



Resolution on the Baltic Sea

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During the last decades the Baltic Sea has been facing many challenges because of its unique position in the heart of the Northern Europe. The Sea is mainly surrounded by the continent leaving only a small connection through the inlets of Denmark to the Atlantic Ocean. Another factor making the area special is the ice cover that reaches annually almost to the south of Sweden and influences therefore the sea life through oxygen levels. Due to these circumstances the water circulating in the sea changes very slowly which leaves the sea area extremely vulnerable to emissions and pollutants. **The biggest sources of pollution to the Sea are agriculture, industry and traffic.**

Not only the challenges of the Baltic Sea as a natural environment make it an important area to be taken into account. Transportation of goods through waterways has increased substantially in a short period of time and is likely to add up even more due to major undertakings in the maritime sector. To ensure the vitality and versatile biodiversity of the area proper actions must be taken in order to ensure the low rate of emissions and overall safety of the cargo vessels operating in the area. This must be done in coordination with all the parties involved so that environmentally-sound long term solutions can be reached.

The recent years have shown that many different organizations and authorities are committed to the work done to save the Baltic Sea. In April this year the **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** declared the Baltic Sea as PSSA (Particularly Sensitive Sea Area), which enables more precise projects to be carried out in the coastal states. The actions taken are a fair start but however not by any means sufficient considering the important role that The Baltic Sea plays in the environmental and economic climate of the EU. **Since Russia also is a member in IMO, the restrictions concerning the vessels used in sea transport, are to be taken seriously.**

Taking into consideration the above mentioned, we, the representatives of the YEPP

Recognize that:

The **already existing** co-operation between the coastal states of the Baltic Sea must be tightened in order to guarantee the adoption of as environmentally-sound directives, laws and standards as possible.

Stricter standards of cargo and leisure vessel emissions must be adopted to protect **the Baltic Sea** from hazardous pollution. These standards should apply not only to EU countries but to every country using the sea as a transport route.

A common control system for the vessels sailing in the Baltic Sea including all the coastal states should be created to prevent accidents and enable more precise focusing of resources directed to seafaring.

After the Enlargement the Baltic Sea is surrounded by EU-countries, except for St.Petersburg and Kaliningrad. This makes the protection of the Baltic Sea an important part of the environmental policy of the EU.