

## Off-stage Tallinn 2010

A series of informal “flash panels” and meetings organised by the Sida Baltic Sea Unit during First Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, 14-15 October, 2010.

**Location: Piano Bar, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

### **Preliminary Programme**

(This version 14 October, 08:30)

### **Thursday 14 October**

#### **10.00-12.00: Open Sofa!**

Meet to discuss project ideas with colleagues from other countries and representatives of the Sida Baltic Sea Unit. Our off-stage sofas are open to each and everyone interested!

#### **12.00-12.45: Finance!**

The topic for panel and discussion is how one shall go about to finance the activities needed to reach the goals of the EUSBSR. In particular, what is need to establish a functioning chain of finance – from idea to finished bridge, road or other type of installation/venture? In many instances we see distinctly different sources and systems for financing “hard investments” on the one hand and for the various parts of the “soft investment chain” (e.g. financing cross border contacts) on the other – and the question is how we get them to interact?

*Among the participants*

Michael O'Halloran, European Investment Bank  
Eugenia Kazamaki-Ottersten, European Investment Bank  
Karin Hallerby, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth  
Lina Marcinkute, Ministry of Finance of Lithuania  
Joanna Held, Ministry of Regional Development, Poland (T.B.C.)

#### **12.45-13.30: Governance!**

In this session panellists meet to give their view upon the implications of the EUSBSR for governance in the region and the EU as a whole.

*Among the participants*

Jan Lundin, Council of the Baltic Sea States  
Niels Chresten Andersen, Europe Direct Bornholm  
Alexander Schenk, Prime Minister's Office, Sweden  
Petra Wallberg, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency  
Wolf Born, State Chancellery Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
Dag Briseid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway  
Slawomir Demkowicz, Euroregion Baltic  
Erik Ciardi, The Regional Council in Kalmar County

#### **16.30-17.00: University Cooperation!**

In this session we would like to discuss what can be done by various types of actors to promote university and research cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

*Among the participants*

Rimantas Vaitkus, Vilnius University  
Marek Tiits, Institute of Baltic Studies  
Christine Jakobsson, The Baltic University Programme  
Johan Holmberg, Swedish Research Council (T.B.C.)  
Jørgen P.T. Christensen, Baltic Development Forum (T.B.C.)  
Catherine Eccles, European Commission (T.B.C.)

#### **19.00-19.30 (app.): The identity of the Strategy?**

In this session we continue the discussion of issues relating to the so-called horizontal goals of the EUSBSR; in particular the case of the much debated “Baltic Sea Region identity” but we also discuss whether what we see today in the form of the EUSBSR is what was envisioned by the early architects and

visionaries promoting the strategy from the very beginning? Also, can and/or should the strategy be replicated in other parts of the European Union?

*Among the participants*

Colin Wolfe, European Commission  
Malla Paajanen, Aalto University, Finland  
Jean-Marc Venineaux, European Commission  
Ulf Savbäck, Prime Minister's Office, Sweden  
Anders Bergström, Norden Association, Sweden  
Barbro Widing, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Finland  
Anna Bérczi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary  
Eva Ekmehag, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden  
Tunne Kelam, European Parliament

#### Friday 15 October

#### **11.00-11.30: Transports! Will we see a true Mare Nostrum?**

In this session we discuss transports in the Baltic Sea Region – but unlike in many other instances we focus on the east-west transportation of individuals!

*Among the participants*

David Hunt, B7 Baltic Islands Network  
Sari Repka, University of Turku  
Sten Björk, Port of Trelleborg  
Wiktor Szydarowski, Region Skåne  
Annelie Nylander, Swedish Transport Administration  
Krystyna Hartenberger-Pater, Pomorskie Tourist Board (T.B.C.)

#### Background

The Sida Baltic Sea Unit was already through the Government's Letter of Appropriation 2009 tasked to "facilitate the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region". As part of this agenda the Baltic Sea Unit has for long actively sought to promote fruitful discussions about the strategy and its implementation. In 2008, for example, the Baltic Sea Unit, in cooperation with *Södertörn University College* and *Baltic Development Forum*, organised a two-day international conference on the theme of the *Future of the Baltic Sea Region* during that year's Almedalen politicians' week in Visby. In 2009 the Baltic Sea Unit sought to promote general awareness of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region through meetings and the production of a magazine "From a Baltic Point of View: Opinions on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region" and a film with the same name. Also, during the 2009 BDF Summit the Baltic Sea Unit created a meeting point for thematic informal discussions through a series of nine panel discussions. The ambition with this year's off-stage programme is to yet again offer participants an arena for mutually beneficial meetings and discussions that are of high relevance but perhaps cannot not find their appropriate format during the official programme.

#### Location

Our small stage, with a sofa setting and microphones, is located in the Piano Bar of the Meriton Hotel.

#### Format

The "flash panels" focus on the topic indicated in the title of the panel and are intended to last not much longer than 15 minutes. This should allow participants both to address the question posed by the moderators and to engage in an ensuing joint discussion. If the time and interest allows we will invite questions from other interested parties. Given the timing of the programme (mainly in the intermissions of the official programme) and given the constraint of time we encourage panellists to quickly grab their coffees and arrive at our stage as soon as possible after concluding any prior official engagement. It should also be remembered that the whole concept is one of *informal and friendly* discussions where no party is to be held responsible in any matter. No prior preparations should therefore be necessary for panellists.

#### Moderators & Contact

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