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Background

This document contains comments by the [PartiSEApate](#) (Multilevel Governance in Maritime Spatial Planning throughout the Baltic Sea Region) project, indicated by track changes, on the draft VASAB Tallinn Declaration (cf. document 3-1).

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the comments by the PartiSEApate project when considering document 3-1.



2

Tallinn Declaration

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4 Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB) is an intergovernmental co-operation of ministers
5 responsible for spatial planning and development of Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia,
6 Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation and Sweden. VASAB is part of the network of the Council of
7 the Baltic Sea States.

8 VASAB prepares policy options for the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region and provides a forum for
9 exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development between the Baltic Sea countries. VASAB
10 recommends transnational policy measures, promotes methodology development and co-operation projects,
11 co-operates with other pan-Baltic initiatives and promotes a dialogue with sector institutions. For fulfilling
12 those tasks, VASAB takes into account also strategies and policies, adopted on European, European Union, pan-
13 Baltic and national levels and provides inputs to that.

14 (1) The Ministers, having met on the 8th Conference and the 20th anniversary of first VASAB common
15 strategic document – Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010, agreed on December 7th
16 and 8th 1994, also known as the Tallinn Document – upon the invitation of Estonia in Tallinn on
17 September 26th, 2014 to follow the implementation progress of previous decisions and to
18 contemplate on new planning and development challenges the Baltic Sea Region is facing, have
19 adopted the following Declaration.

20 **The Ministers,**

21 (2) **Recognising** the importance of the integrated and balanced territorial development of the Baltic
22 Sea Region,

23 (3) **Emphasising** the leading role of VASAB in spatial planning and development co-operation in the
24 Baltic Sea Region, both land and sea,

25 (4) **Underlining** the long tradition and importance of currently 22 years of close and exemplary
26 intergovernmental co-operation, between all 11 countries on equal terms, which has led to the
27 formulation of visions, strategies, joint actions and projects, raised awareness about spatial
28 planning and development and influenced the designing of policies, planning processes and
29 legislation at different levels,

30 (5) **Acknowledging** the importance of the goals set out in the Council of the Baltic Sea States Vilnius
31 Declaration on a vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020, adopted at the 8th Baltic Sea States
32 Summit on June 1st and 2nd 2010, and the necessity for the actions to achieve those goals,

33 (6) **Expressing satisfaction** with the work done between ministerial conferences by the Committee
34 on Spatial Planning and Development in the Baltic Sea Region (the Committee) in implementing
35 Vilnius Declaration, adopted by ministers in 2009, and the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the
36 Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region till 2030 (VASAB LTP),

37 (7) **Stressing** the relevance especially of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
38 (EUSBSR) and of the ‘Strategy of social and economic development of the North-West Federal
39 District of Russia until 2020’ as important foci for VASAB co-operation, and pointing out the
40 possibilities for VASAB to initiate joint actions and projects, which contribute to implementing
41 both strategies,

42 (8) **Emphasising** that VASAB, acting as a Leader for Horizontal Action Spatial Planning of EUSBSR has
43 obtained new possibilities to promote maritime and land-based spatial planning, important for
44 the Baltic Sea Region,

45 (9) **Welcoming** the progress in introduction of maritime spatial planning by the Member States, the
46 Strategy of the Development of Maritime Activity of the Russian Federation till 2030, as well as
47 the recently adopted¹ European Union Framework Directive for Maritime Spatial Planning,

48 (10) **Welcoming with satisfaction** the well-established co-operation between VASAB and Baltic
49 Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) on introduction of the coherent maritime

¹ The Directive is expected to be finally adopted in May 2014

50 spatial planning in the Baltic Sea, the jointly developed Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning
 51 Roadmap 2013-2020 and other results of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning
 52 Working Group, which was formed after the 7th VASAB Ministerial Conference in 2009,

53 (11)**Recognising achievements** of the Member States and the Committee in implementing the VASAB
 54 LTP and tackling the important challenges pointed out in Vilnius Declaration such as promoting
 55 accessibility and connectivity in the Region, urban networking and urban-rural cooperation,
 56 developing territorial monitoring system for the Region, initiating joint actions and transnational
 57 co-operation projects, which contribute to solving of respective territorial development issues in
 58 the Baltic Sea Region,

59 (12)**Highlighting** the need to continue the implementation of VASAB LTP, tackling also the new
 60 challenges,

61 **Ministers would like to point out the following main challenges for spatial** 62 **planning and development co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region:**

63 **Territorial development**

64 (13)It is crucial to ensure global competitiveness and attractiveness of the Baltic Sea Region. The
 65 following global, European and macro-regional tendencies need to be tackled by co-ordinated
 66 policy response: adverse territorial consequences of population change e.g. ageing and
 67 migration; continued growth of metropolitan areas and urban sprawl, resulting in increasing
 68 commuting; new configuration of trade routes; growing pressure on sea resources and increasing
 69 potential for sea use conflicts; climate change affecting the living conditions and environment.

