

28th General Assembly  
of the CPMR  
Baltic Sea Commission  
19 - 20 september 2023  
Umeå - Vaasa



@wasaline



CPMR  
BALTIC SEA  
COMMISSION



Regional Council  
of Ostrobothnia

## 28<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CPMR BALTIC SEA COMMISSION 19-20 SEPTEMBER 2023 | UMEÅ AND VAASA

Hosted by Region Västerbotten (Sweden) and Region Ostrobothnia (Finland)

**Navigating to a sustainable, resilient,  
innovative and well-connected Baltic Sea Region**

Watch the video from Ostrobothnia and Västerbotten:

> [Two countries - one world natural heritage summer nature - YouTube](#) <

Day 1: Meeting in Umeå (Sweden) at **Umeå Folkets Hus** (Vasaplan 901 09 Umeå)

Day 2: Meeting in Korsholm (Finland) at **Adult Education Centre of Korsholm** (Skolvägen 1 Korsholm)

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Participants are recommended to always have their luggage(s) with them since it's a moving Assembly.

### Tuesday 19 September 2023

#### Study visit Umeå Energi (optional)

**08.00-08.30:** Arrival and welcome coffee at [P5-Väven](#), Storgatan 46a, Umeå, 5<sup>th</sup> floor

**08.30-09.15:** Presentation [Umeå Energi](#)

**09.30-10.00:** Arrival and welcome coffee at the General Assembly meeting venue (Folkets Hus, Vasaplan)

**10.00-14.45:** [BSC General Assembly](#) Umeå Folkets Hus, Vasaplan, 901 09 Umeå

**15.00:** [Bus transfer](#) from the meeting venue to Umeå harbour

**16.45-21.15:** [Ferry cruise](#) from Umeå to Vaasa

**21.15:** [Bus transfer](#) from Vaasa harbour to the 2 recommended hotels

### Wednesday 20 September 2023

**08.00:** [Bus transfer](#) from the recommended hotels to the meeting venue

*/!\ Participants are invited to go either in Bus 1 or Bus 2 according the time of their flights or ferry back. Participants can let their luggage(s) in the bus.*

Bus 1: For participants taking the SAS flight at 15.30

Bus 2: For participants taking either the ferry Wasaline at 14:30 or taking the Finnair flight at 17.40 or going back to the city after the visit of Wärtsilä

**08.30-11.15:** [BSC General Assembly](#) Adult Education Centre of Korsholm, Skolvägen 1, 65610 Korsholm

**11.15:** [Bus transfer](#) to restaurant

**11.30-12.15:** [Lunch](#) at Strampen, Rantakatu 6, Vaasa

**12-15:12.30:** [Bus transfer](#) to [Wärtsilä Sustainable Technology Hub](#), Teollisuuskatu 1, Vaasa

**12.30-13.45:** [Study visit](#) of Wärtsilä

After Wärtsilä's visit, 13:45 bus transfer:

- **Bus 1:** goes to the airport for participants taking the **SAS flight at 15.30**
- **Bus 2:** goes to the ferry terminal for the **ferry at 14:30**, to the airport for participants taking the **Finnair flight at 17.40**, to the city

