

November 3, 2008

*To*  
**Mr. Ivars Godmanis**  
*Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia*

**Mr. Raimonds Vējonis**  
*Minister of Environment of the Republic of Latvia*

**Mr. Edgars Zalāns**  
*Minister of Regional Development and Local Government of the Republic of Latvia*

## **CCB Statement**

Baltic Sea Region (BSR) is unique with its untouched nature and rich cultural heritage. Coastal areas within the BSR are remarkable with its huge diversity, being one of the most diverse coastlines in the world. Despite existing national and international regulations aimed to protect the coast of the Baltic Sea, valuable landscapes and natural habitats at the coast are threatened by development plans that involve extensive construction activities and hence destroy nature areas.

Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) representing a network of environmental NGOs from the BSR and striving to protect existing natural and recreational coastal values, hereby expresses its concerns over adoption and implementation of such coastal development plans that allow construction in dunes and coastal strip zone areas. These developments clearly contradict recommendations of EU ICZM and management requirements for preservation of Natura 2000 sites. The concept of the HELCOM recommendation on Coastal strip protection must be taken seriously and be fully implemented. Moreover global climate change process brings another challenge through increased risk of coastal erosion.

Considering this Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) invites the Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia and the Latvian Ministry of Environment and Latvian Ministry of Regional Development and Local Governments to ensure that:

- Careful and balanced approach is used in planning coastal development and precautionary principle is applied whenever there is a risk of causing irreversible damage to nature values;
- The coastal development policy is in line with broader public interests and among others ensures proper access to the sea for everybody;

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**E-mail:** [secretariat@ccb.se](mailto:secretariat@ccb.se) / [gunnar.noren@ccb.se](mailto:gunnar.noren@ccb.se) **www.ccb.se** **Org. number:** 802015-1281 **CCB is a member of The World Conservation Union (IUCN)**

*Coalition Clean Baltic is a network of environmental NGOs sponsored by:*

- Danish Society for Nature Conservation • Estonian Society for Nature Conservation • Estonian Green Movement
- Finnish Association for Nature Conservation • Finnish Society for Nature & Environment • Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland, BUND
- InfoBalt, Germany • Environmental Protection Club of Latvia, VAK • Latvian Green Movement • Lithuanian Green Movement
- Lithuanian Fund for Nature • Environment Information Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania • Polish Ecological Club, PKE • Green Federation - GAJA, Szczecin, Poland
- Ecobaltic Foundation, Gdansk, Poland • Ecological Library Foundation, Poznan, Poland • Friends of the Baltic, St Petersburg, Russia • Ecodefense, Kaliningrad, Russia • Neva River Clearwater, St Petersburg, Russia • Green World, St Petersburg, Russia • The Guide Environmental Group, Kaliningrad, Russia • Greens of Karelia, Petrozavodsk, Russia • Friends of the Earth, Sweden • Swedish Society for Nature Conservation • Swedish-Polish Association for Environmental Protection
- WWF Sweden • The Western Center of the Ukrainian Branch of the World Laboratory

- New construction activities should be strictly limited, particularly in the areas that are natural and semi-natural and those threatened by coastal erosion;
- Spatial planning of the Coastal areas should be a responsibility of the national level authorities/ministries;
- The approach of strict limitation for new construction in the coastal strip should ensure that the national legislation of coastal zone protection does not give the right to allow exceptions to municipal councils.

CCB supports the development of such infrastructure in the coastal strip that is aimed to environmentally friendly management of tourism and protection of natural values.

This Statement was adopted at the CCB International Seminar on Coastal Protection and Development Policy in the Baltic Sea Region, October 17 – 18, 2008, Jūrmala, Latvia.

Sincerely

Gunnar Norén  
Executive secretary of CCB

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