

B7 FACILITATOR'S NEWSLETTER



Former President, Lennart Meri

LENNART MERI - PHILOSOPHER PRESIDENT .

A Vision for the Islands

President Meri has the ability to bring fresh insights and perspectives on “well worn” topics of discussion. His talk was full of so many word pictures that create and generate so many ideas that it is difficult to encompass all he says. **At the Enlargement Conference**, held on Hiiumaa 29 April, he presented a philosophical talk that ranged over:

- Why do we need the islands
- A vision of what the islands can bring
- Baltic Sea Region has yet to discover its task for Europe.
- Choices at the referendum
- Nordic Baltic 8

He did not agree with the view that in the long term, the islands will be gradually deserted plus the concept of “catching up” with the rest of the EU gave a defeatist picture - we only have to think of the hedgehog and the hare. Each island has its own values that are difficult to express in money but contribute to making a home.

In his view the Baltic Sea had yet to find its place in history. Europe's historic origins lie along the line from Gibraltar to the Dardanelles - a line of latitude. This is where we have gained our religion, our traditions, our roots; where we got the 10 commandments, the underlying principles for our moral values. The Baltic Sea - the Nordic Mediterranean - lies along a line of longitude. A new line.

Differences in the Baltic Sea add value, the islands add value. They also offer the real luxury of the 21 Century - silence. The charm of the islands is the charm of a future Europe. Not a big EU “soljanka”, where everything looks the same, but a diversified Europe with each area offering its charm and attractions. Not everywhere needs to be a country of factories and skyscrapers.

The EU is not established to issue orders from one capital to be executed at the local level. Its aim is to awaken the obligations of the citizen. This is done by the regions, not the state.

The power and strength of the islands lie in its people. They need to preserve the treasures of the islands, look to the benefits they have - such as low crime. They must work, not as competitors, but to complement each other. They should organise field trips to discover each other: then Europe can discover the islands and be a gift for Europe.



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THE SEA DIVIDES, BUT THE SEA UNITES

Does the B7 normally have so many Embassies represented at their conferences? Do all the speakers always turn up to B7 events?

These were the questions heard at the coffee intervals of a conference that seemed to take on the title of “The Sea Divides but the Sea Unites”

The Enlargement Conference organised by the B7 Hiiumaa Chairmanship turned out to be very successful in many ways. First there was attention to detail the way the conference venues was decorated, with a large notice outside highlighting the B7 and

very tastefully decorated stage. (See the B7 website under the menu item “Conferences” to see pictures).

Then there was a high level of ambition. With the range of guests. the way it was promoted and communicated using newspapers, radio and a first for the B7 - a live web-caste, which although it had some problems extended the boundaries of what the B7 can do.

The EU Commission was keen to participate, but a live web-link was a step too far - this time!!

POSITION PAPERS, SUCCESS STORIES & BRUSSELS

The Position Papers, Success Stories and Lobby work in Brussels were key items on the agendas of the B7 Board and Steering Committee meetings on Hiiumaa on 28 April, the Position.

It was agreed that the Position Papers Catalogue should be divided into two. The key 5 political issues for the moment would be put into one catalogue:

- Structural Funds
- Transport
- Democracy and Governance
- Fisheries
- CAP

This should be finished by the end of the month and distributed to the island politicians.

The second catalogue should cover:

- Business Development
- Common History
- Culture
- Education
- Environment and Energy
- Healthcare
- ICT

Safety and Security in the Baltic Tourism.

This work is a follow up to the B7 Strategy produced last year, by adding content to the priorities that the B7 is working with.

These would be used internally at present. Rügen proposed the addition of Safety and Security in the Baltic Sea. These should also be finished by the end of the month as they are regarded as important tools to help direct the activities of the B7.

The catalogue of success stories using EU Funding is underway. It will include two EU funded projects from each island plus the two WGE Interreg IIC projects, BEST and SUSWAT.

All this work will be used as support material by the B7 politicians in their lobby work and in particular by Hannes Maasels, Jan Lindgren and Knud Andersen when they meet in Brussels to lobby EU institutions.

