



International Co-operation for the Baltic Sea Environment: Past, Present and Future

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Organizer:

Ministry of the Environment of the
Republic of Latvia in cooperation
with Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Ministry of Transport,
Latvian Environment Agency,
Marine Environment Board,
Latvian Maritime Administration,
Institute of Aquatic Ecology
University of Latvia

***TO COMMEMORATE
30 YEARS
OF THE HELSINKI
CONVENTION***

March 22 - 24, 2004

**Riga, LATVIA
Reval Hotel Latvija**

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

The first Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention) was signed on the 22nd of March 1974 – 30 years ago from next year. To commemorate this remarkable occasion, Latvia, holding the Chairmanship of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) for two years since the 1st of July 2002, organizes the celebration and international conference on the role of the Helsinki Convention in past, present and future. Minister of the Environment of Latvia is pleased to invite you to participate in this event.

30-year anniversary brings a good opportunity to look back onto achievements in the protection of the Baltic Sea marine environment and lessons learned, as well as to try to formulate the approach to challenges posed by the current developments.

High - Level Roundtable “Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region after Enlargement of EU” will be held on the 22nd of March, 2004.

Taking into account a new political context of environmental policy after enlargement of the EU, high-level representatives will have an opportunity to discuss and propose new steps, additional actions for cooperation schemes to be implemented in the environmental policy to make sustainable development a reality. What developments of the Helsinki Convention are needed?

The Outcome of Roundtable will be presented to the Plenary Session as a kind of political guidance to the Conference. Media will be introduced with the Outcome of the Roundtable during a Press Conference.

The work of the conference will be organised in the **Plenary Session “Historic Role of the Helsinki Convention”** and three parallel **theme sessions** focusing on:

- ecosystem approach to management of human activities;
- environmental impact of shipping;
- cooperation for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Area.

Bremen Ministerial Declaration 2003 sets the guidelines for the new HELCOM strategy. The conference will be used as a follow - up forum to discuss the key issues of the Bremen Ministerial Declaration, 2003, also taking into account later developments in the Baltic Sea region.



Theme session 1: “Ecosystem Approach to the Management of Human Activities”

One of the foundation stones for implementation of ecosystem approach is the development of ecological quality objectives (EcoQOs) described by appropriate indicators of the ecosystem status that express “good quality status” as stipulated in the Water Framework Directive, but covering the whole Baltic Sea Area. It is necessary to join all efforts in EcoQOs elaboration and to utilize maximum of capacity that lies within different structures and programmes within the Baltic region as well as elsewhere in Europe and in the World.

Theme session 2: “Environmental Impact of Shipping”

The constantly growing density of maritime traffic in the Baltic Sea area increases the risk of accidental spillages of oil or other harmful substances. Additional safety measures, which would supplement and enhance the implementation of existing ones are being looked for. The designation of the Baltic Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA), considering its vulnerability and special environmental conditions, is one of such activities that has been co-coordinated by HELCOM.

Besides, to ensure that maritime traffic is carried out in an environmentally sound way, the regional implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments set for adoption in 2004 should be considered.

Taking into account the future role of HELCOM after enlargement of European Union, the Conference will focus on evaluation of existing situation and progress in implementation of the Baltic Strategy, HELCOM Copenhagen and Bremen Declarations with regard to maritime safety.



Theme session 3: “Cooperation for the Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region”

EU enlargement will change the setting of Baltic Sea co-operation considerably, but at the same time the highly developed regional framework and close co-operation throughout the region will become even more important within the broader European context. Adopting the Baltic Sea States Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development Environment Ministers undertake to reinforce their efforts to promote sustainable development for the Baltic Sea Region and call, inter alia, for further improved coordination and collaboration between regional organisations and structures.

Invited speakers will give presentations. Each presentation will be 20 minutes long plus discussion.

INTERNATIONAL EVENT AND CONFERENCE
to commemorate 30 years of the Helsinki Convention

March 22-24, 2004 Riga, LATVIA

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

DAY ONE: MONDAY, 22 MARCH 2004

Registration

09:00 – 10:00

SPECIAL EVENT –

CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE 30 YEARS OF THE HELSINKI CONVENTION

Hosted by Mr. Raimonds Vējonis, Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Latvia

10:00 – 12:00

Welcome addresses by:

H.E. Vaira Vīķe - Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia (invited).

