

# B7 FACILITATOR'S NEWSLETTER



Jørgen Kvist (Bornholm) with Denmark's Ambassador Jørgen Munk Rasmussen



Being Chairperson puts years on you!  
Claes Kullberg & Jörgen Samuelsson



Jörgen Samuelsson (Öland)  
& Olof Erland (Åland)



Subdued youngsters enjoying the  
nightlife in Tallinn

## MEETING ESTONIA - MEMBER OF THE EU

### Gotland's focus on events

The Gotland Chairmanship has developed its meeting programme to include events that can inspire and inform.

Each meeting is connected with an event and at the meeting in Tallinn the event was "**Estonia-Member of the EU**". The objective was to get an insight as to how Estonia is progressing as a member of the EU.

Reet Kokovkin, B7 Board member for Hiiumaa, put together a half day conference held at the Estonian Ministry of Internal Affairs in Tallinn. The speakers were:

**Einike Uri**, Ministry of Internal Affairs/ Regional Affairs, Deputy Secretary General for Population Affairs: Regional Structures.

**Priidu Ristkok**, Ministry of Internal Affairs/ Regional Affairs, Head of Department: Strategic Planning & Interreg

**Kalle Killar**, Ministry of Finance, Deputy Head of Foreign Financing Department: Estonian SPF and next SF period.

**Harry Kattai**, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Internal Security Policy Department, adviser. BSR cooperation on maritime environment & safety.

### Ministry Structure & Strategies

If you are wondering why there are 2 ministries names for some of the speakers take a look on the inside page.

It was good to get an update and clear explanation of how local government interacted with the ministry. It also seems that Estonia, Bornholm, Gotland, Åland have all just begun the work on preparing their strategic plans for the coming Structural Funds round. Gaining a contact at ministry level on maritime safety will certainly help in B7's future work

The presenters were very professional, and it appears that Estonian institutions are now getting past the initial difficulties of taking on EU membership and getting all their Structural Funds programmes up and running. Older EU member states know how difficult that can be!

Great conference Reet!

## MY ESTONIA

### Estonia - a special place.

Estonia has always had a special place for me. It was in Estonia travelling on an ice breaker to Saaremaa., I first saw the sea frozen over.

Perhaps it is because in Estonia I have gotten closest to the people, and made the most friends. Or maybe it is because I have got to know rural Estonia and spent time in every county during the course of many projects. I have actually held training courses in 14 of the 15 counties.

Walking the streets of Tallinn one could always hear Finnish, Russian and the odd Dutch, German, Spanish and English, probably spoken by Irish Consultants and Scottish pub folk. On my last visit it was quite weird. There were all these people speaking "Eastenders" English coming up with such philosophical pearls as "vis is wot its orl abaat" while raising his beer glass.

### EasyJet Generation

My Estonia is now being invaded by the "EasyJet" generation. With tickets from London to Tallinn going for less than €50. One can go there for a weekend. A far cry from SAS prices of €1100 for a midweek return of not so long ago

Early in the morning (06.15) on the way to the airport returning to Denmark, we met more revellers, full of the joys of spring on a cold winter day and fighting off the amorous attention of their girlfriends -who were actually trying to stop them falling under our taxi rather than indulging in the rituals of courtship lust.

This is development. Estonia is joining the cheap travel circuit, but does this mean I will be forced to speak Danish outside of Denmark if I am not to be confused with the revellers of the EasyJet generation ?

## TALLINN CONFERENCE 2005 ESTONIA: MEMBER OF THE EU



Maiden public speech as B7 Chairperson



Priidu Riistkok & the representative from the Finnish Embassy



Kalle Killar, Ministry of Finance

### Estonia-trying new administrative structures

Estonia has always had a Minister without portfolio, sitting in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, but with just a few advisors. Now they have revised their structure and have two ministers!

Heresy I can hear you saying. Against all the principles of good management - although that never stopped anyone before from putting together unworkable administrative structures!

Well I have got news for you all - its working, plus regional development is getting the emphasis and ministerial support that it deserves!

Deputy Secretary General, **Einike Uri**, explained the intricacies of local government in Estonia. Estonia is bigger than Denmark, but has roughly the same number of counties (15) and municipalities (241).

