

EU Strategy for Baltic Sea region

16 September 2009

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EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region

The European Commission adopted a [Communication](#) on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region on 10 June 2009.

This followed a [request from EU Member States](#).

This is the first time that a comprehensive Strategy, covering several Community policies, is targeted on a 'macro-region'.

Eighty flagship projects are listed in the accompanying [Action Plan](#), which will be reviewed regularly.

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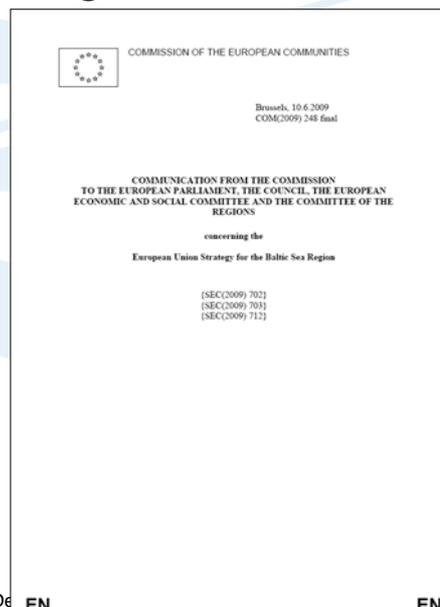
EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region

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http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/baltic/com_baltic_en.pdf

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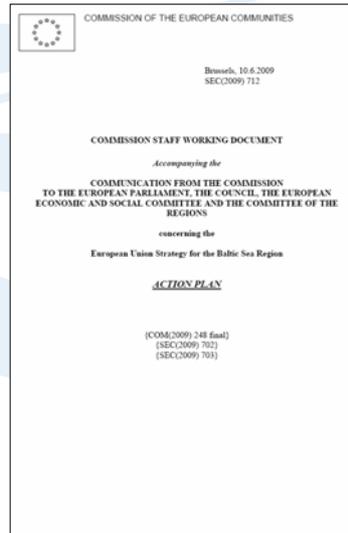
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EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region

The aim of the Strategy:

The Strategy aims at coordinating action by Member States, regions, the EU, pan-Baltic organisations, financing institutions and non-governmental bodies to promote a more balanced development of the Region.

The four *cornerstones* of the Strategy are to make this part of Europe more:

Environmentally sustainable (e.g. reducing pollution in the sea);

Prosperous (e.g. promoting innovation in small and medium enterprises);

Accessible and attractive (e.g. better transport links);

Safe and secure (e.g. improving accident response).

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All these parts have some connections to maritime issues.

The *Action plan* includes altogether

15 *Priority areas* within there are

80 *cooperative actions* which have

flagship projects

Some of them may be *FAST TRACK projects*.

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Safe and secure has a **Priority area 13** is *"To become a leading region in maritime safety and security"*.

Finland and Denmark are coordinating this area.

This includes e.g. a **cooperative action** *"Ensure that vessels, in particular those transporting energy products and other dangerous cargo, are up to the highest maritime safety standards"*.

This has a **flagship project** *"Speed up re-surveying for major shipping and ports"*, see more in the MWG Report under Agenda item F1.

Other flagship projects i.e.:

- *Become a pilot region for e-navigation*
- *Create a network of centres of excellence for maritime training*

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This has a **flagship project** *"Speed up re-surveying for major shipping and ports"*, see more in the MWG Report under Agenda item F1.

"Speed up re-surveying for major shipping and ports", as agreed in HELCOM, in order to ensure that safety of navigation is not endangered by inadequate source information.

(Lead: HELCOM in cooperation with the International Hydrographic Organisation;

Deadline for progress review: to be determined)."

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Several [convergence, competitiveness and co-operation programmes](#) are co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the Baltic Sea Region in the period 2007-2013.

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The Finnish Government has approved its [Baltic Sea Safety Program 2009 -2014](#), with the aim to improve the safety of navigation on the Baltic Sea by various developing actions within international cooperation.

It is also one of the priority issues for the Swedish EU Presidency (second half of 2009).

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What happens next?

The proposal is now being discussed by the European Parliament and Member States. Agreement is expected by the **end of the year**.

The EU strategy will be discussed at the **HELCOM MARITIME meeting on 24 - 26 November 2009** in Germany.

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MWG to report to the HELCOM MARITIME meeting on 24 - 26 November 2009 in Germany.

- Status of re-surveys
- Status of harmonisation of Chart Datums
- Status of ENC harmonisation actions
- Status of INT Chart coordination
- Status of MRG Baltic Sea (INT Chart status)

Issues to be discussed:

- Proposal to ensure that updated ENCs are used on VTS centres?
- Proposal to enhance training of mariners regarding the ECDIS and ENC issues?
- Other issues?

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3. Actions requested for the BSHC 14th Conference

- to take note on this Report
- to endorse reporting to HELCOM MARITIME 8
- to decide actions as seen appropriately

End of the presentation

Questions, comments?

Thank You!