/workshop on a topical issue in order to strengthen contacts and exchange between BSPC and relevant committees in the national parliaments of the Baltic Sea Region. Other BSR organizations and NGOs could also be invited;
- to promote the further development of civil society in the region, including strengthening of NGO's and supporting the continued activities of the NGO Forum, and taking into account the fundamental importance of a qualified public education and research.

4. Resources 2010 - 2011

The BSPC has several working bodies, which serve as resources for driving and implementing BSPC priorities and objectives.

The **Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference** is the annual general assembly in the Baltic Sea region for broad political debate on Baltic Sea issues. The Conference resolutions are political tools which enables the BSPC to take and support political initiatives, and to approach the governments and regional organizations on issues of common interest.

The **host country** of the 20th BSPC, **Finland**, is responsible for the operational planning and execution of the 20th Conference in Helsinki on 28-30 August 2011.

The **BSPC Enlarged Standing Committee** (ESC) gathers parliamentarians from altogether 27 national parliaments, regional parliaments and parliamentary organizations throughout the Baltic Sea Region. The ESC convenes twice a year (usually in the beginning of the year and in spring/summer) for strategic discussions on BSPC objectives and accomplishments. The first ESC meeting of the year should include a report from the CBSS and could also include – as in 2008, 2009 and 2010 – progress reports on EU Northern Dimension, EU Baltic Sea Strategy, and EU Integrated Maritime Policy. The ESC also serves as Drafting Committee during the annual Conference.

The **BSPC Standing Committee** (SC) is responsible for the preparation of the annual Conference and for administering the structures and functions of the BSPC. The Standing Committee meets twice a year. The Standing Committee consists of nine parliamentarians headed by a Chairman that is rotated annually (2 Germany, 2 Russia, 2 Nordic Council, 1 Baltic Assembly, 1 Poland, 1 European Parliament). Chairman of the BSPC standing Committee for 2010-2011 is Christina Gestrin, Finland. The SC meetings are open for observers from the BSPC member parliaments not represented in the SC.

The **BSPC Secretary Level** consists of officials from the BSPC member parliaments. It prepares the work of the Standing Committee and Enlarged Standing Committee, and oversees the preparations of the annual conferences.

The **BSPC Secretariat** manages overall coordination of BSPC activities, delivers administrative and organizational support, and provides investigative resources.

The **BSPC Working Group on Civil Security**, especially trafficking in human beings, chaired by Line Barfod, Denmark, will aim at elaborating joint BSPC policy recommendations within this policy area. The Working Group will submit its final report to the 20th BSPC.

The **BSPC Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy**, especially infrastructure and logistics, chaired by Jochen Schulte, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, will aim at elaborating joint BSPC policy recommendations within this policy area. The Working Group will submit its final report to the 20th BSPC.

The **BSPC Observers in HELCOM**, Christina Gestrin (Finland) and Sylvia Bretschneider (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), follow the deliberations of relevant HELCOM bodies.

The **BSPC Rapporteur on Labour Market and Social Welfare**, Franz Thönnies, will follow and report on the development in these fields and the implementation of the recommendations of the BSPC Working Group on Labour Market (2007-2009).

The **BSPC Rapporteur on Energy and Climate Change**, Mart Jüssi, will follow and report on the development in these fields and the implementation of the recommendations of the BSPC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change (2007-2009).

The **BSPC Website** (<http://bspc.net>) was renovated and re-launched in fall 2009. It is a central conduit for disseminating news and information on BSPC's organization, activities and results, as well as a dynamic archive to BSPC documents and opinions.