



# **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region VASAB Ministerial meeting**

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*16 October 2009*



# Council Conclusions June 2009

" The European Council accordingly calls for work to be taken forward rapidly on the Commission's communication on the Baltic Sea region with a view to adopting a Strategy on the Baltic Sea Region at its meeting in October 2009. It also invites the Commission to present an EU strategy for the Danube region before the end of 2010."



# What will happen next?

- 17-18 September: Ministerial conference in Stockholm on macro-regions, with the EU Baltic Sea Strategy as a special example
- 26 October: Council of General Affairs
- 29 October 2009 European Council
- Planned for Nov 2009: Kick-off meeting with the Priority Area coordinators and national contact points (transformation into high-level working group); by end of August, coordinators appointed for all Priority Areas and for 56 flagship projects





# Priority Areas -Examples

- 15 Priority Areas all together.
  1. To reduce nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels.
  7. To exploit the full potential of the region in research and innovation.
  12. To maintain and reinforce attractiveness of the BSR in particular through education, tourism and health.
  14. To reinforce maritime accident response capacity protection from major emergencies.



# Content: Education and Research

## Examples of Flagship Projects in the Action Plan

- Create a Baltic Sea Platform for Innovation and research.
- Enhance cooperation between the regional Universities of the Baltic Sea Region.
- Become a pilot project in implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- Encourage the use of Maritime Spatial Planning in all MS around the BSR
- Develop and complete Land-based Spatial Planning



# Implementation structure

- The policy orientations, as proposed by the Commission, to be decided by the Member States working through the Council of Ministers (General Affairs Council):
- The Commission will be responsible for co-ordination, monitoring and follow-up, in partnership with the stakeholders of the region;
- Annual Forum (as from 2010) to bring together partners and other stakeholders and to make recommendations and facilitate follow-up on implementation;



# Implementation

- Member states assumes responsibility for priority areas.
- Member states, regions, organisations takes responsibility and implements Flagship projects.
- The Commission will act as a facilitator, to get things of the ground.
- A High Level Working Group will be created with representatives from the Member States.



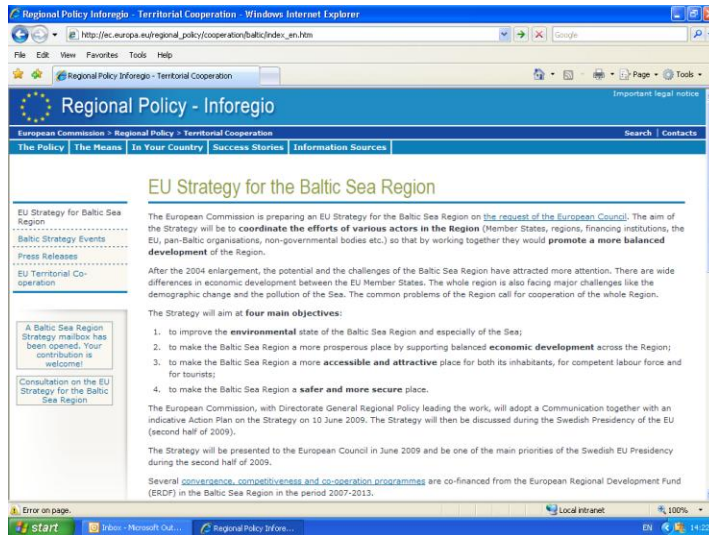
# Reviews and updates

- The first review and update of the action plan will take place during the PL presidency in 2011, to be followed during later BSR presidencies:
- DK 2012
- LT 2013
- LV 2015



# Thank you !

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region: an integrated framework to address the challenges and opportunities of the Baltic Sea Region



[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/baltic/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic/index_en.htm)