70 (14)Over the last decade there have been changes in the trends influencing territorial and regional
 71 development in the Baltic Sea Region. The former economic divide in the Region has transformed
 72 into a more complex one, where social differences play a more important role. The capitals and
 73 other large urban regions in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea Region are catching up with other
 74 regions in the western part in terms of economic wealth. Urban-rural polarisation has increased
 75 in many of the Baltic Sea Region countries.

76 (15)Place-based and integrated territorial development approaches contribute to effectiveness and
 77 efficiency of development policies by identifying properly territorial resources and stimulating
 78 internal development potential, as well as adjusting the different policies to local conditions. This
 79 requires enhancing the dialogue and co-operation between authorities at different policy areas
 80 and administrative levels, participation of stakeholders and local communities.

81 (16)There is still a continued need for closer co-operation in the issues of EUSBSR and the 'Strategy of
 82 social and economic development of the North-West Federal District of Russia until 2020', to
 83 more fully exploit the development potential embedded in both strategies.

84 **Maritime spatial planning coherent with land-based planning**

85 (17)The Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020 directs all Baltic Sea Region
 86 countries to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans by 2020 in a coherent way across the
 87 borders, including exclusive economic zones.

88 (18) Interactions between marine and terrestrial space demand coherent interlinking of maritime
 89 spatial planning with land based spatial planning. The aim of maritime spatial planning is to lay
 90 down the basis for sustainable maritime development and to facilitate blue growth, reconciling
 91 the needs of different human activities with safeguarding the environment.

92 (19) An improvement of the foundations and tools for maritime spatial planning is needed. The legal
 93 basis, institutional setup as well as modes of consultation and cooperation among
 94 countries/regions and with stakeholders have to be developed taking into account a common
 95 Baltic Sea approach.

96 **Urban networking and urban-rural co-operation in functional regions**

97 (20) A new approach to regional development is needed that recognises both the importance of big
 98 urban regions as drivers of growth and innovation, as well as the potential of other types of
 99 regions. An advanced urban-rural partnership is of additional value to both types of territories.

100 (21) In most of the countries there is a growing development gap between metropolitan and other
 101 regions. Smaller urban areas and rural areas are to provide significant contribution to aggregate
 102 growth by developing appropriate strategies.

103 (22) Many regions face the challenge of planning under the conditions of declining population, while
 104 at the same time trying to promote better living conditions and quality of life. Flexible solutions
 105 are needed to promote development alternatives.

106 **Territorial integration of the Baltic Sea Region, connectivity and accessibility**

107 (23) The Baltic Sea Region poses specific challenges regarding physical accessibility: there are long
 108 distances, a great extent of the sea areas, the combined use of all different transport modes
 109 needs special attention, and there are significant differences in population density, which lead to
 110 maintenance of infrastructure regardless of its low efficiency. Connectivity and accessibility in
 111 Baltic Sea Region, links between the Region and Europe's core areas, also between the Region
 112 and other neighbouring regions, are amongst the key development issues in the Baltic Sea
 113 Region.

114 (24) There are important links missing or inadequately developed, especially in North-South direction.
 115 Wider transnational co-operation is needed to overcome these missing links and bottlenecks.
 116 Another key challenge for the countries is to interconnect in the best way Trans-European,
 117 national and regional intermodal transport networks.

118 **Sustainable production and use of energy**

119 (25) Energy efficiency and access to energy is of high importance for all societies. In the Baltic Sea
 120 Region the important energy challenges are: interconnection of national energy networks,
 121 developing sustainable and green energy, achieving proper balance between centralised and
 122 decentralised energy production and increased energy efficiency and energy saving, which need
 123 to be promoted through appropriate planning solutions.

124 (26) Energy production, distribution and consumption have considerable territorial implications on
 125 land and sea areas, which often go beyond national borders. Spatial planning can contribute to
 126 the use of varied renewable energy sources and promoting more environmentally sound

127 solutions. One of growing interests in the years to come will be the building of offshore wind
 128 farms and related most efficient grid connections. When developing energy solutions, public
 129 awareness and participation should be ensured from an early phase and throughout the planning
 130 process.

131 Future tasks for VASAB

132 The Ministers,

133 (27)Ask the present and coming chairmanships and Member States to implement this Declaration
 134 and the VASAB LTP by allocating adequate resources and making use of existing structures, by
 135 ensuring better visibility of the VASAB LTP, by taking the decisive responsibility for its execution,
 136 by evaluating on a regular basis the implementation progress of the VASAB LTP, and – upon the
 137 need – by deciding on new actions.

138 (28)Encourage the Member States to make use of and consider the VASAB strategic documents when
 139 designing national policies, sectorial strategies and planning documents.

140 (29)Urge the Member States and the Committee to initiate and support territorial development
 141 projects, fully exploiting the potential of all relevant financing instruments, especially of the
 142 trans-national Baltic Sea Region Programme.

