



Regional action to climate change

Statement of the Baltic Sea Region Joint Energy and Climate Platform to the 15th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC

Climate change is an alarming ever-growing concern and calls for concrete actions and specific targets in an integrated manner. The challenges to curb carbon dioxide emissions have to be tackled by stakeholders at all levels – from local to global – being mindful of differences in specific roles and possibilities to contribute. Joined regional and local forces are an effective tool to implement and enhance measures adopted in Copenhagen.

The Baltic Sea Region is ready to lead the way and show the rest of the world that it is possible to join forces and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and increase energy efficiency. The involvement of regional and local levels is necessary in the actions needed since the power over key sectors for climate change such as energy, transport and spatial planning often lies here. A regional and local perspective also facilitates the necessary cooperation between stakeholders. The subnational level is also the appropriate level to identify and prioritize measures needed to reduce the potential consequences to climate change.

The Joint Energy and Climate Platform of the Baltic Sea Region¹ is a good example of regional cooperation with a goal to convey a clear regional message to national and intergovernmental authorities. A report on Sustainable Energy Scenarios has been elaborated for a more integrated and collaborative Baltic Sea Region within the framework of the Joint Platform. It clearly documents the importance and the widely shared advantages of the cooperation in the Baltic Sea area. It also points out the significance of the development of energy systems and energy interconnections as well as more efficient energy markets. This type of regional energy cooperation will prove to be more and more important in future as climate targets will be tightened. Among other things, integration of renewable energy will require transnational solutions. The same goes for finding lasting solutions for energy security.

We emphasize the list of flagship projects for the Baltic Sea Region. The cooperation of the region will be strengthened by working together.

We encourage governments to raise the awareness of climate change perspective and appeal to them to provide all stakeholders in their respective regions with the necessary framework conditions and support activities that will allow cross border cooperation on regional levels to contribute to addressing energy and climate change. Only worldwide collaborative on all levels can make a difference.

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). 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.