



Baltic Sea Days **23-25 April, Berlin**

Introduction

There are three main events on the calendar of the German Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS): the **extraordinary Foreign Ministers Meeting** at Schloss Ploen in February 2012 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the organization's founding, the **Baltic Sea Days** in Berlin in April 2012, and the **Baltic Sea States Summit** that Chancellor Merkel will host for CBSS heads of government in Stralsund in May 2012.

The Baltic Sea Days aim to bring together all Baltic Sea cooperation stakeholders in the belief that one of the best ways to promote cooperation is through personal contacts and exchange. The Baltic Sea Days will also be an opportunity to make cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region better known to a wider public and a host of regional actors.

What we are planning here is a series of interconnected events taking place at different venues around Berlin. The Federal Foreign Office is in charge of overall coordination, but responsibility for the various events is in the hands of the event organizers. So if you have any questions about a particular event, please get in touch with the relevant contact persons given below.

A festive evening for all participants will be hosted by the Federal President.

A. Festive event at the Federal Foreign Office on 24 April 2012

A highlight of the Baltic Sea Days will be a festive event for all participants on the evening of 24 April 2012 at the Federal Foreign Office. The Federal President will give a keynote speech (to be confirmed) on cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region and the German CBSS Presidency. This will be followed by a reception at which guests will be able to sample both the cuisine and the culture of the Baltic Sea countries.

The intention is to publicize the valuable cooperation under way in the Baltic Sea Region across the whole spectrum of youth, culture, politics, business and civil society and to empha-

size the importance people in Germany and the German Government attach to such cooperation.

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B. Interconnected events

During the Baltic Sea Days a series of interconnected events will take place at different venues around Berlin.

1. Meeting of Baltic Sea Region parliamentarians

Date: 24 April 2012; venue: German Bundestag

At the invitation of Franz Thoennes M.P., a meeting of Baltic Sea Region parliamentarians will be held on 24 April 2012. Participants will include members of the steering committees of the various parliamentary friendship groups (German-Russian, German-Baltic, German-Polish, German-Nordic) as well as ten embassy representatives (one from each Baltic Sea country) as well as 1-2 members of parliamentary friendship group steering committees in other Baltic Sea countries. Following refreshments, two discussion rounds are planned, one with the Baltic Sea NGO Forum and one with the Baltic Sea Youth Session. Participants will then be taken on a guided tour of the German Bundestag.

Contact: German Bundestag, office of Franz Thoennes M.P.
Sabine Herget, phone: 030-227-71112
Email: franz.thoennes.ma01@bundestag.de

2. Baltic Sea Youth Session

Date: 22-25 April 2012; venue: Federal Foreign Office and other venues

Youth exchanges and encounters play a vital part in creating a Baltic Sea identity. The Baltic Sea Youth Session will bring together politically interested young people from across the Baltic Sea Region. They will be invited to reflect together on their common future and discuss their ideas with politicians and decision-makers. The event organizers are the Federal Foreign Office and the Schwarzkopf Foundation “Young Europe”.

Contact: Schwarzkopf Foundation “Young Europe”
Project coordinators: Cora Hille and Pauline Marx
Phone: 030-280-95-155
Email: cora.hille@eyp.de; pauline.marx@eyp.de

3. Baltic Sea NGO Forum

Date: 23-25 April 2012; venue: Humboldt University Berlin

There have been nine Baltic Sea NGO Forums since the first held eleven years ago during the last German CBSS Presidency. The 2012 Forum takes place in the CBSS anniversary year and is organized by the Research Group for Northern European Politics (FOR:N) and Humboldt University’s Department of Northern European Studies.

Contact: Humboldt University Berlin
Project coordinators: Anna-Lena Pohl and Krister Hanne
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4. Business Forum on the Baltic Sea Region

Date: 24 April 2012; venue: Federal Foreign Office

In cooperation with the German Association of Chambers of Industry and Commerce as well as chambers of commerce abroad, the Federal Foreign Office is organizing a Business Forum on the Baltic Sea Region on 24 April. The aim is to encourage networking between innovative companies from across the Baltic Sea Region and give them a political platform. The Forum will enable decision-makers in the fields of business, policy-making and foreign trade promotion to explore possible export opportunities and learn more about the promotion instruments deployed in this connection. Besides speeches by high-level participants, a number of workshops are planned on transport infrastructure (shipping routes and ports, road and rail transport, Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link), energy, the urban challenges in the Baltic Sea Region, sustainability and closed cycle management, the EU project “Amber Coast Logistics” and boosting growth through regional cooperation between SMEs.

