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## The Port of Kiel joins BPO

### Strong harbour, sailing city

The Port of Kiel benefits from its advantageous location at the entrance to one of the world's busiest man-made waterways, the Kiel Canal. Surrounded by the countries of the Baltic Sea, the port is linked with the North Sea by an almost 100 km-long canal which allows saving an average 250-nautical mile journey around the Skagerrak.

Its geographical position, technical conditions and direct connection to the rail and motorway networks make the port well-adjusted for both passenger transport and cargo handling. Kiel's 18 quays with a total length of 7.2 km were used in 2014 by 1,620 seagoing vessels. Port handlings totalled 6.43 mln tn (+1.7% yoy) of such goods as vehicles, grains, animal feed, stone chippings, general goods, forest products, oilseeds and fertilizer but also petroleum, scrap and coal.

Kiel provides facilities designed to handle container vessels (two cranes with a lifting capacity of 140 tn) and infrastructure enabling dealing with bulk cargo located in Scheerhafen with Kiel's max. draught of 11.5 m. Year 2014 ended with a 9.2% year-on-year growth with 1.30 mln tn of bulk handled in Kiel.

A regular intermodal railway shuttle offers rail connections for semi-trailers, swap bodies and containers from Kiel to destinations in Germany and Europe-wide rail and road hinterland connections.

The Port of Kiel is also one of Germany's most important cruise ship turnaround port and second in the Baltic. Over 120 ocean giants drop anchor in

Kiel every year, 2015 is expected to bring the amount of 400,000 passengers. In 2014, the harbour was visited 127 times by cruise ships; while a number of regular ferry services links it to destinations in Scandinavia, Lithuania and Russia.

Since 1882 the city hosts a wide range of ships from classic yachts to cutter regattas during the northern Europe's biggest summer festival of its kind. The Kieler Woche brings more than three million visitors from all over the world ready to dive into the colorful and multi-faced life of Kieler Woche. The event's tradition confirms the strong maritime profile of the city which recently joined the Baltic Ports Organization.

As Dr. Dirk Claus, Managing Director of the port says, "It feels good that Kiel is back in the Baltic Ports Organization. Ever growing economic as well as environmental challenges require joint positions of the ports. BPO is an excellent platform for coordination and has a strong voice towards politics and administration."



September 3-4, 2015 | Riga/LV

# Baltic Ports Conference 2015

*Facing a change: opportunities or threats  
for Baltic maritime market?*

and  
**BPO General Assembly 2015**

upcoming BPO event



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

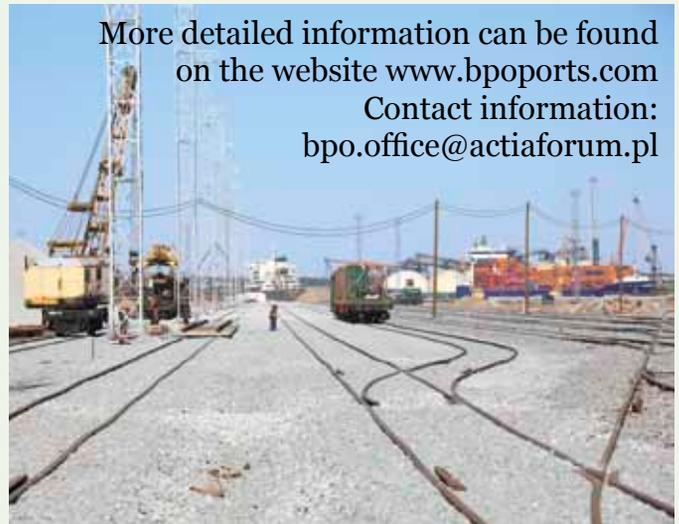
**T**his year Baltic ports' representatives will gather in the Freeport of Riga to talk about the most pressing maritime market changes caused by new geopolitical conditions; trends in rail regarding transportation of goods from China to Europe; as well as Turkey as an established trading partner for the EU countries, with robust potential for cooperation to be developed within the Baltic region.

We will find time for a debate on how to link the TEN-T land-based corridor concept with the Motorways of the Sea programme, financial opportunities for ports, and the impact of a new investment plan for the EU proposed by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on the funds secured for transport infrastructure. Catherine Trautmann, European Coordinator for the North Sea-Baltic core network corridor and Jose Anselmo, Principal Administrator of the European Commission's Directorate General for Mobility and Transport, DG TREN, will participate in the debate.

"The Baltic port sector is facing a change. From one side the political and economic environment is dynamic and not positive for ports at the moment. Moreover, the new sulphur limits introduced in January 2015 decreases pollution emissions but also increases costs for maritime transport. The BPO Conference in Riga will be an excellent occasion to learn about the latest developments, apart from meeting port representatives from all around the Baltic," said Bogdan Oldakowski, Secretary General of the Baltic Ports Organization. ■



Photos: Port of Riga



More detailed information can be found  
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