143 (30)Instruct the Committee to observe territorial development processes in the Baltic Sea Region,
 144 using the monitoring system developed by ESPON BSR-TeMo Project, and to report the findings
 145 to the Ministers and to the relevant stakeholders.

146 (31)Call for closer co-operation between all of the Baltic Sea Region countries and instruct the
 147 Member States and the Committee to carefully analyse correlations between the EUSBSR and
 148 the ‘Strategy of social and economic development of the North-West Federal District of Russia
 149 until 2020’ in specific thematic fields and to propose solutions how to synchronise actions and to
 150 develop joint projects.

151 (32)Seek VASAB to continue to co-operate closely with other relevant pan-Baltic organisations and
 152 stakeholders.

153 (33)Encourage the Committee to continue introducing, promoting and following up maritime spatial
 154 planning in Baltic Sea Region by using the potential of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial
 155 Planning Working Group and enhance co-operation between Member States.

156 (34)Encourage the Member States to implement the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning
 157 Roadmap 2013-2020, agreeing that the ultimate goal is to draw up and to apply maritime spatial
 158 plans throughout the Region by 2020.

159 ~~(34)~~(35) Call upon the Committee to instigate a structured pan-Baltic Maritime Spatial
 160 Planning Dialogue through the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG involving policy-makers, institutions,
 161 MSP practitioners and stakeholders.

162 (36)More specifically, call upon the Committee to (a) organise and animate ad hoc MSP Expert
 163 Groups to report to the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Group, to (b) organise and

164 | animate a network of maritime spatial planning practitioners and related meetings in order to
 165 | accumulate and share the experience to be used for planning, also (c) to actively promote
 166 | maritime spatial planning by attending and providing input to relevant meetings of other pan-
 167 | Baltic organisations, and also (d) initiate and arrange the Baltic Sea Region-wide events on
 168 | maritime spatial planning, while making use of the framework set by the European Union
 169 | Framework Directive for Maritime Spatial Planning in relation to the EU Member States.

170 | ~~(35)~~(37) Encourage the Committee to promote the design, implementation and structured
 171 | inter-action / coordination of a related set of joint initiatives.

172 | ~~(36)~~(38) Encourage the Member States to closely co-operate in the planning, designing,
 173 | building and operating of intelligent multi-modal green transport corridors as the main
 174 | connecting lines – especially North-South corridors such as Rail Baltica Corridor, including fast
 175 | railway connection, on the eastern coast and Bothnian Corridor on the western coast of the
 176 | Baltic Sea.

177 | ~~(37)~~(39) Ask the Committee to observe intensively the regional effects of the European
 178 | transport infrastructure and to support actions and projects, using potential of Trans-European
 179 | Transport Networks (TEN-T) for regional development and improving its connectivity to regional
 180 | transport networks, in order to promote territorial cohesion.

181 | ~~(38)~~(40) Instruct the Committee to co-operate closely with the Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-
 182 | operation (BASREC), in order to address important territorial challenges of sustainable
 183 | production, distribution and use of energy, and to develop joint solutions, especially those
 184 | related to the renewable energy and energy efficiency.

185 | ~~(39)~~(41) Ask the Committee to contribute to better adaptation of strategies to different
 186 | types of areas, especially: for Baltic Sea Region metropolises and large cities, for small and
 187 | medium-sized towns and their functional areas, as well as for rural areas, with focus on
 188 | supporting the development of cross-border functional areas, enhancing the development role
 189 | of the metropolises in their wider vicinity, promoting urban-rural partnership, and promoting
 190 | success stories of innovative small and medium-sized towns, drawing on experience from case
 191 | studies and on co-operation with Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation (BSSSC) and Union
 192 | of the Baltic Cities (UBC).

193 | ~~(40)~~(42) Underline the need to apply place-based approaches to development policies at
 194 | national, regional and local level, and encourage the Committee to act as a platform for sharing
 195 | knowledge and best practices on such approach and on co-operation inside functional areas.

196 | ~~(41)~~(43) Reconfirm the commitment to co-operate on the issues of spatial planning and
 197 | development of the Baltic Sea Region. To ensure smooth co-operation, the Ministers hereby
 198 | agree to continue co-operation in the form of ministerial conferences and meetings of senior
 199 | officials (the Committee), reinforce the previous commitment to continue the work of VASAB
 200 | Secretariat, and ask the Member States to provide the Committee and the Secretariat with
 201 | resources needed to implement the tasks highlighted in this Declaration, according to the rules

202 used by the Council of the Baltic Sea States and according to national annual budgetary
203 decisions.

204 | ~~(42)~~(44) Ask the Estonian chairmanship, in co-operation with the Committee and the
205 Secretariat, to distribute this Declaration to relevant national, Baltic, European and global actors.

206 | ~~(43)~~(45) Decide that the next Ministerial Conference will focus on ...² and ask the
207 chairmanship concerned to prepare a progress report with the assistance of the Committee.

² This is to be decided later on this year.