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Address by Mr Jan Lundin
Director General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat
to the OSCE Permanent Council, 10 June 2011, Vienna

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Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to appear before you in the Hofburg. In the early nineties I twice worked for the OSCE – in the preparatory mission for missions of long duration in the former Yugoslavia, and in the long-term mission in Georgia. There, I came to fully realize the importance of the OSCE, simultaneously experiencing the limits of preventive diplomacy. At the turn of the Millenium, I accompanied the then Chair of the Working Table on Security of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, State Secretary Jan Eliasson, to the Hofburg for a briefing on regional cooperation under circumstances much more severe than those in the region I now work in. I am truly grateful to the Chair in Office Lithuania for inviting me to give you an update on the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

Our organisation was born in 1992 out of the geopolitical changes in Europe. We are only about a fifth of your membership with our 11 Member States to your 56 participating States but in addition we have some 10 Observer States. Since all are Members of the OSCE, we thus share roughly a third of your members. Just like you, we are a consensus based organisation. The Secretariat was created in 1998 and is small, only some 20 employees, and situated in Stockholm in beautiful premises provided by the Swedish Government.

I tend to describe our organisation as “three-dimensional”. There is the high-level political dimension, represented by the Council of the CBSS, the foreign ministers, who just met in Oslo on June 7. The Council meets every two years. Inbetween, there are Baltic Sea Summits of Heads and States and Governments, prepared by the CBSS. The last Summit was in Vilnius last year, and the next shall take place in Germany in the end of May 2012. Both the Summit and the



Secretariat

Council provide important guidance to the CBSS, not least the Secretariat and its steering group, the Committee of Senior Officials.

Then there is the sectoral dimension, consisting of networks of many different kinds. Some are intergovernmental with strong identity, like the Baltic Sea Regional Energy Cooperation BASREC, whose ministers shall meet next spring, and whose secretariat and project administration are handled separately from the CBSS Secretariat. Others are lower level, extremely project oriented and flexible, involving not only government representatives. One example is Baltic 21, which engages in sustainable development. Finally, there is the project dimension, the declared aim to make all the networks – and indeed also the Secretariat - become more concrete and result oriented, an aim best achieved through engaging in project-based activity. For instance, in the Oslo Ministerial declaration, the CBSS “Committee of Senior Officials is tasked to set up and start implementing a project-oriented program of modernization of the South Eastern Baltic Sea area with special focus on the Kaliningrad region and its neighbourhood.

Our work does not take place in isolation. We have 15 Strategic Partners, such as indeed the OSCE, the Baltic Development Forum and the Baltic University Programme. But there are also several organisations in the Region outside the CBSS context, with whom we try to cooperate and coordinate. Examples are the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Arctic Council. We are also a member of the Northern Dimension We welcome the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the strengthened focus on our region it entails. Eleven projects of the Strategy Action Plan have our involvement, in fields such as sustainable development and the fight against trafficking in human beings. Through the CBSS-affiliated organisation for regional spatial planning cooperation, VASAB, we cooperate with the Helsinki Commission on improving the environment of the Baltic Sea. The Oslo Ministerial indicated a will to bring our organisations closer, and I personally see further potential e.g. in the field of regional climate adaptation.

Ladies and Gentlemen



Secretariat

The CBSS in 2008 decided to focus on five long-term priorities: 1) Environment (including sustainability), 2) Energy, 3) Education and Culture, 4) Economic development, and 5) Civil security and the human dimension. In the field of Environment and Sustainability our Foreign Ministers this week in Oslo endorsed the CBSS Strategy for Sustainable Development 2010-2015 and called for its active implementation, and encouraged Member States to strengthen efforts in support for a green economy as well as welcoming efforts to develop a climate change adaptation strategy. This will be an important guide for future work in this field. When it comes to Economic Development the CBSS under the leadership of the Norwegian Presidency has promoted the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in shipping as an environmentally friendly fuel to be used in shipping. Considering that the Baltic Sea houses some 12 percent of global shipping, the potential benefits for the environment are huge.

Our networks and projects on Education and Culture support the aims outlined in the Summit declaration from Vilnius last year, that by 2020 “A strong regional identity is emerging, fostered by research, education, culture, and the common heritage of the region.” More on this you will find in our written contribution made to the OSCE Summit in Astana. The incoming German Presidency intends to step up our efforts in building identity in the Baltic Sea Region through various different projects, some pursued through the CBSS-affiliated organisation for regional cultural cooperation *Ars Baltica*.

Let me now turn to Civil Security and the Human Dimension. Here I would like to give you some examples.

Take the CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety a group that is active in enhancing prevention and preparedness strategies. One of the main lessons from the Fukushima accident for the Baltic Sea Region is that even to deal with an emergency which took place far a way, national resources in many countries of our region were depleted. Regional and global assistance, cooperation and synergy are needed in emergencies and the Expert Group works to improve this.

Or take our cooperation in the field of border protection. We have an intergovernmental network under the CBSS umbrella which is called Baltic Sea Border Control Cooperation. One example



Secretariat

of their work is the Baltic Sea Maritime Functionalities project (a flagship project in the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea region.) This project aims at demonstrating how to cooperate more efficiently in maritime surveillance. The project will next autumn result in a computer-based simulation where a dubious vessel starting from St. Petersburg moving towards Gdynia will be the object of surveillance between various national authorities, transport agencies, law enforcement, navy etc. in the partner countries Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Poland, Russia, and Sweden.

I should also mention the Baltic Sea Task Force on Organised Crime which reports directly to the Heads of State and Government and has become an important player with their regional approach to combat crime in the Baltic Sea Region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk has cooperated with the OSCE initiative fighting the exploitation of children and young people online, including by presenting on this subject online on the POLIS network. The Expert Group continues to pursue the building of expertise and knowledge in this field and on assisting the victims. Their project entitled ROBERT is a continuation of this work, looking at young people harmed online and how they themselves describe experiences they have had and what led to the abuse they suffered. We know that the OSCE shares this concern as a recent training seminar on how to combat sexual abuse of children on the internet was organised by the organisation in the context of your Lithuanian Chairmanship.

The Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings has since 2008 implemented an ambitious range of strategic activities, generously funded by the Swedish National Action Plan against Prostitution and Human Trafficking.

The Task Force has conducted 12 training seminars for diplomatic and consular personnel in the region. A final output of this project is a handbook which was recently launched and shall hopefully be a useful tool as well as influence curricula in this field.



Secretariat

Inspired by the National Referral Mechanisms developed by (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) ODIHR and in cooperation with UNODC the Task Force has just launched a model Memorandum of Understanding for enhanced cooperation between law enforcement and service providers. Our written contribution to Astana described our Safe Trip campaign which drew upon the experience of similar initiatives, including the awareness raising campaign launched by the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the NGO Astra in 2008. It also explained our data collection which this spring came out in a study entitled *Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanisms in the Baltic Sea Region*. It proposes 21 key indicators which should be collected as a minimum and hopes this enhance data collection in the EU Member States.

The Task Force as other parts of the CBSS enjoys excellent cooperation with international organisations, including the OSCE Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, and ODIHR. In fact, earlier this week the Executive Adviser to the Special Representative presented at the Task Force conference in Oslo on Forced Labour Exploitation and Counter-Trafficking, where the Task Force launched its latest project *Data and Education on Forced Labour Exploitation and Counter Trafficking (DEFLECT)* . The Task Force looks forward to coming to Hofburg in just over a week's time to participate in the 11th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference that will also address trafficking for labour exploitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I hope that I have managed to depict the CBSS as the wide-ranging, political, network- and project based organisation that it is. The CBSS is not only a forum for regional high politics but also for multisectoral and cross-sectoral expert networking and project work. I have focused on civil security and the human dimension and I hope this has been of interest to you and that we may have a basis to continue and strengthen our cooperation. I will stop here by reiterating my appreciation for the invitation to address you and am looking forward to hearing your comments and answering any questions you may have in the forthcoming discussion.

Thank you for your attention!