



Document title	Comments by Germany on the VASAB Tallinn Declaration
Code	3-4
Category	INF
Agenda Item	3 - Input of the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG to the VASAB Ministerial Conference
Submission date	13.6.2014
Submitted by	Germany
Reference	Document 3-1 of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 9-2014

Background

This document contains comments by Germany, indicated in 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 Germany when considering document 3-1.



2

Tallinn Declaration

3

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

20 **The Ministers,**

- 21 (2) **Recognising** the importance of the integrated and balanced territorial development of the
22 Baltic Sea Region, taking into account social, economic and environmental aspects,
- 23 (3) **Emphasising** the leading role of VASAB in spatial planning and development co-operation in the
24 Baltic Sea Region, both on land and on 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
31 Vilnius Declaration on a vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020, adopted at the 8th Baltic Sea
32 States Summit on June 1st and 2nd 2010, and the necessity for the actions to achieve those
33 goals,
- 34 (6) **Expressing satisfaction** with the work done between ministerial conferences by the Committee
35 on Spatial Planning and Development in the Baltic Sea Region (the Committee) in implementing
36 Vilnius Declaration, adopted by ministers in 2009, and the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for
37 the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region till 2030 (VASAB LTP),
- 38 (7) **Stressing** the relevance especially of the “European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
39 (EUSBSR)” and of the “Strategy of social and economic development of the North-West Federal
40 District of Russia until 2020”² as important foci for VASAB co-operation, and pointing out the
41 possibilities for VASAB to initiate joint actions and projects, which contribute to implementing
42 both strategies,
- 43 (8) **Emphasising** that VASAB, acting as a Leader for Horizontal Action Spatial Planning of EUSBSR
44 has obtained new possibilities to promote maritime and land-based spatial planning, important
45 for the Baltic Sea Region,
- 46 (9) **Welcoming** the progress in introduction of maritime spatial planning by the Member States,
47 the Strategy of the Development of Maritime Activity of the Russian Federation till 2030, as
48 well as the recently adopted¹ European Union Framework Directive for Maritime Spatial
49 Planning,

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

50 (10) **Welcoming with satisfaction** the well-established co-operation between VASAB and Baltic
 51 Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) on introduction of the coherent
 52 maritime spatial planning [applying an ecosystem-based approach](#) in the Baltic Sea, the jointly
 53 developed [Baltic Sea broad-scale maritime spatial planning principles and](#) Regional Baltic
 54 Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020 ~~and as well as~~ other results of the Joint
 55 HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group, which was formed after the 7th
 56 VASAB Ministerial Conference in 2009,

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

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

65 **Ministers would like to point out the following main challenges for spatial** 66 **planning and development co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region:**

67 **Territorial development**

68 (13) ~~It is crucial to ensure global competitiveness and attractiveness of the Baltic Sea Region. The~~
 69 ~~following G~~lobal, European and macro-regional tendencies need to be tackled by co-ordinated
 70 policy response, ~~such as:~~ adverse territorial consequences of population change e.g. ageing and
 71 migration; continued growth of metropolitan areas, [land take](#) and urban sprawl, resulting in
 72 increasing ~~commuting~~; new configuration of trade routes; growing pressure on sea resources
 73 and increasing ~~potential for~~ sea use conflicts [accompanied by impacts on the environment and](#)
 74 [marine ecosystems](#); climate change affecting the living conditions and [the](#) environment
 75 [including its resilience. Meeting those challenges contributes to ensuring global](#)
 76 [competitiveness and attractiveness of the Baltic Sea Region.](#)

Comment [GDW1]: Sentence should not start with: it is crucial...

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

83 (15) Place-based and integrated territorial development approaches contribute to effectiveness and
 84 efficiency of development policies by identifying properly territorial resources and stimulating
 85 internal development potential, as well as adjusting the different policies to local conditions.
 86 This requires enhancing the dialogue, [consultation](#) and co-operation between authorities at
 87 different policy areas and administrative levels, [public](#) participation, ~~including of~~ stakeholders
 88 and local communities, [moreover using the best available data.](#)

(16) There is still a continued need for closer co-operation ~~with regard to the implementation of the issues of EUSBSR, the "European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region" and of the "Strategy of social and economic development of the North-West Federal District of Russia until 2020"~~, to more fully exploit the development potential embedded in both strategies.

Maritime spatial planning (MSP) coherent with land-based planning

(17) The Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020 directs all Baltic Sea Region countries to put national frameworks for maritime spatial planning in place by 2017, reflecting HELCOM-VASAB MSP principles and relevant policy instruments, and furthermore to draw up and ~~introduce~~apply maritime spatial plans by 2020 in a coherent way across the borders including exclusive economic zones - and applying an ecosystem-based approach.

(18) Interactions between marine and terrestrial space demand coherent interlinking of maritime spatial planning with land-based spatial planning, taking into consideration an Integrated Coastal Management (ICM). MSP applying an ecosystem-based approach contributes to organise human activities in marine areas in such a way that the ecosystem is safeguarded and the different socio-economic demands are recognised, and to protect the ecosystem functions while enabling sustainable use. The aim of maritime spatial planning is to lay down the basis for sustainable maritime development and to facilitate blue growth. Thus MSP can reconciling the needs of different human activities with safeguarding the environment, including its ecological functions.

