

## ***Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region - Synergies between the Nordic Council of Ministers, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and Baltic Sea regions***

*on Monday 12 November 2012 at 11.00 - 16.00  
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Information Office to the EU  
Boulevard Saint-Michel 80, 1040 Brussels*

On 12 November 2012 the European Commission, the Informal Baltic Sea Group and the Nordic Council of Ministers host a joint seminar in Brussels.

It is a core objective of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its Action Plan that existing regional cooperation structures and mechanisms support and reinforce each other.

The seminar addresses the experiences drawn from a number of cooperation areas and discusses how to increase synergies in the use of human and financial resources to accelerate cooperation in the Nordic and Baltic Sea Region.

The discussion will focus on the three new objectives for the Strategy: To Save the Sea, to Connect the Region, and to Increase Prosperity.

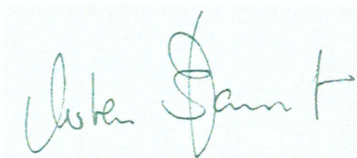
The seminar contributes to aligning the Strategy and its Action Plan more closely with the Europe 2020 Strategy – and to prioritising the Strategy at the highest political level as well as engaging private sector stakeholders and citizens around the Baltic Sea in the regional cooperation efforts.

The seminar will provide recommendations to the European Commission's efforts to promote a focused and targeted framework for cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

A detailed program is enclosed with this invitation. Please contact Merten Barnert ([merten.barnert@mv-office.eu](mailto:merten.barnert@mv-office.eu) / +32 2 741 6006) for further information. Please register for the event before 9 November 2012 by sending an email to [poststelle@mv-office.eu](mailto:poststelle@mv-office.eu)

We look forward to plenty of fruitful discussion.

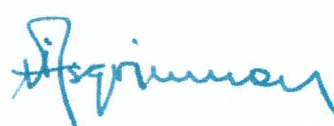
Yours sincerely,



Dr. Merten Barnert  
Chairman  
Informal Baltic Sea Group



Normunds Popens  
Deputy Director General  
European Commission  
DG Regional and Urban Policy



Halldór Ásgrímsson  
General Secretary  
Nordic Council of Ministers

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*Moderator: Mr. Verner Kristiansen*

**10.30 Registration**

**11:00 Welcome and warm-up session: Political State of the Region Report**

*Merten Barnert, Chairman of iBSG, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Information Office*  
*Halldór Ásgrímsson, General Secretary, Nordic Council of Ministers*

*Bernd Henningsen, Professor at Humboldt University Berlin*  
*Tobias Etzold, German Institute for International and Security Affairs*

**11:30 Synergies of Nordic European Cooperation**

*"The new Action Plan for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region"*  
*Colin Wolfe – Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

Objective: To Save the Sea

*"A Baltic Sea Region approach to "Greening of the Common Agricultural Policy" through innovation and resource efficiency"*

*Sindre Langaas, Executive Secretary, Baltic Deal / Project Manager, Federation of Swedish Farmers*

*"Improving maritime safety through European Innovation Partnerships"*

*Daniel Sköld, Project Manager, Baltic Maritime Science Park*

Objective: To Connect the Region

*"Culture and sustainable development - Nordic experiences and perspectives, by the Nordic Council of Ministers"*

*Linn Mårtens, Senior Adviser, Nordic Council of Ministers*

Objective: To Increase Prosperity

*"Sustainable Biomass Production and Use" – a proposal from the Nordic Council of Ministers and partners around the Baltic Sea for a new Horizontal Action –*

*Mads Randbøll Wolff, Acting Head of Unit, Nordic Council of Ministers*

Engaging with Russia

*"Experiences from Kaliningrad on co-operation with Russia on environmental and energy issues and green growth"*

*Arne Grove, Director, Nordic Council of Ministers Information Office in Kaliningrad.*

Discussion – future challenges and implications for the revised EU Strategy Action Plan for the Baltic Sea Region

**13:00 Networking lunch**

**14:00 Reinforcing the political relevance of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**

How to align with Europe 2020 and increase the Strategy's relevance at political level and vis-à-vis civil society? How to ensure alignment with the new structural funds programming period?

*Normunds Popen, Deputy Director-General, European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*Halldor Asgrimsson, Secretary General, Nordic Council of Ministers*

*Henryka Mościcka-Dendys, Director of the European Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland.*

*Marie-Louise Rönnmark, Mayor of Umeå, Sweden, European Capital of Culture 2014*

Moderated panel discussion – identifying common political challenges and priorities that are key to realising a more focused and better targeted Action Plan.

**15:00 Panel session: Implementing the EUSBSR in the next programming period**

How to best integrate Baltic Sea Region Cooperation in the financing mechanisms of the new Cohesion Policy?

*Göran Färm, MEP, Sweden*

*Mari Lahtmets, Ministry of Finance, Estonia*

*Niels Chresten Andersen, Head of Europe Direct, Bornholm, Denmark*

*Jean-Marc Venineaux, European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

Discussion

**16:00 Closing remarks**