A common oil spill prevention and response management and co-operation policy should be quickly improved in the Baltic Sea Area

RESOLUTION ON POLLUTION IN THE BALTIC SEA

B7 Enlargement Conference
Hiiumaa, Estonia, 29 April 2003

SUMMARY - RESOLUTION ON MARITIME SAFETY

The B7 supports strongly all measures needed to guarantee the safety of European waters following the break-up of the oil tanker "Prestige". The B7 welcomes the concerned resolutions by CPMR, adopted on 03.12.2002 in Poitiers and the Declaration adopted in Brest on 03.11.2000.

The Baltic Sea, has in winter time harsh weather conditions which need special consideration. The ships, which are not built for the difficult ice conditions of the Baltic Sea, can be a serious environmental hazard. Shallow water and harsh weather conditions mean that a disaster on the scale of the "Prestige" vessel

would create extensive environmental damage to the coastal areas

The B7 demands all the National Governments of the Baltic Sea States to co-operate and comply with the current classification systems for the ships sailing in exceptionally difficult weather and ice conditions.

There should be a unified standardisation of international safety regulations in licensing ships.

In the future, access to the Baltic Sea waters should be allowed only to vessels with a double hull and strengthened framework for ice conditions.

The common oil spill prevention and response management and co-operation policy should be quickly improved in the Baltic Sea States Area.

Unanimously adopted

WHAT'S NEW ON B7.ORG?

The B7 is the subject of a masters thesis being written by Barbara Beister of Gdansk. Which is in many ways quite flattering, but in others quite scary, because the B7 and the islands of the B7 are to many people www.B7.org, our website.

Recently a site map has been added which certainly makes it easier to get around. The website. And Saaremaa has upgraded its island page.



Panel at the Enlargement Conference.

PEOPLE IN FOCUS HANNES MAASELS, PRESIDENT OF B7

Hannes Maasels, born in 1951, is a teacher at heart and a tireless worker for his local community.

He and his wife Anu have two teenage daughters and live in the village of Nasva in Kaina municipality in their house, "Kulmu", (eyebrows) that he has spent 20 years improving and extending. At their village all houses have names as Silma 'Eye', Otsa 'Forehead', Kõrva 'Ear', Nina 'Nose' etc.

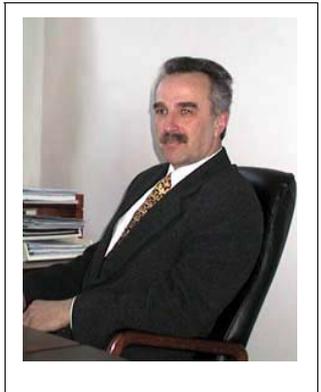
Key words that describe him are: enthusiastic, good organiser, family man, popular, respected by his community.

Learning, has also figured prominently in his life. He is educated as a physical education teacher, worked as a teacher, been director of Tuuru Centre, before moving into county gov-

ernment where he was head of the department of regional development, then head of the department of education and culture before becoming Hiiu County Governor in 1999. During this time he has attended courses in public administration in Sweden, Denmark and Estonia.

He is very positive in promoting education projects and has used his international contacts and work within B7, CPMR, BSSC plus bilateral contacts with Sweden, Denmark Funland and Ukraine to develop ideas and exchange experiences. His interest in Ukraine arises from the Swedish population deported there from Hiiumaa in 1791.

In short a man who knows what kind of society he wants to build and how to take advantage of EU membership.



Hannes Maasels,
Hiiu County Governor,
President B7

A SIMPLY SUPER CONCERT!

Can you believe the amazing talent that is developing on the island of Hiiumaa?

Even the tone-deaf, musically challenged amongst the audience were enchanted, sitting on the edge of their seats, completely engrossed in the skilful, lively, fun presentations of the young musicians of Hiiumaa.

They played a rich variety of music on a range of instruments covering both traditional and folk music, as one can see below.