Counties are non-elected administrative units representing central government at the local level. If you want to know more check out:

<http://www.sisemin.gov.ee/atp/?lang=en>

### Regional Development in Estonia

I have known Priidu Riistkok for many years, and have always found him to be an informative and interesting speaker. It was doubly interesting as Bornholm is going thru the process of mapping out its development possibilities based on SWOT analyses and as I heard so is Åland and Gotland. The trends that Priidu highlighted for Estonia included:

- Spatial concentration of the population, increasing "social burden" and urban problems
- Spatial concentration of jobs
- Best perspective for the development of knowledge-based economy is in urban areas
- Population becoming increasingly mobile.
- Importance of urban areas is growing (jobs, competitiveness, population)
- Deepening imbalance between urban and peripheral regions.

Which means everyone and everything not tied down is moving to the capital Tallinn, which means Estonia has a huge challenge in creating sustainable development for all regions.

### Turning analysis and strategies into action?

Of course the real challenge after any analysis of the current situation, followed by setting objectives and designing policies is how to turn plans into actions. Here one needs a lot of inter-ministerial co-operation—which is not easy as each ministry has its own agenda.

### INTERREG & EU Neighbourhood Policies.

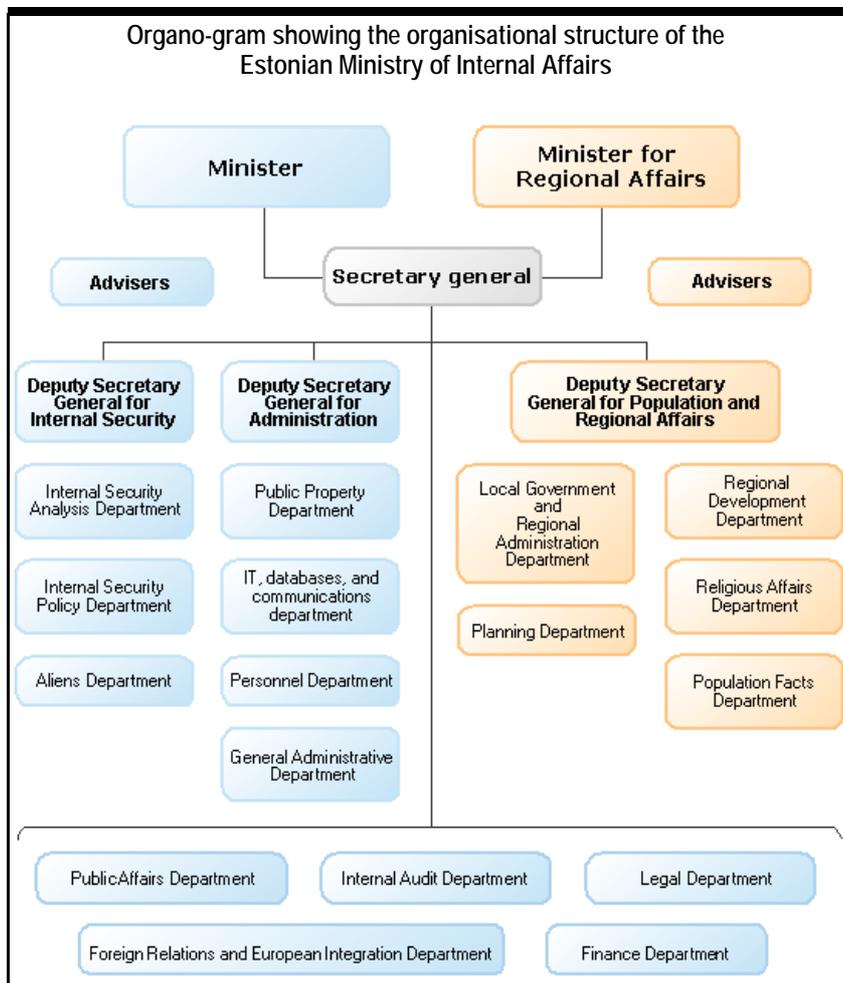
Cross Border co-operation for smaller regions such as the islands of the B7 seems to be getting more complicated. From what we learnt there is still a lot of politics in the debate and the EU Commissions proposals so it seems the lobby visit for the B7 politicians in March this year could be very timely.

