



# The CBSS in a nutshell

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1992

*"In light of political changes in Europe, the dream was to create a forum, which could serve as a driving force behind political and economic stabilisation and cooperation in the new Baltic Sea region."*

**Hans-Dietrich Genscher (DE) & Uffe Elleman-Jensen (DK),  
the godfathers of the CBSS**

# The CBSS today

## Terms of Reference:

“The CBSS encompasses all **multilateral** intergovernmental **regional cooperation** in areas agreed by its Members and serves as a forum for **political dialogue**. It also fosters **practical cooperation** in the region and acts as a focal point of information and coordination.”

- ▶ Established in 1992 by a Ministerial Declaration
- ▶ 11 members (Russia was suspended and withdrew in 2022)
- ▶ Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden and run by its Permanent Secretariat (est. 1998)



# Structure



**The Council** is the highest decision-making body of the CBSS and consists of the **Foreign Ministers** plus an EU rep.

- ▶ Ministerial Sessions
- ▶ Baltic Sea State Summits (level of the Prime Minister)



**The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)** is the intersessional decision-making body and consists of appointed senior foreign affairs officials. They guide the day-to-day work of the CBSS.



## **The CBSS bodies**

- ▶ **Expert groups** (EG Sustainable Development...)
- ▶ **Units and task forces** (Children At Risk, Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings...)
- ▶ **Networks** (Civil Protection Network)



**The CBSS Secretariat** coordinates and facilitates the work of the CBSS, putting into practice the decisions taken by the Council and the CSO. The Secretariat is located in Stockholm, Sweden.

# Current CBSS priorities



## Regional Identity

- ▶ Culture
- ▶ Higher education
- ▶ Youth

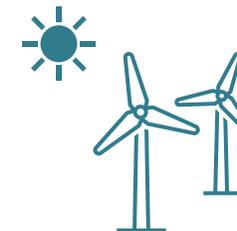
*Focus on laying the foundations for a more resilient region by establishing a deeper understanding for each other*



## Safe & Secure Region

- ▶ Anti-trafficking
- ▶ Child Protection
- ▶ Civil Security

*Focus on making everyone feel safe and secure and maintaining networks to jointly respond to threats, hazards and emergencies*



## Sustainable & Prosperous Region

- ▶ Climate Dialogue
- ▶ Science Cooperation
- ▶ Sustainable Development
- ▶ Sust. Maritime Economy

*Focus on UN SDGs (“localising”) and the transition towards a competitive green economy*

Multi-level  
governance

Balticness





Thank you!