

BRISK final conference

Welcome address by Bernt Stedt

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Chairman of the HELCOM Response Group I want to wish you all warmly welcome to the final conference of the BRISK and BRISK-RU projects on sub-regional risk of spill of oil and hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea. I feel honored to have been given the chance to give the welcoming speech and I feel proud over the interesting results we can present here today.

Two and a half years of hard work within the project is now behind, led by the Admiral Danish Fleet for the BRISK project and coordinated by the Nordic Council of Ministers in Kaliningrad for the BRISK-RU project. The projects started in 2009 and the final stage of the projects, the summing up, will be made in coming two months. The projects have been conducted within the framework of the HELCOM Response Group to implement the national commitments under the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Our program today is divided into four sessions, starting with a session on how to ensure swift response to emergencies in the Baltic Sea. The second session is on the mapping of spill risks and how the overall risk assessment created within the BRISK and BRISK-RU projects can be used. After lunch, during the third session, we will hear presentations from all six sub-regions covered by the projects on sub-regional co-operation to enhance pollution preparedness. Last but not least, during the fourth session we will try to conclude on the preparedness for a major spill in the Baltic Sea based on what we have heard previously during the day. Are we prepared for a major spill in the Baltic Sea?

I hope for the good discussions today and as the Chair of the Response Group of HELCOM I will seek to bring the results of the conference as well as of the projects to the work of the Response Group, in order to make the full and best use of the information and suggestions for how to enhance capabilities and cooperation to respond to major accidents in the Baltic Sea.

I am sure that we have a very interesting day ahead of us and I hope we will have a lot of discussion after each session.

Once more like to wish you welcome to the final conference of BRISK and BRISK-RU projects. Enjoy the day!

Thank you!