



Karlskrona, 25.02.2021

To the Government of the Republic of Lithuania,

On behalf of the Euroregion Baltic, I would like to express international support for the Association of Klaipeda Region Municipalities on its efforts and purposeful work to strengthen and modernize the main gateway of Western Lithuania – Palanga International Airport.

Palanga International Airport, characterized by its compactness, fast services and convenient location, is vital for enabling mobility and connections between the Euroregion "Baltic" members and the whole Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

Palanga Airport is the strategic logistic point for regional residents and businesses mobility. It is also enormous leverage that allows Klaipeda Region to stay competitive in the global competition for talents and international investments - having a compact modern airport helps attract large business and major corporations to invest in local offices, factories, and distribution centres of the readily accessible air transportation.

Air accessibility plays an essential role in attracting foreign tourists and developing inbound tourism in individual regions and the whole BSR as a joint destination. The ability to connect BSR coastal regions helps to enhance tourism cooperation and strengthen its attractiveness on the global market. It is worth mentioning that the Klaipeda region was a huge supporter and one of the initiators of establishing the Baltic Sea Tourism Center – a united destination management organisation in the BSR. The realisation of such grand ideas would be impossible without a vast airports network in BSR.

Palanga International Airport's efficient and safe operation is essential for strengthening the international BSR community and, especially, for the Euroregion "Baltic". Connectivity and accessibility of coastal regions are amongst the key priorities of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – reducing geographical distances, improving non-capital regions connectivity contributes to the implementation of the "Connecting the region" priority.

Therefore, we highly support the Association of Klaipeda Region Municipalities request to ensure the Palanga International Airport's high standards and environmental requirements. We also fully support joint regional efforts to reconstruct the Palanga International Airport runway as soon as possible. The reduction or disruption of the airport's operations would harm the entire BSR community.

Johan Sandberg

President of Euroregion Baltic