INTRODUCTION

Dear Members, partners and friends of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission,

In this autumn Newsflash, you will get an update on activities of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and its Member Regions since September, related to core areas of work, from transport, to maritime affairs, energy and climate, and Arctic issues.

The start of the new working year has been full speed, with both General Assemblies of the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission, but also the Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region where the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission organised a seminar.

The highlight of this autumn has been the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission during the General Assembly, where we looked back on the evolution of regional cooperation (look at the photo album), but more importantly we reflected on the future of our cooperation. In this peculiar time, it is more important than ever to strengthen our cooperation to address challenges related to climate change and the recovery from the pandemic. The crisis has again illustrated that no-one is big enough to succeed on their own. Cooperation and shared values are the pillars of our common future.

Therefore, I am delighted to warmly welcome Region Östergötland (Sweden) as a new Member of the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission community. It will strengthen our cooperation.

After several months of online meetings, I am glad to announce that the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Executive Committee meeting will be held in a hybrid format. At the kind invitation of Region Stockholm, we will meet in Stockholm. In this newsflash you can learn more about Region Stockholm’s work and priorities, with an interview with Mr Gustav Hemming, 1st Vice-Chair of the Regional Board.

Wishing you good reading!

Jari Nahkanen, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Oulu Region
On 23 September 2021, Member Regions of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) gathered online for the 2021 General Assembly and to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the organisation. Chaired by President Jari Nahkanen (Oulu Region), the one-day event was hosted virtually by Helsinki-Uusimaa Region (watch the video about Helsinki-Uusimaa) and gathered over 100 participants. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss with representatives from the European Parliament and the European Commission about key issues at stake for Baltic Sea regions.

Addressing CPMR BSC Member Regions, CPMR President Mr Cees Loggen (Region Minister of Noord-Holland) emphasised the role of CPMR Member Regions to play a prominent role in tackling climate change, and that Baltic Sea regions are frontrunners in terms of promoting sustainability.

Since 2021 marks the 25th anniversary of the CPMR BSC, a specific session was organised to celebrate regional cooperation and the achievements of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission over the years. Three prominent figures that have marked Baltic Sea Region cooperation, Mr Erik Bergkvist, Member of the European Parliament, Mr Alexander Stubb, Director of School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute of Florence and Ms Annika Annerby Jansson, President of the Regional Council of Skåne and former CPMR President (2013-2014), shared their views on the current challenges and opportunities for Baltic Sea region cooperation. They stressed the importance of close cooperation to achieve the green transition and in promoting sustainability in all policy areas.
The afternoon session focused on EU maritime policies under the lens of maritime coastal regions’ political priorities and needs. In her keynote speech, Ms Charlina Vitcheva, Director General of DG MARE acknowledged the role of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission as a key long-term partner of DG MARE and the crucial role of the regional level to contribute to realising the Sustainable Blue Economy approach, launched recently by the European Commission.

In addressing Ms Charlina Vitcheva, Ms Tiina Perho (SouthWest Finland), Chair of the CPMR BSC Maritime Working Group stressed the importance of involving regional and local authorities in the implementation of a sustainable blue economy. She asked about the role of regions in the newly established Blue Forum. As DG MARE was finalising the preparation of a new EU Arctic Policy, Mr Tomas Mörtsell (Region Västerbotten), leader of the CPMR BSC Arctic Task Force, emphasised the need to balance environmental, economic and security issues in the new EU Arctic Policy. Mr Markku Markkula (Helsinki-Uusimaa Region), Chair of the CPMR BSC Energy and Climate Working Group raised the key role of regions in the newly established EU Missions.

Finally, Mr Bosse Andersson (Stockholm Region), Chair of the CPMR BSC Transport Working Group, welcomed the strategic choice of the European Commission to support the diversification of ports’ activities in the new sustainable blue economy, and asked how the EU will support this diversification.

