

# CPMR Baltic Sea Commission 29th General Assembly

21-22-23 May 2024  
Kymenlaakso Region, Kotka and Kouvola



CPMR BALTIC SEA  
COMMISSION

REGIONAL  
COUNCIL  
KYMEN  
LAAKSO

## 29<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CPMR BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

21-23 MAY 2024 | KOTKA

Hosted by Region Kymenlaakso (Finland)

### Security and cooperation for a resilient Baltic Sea Region

>> Click here to [watch a video about Kymenlaakso Region](#) <<

#### Programme:

- 21 May: Arrival and evening cocktail at the Maritime Museum of Finland
- 22 May: CPMR Baltic Sea Commission 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting
- 23 May: Study visit in the morning



# AGENDA

TUESDAY 21 MAY 2024	
16.50	Bus transfer from Helsinki-Vantaa airport to Kotka (arranged by the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso). Duration about 1h30.
18.15	Arrival in Kotka, <a href="#">Maritime Centre Vellamo</a> (Tornatorintie 99, Kotka)
18.30	Guided Tour of the museum
19.00	Welcome cocktail hosted by the city of Kotka and tour of the Maritime Museum of Finland, Vellamo (Address: Tornatorintie 99 A, Kotka)
20.00	Walk to and check-in at the Hotel Seurahuone (Keskuskatu 21, Kotka)
29 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission	
WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024 Kotka, Maritime Center Vellamo	
08.00-08.25	Arrival and welcome coffee
08.30-08.50	<p><b><u>Session 1: Opening Session</u></b></p> <p>Tribute to <b>Mr Erik Bergkvist</b> and <b>Mr Jari Nahkanen</b></p> <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms Henna Hovi</b>, Member of the Board of the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso, Host of the event</li> <li>- <b>Mr Tomas Mörtzell</b>, BSC President, Region Västerbotten</li> <li>- <b>Mr Davide Strangis</b>, CPMR Deputy Secretary General</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 2023</li> </ul>
08.50-09.40	<p><b><u>Session 2: EU elections 2024 – what issues at stake for Baltic Sea Regions?</u></b></p> <p><i>With the upcoming EU elections (6 to 9 June 2024), the European Parliament will be renewed, and a new College of Commissioners will take up office. The EU leaders will define a new roadmap for the European Union for the years ahead. The session aims to highlight how the debate about EU elections in the respective BSC countries and regions is going, and what BSC Members consider as key issues during these EU elections.</i></p> <p>Moderation: <b>Mr Davide Strangis</b>, CPMR Deputy Secretary General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Panel discussion with the following BSC Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Ms Bettina Martin</b> (Mecklenburg Vorpommern) (video message), Minister for Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Mr Richard Sjölund</b> (Region Ostrobothnia), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair of the Board, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, BSC Vice-President</li> <li>○ <b>Mr Romek Kosenkranius</b> (Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities), Mayor of Pärnu, BSC Vice-President</li> <li>○ <b>Mr Gustav Hemming</b> (Region Stockholm), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the Regional Council of Region Stockholm</li> </ul> <p>- Discussion / open floor for the audience</p>
<b>09.40-10.15</b>	<p><b><u>Session 3: Security and cooperation for a resilient Baltic Sea Region</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The impact of the war on border regions, presentation by <b>Dr Timo Hellenberg</b>, CEO of Hellenberg International Oy Ltd, an international research and analysis office</li> <li>- Discussion / open floor for the audience</li> </ul>
<b>10.15-10.40</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>10.40-11.55</b>	<p><b><u>Session 4: Ensuring safety and development in the Baltic Sea Region through Cohesion Policy</u></b></p> <p><i>As the European Commission is expected to present its proposal for a multiannual financial framework post-27 by July 2025, followed by a Cohesion Policy package, this session aims at discussing the views of BSC regions regarding the future of Cohesion Policy in a changing geopolitical context. Increased regional disparities caused by the geopolitical situation in the EU external border regions next to Russia must be seen as a risk at EU level. The session will also explore the future of Interreg in a Baltic Sea Region context. Lastly, as the EUSBSR Action Plan is about to be revised, this session will also highlight regional views on shaping a new Action Plan for the EUSBSR to increase impact and ownership of the Strategy.</i></p> <p>Moderation: <b>Ms Lucille Ehrhart</b>, BSC Executive Secretary</p> <p>Keynote speech: <b>Mr Petri Koistinen</b>, Policy Coordinator, DG REGIO, European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Panel discussion with regional representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Mr Filip Reinhag</b> (Region Gotland), Regional Commissioner</li> <li>○ <b>Mr Jaakko Mikkola</b> (Region Kymenlaakso), Regional Mayor</li> <li>○ <b>Ms Merike Niitepõld</b>, Head of Managing Authority of the Central Baltic Programme</li> <li>○ <b>Mr Wolf Born</b> (Mecklenburg Vorpommern), Head of Unit "Baltic Sea Policy and Cooperation" – Ministry of Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Discussion / open floor for the audience</li> </ul>