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5. Policy Forum “Climate Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region”

Date: 24 April 2012; venue: Press and Information Office of the Federal Government

On 24 April a Policy Forum will be jointly staged by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the CBSS Secretariat – Baltic 21 and the “BALTADAPT” project. Policy-makers from the European Commission, the Baltic Sea countries as well as international and regional organizations and research institutes will discuss the impact of climate change and transboundary adaptation measures. The opening address by BMU Parliamentary State Secretary Katherina Reiche will be followed by panel discussions.

Contact: Federal Ministry for the Environment
Doerte Ratzmann, phone: 030 18 305 2370
Email: doerte.ratzmann@bmu.bund.de

6. Joint meeting “Coherence in Baltic Sea Region cooperation”

Date: 24 April 2012; venue: Federal Foreign Office

One of the main priorities of the German CBSS Presidency is to create a more coherent framework for the various cooperation structures that have evolved for the Baltic Sea Region (CBSS, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Northern Dimension). We have invited representatives of the Northern Dimension steering group, CBSS Senior Officials and members of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region steering group to a meeting at the Federal Foreign Office to explore how this might be achieved. The discussions will be based on a policy paper prepared by Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik – German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

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7. Events organized by the North German Laender: Hamburg

Date: 25 April 2012; venue: Representation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg to the Federation, Berlin

Hamburg will be hosting an event on scientific and research cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region on 25 April at its Representation to the Federation in Berlin. There will be a special focus on the EU's Science Link project, which impressively demonstrates the benefits of such cooperation.

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8. Events organized by the North German Laender: Schleswig-Holstein

Date: 23 April 2012; venue: Representation of Land Schleswig-Holstein to the Federation, Berlin

On 23 April at the Schleswig-Holstein Representation in Berlin the Schleswig-Holstein Minister-President will host the first event of its kind on "Culture and Identity in the Baltic Sea Region". An evening of gala entertainment is planned, with music provided by Ars Baltica. In the afternoon some 100 participants will attend a presentation on the planned virtual textbook on Baltic Sea history.

Contact: Permanent Representation of Schleswig-Holstein
Ms. Muß, phone: 030 74 68 47-206
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9. Events organized by the North German Laender: Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Date: 25 April 2012; venue: Felleshus of the Nordic Embassies, Berlin

The theme of the event Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is planning on 25 April in the Felleshus of the Nordic Embassies in Berlin is "Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in the Baltic Sea Region – Dynamism and Quality of Life". The event will feature the Baltic Sea as a health region and explore the future of Baltic Sea cooperation as well as the scope for EU funding for such endeavours. The Minister-President will be present in person.

Contact: State Chancellery of Mecklenburg West-Pomerania
Wolf Born, phone: 0385 588 1740
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10. Meetings of expert groups and networks

Date: 23-25 April 2012; various venues

During the Baltic Sea Days the following expert groups and networks will meet:

- CBSS Expert Group Baltic 21 – Sustainable Development
- CBSS Public-Private Partnership Cooperation Network
- CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy
- BSSSC Steering Group
- CBSS Senior Officials
- CBSS Regional Directors
- Northern Dimension Steering Group
- the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Steering Group.

C. Public events during the Baltic Sea Days

1. Baltic Sea Crime Fiction Festival

Date: 25-27 April 2012; venue: Federal Foreign Office

Since the Baltic Sea Region has a thriving crime fiction culture, it is hoped the staging of a crime fiction festival will help raise awareness of the German CBSS Presidency and the importance of CBSS cooperation among the general public.

A series of readings are planned with bestselling crime writers Jussi Adler-Olsen from Denmark and Leena Lehtolainen from Finland as well as the successful Swedish duo Michael Hjorth and Hans Rosenfeldt. A film version of their novel “Dark Secrets” will be shown afterwards as a ZDF preview.

Contact: Kulturhus Berlin
Ulrike Schulz, phone: 030-2093-4952
Email: presse@kultur-berlin.de

2. Exhibition “20 Years of the CBSS: Cooperation Pioneer and Symbol of Baltic Sea Region Identity”

Date: Opens on 23 April 2012; venue: Lichthof, Federal Foreign Office

The exhibition “20 Years of the CBSS: Cooperation Pioneer and Symbol of Baltic Sea Region Identity” has been designed to bring the history and activities of the CBSS to the attention of a wider public. The exhibition in the Lichthof of the Federal Foreign Office will open on 23 April and be on show Monday to Friday from 8.00-20.00.

D. Overall coordination of the Baltic Sea Days

Task Force for the German Presidency of the CBSS 2011/2012

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