In the session dedicated to the role of regions in building a prosperous Baltic Sea Region, guest speakers included Mr Olav Berstad, Chair of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and representing the Norwegian chairmanship, Ms Simeona Manova from the cabinet of EU Commissioner for Regional Policy and Mr Pyri Niemi, President of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference. In their address to guest speakers, BSC Members Ms Åsa Johansson (Region Värmland), Mr Jaakko Mikkola (Kymenlaakso Region), Mr Wolf Born (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) stressed the added value, challenges and opportunities regarding cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation, cooperation with non-EU Member States such as Norway and Russia, as well as the importance of the strong territorial dimension of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

During the General Assembly, participants had the opportunity to participate in break-out sessions dedicated to the topics of:

- **Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme**: Mr Jozsef Attila Darabos, Project Officer, Joint Secretariat of Interreg Baltic Sea Programme, presented the opportunities in the new Interreg BSR programme for CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Member Regions. Presentation available [HERE](#).

- **Interact Maritime cooperation**: Mr Philipp Schwartz, Interact, Knowledge of the Seas network, who gave information on Interreg maritime cooperation. Video available [HERE](#).

- **Cohesion Policy**: Mr Francesco Molica, Director for Regional Policy discussed with Member Regions the programme delays, and the impact of recovery plans on Cohesion Policy. Presentation available [HERE](#).
Look at the documents presented and adopted during the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly 2021

**Photo album for 25th anniversary of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission** to celebrate the evolution and achievements of the organisation over the years. Enjoy the happy memories!

**BSC Work Plan 2021-2023**, presenting the mission, vision and goals of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission for the two years ahead.

**BSC Activity Report 2020-2021**, highlighting the work accomplished during the past year in CPMR BSC core policy work related to transport, energy/climate, maritime, EUSBSR and Arctic issues. The aim of this publication is to give you a grasp of the scope of CPMR BSC action and influence. Enjoy reading!

**BSC 2021 Resolution**, adopted by CPMR Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly, conveys key policy messages to EU decision-makers concerning issues of high relevance to its Member Regions.
Members of the CPMR got together on 14 October in a virtual meeting to celebrate the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions' 49th General Assembly. The meeting was chaired by President Cees Loggen. The agenda of the meeting was built around three main topics: EU recovery, maritime policies, and climate proof connectivity from a regional perspective – and included speakers from the CPMR member regions as well as external guests. Secretary General Eleni Marianou presented the strategic objectives of the CPMR as an organisation in the long term, as well as the policy action plans for the upcoming months.

Guest speakers included Mr Younous Omarjee, Chair of the REGI Committee of the European Parliament, Ms Karima Delli, Chair of the TRAN Committee of the European Parliament, Mr Erik Bergkvist Member of the European Parliament, Ms Charlina Vitcheva, Director General of DG MARE and others.

The CPMR Final Declaration adopted by the CPMR General Assembly, enunciates the long-term political messages from the CPMR concerning policy issues of high relevance to its members. The CPMR calls on the CoFoE to take stock in its policy messages to develop concrete recommendations and proposals.

On 14 October, the CPMR Political Bureau approved Region Östergötland’s (SE) application to become a Member of the CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission. At the CPMR General Assembly, Mr Martin Tollén, Vice-Chair, Regional Development Committee of Östergötland, presented the Region and its policy priorities. On behalf of CPMR and its Baltic Sea Commission, a warm welcome to Östergötland! Learn more about the Region here.
On 26 October, about 30 regional representatives attended the BSC Transport Working Group meeting, which was chaired by Mr Bosse Andersson (Region Stockholm), together with Vice-Chair, Mr Magnus Lagergren (Örebrö). The BSC Transport Working Group discussed the use of alternative fuels in the transport sector.

Mr Jorgen Bjerre, Deputy Head of Unit at DG MOVE (European Commission) presented the Fit for 55 package which was adopted by the Commission on 14 July 2021 (see his presentation here). This set of legislative proposals should help contribute to reducing emissions with measures to preserve nature and create job opportunities in the heart of the green transformation. He explained the “basket of measures” for waterborne transport. Several initiatives have been taken to stimulate the transition in the maritime sector to reduce emissions.

He presented in closer detail the FuelEU Maritime initiative. He said that it is a big challenge to reduce the maritime sector’s use of fossil fuels. The FuelEU comprises targets at 5-year intervals from 2025 to 2050 and is technology neutral. It also contains requirements for ports to use zero-emission energy technology as of 2030.

