



Prime Minister's Office

## **6<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea States Summit**

Reykjavik, Iceland

8 June 2006

### **Chairman's Conclusions**

1. At the invitation of the Prime Minister of Iceland, the Heads of Government and representatives of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden, and a representative of the European Commission, met in Reykjavik on 8 June 2006 for the 6th Baltic Sea States Summit. The Heads of Government welcomed the first-time participation in the Summit of the President of the Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), and looked forward to valuable co-operation and the exchange of information between the BSPC and the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS).

#### **The Future of Baltic Sea Regional Co-operation**

2. The Heads of Government valued the opportunities offered by the dynamic economies of the Baltic Sea Region, by the 2004 European Union enlargement and the increased cross-border co-operation, all of which contributed substantially to the enhanced role of the Baltic Sea Region in Europe.
3. The Heads of Government discussed the future role of Baltic Sea regional co-operation and re-confirmed their commitment to the CBSS in this regard. They confirmed that the CBSS has a valuable contribution to make as the overall political forum for intergovernmental co-operation and dialogue in the region. They were confident that regional co-operation in its multiple forms has a role to play also in the future and will help to address the challenges ahead through result-oriented and forward-looking action. They recognised the consolidation in the CBSS of all regional intergovernmental, multilateral co-operation taking place between the CBSS Member States.
4. The Heads of Government looked forward to a new Northern Dimension policy beyond 2006 jointly agreed by all the EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, Russia and the European Commission, which will provide a common framework for regional co-operation in Northern Europe. The Heads of Government taking note of the CBSS survey on the Northern Dimension beyond 2006 submitted to the European Commission, expressed their satisfaction with the active involvement of the CBSS and other regional bodies in elaborating the new Northern Dimension policy, and expected the CBSS to play a substantial role in its implementation.
5. The Heads of Government welcomed and encouraged the increased co-operation between the CBSS, the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), together with the European Union, with the objective of improving co-ordination and enhancing the implementation of specific projects and priorities of these regional councils as well as in the context of the Northern Dimension. They appreciated the growing co-operation

between the CBSS and the NCM in developing cross-border co-operation, such as the “Baltic Euroregional Network” (BEN), co-financed by the BSR Interreg III B Neighbourhood Programme.

6. The Heads of Government acknowledged that Baltic Sea regional co-operation continues to demonstrate success in a number of priority-areas, such as:

#### **Strategic Growth, Economic Co-operation and Energy**

7. As a follow-up to the Laulasmaa Summit in 2004 the Heads of Government welcomed the efforts of the CBSS in removing barriers to trade and investment in the region as well as in raising awareness of the fight against corruption. Further, the Heads of Government acknowledged the efforts to create a model with the objective to remove obstacles to and address problem-areas for economic actors in the Baltic Sea Region and supported the implementation of the Road Map on Investment Promotion.
8. The Heads of Government welcomed the development of co-operation between public and private actors, such as the Baltic Development Forum (BDF), promoting a stronger, more competitive and visible Baltic Sea Region.
9. The Heads of Government recognised the economic, environmental and strategic importance of energy co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region. The Heads of Government took note of the results of the 4th Meeting of the CBSS Ministers of Energy held in Reykjavik on 28 October 2005, with a Communiqué defining guidelines for the Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation (BASREC) for the period 2006-2008. BASREC has proved to be a useful framework for the monitoring of and dialogue on energy policy in a period of rapid changes in energy markets and represents an effective contact network between governments, commercial actors and the European Commission. The Heads of Government encouraged BASREC to achieve further tangible results and noted with satisfaction the ambition and will of its Member States to continue and strengthen the co-operation.
10. The Heads of Government welcomed the decision by the Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Development held on 19 September 2005 in Gdansk, within the framework of the Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB) co-operation, to prepare a long-term perspective for the spatial development of the Baltic Sea Region. Furthermore, they encouraged VASAB to develop a cross-sectoral view on the future development of the Baltic Sea Region.
11. The Heads of Government acknowledged the establishment of the CBSS open-ended ad-hoc working group on customs and border crossing issues. They encouraged continued stimulation for trade and investments between CBSS Member States and underlined the importance of maintaining and updating the CBSS information gateway for small- and medium-sized enterprises.

#### **Environmental protection, sustainable development and maritime safety**

12. The Heads of Government reiterated their profound concern about the state of the environment in the Baltic Sea Region and its adjacent areas, including the marine environment and maritime safety. They called for continued strengthened and co-ordinated action, including concrete measures, to address common concerns and threats such as eutrophication, hazardous substances, the loss and degradation of biodiversity, the environmental impacts of maritime activities including shipping and threats to fish stocks.
13. The Heads of Government encouraged closer co-ordination and co-operation between the CBSS, including the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic 21), and the Baltic Marine

Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). They expected concrete results from the new HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, to be adopted at the HELCOM Ministerial meeting in Warsaw in November of 2007. They expressed their commitment to action in all sectors, thereby addressing in a coherent manner all human activities affecting the marine environment of the Baltic Sea.