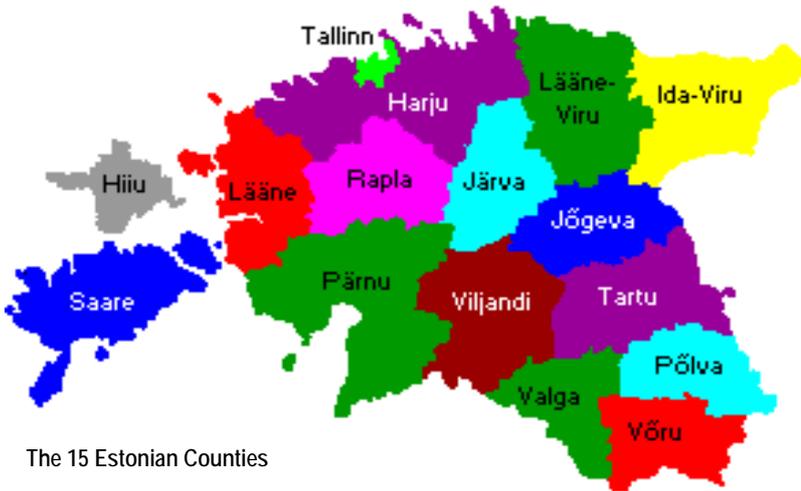
### Estonia's progress with Structural Funds

Kalle Killar, of the Ministry of Finance, gave a picture of an Estonia that was thru the worst of getting its management and paying authorities approved - a pre-requisite before a penny of SF money can be awarded - and had awarded a good portion of its 2005 funding. Huge job! Estonia seems to be well on the way to getting projects funded, now the excitement is making sure the projects deliver.

### Estonia's Borders

**Harry Kattai**, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Internal Security Policy Department, adviser. BSR co-operation on maritime environment & safety gave a picture of a valuable contact for WGE in the last few minutes of an excellent conference where everyone learnt something!





The 15 Estonian Counties



Tallinn, Raekoja plats



Tallinn Town Square



A tea house in Bakers Alley, Tallinn



Across the roof tops in Tallinn

## MARITIME SAFETY IN THE BALTIC

The Trelleborg Conference in May 2004, concluded with a declaration (see [www.b7.org](http://www.b7.org)).

### But what now?

- This declaration, B7 believes, must be sent to National Governments, EU Commission and NGOs working with maritime safety.
- Regions from each country should approach their governments with the objective of being better integrated in the national maritime safety system.
- The regions should set up a political steering group to:
  - ⇒ To discuss and define the most useful role of the regions in the maritime safety system.
  - ⇒ Exchange experiences, compare similarities and differences in the regions systems, organisations and propose interregional projects aimed at the maritime safety

- ⇒ To organise a bi-annual forum of the maritime regions in the Southern Baltic Sea for updating the implementation of maritime safety measures in the area.
- ⇒ To invite other regions in the Baltic Sea to join the maritime safety efforts.

### Interreg Application.

To achieve the above B7 is participating in the Baltic Master project. An application is being made in the coming round of INTERREG funding.

### Lobby Work.

Together with Sydsam and EuroRegion Baltic, B7 is looking at ways to progress our political actions on Maritime safety. B7 will be lobbying MEPs and the Committee of the Regions in March this year.

We will keep you updated.

## WWW.B7.ORG

On 20 January 2005, the re-invigorated website was presented at the B7 Board meeting in Tallinn at the same time it was open to the world. As I wrote to Seppo when I first saw the changes:

First impressions:

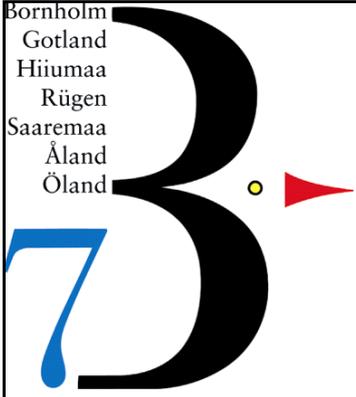
- Much cleaner
- Less cluttered
- bright and cheerful
- very white
- exciting - I really enjoyed thumbing thru the pages. I think you and Patric have done a great job. It is certainly something we can build on.

