# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President's Greetings</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Secretary's Greetings</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSC Member Regions</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome to Region Lapland, Finland</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSC Organisational Structure</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th BSC General Assembly 2022</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Working Group</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime Working Group</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Climate Working Group</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Task Force</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synergies between BSC Working Groups</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSC contributes to reflections on Cohesion Policy</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapshot of cooperation with partners</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy, visibility, impact and cooperation</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSC communication</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission is a leading network of regions in the Baltic Sea Region, committed to promote a resilient, sustainable, well-connected and vibrant Baltic Sea Region. The organisation supports the main goals of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Established in 1996, it serves as a forum for policy-oriented cooperation and lobbying amongst regional authorities. The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission promotes the specific interests of Baltic Sea regions towards EU institutions.

The Baltic Sea Commission is one of six Geographical Commissions that make up the CPMR, alongside the Atlantic Arc, North Sea, Intermediterranean, Islands, and Balkan and Black Sea Commissions. Since 1973, the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR), has worked as the united voice of peripheral and coastal regions towards EU decision-makers.
President's greetings

Dear BSC friends,

Over the past months, the challenging geopolitical context and the rising global warming have continued to affect Baltic Sea regions. At the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, we have continued to connect across borders, developing joint solutions and advocating together with impact for a more resilient Baltic Sea Region.

To ensure a just green transition, a well-connected and sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region, collaboration is required at all levels. Therefore, over the last year the BSC has kept tight collaboration with various partner organisations and close dialogue with EU representatives.

I am satisfied that the CPMR and its BSC seized the opportunity of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU to advocate for our regional issues. In addition, the BSC has actively contributed to the whole CPMR network by nourishing the CPMR positions on the topics of Cohesion Policy, transport, maritime, climate and energy issues with a Baltic Sea perspective.

I would like to deeply thank all the BSC Members for their active involvement over the past year to drive cooperation forward and ensure that the BSC continues to be a forward-thinking organisation with a strong leadership in Brussels.

This year, our BSC family has grown with the adhesion of Lapland as a new Member. Their expertise in Arctic and energy issues, combined with a long experience in international cooperation will make Lapland a forceful drive in our cooperation.

We will continue to discuss the future of the Baltic Sea Region and Europe during the 28th General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission on 19-20 September in Umeå and Vaasa.

I look forward to welcoming you for an exciting programme that includes a ferry journey across the Baltic Sea!

Tomas Mörtsell
President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Region Västerbotten (Sweden)
Executive Secretary's greetings

Dear BSC Members and partners,

This Activity Report 2022-2023 provides you with a concise summary of the activities of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) - the meetings we organised or contributed to, initiatives we have been involved in, how we cooperated with partners in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond.

The BSC Working Groups and Executive Committee have been discussing key EU legislations and initiatives of relevance for the regions, such as the Trans-European Transport Network Policy, the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters", the REPowerEU plan and more. Together with the CPMR, we have been actively engaged in reflections on the future of EU policies for post-2028.

Earlier this year, the regional representatives leading the BSC Working Groups were renewed and all the BSC Member Regions were invited to set new priorities for the Working Groups’ actions for 2023-2024.

The Working Groups had their first face-to-face meetings since the pandemic started. It was wonderful to meet all the colleagues and friends once again and make study visits to increase knowledge of regional issues.

Internally, this year also brought changes in the BSC Secretariat with the arrival of a new Policy Officer, Guglielmo Migliori, reinforcing the team made up with Clare Booth, Policy Assistant.

2024 will be an important year with the European elections leading to a renewed European Parliament and college of Commissioners. In the coming months, the BSC Members with the support of the BSC Secretariat will continue to work to influence the future direction of the EU and its priorities, hence ensuring that issues concerning Baltic Sea regions remain in the spotlight of the EU agenda.

