



VASAB Committee welcomes EU Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion

A non-paper by VASAB CSD

VASAB¹ (Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010) is a co-operation of ministers responsible for spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region countries, including Belarus, Norway and Russia. The main mission of this inter-governmental pan-Baltic organization is to prepare policy options for spatial development of the Region and to provide a forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development between the Baltic Sea countries. Since 1992 based on its mandate VASAB has been working with macro regional planning and development issues in the Baltic Sea Region.

In June 2005 the Council of the Baltic Sea States encouraged VASAB to update the vision of long-term territorial development of the Region. VASAB 6th Ministerial Conference in Gdansk in September 2005 agreed to prepare a long-term perspective for spatial development of the Region.

The development of a long-term perspective is an example in praxis of cooperation at a macro regional level which can serve as a necessary geographical focused contribution to the development of territorial cohesion at a larger geographical scale - both terrestrial and maritime.

The development of the territorial cohesion policy in EU **should therefore consider** how to:

- include a cross sector approach through spatial planning and development at a macro regional level including also the relation to the EU neighboring countries;
- develop indicators to monitor the macro regional changes and progress to the political level;
- develop maritime spatial planning as an instrument to a more cohesive and cross sectoral approach to the challenges at a macro regional level including both EU and non-EU countries.

VASAB Committee on Spatial Development in the Baltic Sea Region

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¹ www.vasab.org