Prof. Dr. Inese Vaidere, Chair of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM).

Ms. Anne Christine Brusendorff, HELCOM Executive Secretary;

Speeches by High Level representatives

Musical performance

Group photograph

Lunch Break

12:00 – 13:30

Working lunch for invited High-level representatives

OPENING of the Conference

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

13:30 – 13:45

PLENARY SESSION

Historic Role and Development of the Helsinki Convention.

European Marine Strategy

Chairman: Mr Tapani Kohonen, Finland

Development of the Convention.

Historic Role of the Convention.

“Historical Efforts of the Three Baltic States to Join the Work of HELCOM. Regaining of Independence and Raising of Environmental Awareness.” Mr. Indulis Emsis, Parliament of the Republic of Latvia (Saeima)

Mr. Gunnar Noren, Coalition Clean Baltic, CCB; and others.

13:45 – 15:35

HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE

Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region after Enlargement of EU.

13:45 – 15:00

High-Level representatives Press conference 15:00 – 15:30

Coffee break 15:30 – 16:00

PLENARY SESSION continued 16:00 – 17:30

- ▣ Presentation of the outcome of High-Level Roundtable discussion
- ▣ "HELCOM Ministerial Declarations – Milestones and Driving force. One year after the Bremen Ministerial Meeting." *Dr. Peter Ehlers*, Germany.
- ▣ "The Helsinki Convention and the European Marine Strategy."
Mr. Ben van de Wetering, European Commission DG Environment.

Opening of the Exhibition 17:30

Official Reception hosted by Mr. Raimonds Vējonis,
Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Latvia 19:30 – 21:30

DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 2004

Three sessions in parallel 09:00

SESSION I	SESSION II	SESSION III
Ecosystem Approach to the Management of Human Activities in the Baltic Sea.	Environmental Impact of Shipping.	Cooperation for Sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region.
Chair: <i>Ms. Katarina Veem</i> , Sweden Introductory Key Note Address Speeches by Invited Speakers "Biological complexity – a case study of Baltic ecosystem dynamics" <i>Henrik Österblom, M Sc.</i> , Environmental Advisory Council, Ministry of Environment, Sweden. "Successful implementation of the ecosystem approach – The Great Barrier Reef". <i>Dr. Jon Day</i> , Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland, Australia.	Chairman: <i>Dr. Peter Ehlers</i> , Germany Introductory Key Note Address Speeches by Invited Speakers Maritime safety. The HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration - What still needs to be done? <i>Speaker from Land Parliament Mecklenburg - Vorpommern, Committee on Maritime Safety, Germany (invited)</i> "Designation of the Baltic Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area". <i>Mr. Johan Franson</i> , Swedish Maritime Administration <i>Mr. John Ostergaard</i> , Maritime Safety Division, IMO (invited)	Chair: <i>Ms. Heike Imhoff</i> , Germany Introductory Key Note Address Speeches by invited of speakers <i>Speaker from the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Commission, BSPC</i> "The role of the CBSS in the development and implementation of the EU Northern Dimension Action Plan. H.E. <i>Tiit Naber</i> , Chairman of the CBSS CSO.
Discussion 10:30-10:45	Discussion 10:30-10:45	Discussion 10:30-10:45

Coffee break

10:45-11:15

SESSION I continued 11:15 – 13:00	SESSION II continued	SESSION III continued
<p>"From sectoral to integrated assessments: Implementation of the ecosystem approach in the European seas – what obstacles do we need to overcome?" <i>Prof. Laurence Mee</i>, Plymouth University, UK</p> <p>"Development of the system of Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQO) for the Baltic" <i>Ms. Eva-Liisa Poutanen</i>, Ministry of Environment, Finland</p>	<p>The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments – harmonized implementation in the Baltic Sea Area.</p> <p><i>Mr. Steve Raaymakers</i>, International maritime Organisation (IMO), GloBallast</p> <p>"Research aspects of Baltic Sea non-indigenous species". <i>Ms. Anda Ikauniece</i>, Institute of Aquatic Ecology, University of Latvia</p>	<p>"NIB - a future in-house bank for the financing of environmental projects in the Baltic Sea Region". Mr. Roland Randefelt, NIB.</p> <p><i>Mr. Valdis Bisters</i>, Chairman of the Baltic 21 SOG</p> <p><i>Mr. Allan Gromov</i>, Chairman of VASAB 2010</p> <p><i>Speaker from WWF</i></p>
Discussion	Discussion	Discussion