Over the coming weeks all of the pages will be revised and Seppo has taken on the task of ensuring that each island contributes a new article each month! If you have any comments, want to add links, have a good article please contact myself ([David.Hunt@brk.dk](mailto:David.Hunt@brk.dk)) or Seppo ([Ekkelund@seppo.se](mailto:Ekkelund@seppo.se))



# B7 Baltic Islands Network

Bornholm  
Gotland  
Hiiumaa  
Rügen  
Saaremaa  
Åland  
Öland



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Man Utd v Tottenham 04 Jan 05  
Before the kick-off...nothing to do with B7!

## B7 AND LEADERSHIP

The B7 is a co-operation of the seven member islands. It has no legal status- until recently there was no need. There is equal emphasis on the formal meetings as the informal getting together. Networks and co-operations are about personal contacts.

B7 is now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year and the newness and excitement of getting to know each other has worn-off. Some of us have known each other for 10 years or more. So how does B7 deal with renewal and leadership?

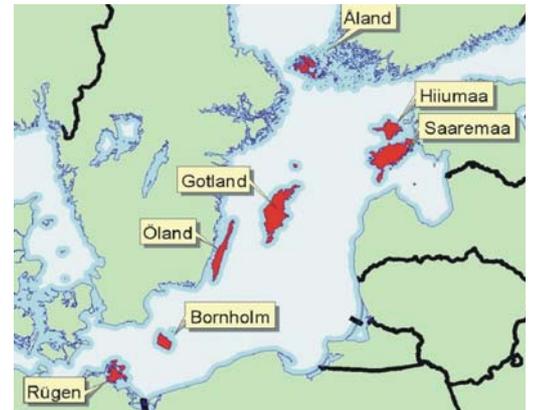
### Planning the Chairmanship Year.

Planning for the Chairmanship year begins in the pre-ceding summer. Themes for the year need to be decided - in Hiiumaa's Chairmanship year, being the year before EU accession, then Enlargement was an obvious theme. The rotating Chairmanship and Secretariat has introduced an element of competitiveness. Each island wanting to show off what it does best. Hence Gotland has chosen regional development and education as themes. Meetings need to be connected to events - to make it really an exchange of experience and knowledge.

### Challenges and Priorities

B7 Board members are senior officials who have a "portfolio of challenges" on their islands with the result that B7 cannot always command the level of attention desired, often its priority 26.

This means that the Chairmanship & Secretariat working together with the facilitator have to make sure that key B7 issues are brought to the



attention of B7 Board members and that they do not drown in information. It is here the facilitator often does a lot of telephoning and e-mailing to ensure information is gathered, summarised and communicated so that the islands are briefed.

Ambition and pragmatism need to be balanced. Issues such as the coming Structural Funds programme and developing a Maritime Safety Strategy require huge investments of time and work to ensure Board and Steering Committee are briefed so that the 7 islands can develop a common consensus on events and issues.

### Cool Co-operation.

Effective co-operation requires patience, the ability to ask questions and to ensure one has understood before re-acting. Keeping one's cool is a pre-requisite for the successful co-operation of 7 islands from 5 countries speaking 5 languages!

## Who is "the Gotland B7 Secretariat"?



Hanna Waluszewski  
Gotland B7 Secretariat  
[B7@Gotland.se](mailto:B7@Gotland.se)

The B7 Secretariat is the communications hub of the B7 and every year we have a new person to run this vital communications hub.

### Revolving Secretariat

B7's revolving Chairmanship and Secretariat has given each island the chance to set the agenda and determine the direction of the B7 for the year. Doing this has given each island an insight into how the B7 works. The challenge has been met with enthusiasm by all islands.

### Meet Gotland's Secretariat

This year Gotland has the Chairmanship and they have chosen Hanna Waluszewski to run the Secretariat.

Hanna, has recently moved out of Visby to the country where she lives with her dog, Sture, and partner Martin Espmark

She comes from Sundsvall and has studied Political Science at Umeå University (must like the cold) and in universities in Canada and Germany.

Her grandfather is Polish (dead give-away with that surname) - moved to Sweden after WWII.

As well as her work with the B7 she runs Gotland's Carrefour office—recently renamed Europe Direct. This together with the 5 months spent working in Brussels in the EU Commission as an in-service trainee or "stagé" as they call it, gives her a fantastic background for the job.

With all the planning needed for Gotland's programme you could well be contacted by her soon.

Hanna, we wish you all the best!

PS. The dog bites