



**GERMAN PRESIDENCY**  
2022-2023



## **Germany's Presidency 2022 – 2023**

Germany will take over the Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) from Norway on 1 July 2022. The suspension of the Russian Federation's involvement in the activities of the Council of the Baltic Sea States against the backdrop of Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine and the subsequent withdrawal of the Russian Federation from the CBSS represent a profound watershed after 30 years of cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. The remaining members have agreed to continue to use the CBSS as a forum to promote cohesion and cooperation in the region.

Germany will continue the work being conducted in the three priority areas Regional Identity, Safe & Secure Region, and Sustainable & Prosperous Region, supporting the established working groups.

The Expert Group on Sustainable Development seeks to promote dialogue and cooperation on issues of common interest with respect to the sustainable development of the Baltic Sea region. The transition to a resource-efficient circular economy and sustainable nutrition that takes regional cultural identity into account will be advanced under Germany's Presidency.

In the Expert Group on Sustainable Maritime Economy, the various relevant policy areas will be considered together with an integrated maritime policy in mind. To this end, Germany is looking to present a research project on possible indicators in the areas of ecology, economy and social issues, discuss new propulsion systems/fuels in maritime shipping and focus on the issue of ports in the Baltic Sea region.

Preventing and combating human trafficking has become particularly important and topical in the context of the exodus of refugees from Ukraine and the protection of this group, which predominantly consists of women and children. Germany will therefore promote exchange and cooperation within the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Expert Group on Children at Risk.

### **Promoting offshore wind energy in the Baltic Sea**

The members of the Council of the Baltic Sea States share the goal of becoming climate neutral by 2050 at the latest. The Baltic Sea region offers great potential for generating renewable energy, especially through offshore wind turbines. The expansion of this potential also makes an important contribution to reducing dependence on imports of fossil fuels. In close cooperation with the energy ministers, we would like to reach agreement on an exchange with the members of the Council of the Baltic Sea States on the implementation of our ambitious offshore goals and initiate concrete forms of cooperation.

### **Munitions dumped in the Baltic Sea**

The hazards posed by munitions dumped in the Baltic Sea have recently been brought to the fore. Germany would like to use the Council of the Baltic Sea States as a platform to raise further awareness of this issue and to create a common understanding of the impacts and challenges associated with munitions dumped in the sea. Under Germany's Presidency, regional cooperation in the network with HELCOM and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference will be further developed as regards this important issue.

### **Young people**

Many of the issues addressed in the framework of Baltic Sea cooperation directly or indirectly impact young people. Germany attaches great importance to personal encounters among young people from different countries in the Baltic Sea region and to the participation of young people in developing responses to the challenges of the region. This is a cross-cutting issue for the entire work of the CBSS, one that is particularly important in the context of the current European Year of Youth.