

2004-06-16

To  
Prime Ministers of the Baltic Sea Region countries and the European Commission

## **Baltic Summit 2004 and the New mandate for BA21 – sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region**

Dear Prime Ministers,

On the Agenda for the coming Baltic Summit 2004 is the issue on a new mandate for the Baltic 21-process.

We, the Coalition Clean Baltic (further CCB), an environmental NGO-network with 27 member organisations in 9 countries bordering the Baltic Sea, all together representing 0,5 million citizens in the Baltic Sea Region, and mandated by Council of Baltic Sea States 4th Non-Governmental Organisations Forum in Pärnu, April 2004 to act as umbrella-organisation for environmental groups in the Baltic Sea Area within the CBSS NGO Forums process, welcome the initiative of the Prime Ministers to tackle important environmental issues of the Baltic Sea Area and to develop further measures for protection of the Baltic Sea environment at the Baltic Summit 2004. Among other issues we see that decisions planned to be adopted by you on the new mandate for Baltic 21 process – an excellent tool to drive our societies towards more sustainability - are quite important ones.

CCB would like to express its concern about the final version of the document on “new mandate for Baltic 21” developed by the BA21 SOG group. As mentioned earlier, CCB believes that it has to be more precise and combined with measurable targets, timetables and clear responsibilities. But we still can see a chance to achieve a real progress in the new mandate period.

To strengthen this desirable progress of Baltic 21, CCB urges the Prime Ministers to ...

... confirm the decisions concerning Baltic21 from the Prime Ministers Summit in 1996 and the aims included in the document “An Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region” adopted at the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in 1998.

...decide on a comprehensive action-by-action evaluation of the implementation of the Baltic21 Action Programme from 1998 in order to identify existing barriers and to decide on appropriate measures to overcome them. All members of Baltic21 should be involved in this evaluation.

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

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... to instruct the Baltic 21 SOG to develop an implementation plan containing concrete actions to be taken, including measurable targets, timetables, responsibilities and the allocation of appropriate budgets. Actions to be included from CCBs point of view are listed in the CCB proposed Action Plan for the new mandate of Baltic21 (see Annex).

... introduce a regular representation of Baltic 21 in all CBSS bodies and to integrate a regular report item on Baltic 21 on the agenda of these bodies. This new procedure is meant to improve the communication and cooperation between the CBSS bodies and Baltic21, as an independent multistakeholder, in order to facilitate the common work for more sustainable Baltic Sea region (see paragraph 1 of the proposal for new mandate ).

Furthermore CCB points out that neither CCB nor the other NGOs present at the VI. NGO Forum in the Pärnu, April 2004 are willing to support Baltic 21 any more, if no tangible progress in the sense of the above mentioned decisions and the attached action plan will take place within this year.

On behalf of CCB

Valdur Lahtvee  
Chairman to CCB

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Annex:

## **CCB proposed Action Plan for the new mandate of Baltic21**

- Introduce criteria and indicators for identification of Lighthouse projects to ensure, that the proposed Lighthouse Projects will really contribute to an increasing sustainability in the Baltic Sea Region.
- Ensure access for SOG to all meetings of all sectors including their working groups.
- Provide of financing for public participation in the Baltic21 process and for NGO contributions to the evaluation of the Baltic21 e.g. by introducing a reimbursement fund for expenses in order to ensure that NGOs are not prohibited to participate because of lack of financial resources.
- Restrict public funding to projects, which follow the principles of sustainability. Indicators have to be developed and used to control whether the projects meet this request.
- Develop and propose political and financial instruments and incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency and saving and renewable energy development.
- Arrange meeting points between the economic sectors and environment sector to develop common action programmes on sustainable development for each economic sector, where sector ministries are actively involved
- Prepare an action program to foster the full implementation of already adopted HELCOM Recommendations.
- To give the BA21 SOG group the mandate to develop recommendations, indicators and targets for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region for sector ministries. The recommendations could have a similar character as HELCOM recommendations, and the experiences of the activities from the German Sustainability Council should be taken into account.
- Prepare a common political agreement in the Baltic Sea region on target values for a number of selected existing sustainability indicators

### **Concrete proposals for targets and actions in selected Baltic21 sectors and joint actions**

#### Climate: Reduction of CO2 emissions

a) Governments of the Baltic Sea Region countries should set up targets to avoid dangerous effects of climate change. The overall temperature increase has to be kept below 2 degrees Celsius and below 450 ppm greenhouse gas concentration (GHG).

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b) To avoid dangerous levels of GHG industrialized countries, like those in northern Europe, have to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with 80% to the middle of this century. As a first step countries in the Baltic Sea region should reduce carbon dioxide emissions with 40% until 2020.

c) Baltic Sea Region governments have to implement immediately an action and policy programme to reach the above targets including:

- energy efficiency and energy savings in industry, households and traffic;
- establishing renewable energy sources like wind and bio energy;
- stop new fossil fuel driven cars in the near future.
- strong priority should be given to public transport development in the Baltic Sea Region.

## Energy – Nuclear power

Nuclear power should be phased out in the Baltic Sea Region as soon as possible. The Finnish government's plan to build a fifth nuclear power station is a violation to all principles of sustainable development. The Swedish government must follow the results of a public referendum to phase out nuclear power plants by 2010. The nuclear power plants on the Kola Peninsula, in Sosnovy Bor and Ignalina must be closed as soon as possible by Russia and Lithuania.

Nuclear energy also has to internalise all costs of its production cycle and the costs of possible accidents.

## Fisheries

The Baltic fisheries is in crisis. The fishery industry and Baltic Sea Region governments have so far not had the ability to develop sustainable Baltic Sea fishery practices. A new approach is needed. Governments of the Baltic Sea Region should set up the following targets to develop more sustainable fishery practices:

- a) apply an eco-system and precautionary approach to fisheries;
- b) ensure Baltic Sea fish stocks to be within safe biological limits by applying the ICES advice (the international scientific advice) for Total Allowable Catches for cod, herring, sprat and salmon.
- c) Safeguard the wild Baltic salmon and adopt the ICES proposals for new goals for protection of the wild Baltic salmon:
  - safeguard the genetic variability of all Baltic salmon stocks;
  - safeguard all weak wild Baltic salmon river populations.

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