



Swedish Presidency 2006–2007

DECLARATION
of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in Malmö
on 13 June 2007 on a
Renewed Baltic Sea States Cooperation

The Council of the Baltic Sea States, consisting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Sweden and a representative of the European Commission met upon the invitation of the Foreign Minister of Sweden in Malmö on 12-13 June 2007 for its 14th meeting.

The Council

- *recalling* the Declaration of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Baltic Sea States in Copenhagen on March 5-6, 1992,

- *also recalling* the recommendations of the Heads of Government of the 3rd Baltic Sea States Summit in Kolding on April 12-13, 2000,

- *also recalling* the Political Declaration and the Policy Framework Document on the new Northern Dimension Policy adopted by the European Union, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation on November 24, 2006,

- *reaffirming* its shared responsibility for the prosperity of the Baltic Sea Region, its sustainable development, the public health and social well-being of its population, and its commitment to create favourable conditions for the development of the region and for further strengthening of mutually beneficial multilateral cooperation, including cross-sectoral, cross-border and sub-regional cooperation,

1. **acknowledges** the achievements of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in fulfilling the objectives of the Copenhagen Declaration,

2. **also acknowledges** the new challenges for the Baltic Sea Region in an increasingly competitive global environment and thus the demand for reconsideration of the content and forms of cooperation, and the need to further develop coordination with other regional councils in Northern Europe, taking into account the implementation of the new Northern Dimension policy,

3. **confirms** its desire to increase cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region in all fields considered relevant to enhancing the competitiveness of the region including also education, civil security, sustainable development and the environment,

4. **decides** to reform the Council of the Baltic Sea States, on the basis of agreed priorities, with the aim of revitalising and making the organisation, including the Secretariat, better equipped to focus on priority actions, including a capacity to develop regionally important and strategic projects and to explore the financing of projects, and, considering that the new Northern Dimension Policy has defined the Baltic Sea Region as one of its priority areas, to invite the European Union to participate in the deliberations on the priorities,

5. **would** welcome the development of a strategy for the Baltic Sea Region with a focus on clear priorities,

6. **expresses a wish** that the Heads of Government in the Baltic Sea Region and a member of the European Commission will continue to provide guidance for the Baltic Sea States cooperation through the holding of biennial Baltic Sea States Summits.

7. **welcomes** the offer of the Foreign Minister of Latvia to present, together with the incoming and outgoing Presidencies, i.e. Denmark and Sweden, and any other interested CBSS members, to the 7th Baltic Sea States Summit on 3 June 2008 in Riga a proposal on how to reform the Council of the Baltic Sea States, including its organisation and Secretariat, and to report to the Summit on the development of a strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.