Mr Bjerre also presented the maritime aspect of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), which otherwise has a strong focus on road infrastructure. Member Regions had the opportunity to comment on the new legislative package. Mr Lucas Bosser, CPMR Director for Transport, welcomed the new regulation on Alternative Fuels (AFIR). He stressed that Baltic countries are forerunners on the use of onshore power supply (OPS) in ports. This raises some questions about the EUFuel Maritime initiative according to social acceptance when looking at hydrogen or ammonium storage.

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to the presentation of examples in the regions of the promotion of the use of alternatives fuels in the transport sector. Mr Henrik Dahlsson, Senior Advisor, Sustainable Transport at Scania, made a presentation on sustainable transport from Scania’s perspective. Mr Pekka Komu, Business Development Manager from Lahti Region Development LADEC, made a presentation on Lahti GEM – Green Electrification of Mobility Cluster. Ms Britt Karlsson, Region Skåne, made a presentation about a study on Clean Fuel Deployment in the Northern Scandria Region.

The BSC Transport Working Group decided to develop a mapping exercise on alternative fuels to share regional experiences among BSC Member Regions. The organisation of a joint seminar on TEN-T in spring 2022, by the Transport Working Groups of the Baltic Sea Commission and North Sea Commission was also announced. More information here.
On 22 October, the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission together with Informal Baltic Sea Group co-organised an event on the topic of ports, in the framework of the SEArca Intergroup (Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas) of the European Parliament. On 17 May 2021, the European Commission released a Communication on “a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future”, setting out actions and principles.

The Communication sets a particular role for ports, as hubs of the blue economy, providing the basis for an ecosystem of blue innovative businesses. Indeed, ports can play a major role in delivering clean energy, green transport, circular economy and digital transformation.

The seminar explored to what extent Baltic Sea ports are at the forefront of this process. The meeting was opened by Ms Henna Virkkunen (Finland/EPP), Member of the European Parliament (MEP), who stressed that ports and maritime transport have an important role in reducing carbon emissions and creating sustainable transport opportunities. MEP Nicklas Nienass (Germany/Green), MEP Magdalena Adamowicz (Poland/EPP) and MEP Jytte Guteland (Sweden/S&D) emphasised the multifunctional roles of Baltic Sea ports in advancing regional development but also in fostering the green transition. This was illustrated by concrete examples from the ports of Rostock and Helsingborg, as well as Gävle port, where Mr Jan Lahrenkorva presented the key actions already taken by ports in the green transition. They pointed out good practices but also remaining challenges in terms of regulation and financings.

Representatives from the European Investment Bank and CINEA, as well as DG MARE presented EU support for this new programming period in further developing Baltic Sea ports beyond transshipment and logistics, making them multiple hubs.

Please find HERE the recording of the meeting.
News about the CPMR BSC Arctic Task Force

CPMR BSC involvement in the 11th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy of the Baltic Sea Region

Hosted by Lithuania, the 11th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region took place in hybrid format in October. The event focused on the recovery of the Baltic Sea Region and the role of the macro-regional strategy to address current challenges.

In the framework of the Annual Forum, the CPMR BSC Arctic Task Force organised a seminar on the topic “Connect the Baltic Sea Region with the Arctic Region – Ways to unlock the potential for sustainable development and to realise the ambitions of the EU Green Deal”. The seminar gathered about 80 participants and guest speakers, including Mr Michael Mann EU Ambassador for Arctic Affairs, Mr Jari Vilen Finnish Ambassador, Esa Kokkonen EUSBSR Policy Area Innovation and Mr Tomas Norvoll Chair of the County Government of Norland.

In light of the revision of a new Action Plan for the EUSBSR (putting emphasis on cooperation with Iceland, Russia and Norway), and also the revision of a new EU Arctic Policy in 2021, this seminar explored how the Baltic Sea interlinks with the European Arctic, how the two macro-regional territories can connect, complement and strengthen each other to unlock potential for sustainable development in these territories and contribute to achieving the Green Deal.

The seminar was also an opportunity to showcase existing examples, fostering green and sustainable development, at the gateway to the Arctic and on top of the Baltic Sea, on the topics of sustainable aviation, batteries and forestry.

