

Conference Conclusions

15th of May, 2009, Klaipeda

151 delegates from 8 countries as well as representatives of the regional and European organizations have met during the „**BALTIC MARINE INNOVATION FORUM**” which was held on 15th of May, 2009, in Klaipeda. Delegates took the decision to adopt the following resolution:

Conscious that the marine environment, science and innovations are of primary concern for the Baltic Sea Region, and the European Strategy is expected to be important document providing a unique opportunity for the future development of the Region within the EU, through the regional programmes and policies that take into account the specific issues faced by all the EU countries bordering the Baltic Sea.

Recognizing the importance of the Lithuanian integrated marine science, studies, and business centre (valley) for both research capacity building and increase of economic potential of Lithuania.

Concerned that we face increased local to regional challenges in both - implementing marine innovative technologies, environmental policies and providing integrated solutions for marine science and business.

Recommends:

i) to draw close attention to the new stage of the regional cooperation with regard to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region to be published in June 2009 and take note of the priorities of the upcoming Lithuanian presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States;

ii) to develop an extensive network of cooperation through both political and informal contacts between states and people of the Baltic Sea region especially in marine and maritime research;

iii) and urges the European Commission to support national Governments' initiatives in the field of modernizing marine research and educational infrastructure;

iv) the Lithuanian Government to continue foster the support of the Lithuanian integrated marine science, studies, and business centre (valley) as a unique chance for Lithuania to meet the growing demand of maritime research and economic development;

- v) the European Commission and the Member States surrounding the Baltic Sea to implement the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme, BONUS-169, under Article 169 of the EC Treaty;
- vi) stress the importance of strengthening transnational and regional cooperation in maritime transport development as a contribution to the competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region;
- vii) aim specifically at the innovative solutions to ensure the full potential of the Short-Sea Shipping, Motorways of the Sea, promotion of Green and Blue Corridors and contributing to other goals of the maritime transport policy of the EU;
- viii) act for reducing obstacles for the free movement of people and strengthening of personal links in the region, including facilitation of the visa regime for all citizens of the Russian Federation and Belarus;
- ix) invite national and local governments to develop efficient and intensive linkages between top-level knowledge institutions and business;
- x) to facilitate the development of incentive to support cost-efficiency of maritime sustainable technology and goal based legislation;
- xi) local clusters to support the participation of local actors in European research Programmes and implementation of research results;

Vygaudas UŠACKAS,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Eligijus MASIULIS,
Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania

Prof. habil. dr. **Vladas ŽULKUS,**
Rector of Klaipėda University