

20th anniversary of BPO

Twenty years later

Baltic Ports Organization
1991-2011

Copenhagen, Photo: Cees van Roeden / Cruise Baltic

It's been twenty years since Baltic ports met for the first time under the aegis of the Baltic Ports Organization. Today, some members nostalgically recall the long disputes, always concluded with a consensus. Others focus on the future and the challenges laying ahead of the organization. What connects both attitudes is the Baltic – the sea of possibilities and the natural area of cooperation as well as competition.

Two decades ago enormous economic and societal differences were cutting the Baltic Sea region in two, with Western countries on one side and post-Soviet states on the other. Today, the region is united as ever before, speaking with one voice about the challenges and problems of sulphur emissions, the Baltic Sea Strategy and more.

To refresh your memory and discover all BPO members again, we cordially invite you to plank yourselves in the BPO anniversary publication – Baltic Ports Organization 1991-2011. Not only does it introduce the heart of the organisation – that is the vast majority of Baltic ports – but it also presents befriended with BPO companies

(Visy, E-dea, Konekranes) and B+R institutions (Centre for Maritime Studies), the work of which is also of big importance to the organisation's life. Moreover, the publication looks into the future of BPO as well as introduces its strategy for the next years.

Twenty years have passed, but, hopefully, at least twice as many lay ahead of the Baltic Ports Organisation. The main challenges and the future scheme of work will be discussed in Rostock, during BPO's annual meeting. Certainly, there is still a lot to do. Let us hope that BPO will enter the next period of its activity with great energy and strength, able to face the future challenges and work for the sake of the whole region, to make the Baltic Sea, as Julian Skelnik has put it, amaze the world.





Bogdan Ołdakowski

Preface

“When building and sustaining the social network between the ports themselves as well as within other industries (e.g. shipping, intermodal), BPO has always followed the development around the port business and addressed the key issues for the ports. At all times it was the transfer of know-how and port experiences between West and East.”



Julian Skelnik

The Baltic will amaze the world

“Considering that the Baltic is a region of old democracies, advanced economies and high potential for growth, a very high level of education and high ethical standards, all this provides remarkable opportunities for the future and gives our region an advantage over many others.”



Krzysztof Urbaś

Two centuries in twenty years

“In 2010, the long-standing obstacle was conquered – the first oceanic vessel of Maersk Line called at a Baltic port, Gdańsk, DCT. Nothing will be the same from now on; a race has just started”.



Anne E. Jensen

Ports at the centre of the Baltic Sea Strategy

“There are great challenges ahead: the new strict rules on emissions from ships, the development of transport infrastructure, making the Baltic Sea Strategy work and the relations with Russia.”



BPO's focus from BPO's strategy for the years 2010-2013

- BPO should sustain the networking and social role of the organization. BPO should further strengthen and develop relations within the shipping, rail and road sectors as well as with other business partners.
- BPO should represent the interest of Baltic ports and the Baltic transport sector towards EU institutions and other relevant organizations.
- BPO should contribute to the overall development of the Baltic Sea region.
- BPO should focus on initiatives promoting a “Baltic maritime highway” as the way to move cargo and passengers to/from the world through Baltic ports. BPO should support

- entrepreneurs, ideas, visions, initiatives, that contribute to overall transport developments in the Baltic Sea region.
- BPO should contribute to the clean environment of the Baltic Sea, promote environmental management in the ports and take an active role in international dialogues where the environment is concerned.
- BPO should support and take initiatives in research and science that will lead to a better understanding of the transport sector in the region, to study future challenges.

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