



# EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

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# Why an EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region?

- Requested by the European Council, inter alia help to address the urgent environmental challenges
- An EU internal strategy: With 8 Member States around the Baltic the EU has a responsibility to take lead
- **An integrated approach to identify needs, solutions and match them to available resources**
- Four pillars: 1) Environment 2) Economy 3) Energy and Transport 4) Safety and security





# Outputs and outcomes

## Outputs

- Rolling Action Plan for the Baltic Sea Region with 15 priority areas, actions and examples of flagship projects
- Analytical report on the Baltic Sea Region

## Outcomes

- 70 actions, 80 flagship projects
- Alignment of policies / funding
- Coordination in implementing of EU legislation
- Improvement of Spatial Planning
- Integrated Maritime Policy





# Examples of flagship projects

- Remove phosphates in detergents
- Create marine protected areas
- A fund for innovation and research
- Promote environmental technologies
- Encourage sustainable aquaculture
- Connect the Baltic States to the energy networks
- Improve transport infrastructures
- Establish joint curricula in universities
- Integrate the maritime surveillance systems
- Better cooperation in case of marine pollution





# Implementation

- Simple implementation system: making better use of existing institutions, funding, and legislation.
- Policy development: European Council
- Coordination, monitoring and follow-up: European Commission
- Implementation on the ground: Member State or equivalent to coordinate Priority Area; Ministry, agency, or other body to lead flagship projects
- Annual Forum with stakeholders





# Reviews and update

- The first review and update of the action plan will take place during the PL presidency in 2011, to be followed during later BSR presidencies:
- DK 2012
- LT 2013
- LV 2015



# Present situation

- 26 October: Council of General Affairs
- 29 October 2009 European Council
- 21 October : Kick-off meeting with the Priority Area coordinators and national contact points (transformation into high-level working group);
- By end of October, coordinators appointed for all Priority Areas and around 65 flagship projects



# Future

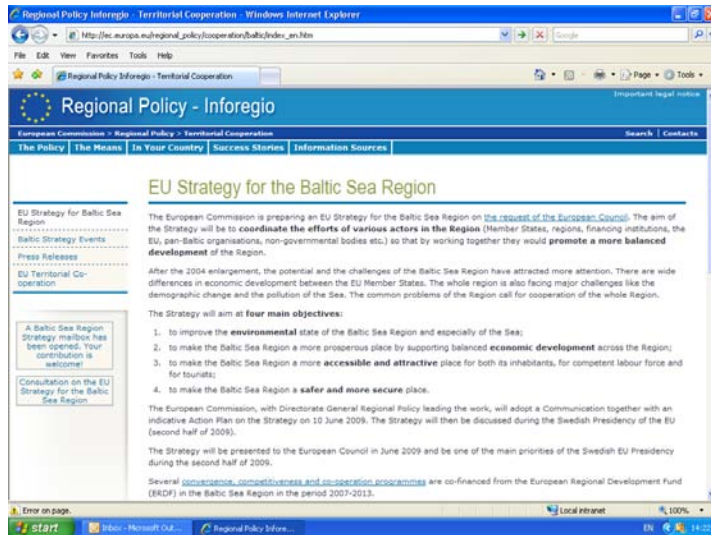
- **Implementation of actions starting now**
- Strategy should guide policy in the region
- Other macro regions enthusiastic to develop strategy
  - e.g. Danube, Alpine, Mediterranean





# Thank you for your attention!

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region: an integrated framework to address the challenges and opportunities of the Baltic Sea Region



[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/baltic/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic/index_en.htm)