## AGENDA

TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 (Umeå)	
08:00-09:15	<p>Presentation <a href="#">Umeå Energi</a> (venue: <a href="#">P5-Väven</a>, Storgatan 46a, Umeå, 5 floor)</p> <hr/> <p><b>08.00-08:30:</b> Arrival &amp; welcome coffee at <a href="#">P5-Väven</a>, Storgatan 46a, Umeå, 5<sup>th</sup> floor</p> <p><b>08.30-09.15:</b> Presentation <a href="#">Umeå Energi</a></p> <hr/> <p><i>Learn more about how Umeå Energi contributes to deliver sustainable energy and solutions in Region Västerbotten. CEO Jan Ridfeldt together with colleagues will speak about the role of Umeå Energi as a facilitator for growth and green transition in the region, from climate emissions to circularity and sustainable urban development.</i></p>
General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission	
Umeå Folkets Hus (Vasaplan, 901 09 Umeå)	
09:30	Welcome coffee
10:00-10:20	<p><b><u>Session 1: Opening session</u></b></p> <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Mr Tomas Mörtzell</b>, President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Region Västerbotten</li><li>- <b>Mr Davide Strangis</b>, Deputy Secretary General of CPMR</li><li>- Video message from <b>Mr Erik Bergkvist</b>, Member of the European Parliament</li></ul> <p>Statutory issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Approval of the Agenda</li><li>- Approval of the Minutes, Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly in 2022</li></ul>
10:20-11:05	<p><b><u>Session 2: Meeting regional challenges under a different geopolitical landscape in the Baltic Sea Region</u></b></p> <p><i>Since 2022, the global geopolitical landscape has fundamentally changed, and with it also the framework conditions for cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. This session aims to highlight the impact of these changes on regional authorities and which role pan-baltic organisations, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the EU can play to better meet these challenges. The session will discuss also how best promote jointly Baltic Sea Region's interests in view of a renewed European Parliament and College of Commissioners in 2024.</i></p>

	<p>Moderation: <b>Mr Wolf Born</b>, Head of Unit "Baltic Sea Policy and Cooperation", Ministry of Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs Mecklenburg-Vorpommern</p> <p>Panel discussion with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms Helena Tuuri</b>, Finnish Ambassador for Baltic Sea Affairs - Future of the Baltic Sea Region from CBSS perspective</li> <li>- <b>Ms Alda Nikodemusa</b>, Head of Secretariat Baltic Sea Region Spatial Planning Initiative VASAB - presentation of <a href="#">VASAB vision 2040 for a vibrant, resilient and well-connected Baltic Sea Region</a></li> </ul> <p>Debate with BSC Member Regions</p>
<p><b>11:05-12:00</b></p>	<p><b><u>Session 3: Defending cohesion through reforms... but what kind of reforms mid-term and long-term?</u></b></p> <p><i>Due to geopolitical changes, financial pressures on the EU budget and rigidities of Cohesion Policy, there is a growing risk that reforms weaken the territorial dimension of the policy for the period post-2027. The CPMR and its Member Regions have been engaged in developing constructive reform proposals to ensure that Cohesion Policy retains its territorial dimension in line with the subsidiarity principle and multi-level governance while improving the policy performance on the ground. (Cf. <a href="#">CPMR proposals on simplification</a>, and CPMR proposals on Interreg).</i></p> <p><i>This interactive session will start with an update on the state of play in the debate on the future of Cohesion Policy, followed by an exchange where BSC Member Regions will be invited to share their concerns as well as proposals to reform Cohesion Policy post-2027.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the state of play of Cohesion Policy and the revision of the mid-term EU budget by <b>Mr Jorge Nunez Ferrer</b>, CPMR Director for Regional Policy</li> </ul> <p>Debate with BSC Member Regions</p>
<p><b>12:00-13:00</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
<p><b>13:00-13:15</b></p>	<p><b><u>Session 4: Membership</u></b></p> <p>Welcome to Lapland! Presentation of Lapland by <b>Ms Tanja Joona</b>, Member of the Board of the Regional Council of Lapland</p>

13:15-14:45

### Session 5: Strengthening innovativeness and regional innovation collaboration in the Baltic Sea Region – perspectives and challenges

*Several EU policy statements stress that regions and cities need to increase their innovativeness. This requires conscious transformation processes using the best knowledge of both top-down and bottom-up experiences. Every region and every organisation can and should develop its strategic and operational work processes. This session is focusing on the new European instruments, as well as regional experiences on THE UPGRADED ROLE OF INNOVATION. Useful information will be delivered on the prospects of developing the regional innovation ecosystems.*

#### 1-What can the Partnership for Regional Innovation mean for territorial transformation and strengthening innovation in the Baltic Sea Region?

