

The Third Annual Baltic Development Forum Summit in St. Petersburg became a landmark in the efforts of our organisation to break down barriers between the countries in the Baltic Sea Region. Almost 700 participants gathered to debate tactics and strategies for developing the Region. On behalf of the Baltic Development Forum, and our co-organisers the Pro Baltica Forum and the EastWest Institute, please let me once again thank all of you who made it possible - not least the government of the Russian Federation and the city of St. Petersburg.

As you will read in this report, the Summit in St. Petersburg proved that the Baltic Sea Region is moving ahead towards its aim - to become one of the most dynamic and prosperous regions in the world, with integration, partnership and mutual benefit at the top of its regional agenda. Our Region is closer than it has been for centuries and the Baltic Sea countries are seeing the opportunities and show the will to act in unison to the benefit of us all.

What is needed is continued support and involvement by governments and the resolve of the business community to participate through investments, expansion and the creation of new market opportunities. To maintain this momentum, it is time to move from words to action. The Baltic Development Forum sees its role and mission to keep this process on track.

The preparations for the Fourth Annual Baltic Development Forum Summit have already begun. The Summit will be held in Copenhagen during the Danish EU Presidency in 2002. With your help, I believe the Summit will consolidate the Baltic Sea Region as the most dynamic and prosperous region in the world. That would not only be a great achievement for the Region, but also a great example for a world in urgent need of role models.

See you next year in Copenhagen.



Uffe Ellemann-Jensen
Chairman