



Regional response to climate change

STATEMENT

of the Baltic Sea Region Joint Platform on Energy and Climate to the 14th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC

Climate change is a challenge that has to be tackled at all levels – from local to global. However, national borders and institutional settings may constitute barriers in targeting efforts at all the appropriate levels.

The Joint Platform on Energy and Climate of the Baltic Sea Region¹ was established in order to overcome some of these barriers and to exploit the huge potentials that exist in this region in terms of environmental and climate friendly solutions. The aim of this joint initiative is to enhance regional coordination and cooperation in the field of energy and climate change, as well as to promote the importance of the regional focus to all potential stakeholders, in particular the national and intergovernmental authorities of the Baltic Sea Region. The Joint Platform on Energy and Climate will work for a strong cooperation among regional organisations and focus on issues such as integration of the energy markets and the infrastructure, as well as competitive, stable and secure energy supply in the Baltic region and initiatives that can help reduce CO₂ emissions.

The widening and deepening regional cooperation and energy planning can provide a wide range of benefits from technology development, transfer of best practice and benchmarking. This will increase the possibilities for the Baltic Sea Region to contribute and meet the European and global challenges regarding climate and energy policies.

Through closer cooperation, the Baltic Sea Region will be able to show how it is possible to provide greater security of energy supply, better use of energy capabilities, greater energy efficiency, more integrated and competitive energy markets, lower CO₂ emission and more renewable energy. The Baltic Sea Region has a potential at becoming a testing ground and forerunner in innovative solutions and serving as a helpful tool for multi-stakeholders to identify the added value from enhanced regional cooperation.

We call upon all governments to acknowledge the fact that climate change requires immediate actions at all levels and regional initiatives are important contributions. We encourage them to learn from the positive experience of the Baltic Sea Region and to provide stakeholders in their respective regions with the necessary framework conditions and support activities, which can strengthen regional cooperation in the field of energy and climate change.

¹ Following organisations are part of the Joint Platform: Baltic Sea States Sub regional Co-operation (BSSSC), Baltic Development Forum (BDF), Union of Baltic Cities (UBC) Energy Commission, Baltic Islands Network B7, Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions - Baltic Sea Commission, (CPMR BSC) Energy Working Group, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), Nordic Council (NC).