Lucille Ehrhart
CPMR Baltic Sea Commission
Executive Secretary
20 BSC Member Regions

AECM - Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities (Estonia)
HELSINKI-UUSIMAA (Finland)
KYMENLAAKSO (Finland)
LAPLAND (Finland)
OSTROBOTHNIA (Finland)
OULU (Finland)
PÄIJAT-HÄME (Finland)
SOUTHWEST FINLAND (Finland)
MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN (Germany)
GÄVLEBORG (Sweden)
GOTLAND (Sweden)
JÄMTLAND HÄRJEDALEN (Sweden)
NORRBOTTEN (Sweden)
ÖREBRO (Sweden)
ÖSTERSKOTLAND (Sweden)
SKÅNE (Sweden)
STOCKHOLM (Sweden)
VÄRMLAND (Sweden)
VÄSTRA GÖTALAND (Sweden)
VÄSTERBOTTEN (Sweden)

150 CPMR Member Regions
Membership

Welcome to Region Lapland, Finland!

The Regional Council of Lapland has joined the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission in 2023.

Fact and figures
- Population: 176,700
- Area: 100,800 km²
- Biggest city: Rovaniemi (63,528 habitants)
- Main industries: bioeconomy, metal industry, mining industry, tourism, energy

"Through our partnership in the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission, we can amplify our advocacy on matters of great significance to us. Historically, as a small country, Finland has faced challenges in asserting its position. As interest in the Arctic and Northern Regions grows – particularly regarding the green transition and the utilisation of natural resources – it becomes imperative for our message to be heard and understood."

Ms Tanja Joona, Senior Researcher and Member of the Board of the Regional Council of Lapland

"In this evolving landscape, we recognise the pivotal role of strong alliances such as the Baltic Sea Commission and the CPMR. Our focus lies particularly in the fields of transportation, logistics, cohesion, and Arctic policy, where we believe that united efforts can yield greater strength and impact. This membership offers an invaluable opportunity for Lapland to engage in cooperation with other European regions, sharing best practices and driving collective progress towards a sustainable and ecologically responsible future."

Mr Mika Riipi, County Governor at the Regional Council of Lapland

""
BSC Organisational Structure

- President
- Vice-Presidents
- Executive Secretary
- Executive Committee
- Working Groups
- General Assembly
- Working Groups
- Task Force
- Transport & Accessibility
- Energy & Climate
- Maritime Affairs
- Arctic
27th BSC General Assembly 2022
26 - 27 September in Helsinki

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly took place on 26-27 September 2022 in Helsinki, at the invitation of Mr. Markku Markkula, President of Helsinki-Uusimaa Region. The event gathered about 60 representatives from 18 regional authorities across the Baltic Sea Region, as well as representatives from the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), the Finnish Foreign Ministry and from the EU institutions. Discussions focused on EU policies of relevance for the regions, such as Cohesion Policy, sustainable transport in the Baltic Sea region, the EU Arctic Policy and its implications for regions, as well as the challenges and regional contributions to the energy transition.

The highlights of the event also included the elections of a new BSC Presidium and a new Executive Committee by BSC Member Regions.

Mr Tomas Mörtsell (Region Västerbotten, Sweden) was elected unanimously as BSC President for a two-year mandate period. He took over from Mr Jari Nahkanen (Oulu Region, Finland), who was BSC President from 2018 to 2022. The General Assembly also elected as BSC Vice-Presidents Mr Richard Sjölund (Ostrobothnia, Finland) and Mr Romek Kosenkranius (Pärnu, Estonia). The General Assembly also nominated a new Executive Committee for 2023-2024 (see the list here).

The photos of the event are available here.
Documents adopted
At the BSC General Assembly 2022

BSC Resolution for 2022

Activity Report 2021 - 2022
Executive Committee

List of Executive Committee Members for 2022-2024

PRESIDENT
Tomas MÖRTSELL, Region Västerbotten (Sweden)

VICE-PRESIDENTS
First Vice-President
Richard SJÖLUND, Region Ostrobothnia (Finland)
Second Vice-President
Romek KOSENKRANIUS, Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities (Estonia)

FULL MEMBERS
ESTONIA
Romek KOSENKRANIUS, Pärnu

GERMANY
Wolf BORN, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

FINLAND
Otto MERI, Helsinki-Uusimaa

SWEDEN
Gustav HEMMING, Region Stockholm

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS
ESTONIA
Kristiina MARIPUU, Saaremaa

GERMANY
Merten BARNERT, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

FINLAND
Pekka KOMU, Päijät-Häme

SWEDEN
Pontus LINDBERG, Region Skåne
Regional representatives discussed the revision of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and the regional requests to the European Parliament and the Council in order to increase territorial accessibility in the Baltic Sea Region. Mr Lucas Bosser provided a comprehensive overview of CPMR lobbying work on that policy area.