Comment [MK2]: This formulation is in line with the current draft HELCOM-VASAB document on EBA and MSP.

~~(19) The new EU framework directive on Maritime Spatial planning requires the EU Member States to set up Maritime Spatial plans and sets up a new legal framework for communication and consultation between them and all partner states. Moreover, the directive can potentially be used by both, EU Member and Non-Member States in order to support their efforts to develop the maritime spatial planning systems and schemes of cooperation in a Baltic Sea perspective.~~

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

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

(20) A new approach to regional development is needed that recognises both the importance of Metropolitan areas and large big urban regions as drivers of growth and innovation, as well as the potential of other types of regions. An advanced urban-rural partnership is of additional value to both types of territories while - Metropolitan Areas have a specific responsibility for initiating such partnerships.

~~(21) Baltic Sea Region areas and countries are witnessing a growing development gap between metropolitan and other regions. Smaller urban areas and rural areas are to provide significant contribution to aggregate growth based on appropriate strategies, both at national and international level which pay attention also to functional relations beyond state borders. In most of the countries there is a growing development gap between metropolitan and other~~

128 ~~regions. Smaller urban areas and rural areas are to provide significant contribution to aggregate~~
 129 ~~growth by developing appropriate strategies.~~

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

133 Territorial integration of the Baltic Sea Region, connectivity and accessibility

134 (23) The Baltic Sea Region poses specific challenges regarding physical accessibility: ~~there are~~ long
 135 distances, a great extent of the sea areas, the combined use of all different transport modes
 136 ~~needs special attention, and there are~~ significant differences in population density, which lead
 137 to maintenance of infrastructure ~~with limited~~ ~~regardless of its low~~ efficiency. Connectivity and
 138 accessibility in Baltic Sea Region, links between the Region and Europe's core areas, ~~as well as~~
 139 ~~also~~ between the Region and other neighbouring regions, are amongst the key development
 140 issues in the Baltic Sea Region.

141 (24) There are important links missing or inadequately developed, especially in North-South
 142 direction. Wider transnational co-operation is needed to overcome these missing links ~~and but~~
 143 ~~also~~ bottlenecks in densely populated areas. The Scandinavian – Mediterranean and the North
 144 Sea – Baltic TEN T Core Network Corridors (CNC) constitute a strategic ring around the Baltic
 145 Sea, connecting the Metropolitan Areas and bigger urban nodes. CNC Coordinators, Priority
 146 Action Coordinators in the field of transport, Member States and regions should improve their
 147 cooperation for using these opportunities for regional growth. ~~Another~~ ~~The~~ key challenge for
 148 the countries ~~and regions~~ is to interconnect in the best way Trans-European, national and
 149 regional intermodal transport networks.

150 Sustainable production and use of energy

151 (25) Energy efficiency and access to energy is of high importance for all societies. In the Baltic Sea
 152 Region the important energy challenges are: interconnection of national energy networks,
 153 developing sustainable and green energy, achieving proper balance between centralised and
 154 decentralised energy production ~~and as well as~~ increased energy efficiency and energy saving,
 155 which need to be promoted through appropriate planning solutions.

156 (26) Energy production, distribution and consumption have considerable territorial implications on
 157 land and sea areas, which often go beyond national borders. Spatial planning can contribute to
 158 the use of varied renewable energy sources and promoting more environmentally sound
 159 solutions. One of growing interests in the years to come will be the building of offshore wind
 160 farms ~~and related most efficient grid connections and related most efficient grid connections.~~
 161 When developing energy solutions, public awareness and participation should be ensured from
 162 an early phase and throughout the planning process.

163 Future tasks for VASAB

164 The Ministers,

165 (27) Ask the present and coming chairmanships and Member States to implement this Declaration
 166 and the VASAB LTP by allocating adequate resources and making use of existing structures, by
 167 ensuring better visibility of the VASAB LTP, by taking the decisive responsibility for its

168 execution, by evaluating on a regular basis the implementation progress of the VASAB LTP, and
 169 – upon ~~the~~ need – by deciding on new actions.

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

172 (29) Urge the Member States and the Committee to initiate and support joint territorial
 173 development and maritime spatial planning projects, fully exploiting the potential of all
 174 relevant financing instruments, especially of the trans-national Baltic Sea Region Programme.

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

178 (31) Call for closer co-operation between all ~~of the~~ Baltic Sea Region countries and instruct the
 179 Member States and the Committee to carefully analyse correlations between the EUSBSR and
 180 the 'Strategy of social and economic development of the North-West Federal District of Russia
 181 until 2020' in specific thematic fields and to propose solutions how to synchronise actions and
 182 to develop joint projects.

