

Coalition Clean Baltic

2011-09-28

To

Lead party of the Priority 9 in the EUS BSR
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
State Secretary Risto Artjoki and Leena Anttila

Proposals from Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) for objectives and indicators in Priority 9 of the EUS BSR

At the seminar on the Priority 9 of the EUS BSR , 27 September 2011, we presented some proposals that we forward with this letter.

EUSBSR PRIORITY 9

TO REINFORCE SUSTAINABILITY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND INDICATORS

Common targets for the whole Priority 9:

- To maintain profitability and competitiveness of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, within the adaptation of development of efficient policies to efficiently tackle the main environmental concerns related the EU Strategy for the BSR Action Plan to each sector.

(One TARGET can also be developed for each sector in Priority 9)

- The proposal “To secure future sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region”. (We find such general target useless, as it is not possible to monitor. There is a need to focus to certain more concrete objectives related to each sector)

Sector-specific targets:

Agriculture:

- Development of a prosperous and competitive agriculture sector with sustained nutrient-balanced fertilization and production practices to efficiently control nutrient leakages

Indicator: Mapping of nutrient surplus levels from farmland in the Baltic basin (preferably as kg N-surplus / ha)

- The proposal “Better coordination of national research efforts”

Comment: “coordination” is rather a tool and not an objective, and should not be used as a target.

Fisheries:

- Development of a more regionalised Baltic fisheries management and decision-making, that will have a substantial impact for sustainable Baltic fisheries management

- Development of instruments and procedures to efficiently support the eco-system approach in CFP reform process in the Baltic Sea Region

- "Application of fishing gear with substantially improved selectivity for non-target species and juvenile target fish species"
- "Raised awareness on fishing-gear with high selectivity and its application with Baltic authorities, fishermen organisations and other stakeholders"
- Development of Baltic Sea fisheries where discards have been eliminated

Rural development:

- Development of Common Baltic priorities for EU Agricultural Funds for Rural Development in the Baltic Sea Region to support agricultural practices/measures that successfully contribute to the reduction of nutrient input to the sea, incl. the solution of the Baltic Sea eutrophication problem.

(It would be natural for EC and BSR MS to give guidance how the most important EU instrument to address Agri-environmental schemes (EU Agricultural Funds for Rural Development) shall be used to successfully fulfil the objective in the EUS BSR "To reduce nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels", which is identified as the most important activities to fight the Baltic Eutrophication problem)

Comment: Common guidelines should also be developed for Baltic region MS that such Agri-environment measures should be focused on activities to reduce the nutrient input in a cost-effective way.

With the *Indicator*: Estimation of the amount of nutrients reduced to the Baltic Sea from agri-environment measures for nutrient removal.

Comment: With existing knowledge of the effectiveness of various Agri-environmental measures (e.g. wetlands as nutrient traps; buffer strips along watercourses/ditches; winter green crops etc) it would be possible to present such figures.