<p><b>11.55-12.15</b></p>	<p><b><u>Session 5: Membership</u></b></p> <p>Welcome to Västernorrland! Presentation by <b>Mr Jonny Lundin</b>, Chair of the Regional Development Committee of Region Västernorrland</p> <p>Welcome to Central Ostrobothnia! Presentation by <b>Mr Timo Pärkkä</b>, Chair of the Board of Region Central Ostrobothnia</p>
<p><b>12.15-13.25</b></p>	<p><b>Buffet lunch</b></p>
<p><b>13.30-14.25</b></p>	<p><b><u>Session 6: Adapting and strengthening the transport system in the Baltic Sea Region in light of both climate and geopolitical changes</u></b></p> <p><i>Cross-border transport connections within the Baltic Sea Region and with the rest of Europe is essential for the sustainable development and cohesion of the Baltic Sea Region. However, seamless transport of people and goods within the BSR remains a challenge. Furthermore, the current geopolitical unrest, fuelled largely by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, has caused major challenges related to transport, logistics and security of supply in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). This session will discuss what the conditions are to improve the security of supply in the Baltic Sea Region and raise the growing importance of dual use and military mobility.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Mr Frank Hering</b>, Planning Director, Regional Council of Kymenlaakso</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Mr Magnus Lagergren</b> (Region Örebro), Vice-Chairman</li> <li>o <b>Ms Silvia Koski</b> (Southwest Finland), Member of the Board</li> <li>o <b>Mr Jan Owe-Larsson</b> (Region Östergötland), Chair of the Transport and Urban Planning Committee</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Discussion / open floor for the audience</li> </ul>
<p><b>14.25-15.20</b></p>	<p><b><u>Session 7: Reinforcing energy security in the Baltic Sea Region</u></b></p> <p><i>The geopolitical situation has reinforced the need for energy security in Europe, including access to energy, having efficient energy infrastructures, diversifying energy sources and ensuring energy supply. This, combined with the EU goal of energy transition, requires a massive increase of clean energy production for the years ahead. This session will explore how the Baltic Sea regions are concretely working to find solutions to the need of increased sustainable energy production. It will showcase on-going regional initiatives and challenges in the field, elaborate what EU support is needed in terms of regulatory framework, funding schemes and what cooperation is needed.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms Britt Karlsson Green</b>, Strategist at Region Skåne</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Ms Sari Nurro</b> (Region Oulu), Member of the Board</li> <li>o <b>Mr Johan Loock</b> (Region Jämtland Härjedalen), Commissioner</li> <li>o <b>Mr Peter Johansson</b> (Region Värmland), Committee Member</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Discussion / open floor for the audience</li> </ul> <p><u>BSC Policy Position Paper on Hydrogen</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the BSC Policy Position Paper on hydrogen, by <b>Mr Pontus Lindberg</b> (Region Skåne), Member of Regional Parliament, Region Skåne</li> <li>- Discussion / open floor for the audience</li> <li>- Vote on the Policy Position Paper on Hydrogen</li> </ul>
<b>15.20-15.45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>15.45-16.25</b>	<p><u><b>Session 8: Securing stability and sustainable development of the European Arctic</b></u></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms Hanna Honkamäkilä</b>, Internal Affairs Strategist, Oulu Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Ms Tanja Joona</b> (Region Lapland), Deputy Member of Board</li> <li>o <b>Mr Glenn Berggård</b> (Region Norrbotten), Vice-Chair of the Regional Executive Board</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Presentation of the BSC Policy Position Paper on the Arctic</li> <li>- Discussion / open floor for the audience</li> <li>- Vote on the Policy Position Paper on Arctic</li> </ul>
<b>16.25-16.40</b>	<p><u><b>Session 9: BSC Resolution 2024</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the BSC Resolution 2024 “Building a secure, resilient, and robust Baltic Sea Region together”, by <b>Mr Tomas Mörtzell</b>, BSC President (Region Västerbotten)</li> <li>- Discussion / open floor for the audience</li> <li>- Vote on the BSC Resolution</li> </ul>
<b>16.40-17.10</b>	<p><u><b>Session 10: BSC Internal Matters</b></u></p> <p><b>Financial Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the BSC Financial Report for 2023, discussion and vote</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposal to increase the BSC Membership fee, discussion and vote</li> <li>- Presentation of the intermediary BSC Financial Report for 2024</li> <li>- Presentation of the proposal of a BSC Forecast Budget for 2025, discussion and vote</li> </ul> <p><b>BSC Activity Report 2023-2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the BSC Activity Report 2023-2024, <b>Ms Lucille Ehrhart</b>, BSC Executive Secretary</li> <li>- Discussion / open floor for the audience</li> <li>- Vote on the BSC Activity Report 2023-2024</li> </ul>
<b>17.10-17.30</b>	<p><b><u>Session 11: Future of the BSC Secretariat, Elections of BSC President, BSC Vice-Presidents and nomination of a new Executive Committee</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vote on the proposal on the future of the BSC Secretariat for 2025-2026</li> <li>- Vote on the proposal to extend the mandate of the BSC Executive Secretary for 2025-2026</li> <li>- Election of a BSC President for 2024-2026</li> <li>- Election of BSC Vice-Presidents 2024-2026</li> <li>- Nomination of the BSC Executive Committee 2024-2026</li> </ul>
<b>17.30-18.00</b>	<p><b><u>Session 12: Closing session</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closing remarks by <b>Ms Henna Hovi</b>, Member of the Board of the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso, Host of the event</li> <li>- Closing speech by the BSC President for 2024-2026</li> <li>- Group picture</li> </ul>
<b>19.30</b>	<b>Cocktail reception and dinner at event Centre Satama (Tornatorintie 102, Kotka)</b>
<b>THURSDAY 23 MAY (Kouvola)</b>	
<b>08.50-12.00</b>	<p><b>Study visit</b></p> <p>08.50: Meeting point at the entrance of the hotel</p> <p>09.15: Cruise on the sea along the Kotka coastline. Visit of Kokouri Fort Slava, Varissaari Island, etc. (The boat will leave from Sapokka)</p> <p>11.00 Lunch on the boat</p>
<b>12.15</b>	<b>Bus transfer</b> from the hotel to Helsinki airport (estimated arrival time is 14.15)