The Executive Committee met with MEP Niklas Nienass to discuss the implications of the new geopolitical context on regional authorities and EU support.

The Executive Committee organised a networking reception with contacts from regional Brussels offices and representatives from the EU institutions, that was opened by MEP Erik Bergkvist. He highlighted the importance of deepening regional cooperation.

The Executive Committee also discussed how to best use the opportunity of the newly-established Strategy Point of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region to increase regional cooperation.

The Chairs of the BSC Working Groups provided an update on recent activities related to transport, maritime affairs, energy and Arctic. The Executive Committee also nominated new Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups for 2023-2024.

On 1-2 February 2023, the BSC Executive Committee met in Brussels to exchange with EU representatives about regional issues and latest policy developments. Ms Jeanette Lund, Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU presented priorities of the EU Swedish presidency, that were commented on by the BSC Members.
Executive Committee (May, Rostock)

On 24-25 May 2023, the BSC Executive Committee met in Rostock at the invitation of Ms Bettina Martin, Minister for Science, Culture, European and Federal Affairs of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Chaired by BSC President Tomas Mörtsell (Region Västerbotten), the meeting focused on the latest EU policy developments and cooperation opportunities in the Baltic Sea Region.

During the meeting, Minister Bettina Martin introduced the work of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Cooperation Council for Democracy & Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region to develop recommendations for a new cooperation strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The strategy aims to strengthen democratic cooperation and find strategic partnerships around the Baltic Sea Region. The Council emphasises the importance of collaboration with the private sector and to prioritise people-to-people cooperation, as well as a strong focus on sustainability, value creation, and innovation.

Members of the Executive Committee welcomed the overall approach. More information available here.

During the meeting, participants got an update on the state of play in the Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme for the period 2021-2027. The last Call should be launched in Spring 2024.

Watch a video about Mecklenburg Vorpommern
Including a Baltic Sea regional perspective in policy-making and infrastructure planning

Phasing out fossil fuels and accelerating clean fuel development in transports

Innovative transport solutions – for people and goods

BSC Transport Working Group discuss alternative fuels

The BSC Transport Working Group met in Stockholm on 23-24 November at the invitation of Mr Bosse Andersson (Region Stockholm), Chair of the BSC Transport Working Group (until January 2023). Regional politicians and civil servants from around the Baltic Sea Region came to discuss experiences and challenges on the deployment of alternative fuels in the transport sector. The Transport Working Group has developed a report gathering all these experiences. It was pointed out the variety of alternative fuels options and the difficulty to know which one to choose, but also the long-term savings in using alternative fuels.

"BSC Member Regions are cooperating for a more connected, sustainable and efficient transport system for people and goods within the Baltic Sea Region and also for better connection with the rest of Europe. With our knowledge, natural resources and innovations, we can contribute to the green transition of Europe and to the decarbonisation of the transport sector."

Magnus Lagergren
Chair of BSC Transport Working Group, Region Örebro

Read the Action Plan 2023-2024 of the BSC Transport Working Group
The Norvik port is making strong efforts to reduce the environmental and climate impact from port activities and shipping.

The meeting was also an opportunity to thank Mr Bosse Andersson for his last meeting as Chair of the BSC Transport Working Group.

BSC Members visited the Norvik port in Nynäshamn, where they were welcomed by Mr Harry Bouveng, Mayor of the Municipality of Nynäshamn and Vice-Chair of the Baltic Sea Commission Maritime Working Group. The port is the number 3 cargo port in Sweden and was opened in 2020.

Read the BSC report on regional experiences regarding the use of alternative fuels in the transport sector.
Maritime Working Group

BSC Maritime Working Group priorities for 2023-2024:

- Promoting sustainable coastal tourism in the Baltic Sea Region
- Promoting competitive and sustainable maritime industries
- Restoring and protecting the Baltic Sea

BSC represented at the Baltic Sea Tourism Forum

Mr Harry Bouveng, Vice-Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group, participated in the Baltic Sea Tourism Forum 2022 to share regional experiences and challenges on the recovery of the coastal tourism sector in the Baltic Sea Region.

