

## B7 at Conference in Helsinki, 13-15 November

The B7 Baltic Islands Network participated in the Conference Exhibition of the conference "Baltic Sea and European Marine Strategy - Linking Science and Policy" in Helsinki, Finland 13-15 November 2006.

There were more than 300 participants at the conference and the B7 especially showed the position papers the B7 network has prepared and distributed during this year, 2006.

The positions papers have handled:

Baltic Europe's Intergroups: Europe's strategy for the Baltic Sea region.

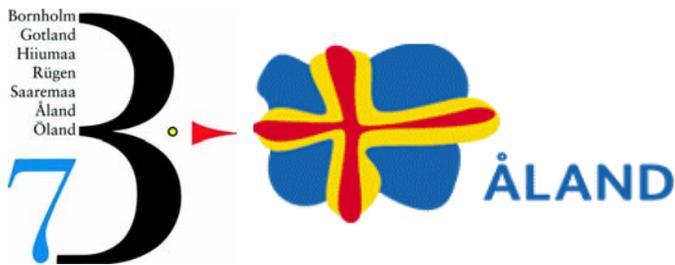
- The Thematic Strategy on the Marine Environment
- The Marine Strategy Directive

## Speech of the B7 President

The B7 President 2006, Britt Lundberg of the Government of Åland, gave a speech at the last session of the conference. The session was called "linking science and policy" and other speakers of the session were Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency, Denmark, Heike Imhoff, German Head of Delegation to HELCOM, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany, and Heidi Hautala, Member of the Parliament in Finland.

Britt Lundbergs speech was on "co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, the island view" and she especially addressed the work of the B7 Baltic Islands Networks.





## B7 at BSSSC Conference in Kiel

The B7 voice was heard at the BSSSC conference in Kiel 20-21 September 2006. The theme of the conference was the Maritime Policy Green Book and the conference started with an open debate with Dr Joe Borg, EU Commissioner, responsible for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs. Dr Borg participated in most of the conference and also took part of the conference resolution.

The B7 President 2006, Britt Lundberg, participated in the conference and made several inputs to the debate and the discussion. Ms Lundberg started her speech with pointing out that the Baltic Sea is very important for us as islanders. She said, "For us living in small islands in the Baltic Sea the sea is our amniotic fluid – our life."



## B7 and energy

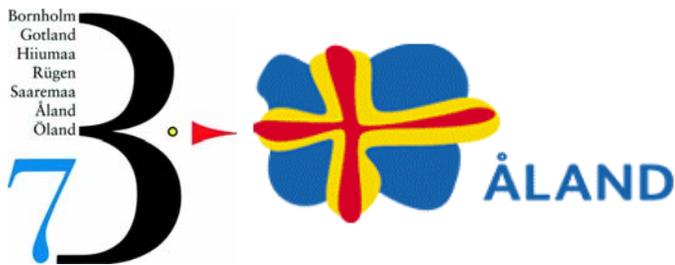
The successful B7 Energy Conference in June 2006 led to an application for a joint energy project between the B7 Islands.

The application was made with help from by Per Alex Sörensen, Plan Energi, in close contact with B7 representatives and is now being handled by the European Commission.

The first step of the project will aim at getting all the islands up-to-date energy plans. In the next step the energy plans will be used to find common ground for future projects.

The islands are hoping that this will generate future energy projects where the B7 islands can help each other and work together for more sustainable islands in the Baltic Sea.





## B7 Summer activities and events

The B7 organised and/or contributes to several activities around the Baltic this summer.

### The B7 Chess festival in Hiiumaa, 14-16 July

The B7 Chess festival was organised by Hiiumaa and the Estonian chess federation and there were participants from all B7 islands.



### The grand theatre night in Saaremaa, 15-16 July

The theatre festival consisted of two parts: Theatre Day and Theatre Night and there were participants from Åland, Gotland, Rügen, Hiiumaa, and Saaremaa.



### Åland Maritime Event, 18-23 July

The Åland Chairmanship invited the islands to participate in the Maritime Event that took place in Åland 18-23 July. The event had traditional ships, sailing vessels and farm boats, a race, displays, sales and entertainment. Thursday 20 July was dedicated to the guests from Hiiumaa, Estonia.



### B7 games, Hiiumaa 26-29 July

The B7 games is organised every second year and this year it was Hiiumaa that invited participants, children 14-16 years, from the islands. The events were: Soccer, beach-volleyball and track-and-field-athletics. The B7 games was opened by the Estonian President.

## B7 and Baltic Sea Cooperation

There have been two cooperation meetings between the Baltic Sea Organisations this year. The first was organised by the CPMR, Baltic Sea Commission, hosted by Region Blekinge in Karlskrona in May. The second was organised by CBSS in Kalmar in November.

Participants at the meetings were from B7, BSSSC, CBSS, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and Baltic Development Forum.



*Next event, 21 –22 November*

## **B7 Annual Conference 2006**

The purpose of the Conference is to discuss the European Maritime Policy and how we together can influence the outcome of the green paper. Our ambition is that invited speakers give the foundation for discussions around different themes on the Maritime Policy Green paper.

Speakers at the Conference are

- Britt Lundberg, President of the B7 2006 and Member of the Government of Åland
- The European Commission, representative from the Maritime Policy Taskforce
- Lasse Wiklöf, Member of the Government of Åland
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- Stefan Wallin, State Secretary and Future Minister of Environment of Finland
- Representatives from The Baltic Sea Organisations, BSSSC, CBSS, and UBC.

Morning 21 November

In the morning of the 21 November the Government of Åland will hold a seminar for Åland Stakeholders concerning the European Maritime Policy.

Morning 22 November

Öland shares their positive experiences at a breakfast seminar.

Afternoon 22 November

The B7 holds their Annual Conference Plenary Session.

On the Agenda:

- B7 Bornholm Chairmanship 2007
- The B7 Strategy for the Future
- Reports from the B7 workgroups

