



BRUSSELS

**MINISTERIAL
MEETING 2018**

HELCOM

Statement by Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

Agenda Item 4

Statements by HELCOM Observers

Introduction:

- On behalf of the Swedish Presidency of the CBSS and the CBSS itself, I would like to thank HELCOM for a kind invitation to the ministerial meeting.
- We had the pleasure to welcome Ms. Marianne Wenning, Chair of the EU Chairmanship of the HELCOM, in the last meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of CBSS, at the end of January. We received a highly encouraging response from the CSO members regarding a continuous and close cooperation between the HELCOM and the CBSS.
- There are two main units within CBSS that work with issues related to the Baltic Sea: Baltic 2030 and Expert Group on Maritime Policy.
- Today I would like to give you an overview of the recent developments within these CBSS' working areas as well as discuss points of existing and potential collaboration, as suggested by the Units and Senior Advisers themselves.

Baltic 2030:

- We welcome HELCOM being an active member of CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development (EGSD) since the very beginning of the work of EGSD and particularly its recent involvement in preparation of "Realizing the Vision: BALTIC2030 Action Plan".
- We have been noting with a great pleasure that for implementation of UN Agenda 2030, HELCOM has aligned HELCOM's targets, SDG's targets and the Aichi Biodiversity's Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity in a recent report "Measuring Progress for the Same Targets in Baltic Sea".
- We appreciate that HELCOM has taken voluntary commitments to the UN Ocean Conference on SDG 14 and is preparing a renewal of its Action Plan with relevant provisions.
- As CBSS EGSD mandate is to facilitate and monitor implementation of the BALTIC 2030 Action Plan, we consider HELCOM as a major partner for in the implementation of Goal 14 - conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.
- As coordinator of the Horizontal Action Climate, the CBSS is welcoming the HELCOM ministers and high-level representatives to address the climate risks and climate change undermining efforts, which have been taken so far to combat eutrophication and human pressures in the Baltic Sea catchment area to mitigate climate impacts on biodiversity.

Maritime Policy:

- The CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP) positions itself within the ongoing discussion of Baltic Sea Maritime issues. The Group is involved in the activities of EU Strategy for the BSR (PA SHIP and PA SAFE), Northern Dimension Partnership on transport and logistics and HELCOM.
- As an intergovernmental group of experts, the EGMP bases its work on knowledge sharing and dialogue. It aims to provide politically coordinated support to relevant efforts, concrete initiatives, actions and projects in order to improve Baltic Sea Region's international competitiveness within development of the sustainable maritime economy. The goal is to become a model region with the best maritime practices and a balance between a successful maritime economy and sustainable development.
- The current Swedish Presidency of EGMP is focusing on solutions of SDG 14' implementation. In 2015, a Maritime Strategy was launched in Sweden. It is the take off point for the current EGMP's discussions regarding the SDG 14. The strategy has a focus on people, jobs and the environment, which correlates to the three legs of sustainability - social, economic and environmental.
- A good example of close cooperation between CBSS' Expert Group on Maritime Policy and HELCOM took place in September 2017 at the Island of DONSÖ. The Event was devoted to the Green shipping, technology and alternative fuels, Blue Growth Agenda and UN Sustainable Goals' implementation regarding maritime economy. We believe that similar collaborative events should be organised in the future.

Conclusion:

- On behalf of the members of CBSS we are looking forward to a close and fruitful cooperation with HELCOM.
- We would also encourage to make the exchange of views between our organisations an annual tradition.
- Finally, I would like to thank you once again for the invitation.