

Parliamentary co-operation and concerns relating to Baltic Sea Strategy

Pekka Nurminen

Head of the European Parliament's Information
Office in Finland



Three points:

- 1. Considerable amount of parliamentary activity and forums relating to Northern Dimension and Baltic Sea Region
- 2. Major concern: Financing of Baltic Sea Strategy
- 3. Economic development and employment prospects – suggestions by the Parliaments

Parliamentary co-operation structures

- Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (30.8.-1.9.2009):
 - The European Parliament, Nordic Council, Baltic Assembly, National Parliaments of BS region, Assemblies of German Länder, StPetersburg and Åland Islands
- Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
- Network of Barents Parliamentarians
- Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum, hosted by the EP (25. – 26.2.2009)

Major EP concern: Financing of BSS

- EP resolution 494/2006 in November 2006: The EP "calls for an own budget line for the BSS" – supplementing Northern Dimension funding – adequate funding from all relevant budget lines
- In 2008: EP created a "p.m." line to EC 2009 budget
- On 22 October 2009: EP adopted an amendmet of 20 million euros to 2010 EC budget for coordination and politico projects of the Strategy – still lacks legal basis

Economic and employment prospects (BSPC 2009)

- Positive branding of the region – a supportive and successful regional approach to the economic recession
- Identify and prevent barriers to the development of cross-border labour markets and mobility
- Information centres in the Baltic Sea Region: strengthen the existing and establish new
- Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics
- Social dialogue between representatives for cross-border workers, employers and political decision-makers