**Moderator: Mr Markku Markkula**, Chair of the BSC Energy and Climate Working Group (Helsinki-Uusimaa), CoR Vice-President and Rapporteur on both the EU Missions and the New European Innovation Agenda

- Opening statement by **Mr Markku Markkula** on what does becoming an innovative city or region forerunner require and how the forerunners support other cities and the EU?
- Presentation of the PRI as a new strategic approach to innovation-driven territorial transformation, linking EU priorities with national plans and place-based opportunities and challenges by **Dr Johan Stierna**, Senior Policy Officer, Joint Research Center Seville, European Commission – *online participation*
- Experiences on increasing targeted regional innovation activities – the case of S3 Västerbotten Roadmap, by **Dr Jukka Teräs**, CEO, Norrum Oy

#### 2-Regional views on the Partnership for Regional Innovation

- Regional experiences:
  - o **Ms Talvikki Jori**, Deputy Board Member Southwest Finland, CPMR Vice-President in charge of maritime affairs
  - o **Mr Jerker Johnson**, Coordinator International Affairs, Ostrobothnia
  - o **Ms Kajsa Sundström Van Zeveren**, Head of Region Värmland European office Brussels
  - o **Mr Jonas Lundström**, Head of Enterprise, Innovation and Social Development Region Västerbotten
- Perspectives and challenges to take a macro-regional approach to regional innovation by **Mr Esa Kokkonen**, Coordinator of Policy Area Innovation of the EUSBSR, Director of Baltic Institute of Finland

Concluding remarks, **Mr Markku Markkula**, Chair of the BSC Energy/Climate Working Group (Helsinki-Uusimaa)



14:45	Break
15:00	Bus transfer from Umeå city to the port of Umeå
<p>16:45 Swedish Time</p> <p>–</p> <p>21:15 Finnish Time</p> <p>(duration about 4 hours)</p>	<p><b>Crossing the Baltic Sea via the Aurora Botnia ferry</b></p> <p><b>16:45-17:15: Departure by boat and mingling</b></p> <p>Welcome remarks by <b>Mr Rickard Carstedt</b>, Chair of the Regional Development Committee of Region Västerbotten</p> <p><b><u>Session 6: Building resilient transport systems in light of a new geopolitical environment in the Baltic Sea Region and EU</u></b></p> <p><b>Moderation: Ms Lotta Rönström</b>, Senior Advisor at North Sweden EU Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr Mathias Lindström</b>, Director of Kvarken Council</li> <li>- <b>Ms Sari Nurro</b>, Chair of the BSC Maritime Working Group (Oulu Region)</li> <li>- <b>Mr Tarmo Ots</b>, Coordinator of Policy Area Transport of the EUSBSR, Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications</li> <li>- <b>Ms Åsa Ågren Wikström</b>, Vice-Chair of the Regional Development Committee of Region Västerbotten and Vice Chairperson of the Scandria Alliance</li> <li>- <b>Mr Magnus Lagergren</b>, Chair of the BSC Transport Working Group (Örebro Region)</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dinner - Archipelago buffet (19:30 Finnish time)</li> </ul>
21:15	<p><b>Arrival at Vaasa harbour and bus transfer to Vaasa city</b></p> <p>Bus transfer to the following hotels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scandic Vaasa (Rosteninkatu 6)</li> <li>- Original Sokos Hotel Vaakuna (Shopping Mal Rewell 101)</li> </ul>
<b>WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER (Korsholm)</b>	
08:00	<p><b>Departure by bus from the hotels to the meeting venue (Adult Education Centre of Korsholm, Skolvägen 1)</b></p> <p>Participants will split into two groups in buses according to their travel arrangements:</p>