14. The Heads of Government welcomed the results achieved so far by the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP). They appreciated the completion in 2005 of the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant in St. Petersburg and the substantial environmental effect of this in the Baltic Sea. They noted the need for further replenishment of the NDEP Support Fund, in particular to finance further environmental window projects.
15. They also welcomed the efforts provided in the framework of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and looked forward to further co-ordinated efforts in the field of maritime safety. They reiterated the necessity to take a proactive approach in preventing and responding to pollution, and welcomed enhanced capacity-building.
16. The Heads of Government took note of the Baltic 21's Triennial Report on sustainable development in the region for the period covering 2003-2005. They expressed appreciation for the actions undertaken by Baltic 21, such as through Baltic 21 Lighthouse Projects. The Heads of Government recognised that Baltic 21 has a valuable role to play in the future in turning the principles of sustainable development into practice, supporting capacity building and promoting the Eco-region concept. The Heads of Government welcomed the convening of a meeting of the Ministers of the Environment and Agriculture in Sweden in the first half of 2007.
17. The Heads of Government favourably recognised the 2006 Joint Declaration on the Exchange of Air Radiation Monitoring Data on the basis of the Agreement on the Exchange of Radiation Monitoring Data of 7 June 2001, and thanked the CBSS Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety for their successful work in this regard.

#### **Human Dimension Issues and Promotion of Democratic Values**

18. The Heads of Government underlined the importance of upholding democratic principles in the Baltic Sea Region. Continued efforts to address challenges to democracy, the risk of democratic deficits, and the implementation of the international agreements on human rights are needed. In this context they took note of the first CBSS comparative study on citizens' participation in the Baltic Sea Region. Co-operation between governmental and non-governmental organisations should be further strengthened by enhancing the role of and support to civil society organisations in the whole area surrounding the Baltic Sea. The activities to uphold and promote individual rights proposed by the national or parliamentary ombudsman institutions of the region should be strengthened.
19. The Heads of Government noted with satisfaction the results obtained through the Baltic Sea Programme on unaccompanied and trafficked children, implemented by the CBSS. The training designed to fill the competence-gaps regarding care and assistance to children and young persons who are victims of trafficking is a welcomed regional addition, and will improve the care for and protection of children victims of trafficking. The Heads of Government encouraged the CBSS to pursue vigorously the task of strengthening the rights of children in residential care in the region and to raise the quality of care in institutions, in order to improve the situation for children in out-of-home care.
20. The Heads of Government underlined the important task of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being towards achieving efficient co-ordination and enhanced

co-operation. They encouraged further progress in the co-operation concerning HIV/AIDS and the new broadened co-operation on adolescent health, socially rewarding lifestyles and healthy workplaces. The Swedish intention to convene an experts' meeting during its CBSS Presidency in order to increase general attention of the need to prevent the spread of pandemics was welcomed.

21. The Heads of Government noted with appreciation that the EuroFaculty programme at the universities in Tartu, Riga and Vilnius, which completed its activities last summer, provided very useful results in their respective fields. They recognised the successful work of the EuroFaculty at the Immanuel Kant State University of Russia in Kaliningrad, and noted with favour the preparations for establishing a EuroFaculty programme in the Russian city of Pskov, as well as the offer made by Sweden to serve as one of the lead countries in this regard.
22. The Heads of Government noted with satisfaction the ongoing co-operation in the field of youth policy to promote young people's active citizenship through participation in civic and democratic life, to encourage youth exchange in order to promote a better understanding and knowledge of the Baltic Sea Region, to highlight the potential of young people as well as to recognize them as a resource in society. They welcomed the main focus on people-to-people contacts, voluntary work, youth entrepreneurship and employment, youth research and co-operation with other regional structures by exchange of information and experiences as well as common projects.
23. The Heads of Government welcomed the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Ministers Responsible for Police Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region in Koli, Finland on 12 May 2006 and noted, in recognition of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Task Force on Organised Crime (TF-OC), its report submitted to the Summit embodying the common view on the need for continued regional cooperation on combating organised crime. The Task Force was considered a well-established example of regional, operational best-practise concerning direct multidisciplinary police, border guard and customs co-operation addressing acute problems emanating from organised crime and for developing common strategic long-term projects.
24. The Heads of Government welcomed the initiative and the consideration within the CBSS to integrate the successful work of the Nordic Baltic Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings into the CBSS framework, with the objective of fostering actions and enhancing co-operation to combat such trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region and its near vicinity.
25. The Heads of Government expressed their satisfaction with the ongoing co-operation to protect the common cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea Region and with other initiatives in the field of culture. They agreed that cultural initiatives taken have resulted in closer contacts between the countries of the region, between cultural institutions, organisations, artists and operators in the cultural field.
26. The Heads of Government expressed their gratitude to Iceland for chairing the CBSS during 2005-2006, and welcomed Sweden as the incoming Chair for the period 2006-2007. They welcomed the invitation from Latvia to host the next meeting in 2008.