Buffet Lunch

13:00 –14:00

SESSION I continued 14: 00 -16:00	SESSION II continued	SESSION III continued
<p>"Coherence between development of Ecosystem approach to marine management and implementation of EU Water Framework Directive". <i>Prof. Gerald Czernewski</i>, Institute of Baltic Sea Research, Warnemuende, Rostock, Germany</p> <p>"Decision-making tools to minimise non-point pollution in the Baltic". <i>Prof. Frederik Wulff</i>, Department of Systems Ecology, Stockholm University, Sweden.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Baltic Strategy – success and problems.</p> <p>"Implementation of the Baltic Sea strategy". <i>Mr. Tadas Navickas</i>, HELCOM</p> <p>"An example of successful implementation of the Baltic Strategy in port of Liepaja, Latvia". <i>Mr. Søren Ponsbach Petersen</i>, Carl Bro International, Denmark</p> <p><i>Mr. Jorma Kamarainen</i>, Finnish Maritime Administration (invited).</p>	<p>Concrete examples of integrated policies in the Baltic Sea Region (fisheries, agriculture, transport policy).</p>
Discussion	Discussion	Discussion

Coffee break

16:00 –16:30

Poster session 16:30-18:00
Discussion

Networking Dinner

19:30 – 22:30



DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 24 MARCH 2004

PLENARY SESSION

09:00 – 10:00

Report from the Ecosystem session
Report from the Shipping session
Report from the Sustainable development session
Discussion

Coffee break

10:30 – 11:30

Adoption of the Conference Resolution
End Note Address
Closure of the Conference

11:30 – 12:30

Participation of Mass Media

Press conference

12:30 - 13:00

Buffet Lunch

13:00



INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

The conference premises will be used for a **poster exhibition** on thematic of the Conference. Submissions of abstracts for poster session are welcome until February 10.

Proceedings

All full papers of oral presentations and posters will be published in a separate proceedings volume and on the conference website after the conference.

Official conference **language**: English. Simultaneous translation will be available in Latvian.

Side events (exhibitions etc.) will be held on March 22-26., 2004. A conference is a good opportunity for you to hold a meeting or presentation of your project. All costs must be borne by yourself.

Deadline for registration – February 20, 2004.

There will be no participation fee for the Conference.

Accommodation

Special accommodation rates have been negotiated at the **★★★ +Reval Hotel Latvija** (www.revalhotels.com) on behalf of our delegates.

You should make your reservation as soon as possible but not later than **March 12** directly to the hotel by tel: +371- 7772222 or fax: +371- 777 2332 using reservation code: "HELCOM" in order to benefit from special rates:

single: 48 LVL	double: 54 LVL	executive: 69 LVL
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Special accommodation rates have been negotiated also at some other Hotels nearby the Conference venue (reservation code: "HELCOM"). Deadline for reservation: February 20.

HOTEL: Room type and price per room per night

★★★ Konventa Seta

single (25 rooms): 41 LVL

Kaleju 9/11 Str. ; tel: +371- 7087501, fax: +371- 7087506;
E-mail: reservation@konventa.lv;
www.konventa.lv

★★★ Radi un Draugi

single (5 rooms): 35 LVL	double for single use (20 rooms): 41 LVL
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Marstalu 1/3 Str. ; tel: +371- 7820200, fax: +371- 7820202;
E-mail: radi.reservations@draugi.lv
www.draugi.lv

All rooms prices include VAT and breakfast.

All major credit cards are accepted. Settlement of accounts in cash may be made only in local currency.

We thank you very much for your support and we are looking forward to meet you in Riga!