

THE BALTIC WAYS: 20 YEARS ON

CLOSING THE GAPS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

This year three Baltic states - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the restoration of independence. On this occasion Estonian Cooperation Assembly in cooperation with the Baltic Assembly and European Commission Representations in Estonia and Lithuania are organizing an international conference 'The Baltic Ways: 20 Years On. Closing the Gaps in the Baltic Sea Region'. The conference will take place on November 24-25th, 2011 in Tallinn at Radisson Blue Hotel, Rävåla Puiestee 3, Tallinn, Estonia.

The conference will be related to the 20th anniversary of the Baltic Assembly and its annual meeting, which will be held in Tallinn within these dates. Speakers of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Parliaments as well as renowned experts will focus on the analysis of post-communist developments in the Baltic Sea area and discuss future perspectives for closing the economic and social gaps in the region. The programme of the conference can be found in the attachment. The working language of the conference is English.

For registration please log on to the conference site www.kogu.ee/eca/registration by November 21st latest. For inquiries contact us by e-mail info@kogu.ee or by phone +372 693 8330. The invitation is personal.

Estonian Cooperation
Assembly

The Baltic Assembly

European Commission
Representation in Estonia

Tallinn, November 24-25th , 2011

November 24

Joint session with Baltic Assembly

- 11.00 - 13.00 Registration
- 13.00 Opening of the conference
- 13.15 - 13.30 Opening speech: Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia
- 13.30 - 13.45 Video presentation: Mr Anders Aslund (Washington, PIIE): The Baltic Challenge
- 13.45 - 14.15 Introduction to the conference: Prof Marju Lauristin, Editor-in-Chief of Estonian Human Development Report (Tartu University): Baltic Ways of Human Development: Twenty Years On
- 14.15 - 15.30 **Baltic Panel: Main challenges for the development of the Baltic societies in the globalising world.**
Mrs Ene Ergma, Speaker of Riigikogu (MP, EE); Mrs Solvita Aboltina, Speaker of Saeima (MP, LV); Mrs Irena Degutienė, Speaker of Seimas (MP, LT), Prof Marju Lauristin (Tartu University), Prof Zenonas Norkus (Vilnius University), Mr Michal Czyz; Ambassador (PL)
Moderator: Prof Andres Kasekamp (Tartu University)
- 15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00 - 16.45 Key-note speech by Prof Joakim Palme (Director, Swedish Institute for the Future Studies): Closing the gaps in the Baltic Sea region: would, should and could the Baltic countries follow the 'Nordic model' of the welfare society?
- 16.45 - 18.00 Panel discussion: How to close the welfare gaps in the Baltic Sea region? Prof Mati Heidmets (Tallinn University), Prof Joakim Palme (Uppsala University), Prof Urmas Varblane (Tartu University), Dr Jolanta Aidukaite (Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius), Mr Eiki Nestor (MP, EE), Mrs Kadri Uustal (EC, DG Regio)
Moderator: Mr Indrek Treufeldt (Estonian Broadcasting Company)
- 19.30 RECEPTION at Nukumuseum (Museum of Puppet Arts)
Nunne Street 8, Tallinn

November 25

- 9.00 Morning coffee
- 9.30 - 9.45 Video presentation Prof Henri Vogt (University of Turku): Nation-liberalism in the Baltic politics
- 9.45 - 11.15 Panel discussion: Language and democracy in the Baltic multi-ethnic societies. Prof Vello Pettai (Tartu University), Prof Triin Vihalemm (Tartu University), Prof Gabrielle Hogan-Brun (Bristol University, UK), Dr Daunis Auers (Latvian University), Mr Rait Maruste (MP, EE), Mrs Mailis Reps (MP, EE)
Moderator: Mr Ahto Lobjakas (Estonian Institute of Foreign Affairs)
- 11.15 - 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 - 12.00 Key note speech by Prof Erik Terk (Tallinn University): Scenarios of Baltic Regional Integration
- 12.00 - 13.30 Panel discussion: EU 2020 and beyond. Regional Integration around the Baltic Sea. Prof Erik Terk (Tallinn University), Mr Veiko Spolitis (LV), Mr Marko Mihkelson (MP, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, EE), Mr Tunne Kelam (MEP, EE) et al
Moderator: Mr Raivo Vare (Estonian Cooperation Assembly; Estonian Development Fund)
- 13.30 - 14.00 Closing remarks and summary
- 14.00 Closing of the conference and departure