In concluding the seminar, Michael Mann referred to the implementation of the new EU Arctic Policy, saying that the EEAS and European Commission are looking for the assistance of politicians, administrations, interest groups, businesses across the Arctic and that the CPMR BSC Task Force and its Members would play an important role in this. Watch the video of the seminar HERE

Participation of the CPMR BSC President and Executive Secretary in the Arctic Circle Conference in Iceland

On 14-17 November, the Arctic Circle International Conference took place in Reykjavik in Iceland. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the new EU Arctic Policy by EU Commissioner Sinkevičius, setting out the key features of the new policy. Watch his speech here.
The conference was an opportunity for representatives of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission to convey the view of the organisation on the newly published EU Arctic Policy to Michael Mann, EU Special Envoy for Arctic Matters, but also to strengthen contacts with representatives from Scotland, Faroes Islands, and other importance partners. In the picture, CPMR BSC President Jari Nahkanen and Ms Ásthildur Sturludóttir, Mayor of Akureyri Municipality in Iceland, who took part in the CPMR BSC Arctic Task Force meeting in March 2021.

CPMR BSC Arctic Task Force welcomes the new EU Arctic Policy but calls for a strong involvement of regions in its implementation

The CPMR BSC Arctic Task Force has welcomed the European Commission’s and European External Action Service’s (EEAS) Joint Communication on the Arctic published on 13 October 2021. The Task Force embraces in particular the growing role of the European Union on Arctic matters, set out in the Communication. The EU has a major role to play in Arctic matters for the realisation of the Green Deal and for promoting sustainable economic, social and territorial development in Arctic regions for the benefit of all EU citizens.

Mr Tomas Mörtsell, Chair of the Arctic Task Force (Region Västerbotten, Sweden) emphasises “The new EU Arctic Policy is a good step forward to reinforce sustainable territorial development in the Arctic while addressing complex challenges linked to climate change. However, to realise the full potential in the Arctic, it is vital to involve regional and local authorities in the EU’s implementation efforts, since they have a strategic role to help identify key investment priorities and through further cooperation create the conditions to develop a sustainable Arctic Policy that benefits all.”

Read more HERE

All CPMR Regions interested in joining the Arctic Task Force are very welcome. Please contact the BSC Secretariat. More information on the Arctic Task Force to follow soon.

2021 calendar related to Arctic issues

9 November: European Parliament Arctic Friendship Group
10 November: EU Arctic Forum, Brussels
11 November: Arctic indigenous peoples’ dialogue, Brussels
14-17 November: Arctic spirit, Rovaniemi
6-7 December: Arctic Futures Symposium, Brussels
Cooperation with other pan-Baltic organisations

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) celebrated its 30th anniversary

On 30 August 2021, parliamentarians of the BSPC came together online for their 30th anniversary conference with high-level representatives. Chaired by BSPC President Pyry Niemi, the one day conference addressed cooperation in the Baltic Sea region, democracy in a changing media landscape as well as a general debate on restarting after the COVID-19 pandemic. BSPC parliamentarians adopted unanimously a Resolution, available HERE. At the invitation of BSPC President Pyry Niemi, Mr Jari Nahkanen, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission addressed parliamentarians, and stressed the importance of close cooperation between the regional and national level to ensure a more prosperous Baltic Sea Region and addressed challenges related to climate change, territorial accessibility and a healthier Baltic Sea. More information can be read here.

Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

During the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly, Mr Olav Berstad, Chair of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and representing the Norwegian chairmanship addressed Member Regions. During the upcoming meeting of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Executive Committee, on 9 November in Stockholm, Mr Poznanski, Secretary General of CBSS will present recent activities and discuss areas of future cooperation with CPMR BSC.

Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) Annual Conference

On 7 October, the BSSSC held its Annual Conference in hybrid format in Kalingrad. In the Resolution adopted during the Conference, BSSSC supports the amendments proposed by the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission about the design of the future TEN-T network (available here), and stressed the close cooperation with the CPMR and other pan-Baltic organisations.

HELCOM adopts a new Action Plan for a healthier Baltic Sea and marine environment

HELCOM adopted an updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) during the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021 that took place on 20 October. This roadmap contains about 200 concrete actions that were developed to tackle the pressures the Baltic Sea is facing today. It should help to improve the ecological state of the Baltic Sea, which still heavily suffers from hazardous substances, eutrophication and the excessive concentration of nutrients in the sea.