Hiiumaa Ensemble for the Old Music

- T. Mosley – Fantasy
- W. Holborne – Story of Tears
- Neapolitan Song

Karin Maasel /Piano

- R. Tobias – Melancholy for Spring
- J. S. Bach – 2-tunes invention C-major
- F. Couperin – La Monflambert

Indrek Liit /accordion

- R. Valgre – I will return to you...
- I. Liit – Waltz for the melancholy girl
- A. Piazzolla – El Penultimo

Kaie Urman /squiffer/ bagpipe

- Estonian Polka
- Austrian song
- Bagpipe song

The concert set the tone for a fine dinner followed by dance and fireworks—set of by a fine view looking out over the Baltic Sea from the shores near Kärda.



The young musicians of Hiiumaa

Even the
tone-deaf,
musically challenged
amongst the
audience
were enchanted

THE B7

We have never really had a picture of the B7 Board and Steering Committee together. With meticulous planning we organised a photographer to ensure that all was captured electronically.

Unfortunately we forgot to inform the weather, that organised the flight from Gotland to be cancelled and the Tallinn-Kardla flight delayed, plus it was raining so we had to take the photograph inside!



Members of the B7 on Hiiumaa.



B7 Islands Co-operation Network

The Facilitator's Newsletter
Ullasvej 17
DK-3700 Rønne
Bornholm

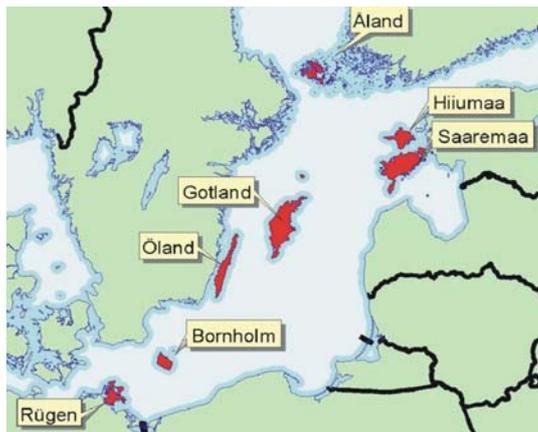
Phone: +45 5692 1304
Fax: +45 5692 2468
Email: ffdh@bora.dk

Look out for B7 on the
web at www.b7.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What is happening around the Baltic in the coming months?

If you know of dates that should be added to this calendar please let me know at ffdh@bora.dk



Islands of the B7

| | |
|------------|--|
| MAR | 02 Estonian National Parliamentary elections |
| | 08 Referendum in Malta on EU accession |
| | 23 Referendum in Slovenia on EU accession |
| | 24-25 CBSS - Good Governance Seminar. Hosted by the Danish Parliament |
| | 28 CPMR: The future of the regional policy in Prato, Tuscany. |
| APR | 12 Referendum in Hungary on EU accession |
| | 16 Signature of the Accession Treaty, Athens |
| | 28-29 B7 Board & Steering Committee meetings; Enlargement Conference Hiiumaa, |
| MAY | 05-06 CoR - Seminar on Future of European Cohesion Policy, in Leipzig |
| | 11 Referendum in Lithuania on EU accession |
| | 16-17 Referendum in Slovakia on EU accession |
| | 16-17 The CPMR Political Bureau will be meeting in Thessalonica |
| | 16 Meeting EU-Ministers responsible for Regional Policy in Chalkidiki, Greece |
| | 27 General Assembly CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Umeå, Sweden |
| JUN | 08 Referendum in Poland on EU accession |
| | 10-11 CBSS 12th Ministerial Meeting, Finland |
| | 15-16 Referendum in the Czech Republic on EU accession |
| | 20 European Council, Thessalonica |
| | 16-17 Political Lobby Group, Brussels Event |
| | 30 Seminar for regions on the Future Regional Policy, Brussels, DG REGIO |
| JUL | ?? Presidential elections (elected by the parliament), Latvia |
| AUG | 21-22 B7 Board Meeting |
| SEP | 14 Referendum in Estonia on EU accession |
| | 14 Referendum on the Euro in Sweden |
| | Referendum in Latvia on EU accession |
| | B7 Conference on Health and Rehabilitation Hiiumaa |
| OCT | Elections of Åland |
| DEC | Annual Conference and B7 Steering Committee - Hiiumaa |
| JAN | 2004 |
| MAY | Entry into force of the accession treaty *General Affairs Council, 18.11.02) |