	<p><b>Bus 1:</b> For participants that will fly with SAS airline at 15:30 (must be one hour in advance)</p> <p><b>Bus 2:</b> For participants that will take the ferry back to Umeå at 14:30 (must be 30 minutes in advance) and those who will fly with Finnair airline at 17:40 or have other connections, or for those going back to the city</p>
08:30-8:35	<p><b>Opening remarks, Mr Richard Sjölund</b>, Vice-President of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and Vice-Chair of the Board of Ostrobothnia</p>
08:35-09:45	<p><b><u>Session 7: Towards a more energy resilient Baltic Sea Region</u></b></p> <p><i>The session discusses how can regions work and cooperate to secure energy supply and promote clean energy transition in the Baltic Sea Region with the EU support and in face of climate change and geopolitical instability. Regional representatives will share their experiences, visions, actions and challenges on promoting a more energy resilient Baltic Sea Region.</i></p> <p>Video address by <b>Ms Elsi Katainen</b>, Member of the European Parliament</p> <p>Moderation by <b>Ms Britt Karlsson Green</b>, Strategist at Region Skåne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr Joakim Strand</b>, Member of Finnish Parliament and Chairman of the Board of the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia</li> <li>- <b>Ms Henna Hovi</b>, Member of the Board, Regional Council of Kymenlaakso</li> <li>- <b>Mr Pontus Lindberg</b>, Vice-Chair of the BSC Energy and Climate Working Group (Region Skåne)</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
09:45-10:00	<p><b><u>Session 8: BSC Activity Report 2022-2023</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the BSC Activity Report 2022-2023, by <b>Ms Lucille Ehrhart</b>, Executive Secretary of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission</li> </ul>
10:00-10:15	<p><b>Break</b></p>
10:15-10:45	<p><b><u>Session 9: BSC Internal Matters</u></b></p> <p><b>Financial reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the Financial Report for 2022, <b>Mr Tomas Mörtsell</b>, BSC President</li> <li>- Presentation of the Intermediary Financial report for 2023 by <b>Ms Hanna Honkamäkilä</b>, Oulu Region (Host of the BSC Secretariat for 2023-2024)</li> <li>- Presentation of the Forecast Budget for 2024</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion and vote</i></p>

	<p><b>Baltic Sea Commission Work Plan 2023-2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the proposal from the BSC Executive Committee for a BSC Work Plan 2023-2025</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion and vote</i></p>
<b>10:45-11:00</b>	<p><b><u>Session 10: BSC Resolution 2023</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the BSC Resolution, by <b>Mr Tomas Mörtzell</b>, BSC President</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion and vote</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information about the CPMR Manifesto</li> </ul>
<b>11:00 - 11:15</b>	<p><b><u>Session 11: Closing</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Next BSC <a href="#">statutory meetings</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Plenary meeting of the Baltic Sea Commission in the framework of the 2023 CPMR General Assembly (15-17 November, Saint-Malo)</li> <li>o 29th BSC General Assembly hosted by Kymenlaakso on 22-23 May 2024 in Kotka</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Closing speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Mr Richard Sjölund</b>, Vice-President of the Baltic Sea Commission</li> <li>o <b>Mr Tomas Mörtzell</b>, President of the Baltic Sea Commission</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>11:15</b>	<b>Bus transportation to Restaurant “Strampen” (Rantakatu 6, Vaasa)</b>
<b>11:30-12:15</b>	<b>Lunch at Strampen (Rantakatu 6, Vaasa)</b>
<b>12:15-13:45</b>	<b>Departure by bus from Strampen and to visit <a href="#">Wärtsilä Sustainable Technology Hub</a> (Teollisuuskatu 1)</b>
<b>13:45</b>	<p>Bus transfer.</p> <p>Participants will split into two groups according to their travel journey</p> <p><b>Bus 1:</b> For participants that will take the flight with <b>SAS at 15:30</b></p> <p><b>Bus 2:</b> For participants that will take the <b>ferry back to Umeå at 14:30</b> or the <b>fly with Finnair at 17:40</b> or have <b>other connections, or back to the city</b></p>