BSC Maritime Working Group discuss green innovation and skilled workforce for the development of the maritime industry

The BSC Maritime Working met in Turku (Southwest Finland) on 7-8 December at the invitation of Ms Tiina Perho, Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group. The purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness and exchange regional experiences regarding maritime innovations boosting the green and circular transition and how to ensure high-level expertise and a skilled workforce for the maritime sector now and in the future. Participants discussed the competence needs in the sector.

Read the Action Plan 2023-2024 of the BSC Maritime Working Group

"Protecting the Baltic Sea while enabling competitive and sustainable maritime industries are at the core of the activities of the BSC Maritime Working Group. This year, we have focused on sharing regional experiences regarding maritime innovation, boosting the green and circular transition for the maritime sector. Regions have an important role to play to foster the deployment of offshore wind energy, the green transition of ports and development of blue skills."

Sari Nurro
Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group, Region Oulu
BSC Members also received a presentation of the EMFAF Calls for Proposals: “Blue Careers and Regional Flagships”, contributing to the development of the next generation of blue skills and providing opportunities for attractive and sustainable maritime careers.

The Working Group also discussed with EUSBSR Policy Area Tourism on how to reboost the cruise industry in light of the new geopolitical context in the Baltic Sea Region.

The BSC Members visited “Meyer Turku Ltd shipyard” and had a presentation of NEcOLEAP-project, bringing together industry pioneers to build a climate-neutral cruise ship. The participants also discussed with representatives of EUSBSR Policy Area Ship on how to boost the decarbonisation of shipping in the Baltic Sea Region.

The meeting was an opportunity to warmly thank Ms Tiina Perho for her last meeting as Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group.
Increasing renewable energy production in the Baltic Sea Region
Increasing sustainable and smart use of natural resources for climate transition
Promoting the adaptation of regions to the foreseeable effects of climate change

In May 2022, the European Commission published the REPowerEU Plan aiming at reducing the European Union’s dependency on Russian fossil fuels by accelerating the energy transition and building a more resilient energy system. The BSC Energy and Climate Working Group met online in September 2022 to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the REPowerEU Plan for BSC Member Regions, in particular those concerning renewable energy production, investments, and governance. Mr Eero Ailio, Special Advisor at DG ENER presented the European Commission’s initiative to accelerate the clean energy transition.

“Our WG efforts in advocating for renewable energy production, sustainable investments, and improved governance practices have underscored the Baltic Sea area’s relevance in the EU’s green transition. Our WG workshops on topics such as REPowerEU Plan and the EU Mission on Ocean and Waters have been a learning journey for all participants – the doors and lines for valuable knowledge are open.”

Markku Markkula
Chair of the BSC Energy and Climate Working Group,
Region of Helsinki-Uusimaa

Read here CPMR Technical Note on the REPowerEU Plan.
BSC regions discuss EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”

In December 2022, the BSC Energy and Climate Working Group met online to discuss what opportunities exist for Baltic Sea regions in the EU Mission on Ocean and Waters and how to move to action. Mr Kestutis Sadauska, Deputy Director-General of DG MARE (European Commission) and Mission Manager for the EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030” presented the objectives, financing opportunities and added value for regions to take an active role in the EU Mission.

“What challenges and potential for energy resilience and green transition in the Baltic Sea Region?”

In February 2023, the BSC Energy & Climate Working Group, together with MEP Nils Torvalds, organised a seminar in the framework of the SEArica Intergroup of the European Parliament at the Helsinki EU Office in Brussels, that gathered regional and EU representatives. Russia’s unprovoked aggression in Ukraine has exacerbated the unprecedented situation in the energy market in the EU, including the Baltic Sea Region. In light of a new geopolitical context and the accelerating global climate crisis, the seminar discussed the current energy challenges in the Baltic Sea Region and the sustainable solutions and actions being developed with the support of the EU. The seminar showcased the role of innovative companies contributing to the overall green transition of the EU.

