

**BSSSC 27th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
18 – 20 SEPTEMBER 2019 IN KLAIPEDA, LT**

CLOSING WORDS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF BSSSC, ROGER RYBERG

Dear Participants of the Conference
Dear Baltic Sea family

Our BSSSC Annual Conference is coming to an end - and - this has again been a very interesting Conference focusing on a key topic for the Baltic Sea Region

The blue growth can be a driver for welfare and prosperity in the Baltic Sea Region. However, it is our responsibility as politicians at all levels to make sure that the maritime economic development in our region leads to a sustainable and competitive future – taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals.

Future generations will require us to base the blue growth on healthy marine ecosystems. Customers and inhabitants will ultimately demand environmental friendly solutions in the blue sectors. Representing regional and local authorities - we must develop good framework conditions, support research and innovation in the blue sectors, promote dialog and partnerships and mobilise funding – to make the BSR a model region in Europe - and globally - with regard to sustainable blue growth.

BSSSC annual conferences should continue to be an important meeting place - supporting a peaceful and close neighborhood - to facilitate networking - to build trust, establish partnerships and learn from each other.

AND, by this unlocking new ideas and find partners for smart actions contributing to a more sustainable future.

Thank you - all of you - for your contributions during these two days here in Klaipeda.

Before closing the conference, I want to warmly thank our hosts - the Association of Klaipeda Region - and Chair Mr. Šarūnas Vaitkus - for organizing our conference with such a success. Klaipeda city and region has proven to be an active and prominent actor in Baltic Sea Maritime Affairs. We have learned a lot from being here – and we will love to come back.

I will like to thank our Conference Moderators – Andrius, Tom and Jurgita - for leading us through the programme these two days in an excellent way.

Thank you to all speakers, panelists and parallel session coordinators - and a special “thank you!” to the youth for their contributions.

I will now like to invite Klaudija Kionies and her team to the stage. Please give them a big hand for a job well done! We brought some Norwegian Chocolate for you to share and enjoy at the office.

Finally, I want to thank the BSSSC Secretariat for their support and contributions to the Conference. You do a great job!

Before closing the conference, I have an important announcement to make. The next BSSSC Chairmanship - starting from 1 January 2020! Please welcome the representative of Pomorskie Region – Mr. Grzegorz Grzelak, Deputy President of the Regional Assembly.

(Mr. Grzelak holder innlegg osv – etterpå kommer overrekkelse av klokka) – og så tar du over igjen og close of conference ved å ringe klokka).

Dear Mr. Grzelak – we are grateful for your commitment to the BSSSC and I am sure that our political network organisation will be in good hands over the next 2 years.

As a symbol of the BSSSC Chairmanship – I hereby pass on to you the BSSSC Bell. You must keep it safe until the end of your period – but remember to bring it to the annual conferences.

We in the Norwegian Chairmanship look forward to cooperate with you - to make a smooth transition.

Please let me borrow the bell for a last symbolic procedure

I hereby close the 27th BSSSC Annual Conference - and look forward to see you all next year in Kaliningrad

BELL!

PHOTO SESSION – FOR CHAIR AND INCOMING CHAIR