

THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION PRIORITY AREA 9: To reinforce sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries

INVITATION TO A KICK-OFF MEETING IN HELSINKI 7 – 8 OCTOBER 2009

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Referring to our earlier announcement, we would like to invite you to a kick-off meeting on Priority area 9 of the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. In this letter you will find some further information regarding the meeting.

The aim of Priority area 9 is to reinforce sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The coordination of Priority area 9 is divided between Finland and Sweden. Finland takes the responsibility for coordination of agriculture (including food and rural development) and forestry issues, while Sweden takes the coordination responsibility for issues relating to fisheries.

The first kick-off meeting will be held in **Helsinki, Finland, on the 7 and 8th October 2009**, divided into three parts as follows:

- 1. 7th October at 15 - 17 hrs**, with focus on **fisheries** (theme coordinated by Sweden)
- the order has been changed due to schedule of the Commission
- 2. 7th October at 17 – 19 hrs**, with focus on **forestry** (theme coordinated by Finland)
- 3. 8th October at 9 – 13 hrs**, with focus on **agriculture, food and rural development** (themes coordinated by Finland)

The aim of the meeting is to initiate cooperation within the different themes under Priority 9 of the Baltic Sea Strategy, to exchange views and expectations, to discuss and agree on objectives as well as to start building structures for the further implementation of priority area 9, including the flagship projects. The meeting language will be English.

Enclosed you will find agendas for the three parts of the meeting. In order to be able to streamline the future work in Priority area 9, we would ask the participants (responsible authorities and/or other bodies) to present their views on the focus of the work for each of the subjects to be covered, i.e. Fisheries; Forestry as well as Agriculture, food and rural development.

Please confirm your participation by Tuesday 22nd September 2009, at the latest at the following e-mail address: tuula.hedlund@mmm.fi.

Would you also be so kind and specify in which of the following section(s) you are going to take part: 1. Fisheries; 2. Forestry or 3. Agriculture, food and rural development.

Dinner will be served for all participants on Wednesday 7th October in Restaurant "Pankki" (the Bank), address Unioninkatu 33, Helsinki.

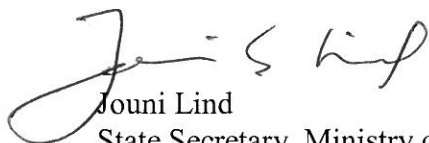
Please also confirm your participation at the Dinner by Tuesday 22nd September 2009, at the latest at the following e-mail address: tuula.hedlund@mmm.fi.

As mentioned in the previous invitation, we would kindly ask each Member State to nominate a contact person(s) for this purpose, during the meeting at the latest, also taking into consideration that the fisheries section under priority area 9 is to be coordinated by Sweden.

For further information concerning the meeting, please contact
Senior Adviser, Ms. Leena Anttila
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e-mail: leena.anttila@mmm.fi

We are looking forward to seeing you in Helsinki!

Yours sincerely,



Jouni Lind
State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Chairman of the priority area 9 (agriculture and forestry)
European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION
PRIORITY 9: To reinforce sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries

First meeting of the national stakeholders

Wednesday 7th October 2009
at 15:00 – 17:00 hrs
with focus on fisheries

Meeting venue:
Government Banquet Hall
Eteläesplanadi 6
Helsinki, Finland

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
 - State Secretary Mr. Jouni Lind, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
2. Opening by Sweden, coordinator of the fisheries section
 - Deputy Director General Mr. Tomas Dahlman, Secretariat for EU Coordination and International Affairs
3. Exchange of views and expectations of the member states regarding implementation of fisheries issues in Priority 9 as well as on flagship projects
4. Objectives and role of the European Commission in implementation of the Baltic Sea Strategy as well as an overview on potential sources for financing
 - Commission, DG-MARE (tbc)
5. Expectations and objectives of Sweden and Finland in implementation of Priority 9
 - Senior Administrative Officer Marcus Öhman, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Sweden
 - State Secretary Mr. Jouni Lind, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
6. Conclusion of the day, including next steps, and closing of the meeting
 - State Secretary Mr. Jouni Lind, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION
PRIORITY 9: To reinforce sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries

First meeting of the national stakeholders

Wednesday 7th October 2009 at 17:00 – 19:00 hrs
with focus on forestry

Meeting venue:
Government Banquet Hall
Eteläesplanadi 6
Helsinki, Finland

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
- State Secretary Mr. Jouni Lind, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
2. Exchange of views and expectations of the member states regarding implementation of forestry issues in Priority 9 as well as additional needs on flagship projects
- FIN Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Forestry
3. Objectives and role of the European Commission in implementation of the Baltic Sea Strategy as well as an overview on potential sources for financing
4. Expectations and objectives of Finland in implementation of Priority 9
- State Secretary Mr. Jouni Lind, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
5. Conclusion of the day, including next steps, and closing of the meeting
- State Secretary Mr. Jouni Lind, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION
PRIORITY 9: To reinforce sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries

First meeting of the national stakeholders

Thursday 8th October 2009 at 9:00 – 13:00 hrs
with focus on agriculture, rural development and food

Meeting venue:
Government Banquet Hall
Eteläesplanadi 6
Helsinki, Finland

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
- State Secretary Mr. Jouni Lind, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
2. Presentation of flagship projects and other prospects for cooperation in Priority 9
- Forum for inventive and sustainable manure processing; MTT Agrifood Research Finland and Agro Business Park, Denmark (tbc)
- Network on implementation of EU food and feed legislation; FIN Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Food and Health
- Objectives for cooperation between the EU Rural Development Programmes; FIN Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Rural Development Unit
3. Expectations and objectives of Finland in implementation of Priority 9
- State Secretary Mr. Jouni Lind, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
4. Objectives and role of the European Commission in implementation of the Baltic Sea Strategy as well as an overview on potential sources for financing
5. Exchange of views and expectations of the member states regarding implementation of Priority 9 as well as additional needs on flagship projects
6. Conclusion of the day, including next steps, and closing of the meeting
- State Secretary Mr. Jouni Lind, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland.