

TRANSBALTIC CONFERENCE 2010

'The New Geography of Freight Flows in the Baltic Sea Region'

17-18 March 2010, Malmö, Sweden

INVITATION

The current European-wide discussion on the future orientation of the transport and cohesion policies and the observed climate change tendencies are expected to bring significant impact on the transport patterns in the Baltic Sea Region. They will also put in question the sustainable regional development of the area. It is predicted that by the year 2030 the Region may see considerable changes in the spatial distribution of freight flows, which would set a scene anew for discussion on connectivity and accessibility of the territories around the Baltic Sea.

The TransBaltic project has committed itself to develop measures enhancing the gateway function of the Baltic Sea Region in serving internal and intercontinental flows. For that reason we intend to raise awareness of future developments among politicians, officials and private enterprises active in the area of transport and logistics, and to inspire them for taking up relevant policy actions.

The materialising new geography of freight flows in the Baltic Sea Region is the main motive of our 2010 conference. The event is arranged in cooperation with the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications and two transnational transport corridor projects, EWTC II and Scandria. Such an alliance gives evidence of shared national and regional level interest in recognising the challenges and responding to them through adequate measures.

The conference is addressed to all public and private actors interested in discussing transport development trends in the Baltic Sea Region as a result of natural, socio-economic and regulative processes on the global and European arenas. We have invited inspirational speakers to help us sketch the transport flows picture of today and predict the future.

Through two interactive panels set on the conference agenda we are launching a foresight debate on the likely trajectory paths of the transport development in the Region till the year 2030. To kick off, we would like to consult two scenarios.

The first one, referred to as the **green transport scenario**, outlines the situation when the EU regulations and rules of the EU neighbouring countries have laid ground for developing a network of green multimodal transport corridors in the Baltic Sea Region as a means to make it more coherent. The other, named the **Arctic passage scenario**, projects the situation when the ice-free waters of the Arctic Sea have enabled summer season navigation to compete on equal footing with other intercontinental routes and thus to pose new accessibility challenges for the Baltic Sea Region.

We do hope you will find the substance of the conference interesting enough to come and actively participate. Conclusions and suggestions voiced there will guide us in further work towards an integrated transport system in the Baltic Sea Region.

You are most welcome to Malmö!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pia Kinhult".

Pia Kinhult
Member of the Executive Board
Region Skåne



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