

Euroregion Baltic Seminar

Baltic Sea Strategy to further integrate the Baltic Sea Region

11th June 2008, Brussels

Conclusions

Why do we need the Strategy?

- There is a demand for a better and more effective coordination of the EU policies and programmes in the Baltic Sea Region
- The Strategy be a catalyst to encourage and speed up the integration and hereby follow up on the EU enlargement
- We need EU to be more present at the table, we need a more strategic overview, as well as to promote the whole market and a ensure a more cohesive development
- We need to maintain and improve the competitiveness, but also to focus on soft matters – to focus on grey cells instead of grey cement!
- BSR shall become the EU Laboratory for implementing EU policies, transferring EU policies into real life
- The Strategy shall make BSR a showcase including tailor made joint actions
- The Strategy shall release the big potential in the BSR, with a lot of purchasing power

What will be the content of the Strategy?

- Environment, prosperity, accessibility/attractiveness, safety/security (EC)
- Ecology, energy, economy, education and security (EP)
- Environment, Single Market and more (Swedish Government)
- Maritime Policy, research, transport infrastructure and more (IBSG)
- Competitiveness, clusters, innovation, public-private partnerships, soft matters and maybe immigration (BDF)
- Cluster support, triple helix, action oriented and down to earth projects (Scanbalt)
- Environment and more (Helcom)
- Changing of attitudes, Russia, infrastructure and free trade (BCCA)
- People to people cooperation

Who will be involved in the further process and the implementation?

- All stakeholders at the EU, national, regional and local level
- Important to have the 8 EU member countries to work together, and to keep Russia, Iceland and Norway informed
- No new structures

How will the Strategy be implemented?

- No new structures, no new budget lines – but new priorities (EP, Sweden)
- A timetable needed, also for monitoring, and use of the model from the EU Maritime Policy and the Lisbon Strategy (IBSG)
- A rolling Action Plan (DG Regio)
- Strong fix points, ad hoc networks and partners willing to take the lead, and annual conferences (BDF)