During the next BSC Maritime Working Group meeting (December, date tbc), a representative of HELCOM will be invited to present the updated Action Plan and to discuss with Member Regions about the contribution of the regional level and CPMR BSC in the implementation of the Action Plan.
ZOOM ON RECENT CPMR POLICY WORK

- CPMR Press release about the Social Climate Fund

- CPMR initiative “territories matter”, briefing on a seminar about a more territorial EU economic governance framework for a post-COVID scenario

- CPMR Activity Report 2020-2021

- CPMR analysis on “programming delays: a comparison with previous periods and a look at future implications”

- CPMR Final Declaration 2021 adopted by CPMR General Assembly

- CPMR analysis on transport “toward an objective criterion for territorial accessibility”

- The CPMR has its say on the Future of Europe – CPMR

More information about CPMR activities:

CPMR Europe

CPMR facebook page

https://cpmr.org (website)
Dear Gustav, can you, in a few words, describe your region - Stockholm?

The Stockholm region is an incredibly beautiful region with both metropolitan and rural areas. Lake Mälaren, the Baltic Sea and the Stockholm archipelago makes the Stockholm region very attractive for living, working, and staying. The Stockholm region also has a rich historical cultural heritage and dynamic innovation environments. People who live here are driven, creative and innovative. We are good at many things and at the top of a various numbers of international and European rankings, for example ICT, Live Sciences and Cleantech. However, we also have challenges for sustainable regional development in areas such as climate change, energy, transport, housing, and employment.

The Stockholm region is ranked as the most competitive and innovative region within the EU, has this affected your view of the region's role in the EU?

Through the exchange of knowledge, we can learn from each other, which can accelerate the development of regions in the EU towards sustainability. To be a highly competitive and innovative metropolitan region in a rather peripheral EU Member State, poses challenges for knowledge exchange and for being an active part in the development of Europe. We need good connectivity to other parts of Europe, but also strong alliances to push for sustainable development and openness in Europe. Questions about climate and energy, maritime environments, sustainable transport, and a well-functioning European community are central to us. The BSC and CPMR play a very important role in influencing EU policy-making and that is why Region Stockholm chooses to be actively involved within the BSC and CPMR. Sharing our knowledge and experience to drive sustainable regional development is an important part of our involvement.

→ Regional Chair for Growth, Regional Planning, and the Archipelago
→ 1st Vice-Chair of the Regional Board
→ Alternate Member of the BSC Executive Committee
What are the Stockholm region’s major challenges for recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic, and how can the region contribute to the recovery of the EU?

If the Stockholm region is to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and maintain its position at the top of several international rankings, there are several challenges we need to address. We have high unemployment in certain social groups and at the same time a strong business community that is hampered by a shortage of labour. The housing shortage in the region is also a challenge, not least to be able to offer housing for young people. Together with national and regional stakeholders we need to strengthen the region’s accessibility and connectivity, continue to develop a well-functioning housing supply, and improve the matching of all people’s skills with job vacancies.

What is the Stockholm region’s focus in terms of EU Transport Policy and the region’s accessibility within the Baltic Sea Region and the EU?

The Stockholm region is working to have a more sustainable transport sector. We need to reduce congestion on our roads, electrify the vehicle fleet and create space for commercial traffic. The region also aims for 70 percent of all travel in 2030 to take place by public transport, bicycle, or walking, where bicycle should make up 20 percent of all travel. The Stockholm region is dependent on good international transport of both people and goods. It is especially important to create a stronger hub on the Oslo-Stockholm-Helsinki/Tallinn axis. Within the CPMR, we therefore want to develop TEN-T lanes, promote cooperation on sustainable urban mobility and create more environmentally friendly and sustainable freight transport by water and rail.

Travel restrictions due to the pandemic are being eased within the EU, how can we ensure that post-pandemic tourism can develop in a sustainable way?

We need to get tourists to discover our entire beautiful region and not just the city centre itself. The Stockholm region has several nature reserves, national parks, and the Stockholm archipelago is directly in connection with the city centre. The Stockholm region has recently decided to develop a suitable route for a national cycle path, and a plan to get a season extension in the archipelago, which we hope will benefit the sustainable tourism industry and benefit our island communities. Climate adaptation of aviation and sea connections in the Baltic Sea and better railway connections to Oslo can reduce the climate impact of the many visitors we want to welcome to our region.

How are you involved in the BSC and CPMR and what are the major added values for Region Stockholm of being a member?

