

Baltic Sea Labour Forum – working together through Social Dialogue – was established during the final conference of the Baltic Sea Labour Network in Hamburg

The final conference of the Baltic Sea Labour Network was opened by Dr. Werner Hoyer, State Minister, Federal Foreign Office, Germany in a video message. It was organised on 15-16 November in Hamburg where 240 participants agreed on a conference resolution and 13 central recommendations for developing strong labour markets in the Baltic Sea Region.

The base for the successful development of the project is the common understanding that social dialogue and tripartite structures are crucial elements of sustainable economic growth and social development. The social partners have a shared interest in well-functioning and fair labour markets as a backbone of a strong and competitive region.

The most important achievement of the conference was the creation of the permanent tripartite Forum of Social Dialogue in the Baltic Sea Region, the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF), thus ensuring the sustainability of project by widening its participation. The forum will commence its work in January 2012 during the German Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS).

The conference was hosted by the German social partners Dr. Thomas Klischan, General Manager of Nordmetall and Uwe Polkaehn, President of DGB North, Germany.

Senator Detlef Scheele, Ministry of Labour, Social and Family Affairs and Integration of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg underlined in his welcome speech the importance of the recommendations developed by the BSLN social partners for workers and employers but also for policy makers.

Bernadette Ségol, Secretary General of the European Trade Union Confederation ETUC, Renate Hornung-Drauß, Managing Director, European and International Affairs, Confederation of German Employers (BDA) and Franz Thönnies, MP, German Parliament, former Parliamentary State Secretary, Member of the Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) pointed out the importance of social dialogue regarding sustainable labour markets and economic growth in their speeches.

Anders Lindholm from the European Commission DG Regional Policy presented the state of play of The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The strategy is currently evaluated and future priorities will target to make the Strategy more focused and more concrete as well as maximise efforts to align funding with the Strategy's objectives.

The BSLN has contributed to various projects, studies and meetings in all countries around the Baltic Sea, and the results of these were presented in workshops. In January 2012 the final publication of the project will be released, where all the results of the pilot projects and the studies are assembled.



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For more information please contact:

Katariina Röbbelen-Voigt, BSLN Project Manager, Hamburg/ Germany
Phone: +49 (0) 40 484010 150
Mobile: +49 172 4009072
E-mail: k.roebbelen-voigt@kooperationsstelle-hh.de

Mika Domisch, BSLN Communication Manager, Stockholm/ Sweden
Phone +46 (0) 722 53 69 79
E-mail: mika.domisch@nfs.net

Anthony Jay, Head of Media and Communications. Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat.
Mobile: 0046 702 838936
Email: anthony.jay@cbss.org

More information about the Baltic Sea Labour Network (BSLN) project:
www.bslabour.net



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