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THE TRELLEBORG DECLARATION

The Regions and Maritime Safety in the Southern Baltic Sea Trelleborg 14 may 2004

The representatives of the Maritime Regions in the Southern Baltic Sea, meeting in Trelleborg, Sweden, at the initiative of SydSam, the Baltic Sea Seven Islands and Euroregion Baltic on 13 and 14 of May 2004 have unanimously adopted the following resolution:

The Maritime Regions in the Southern Baltic Sea recall

1. That the Baltic Sea Region is an important trade and tourism area with expected economic growth due to the widening of the European Union and the Russian economical development,
2. That the Baltic Sea Region has great importance in fields of nature and environment protection,
3. That the Baltic Sea - especially the southern part - is one of the most heavily trafficked sea areas in the world with a major increase over the next 10-20 years,
4. That oil transportation is heading a major growth due to oil export from Russia and probably Baltic States,
5. That this development will increase the risks for ship accidents and maritime pollution with oil, chemicals and other environmental damaging loads,
6. That the regional and local authorities to a high extent bear the ecological, the economic, the social and the political consequences of maritime accidents and sea pollution, and
7. That recent ship accidents demonstrate the need for further action in maritime safety in the Southern Baltic Sea.

At the same time the Maritime Regions in the Southern Baltic Sea appreciate

8. The efforts from IMO, UN's international maritime organization, to strengthen the general rules for maritime safety and the new Automatic Identification System (AIS) which is being implemented in 2004,
9. That HELCOM and national authorities have obtained IMO approval of the Baltic Sea - including international waters – to be classified as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA),
10. The efforts from the EU Commission regarding improved maritime safety i.e. the establishing of EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency),
11. The efforts from the EU Parliament regarding improved maritime safety i.e. the report 2003/2235 INI concerning increased safety at sea.

Therefore the Maritime Regions in the Southern Baltic Sea call upon the Baltic Sea States and EU

12. To work rapidly for a harmonization in the Baltic Sea region regarding regulations, policies, practices and procedures pertaining to jurisdiction issues in the field of Maritime Safety. The Baltic Sea Region with its many similarities in terms of local maritime culture could serve as a model of harmonization with regard to maritime safety matters. I.e. to take initiatives for an EU system with heavy sanctions to ensure that European and international regulations are respected. To connect trade agreements between countries with implementing conventions of sea safety.
13. To fully use the opportunities of the PSSA classification to set up local regulations in the Southern Baltic Sea for improved maritime safety and environmental protection; i.e. to adopt and promote compulsory routing, pilot duty, only access for oil tankers with double hull including double hull for the vessels own fuel.
14. To implement a common vessel control centre with monitoring programme/system of the maritime transports in the Southern Baltic Sea to prevent accidents. Such a vessel control system must have full control over the movements of all major ships and knowledge about destinations, cargoes etc.,
15. To investigate the possibility to establish a common rescue control centre that coordinates fast and joint rescue actions in the southern Baltic Sea,
16. To establish common contingency plans for response to accidents with major pollution of oil and chemicals.
17. To take initiatives for possible IMO or EU systems that through economical benefits encourage ship owners to improve the safety guarding in ship operation beyond the international and national regulations ("green shipping", education of personnel etc).
18. To fully integrate the coastal regional authorities in organisation and implementation of the maritime safety system as described in the Nantes Declaration of October 14, 2003 given by representatives of European maritime regions at the initiative of CPMR.

And the Maritime Regions in the Southern Baltic Sea intend to strengthen their own involvement in maritime safety:

19. The participating regions from each country will together address their national body(ies) responsible for the maritime safety to stress the interest of the regions of the Southern Baltic Sea to be more integrated in the national maritime safety system.
20. The regions will set up a political steering group with representatives from all regions with the following purpose:
 - i. To discuss and define the most useful role of the regions in the maritime safety system.
 - ii. To exchange experiences, collect information of similarities and differences in the regions systems and organisations and propose interregional and cross border cooperation programmes and projects aiming at the maritime safety
 - iii. To organise a biannual forum of the maritime regions in the Southern Baltic Sea for updating of the implementation of maritime safety measures in the area.