Read the Action Plan 2023-2024 of the BSC E&C Working Group
Sustainable economic and territorial development of European Arctic Regions

Maintaining low tension through increased multilevel cooperation in European Arctic Regions

Sustainable social development and attractive communities in Arctic regions

BSC delegation meet with DG MARE Director-General to discuss EU Arctic Policy

In the framework of the CPMR General Assembly in Crete (October 2022), BSC Members emphasised to DG MARE (European Commission) Director-General Charline Vitcheva the importance of EU support to the development of European Arctic regions, and their potential linked to green transition and the blue economy.

BSC President participates in the Arctic Circle Conference in Reykjavik

BSC President Tomas Mörtsell (Region Västerbotten) took part in a panel discussion about the EU’s role in the European Arctic, organised by the European Commission and European External Action Service in the framework of the Arctic Circle Conference in Reykjavik in October 2022. He pointed out the EU’s major role to trigger the potential for economic green growth in the European Arctic through various EU programmes. He also highlighted the remaining demographic and accessibility challenges.

Read the Action Plan 2023-2024 of the BSC Arctic Task Force
In the framework of the EU Arctic Forum in Nuuk in February 2023, BSC representatives from Västerbotten, Norrbotten and Lapland provided a regional perspective in a panel discussion about the EU role for the development of the European Arctic regions. BSC President Tomas Mörtsell stressed the EU’s major role to support territorial, social, economic development and green transition in European Arctic regions.

In February 2023, a delegation of CPMR representatives led by CPMR President Cees Loggen (Region Noord-Holland) and BSC President Tomas Mörtsell (Region Västerbotten), as well as the EU Arctic Ambassador participated in a seminar in Rovaniemi about territorial development in the European Arctic regions, at the invitation of Ms Tanja Joona. The one-day seminar explored the conditions of economic development and a just green transition in the north of Europe and the role of the EU. The study visit was also an opportunity to welcome Lapland as a new CPMR Member Region.

“The geopolitical tensions, and major socio-economic and environmental changes in the European Arctic, require strong involvement of local and regional authorities for any policy development in this area. The BSC Arctic Task Force has continued to advocate for strong EU support in the European Arctic for a fair green transition, the development of sustainable transport modes and infrastructures, and investment in human capital for building resilient communities”

Jari Nahkanen
Chair of the BSC Arctic Task Force, Council of Oulu Region
Synergies between BSC Working Groups

Definition of new priorities for 2023-2025

On 21 April 2023, members of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission’s Working Groups met online to discuss policy priorities and lobbying activities for the period 2023-2024. The virtual event gathered about 30 representatives from the 20 BSC Regions as well as officers from the CPMR General Secretariat who presented an update on the latest EU policy developments linked to energy, transport, and maritime affairs.

Mr Lucas Bosser, CPMR Director for Transport, highlighted the work of the CPMR and its regions in the revision of the TEN-T regulation, which indeed aimed to reinforce territorial accessibility in the Baltic Sea Region.

Mr Jorgen Bjerre (Deputy Head of Unit, Ports and Inland Navigation, DG MOVE, European Commission), highlighted the major role of ports in improving the sustainability of the transport sector and presented the EU approach to support the decarbonisation of the transport sector. Ms Sari Nurro, Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group highlighted the role of ports in the decarbonisation of the transport sector and the challenges related to it. Mr Magnus Lagergren, Chair of the BSC Transport Working Group underlined that Örebro Region was working for both a faster rail connection between Oslo and Stockholm as well as better connections to northern Sweden along the Bothnian Corridor and to the south towards the port of Gothenburg and central Europe.

BSC Working Groups discuss how to improve sustainable logistics chains in the Baltic Sea Region

On 14 June, BSC Working Groups on maritime, transport and energy and climate had a joint online meeting to discuss from a regional perspective how to promote better sustainable logistics chains in the Baltic Sea Region and improve cross-border mobility of people and goods.

The meeting was opened by Mr Markku Markkula, Chair of the BSC Energy & Climate Working Group (Helsinki-Uusimaa Region) who stressed the innovation potential and existing opportunities that well-connected Baltic Sea regions have in tackling the burning EU challenges, and he also pointed out current bottlenecks.
BSC participates in the Regional Growth Conference

BSC President Tomas Mörtsell was invited to discuss the future of Cohesion Policy during the 11th edition of the Regional Growth Conference organised in March 2023 in hybrid format (online, Patras). He stressed the major role of structural funds for regional development in the Baltic Sea Region. “A recession in Cohesion Policy would seriously damage the development of peripheral regions and the EU” he said.

