

## **BSSSC Annual Conference 2008**

### **Maritime session - Contribution to the EU Baltic Sea Strategy**

The Conference expects that the regional implementation of the European Maritime Policy in the BSR will be an essential part of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. The aim should be to develop the Baltic Sea region into Europe's maritime best practice region by 2015 and to serve as a model for other maritime regions of the EU.

The conference determined pilot projects to be fostered by the European Commission to exemplify illustrate the added value of an integrated maritime policy in the BSR and to support the development of Clean Port and Clean Ship concepts:

- the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan aiming at implementing the EU's Marine Strategy Directive in an exemplary way with stricter time tables and higher standards meeting the requirements of the serious ecological status of the Baltic Sea
- the introduction of land-based power supply for ships in all relevant ports of the Baltic Sea region in order to reduce pollutant and carbon dioxide emissions during their stay in ports
- the introduction of environmentally differentiated harbour dues in all ports of the Baltic Sea region in order to set incentives for the usage of low-sulphur fuels, for a voluntary ban of waste-water discharges, for the usage of land-based power supply and in general for the introduction of environmentally friendly technologies

In order to raise public awareness and to stimulate promising maritime activities the awarding of best practice prizes by the Commission is considered helpful (e.g. the resumption of the Clean Marine Award).

Furthermore there should be a better alignment between the existing financing instruments and the aims of the Baltic Sea Strategy. The international financing institutions should be acquired for financing e.g. the above mentioned pilot projects.

Concerning the question on how the maritime part of the Baltic Sea Strategy should be implemented the Conference pointed out that it will be of utmost importance to

involve the maritime stakeholders and regional actors of the region. By integrating the vital organisations of Baltic Sea cooperation it can be assured that the maritime expertise of the region will have an adequate effect which will at the same time increase the acceptance of the Strategy.

Confirming the position of the Kiel Conference on EU Commission's Green Paper on Maritime Policy 2006 the Conference considers the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) - as the accepted body for political coordination in the region - as the most qualified body to coordinate the maritime activities of the region. The CBSS is asked to take the responsibility and establish a Task Force on Maritime Policy which should act as a platform for the other BSR organisations.