Right now, I am a Substitute Member in the BSC Executive Committee and one of Region Stockholm’s representatives in the CPMR. I have recently taken the initiative for a network with ten other Swedish regions to work together and influence the EU, the national government, parliament, and national authorities to create conditions for sustainable and locally based commercial fishing. We will present and discuss
the efforts of the network in the next meeting of the BSC Maritime Working Group. Europe is a relatively small continent, but there are many countries and regions with different conditions, needs and political views on how development should take place, at regional, national, and European level. That is why cooperation, like with the BSC and the CPMR, is needed to link the regions to develop common views and positions on issues of importance for the development of regions. Through regional cooperation within the BSC and the CPMR we also facilitate cooperation between the Member States and thereby create conditions for solving problems at European level. A Member State alone cannot solve the climate challenges we face, or for that matter challenges for the Baltic Sea regarding environment and fishing. The EU has a crucial role to play here. With increased consensus between regions and improved exchange of knowledge and ideas, together we can strengthen Europe's capacity to solve common problems and address common challenges.

Thank you very much Gustav, we are looking forward to further discussing with you soon!

Region Stockholm Budget 2021 in figures (113 billion SEK = 11.3 billion EUR)

Region Stockholm’s Budget 2021: “Bringing Stockholm forward together”

Our vision is an attractive, sustainable, and growing Stockholm region with freedom for its residents to shape their lives and make active decisions.

Our core missions are regulated by law. All day, every day, Region Stockholm offers high-quality healthcare and world-class public transport. We are also responsible for regional development in the county, contributing to the cultural life and conveying the county's voice through strong leadership.

Region Stockholm collaborates with the county's twenty-six municipalities, commercial and business life, and academia. We create new solutions together. We strive together for what is best for the Stockholm region and have an ongoing dialogue with the government, parliament, state authorities, and the EU.

More information on regionstockholm.se
The Stockholm County
(Source: ekonomifakta.se)

- Covers 6,514 square kilometres of land area and has 2,391,990 inhabitants, which is the highest in Sweden (2020)
- The value for population growth is the third highest in Sweden with 3.6 percent, on a three-year basis (2017-2020)
- The share of entrepreneurs is the fourth highest in Sweden with 7.2 percent (2019)
- Start-ups are the highest in the Sweden with 14.8 per 1,000 inhabitants, 16-64 years (2020)

RUFS 2050
The regional development plan for the Stockholm region, RUFS 2050, expresses the collective will of the region. It provides guidance and points out the long-term direction for our region. It forms the basis for the spatial planning and is a starting point for growth in the region in the next eight years. The plan ensures that we all work in the same direction and together realise what we have agreed upon.

More information: RUFS 2050 Summary

CHALLENGES
Based on the unique conditions of the Stockholm region, the global and macro-regional influences and on various development assessments, six long-term challenges have been identified for the Stockholm region. They are summarised as follows:

1. To facilitate population growth and simultaneously improve the region’s environment and the health of the inhabitants
2. To tackle capacity deficiencies at the same time as needs continue to grow
3. To be an internationally leading metropolitan region in growing global competition
4. To reduce negative climate impact and, at the same time, enable greater accessibility and economic growth
5. To continue to be an open region and, at the same time, strengthen inclusion
6. To increase security in the region at a time when the world is seen as unsafe

VISION
The vision for RUFS 2050 is for the Stockholm region to be Europe’s most attractive metropolitan region. Everyone who lives, works, and visits the region should find it attractive. Attractiveness is an individual factor and differs between people – which is why it is important that we put people in focus when we plan. It also means that we can create a region that is sustainable over a long time and can adapt to different changes.

GOALS
Four overall goals describe what the region should be like in 2050.

1. An accessible region with a good living environment
2. An open, equal, and inclusive region
3. A leading growth and knowledge region
4. A resource-efficient and resilient region with no climate-affecting emissions

The goals are broken down into measurable targets that are to be achieved by 2030. The regional priorities are the areas that the region should focus on to develop during the plan’s period of validity, 2018–2026. Images used in the interview are owned by Stockholm Region
The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) represents more than 150 regional authorities from 24 countries across Europe and beyond. Organised in Geographical Commissions, the CPMR works to ensure that a balanced territorial development is at the heart of the European Union and its policies. One of these Commissions is the Baltic Sea Commission, made up of 19 Regions from Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Germany.