Discussions aimed to set the ground towards defining the CPMR position on the future of Cohesion Policy. The event lasted two days and involved 60 regional representatives in-situ and online in intense discussions. For specific thematic sessions, EU officials and Members of the European Parliament provided their insights, namely Elisa Roller, Director for Twin Transition, Economic and Social Affairs, at the European Commission, Martin Weber, Director at the European Court of Auditors, and MEPs Niklas Nienass and Erik Bergkvist. Iñaki Barredo, Vice-Minister for Economy and European Funds of the Basque Government, Emelie Österqvist from the East Sweden Energy Agency and Richard Sjölund, Vice-President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and Vice-Chair of the Board of Ostrobothnia, took the floor to represent the regions’ views.

CPMR regions discuss Cohesion Policy in Linköping

On 22-23 March 2023, a special meeting of the Cohesion CORE group was organised in Linköping (Östergötland Region) in the context of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU, for which the CPMR General Secretariat teamed up with its Baltic Sea Commission and Östergötland Region.
Part of the discussion revolved around the green transition and the fact that it can bring further regional disparities. Cohesion Policy should be the catalysing instrument to deeper EU innovation cooperation by releasing large investment waves into tangible (physical capital) and intangible (human capital, immaterial property rights, etc) capital to address the climate and energy transition with regions at the forefront. The possible introduction of payments by results linked to a structural reform in financing and conditionalities was also touched upon. Considering that some aspects of the core features of the Recovery and Resilience Facility will be included in the future Cohesion Policy, CPMR members agreed that they would need to be adapted to respect a territorial dimension.

CPMR Regions discuss the Future of the EU Budget

A CPMR delegation met on 8 March with Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Budget and Administration, to express their position on the European Budget post-2027. Regional leaders have called on the European Commission to encourage the involvement of regional and local governments in more effective and cross-cutting multi-level governance for all EU funds and financial instruments supporting investments.

Ms Anna Jähnke, Chair of the Regional Development Committee, Region Skåne, and Ms Bettina Martin, Minister of Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, shared concern about the tendency for the centralisation of EU policies and the risks that it implies. They also highlighted the importance of the territorial dimension of Cohesion Policy to address investment needs in Europe. They called for keeping regions at the heart of a European Investment Policy that supports the creation of growth and jobs in Europe.
Snapshot of cooperation with partners

BSC support for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
Cooperation with EUSBSR Policy Area Coordinators for Transport, Innovation, Tourism and Ship, but also the newly established Baltic Sea Strategy Point.

BSC endorses VASAB 2040 vision at the 9th VASAB Ministerial Conference
For more information, click here

BSC cooperates with the Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme

BSC contributes in ESPON seminar about “Territorial perspective of green industrialisation”
For more information, click here

BSC Secretariat welcomes BSSSC Youth representatives to Brussels
For more information, click here
## Advocacy, visibility, impact & cooperation

Active contribution in the CPMR network to nourish analysis, notes and Policy Positions to provide a Baltic Sea perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 report on regional experience regarding alternative fuels</th>
<th>More than 10 representatives of the EU institutions met thanks to BSC events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DG MOVE - DG REGIO - DG ENER - DG MARE</td>
<td>European External Action Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Parliament</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meetings with representatives of Baltic national governments in BSC events

One BSC event organised in the framework of the SEArica intergroup of the European Parliament

Close contacts with the EUSBSR community, such as National Coordinators and Policy Area Coordinators

Organisation of meetings and events connecting the BSC with speakers from non-governmental organisations from the Baltic Sea Region community

Adoption of a political declaration
BSC communication
Keep up to date with BSC activities

Follow our Facebook page
Check out our Website
Follow us on X

Read the interview with BSC Vice-President Richard Sjölund about BSC regional cooperation in ESPON magazine

Read the BSC Summer Newsflash
Thank you to Baltic Sea Commission Members and Partner Organisations!