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

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

188 (34) Hereby adopt the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020 and
 189 Encourage the Member States to implement the ~~ise~~ Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning
 190 Roadmap 2013-2020 as well as the Baltic Sea broad-scale maritime spatial planning principles,
 191 agreeing that the ultimate goal is to draw up and to apply maritime spatial plans throughout
 192 the Region by 2020, which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach, and
 193 reminds the EU Members that they need to fulfil the same requirement by 2021 EU wide.

Comment [MK3]: The Roadmap should be adopted also by VASAB, as it has been adopted by HELCOM (2013 Ministerial Declaration).

Comment [MK4]: Wording as in HELCOM Ministerial Declaration.

194 (35) Encourage the Committee to take duly into account the new opportunities provided by the
 195 Strategy of the Development of Maritime Activity of the Russian Federation till 2030 and of the
 196 European Union Framework Directive for Maritime Spatial Planning and to set itself up as the
 197 regional network for ~~consultation~~ operation on maritime spatial planning issues in the Baltic
 198 Sea Region.

199 (36) Call upon the Committee to instigate a structured pan-Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning
 200 Dialogue with assistance of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG involving policy-makers, institutions,
 201 MSP practitioners and stakeholders of all relevant sectors as well as with the help of ad-hoc
 202 expert groups.

203

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

207 ~~More specifically, call upon the Committee to (a) organise and animate ad hoc MSP Expert~~
 208 ~~Groups to report to the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Group, to (b) organise and~~
 209 ~~animate a network of maritime spatial planning practitioners and related meetings in order to~~
 210 ~~accumulate and share the experience to be used for planning, also (c) to actively promote~~
 211 ~~maritime spatial planning by attending and providing input to relevant meetings of other pan-~~
 212 ~~Baltic organisations, and also (d) initiate and arrange the Baltic Sea Region wide events on~~
 213 ~~maritime spatial planning, while making use of the framework set by the European Union~~
 214 ~~Framework Directive for Maritime Spatial Planning in relation to the EU Member States.~~

215 ~~(35) Encourage the Committee to promote the design, implementation and structured inter action /~~
 216 ~~coordination of a related set of joint initiatives.~~

217

218 (37) Encourage the Member States and the regions to closely co-operate in the planning, designing,
 219 building and operating of intelligent multi-modal green transport corridors as the main
 220 connecting lines – especially North-South corridors such as Scandinavian – Mediterranean and
 221 North Sea – Baltic Rail Baltica Corridor, including fast railway connection, on the eastern coast
 222 and Bothnian Corridor on the western coast of the Baltic Sea. Especially the priority on
 223 Motorways of the Sea should be used for greening transport across the Baltic Sea and the
 224 improvement of the cooperation between the Ports surrounding it.

225

226 ~~(37)~~(38) Ask the Committee to observe intensively the regional effects of the European
 227 transport infrastructure and to support actions and projects, using potential of Trans-European
 228 Transport Networks (TEN-T) for regional development and improving its connectivity to
 229 regional transport networks, in order to promote territorial cohesion.

230 ~~(38)~~(39) Instruct the Committee to co-operate closely with the Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-
 231 operation (BASREC), in order to address important territorial challenges of sustainable
 232 production, distribution and use of energy, and to develop joint solutions, especially those
 233 related to the renewable energy and energy efficiency.

234 ~~(39)~~(40) Ask the Committee to contribute to better adaptation of strategies to different
 235 types of areas, especially: for Baltic Sea Region metropolises and large cities, for small and
 236 medium-sized towns and their functional areas, as well as for rural areas, with focus on
 237 supporting the development of cross-border functional areas, enhancing the development role
 238 of the metropolises in their wider vicinity, promoting urban-rural partnership, and promoting
 239 success stories of innovative small and medium-sized towns, drawing on experience from case
 240 studies and on co-operation with Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation (BSSSC) and
 241 Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC).

- 242 | ~~(40)~~(41) Underline the need to apply place-based approaches to development policies at
243 | national, regional and local level, and encourage the Committee to act as a platform for sharing
244 | knowledge and best practices on such approach and on co-operation inside functional areas.
- 245 | ~~(41)~~(42) Reconfirm the commitment to co-operate on the issues of spatial planning and
246 | development of the Baltic Sea Region. To ensure smooth co-operation, the Ministers hereby
247 | agree to continue co-operation in the form of ministerial conferences and meetings of senior
248 | officials (the Committee), reinforce the previous commitment to continue the work of VASAB
249 | Secretariat, and ask the Member States to provide the Committee and the Secretariat with
250 | resources needed to implement the tasks highlighted in this Declaration, according to the rules
251 | used by the Council of the Baltic Sea States and according to national annual budgetary
252 | decisions.
- 253 | ~~(42)~~(43) Ask the Estonian chairmanship, in co-operation with the Committee and the
254 | Secretariat, to distribute this Declaration to relevant national, Baltic, European and global
255 | actors.
- 256 | ~~(43)~~(44) Decide that the next Ministerial Conference will focus on ...² and ask the
257 | chairmanship concerned to prepare a progress report with the assistance of the Committee.

² This is to be decided later on this year.