



**Environmental Cooperation in the Baltic Sea  
Region:  
views of the Ministry of the Environment of  
Estonia**

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# The main milestones of Environmental Policy in Estonia

- Act on Sustainable Development (adopted February 22nd, 1995), National Strategy on SD (March 2005)
- National Environmental Strategy
  - (March 17th, 1997, new Strategy is being elaborated)
- National Environmental Action Plan-NEAP
  - (May 26th, 1998; updated Spring 2001, new is being elaborated)
- Global and regional cooperation
- EU Environmental Acquis



- National Strategy on Sustainable Development - 2001-2003

–three priority goals


- vitality of Estonia`s cultural space
- growth of people`s welfare
- ecologically balanced development

–need to establish proper decision-making institutional mechanism



# Priority Environmental Problems according to the NES

- Pollution of ambient and urban air
- past pollution
- damaged landscapes
- decrease in water quantity
- pollution and eutrophication of surface waterbodies
- waste management
- threats to biodiversity
- problems with built environment



# 10 Policy Goals of the Estonian National Environmental Strategy

- Environmental Awareness
- Clean Technologies
- Energy Sector
- Air Quality
- Waste Management
- Past Pollution
- Groundwater Resources
- Surface and Coastal Water
- Landscape and Biodiversity
- Modification of Built Environment



# Global and regional environmental cooperation

- More than 40 environmental conventions or other international legal instruments ratified or acceded to, since 1991
- Rio 1992 Summit and related Conventions
- UN ECE Conventions
- Conventions and processes in the Baltic Sea area
- Helsinki Convention
- Gdansk Convention
- Baltic 21
- Baltic cooperation
- Emerging Nordic-Baltic cooperation



## Bilateral agreements

- 27 bilateral agreements (without fisheries agreements) mainly with the Baltic Sea countries
- 8 agreements with Finland (framework, water protection, air protection, oil-spills, EIA, climate change - Joint Implementation)
- 3 agreements with Denmark (framework, radiation protection)
- 3 agreements with Latvia (framework, EIA, nature protection)
- 2 agreements with Germany (framework)
- 2 agreements with Lithuania (framework, hazardous waste)
- 2 agreements with the Russian Federation (framework, transboundary waters)
- 2 agreements with Sweden (framework, climate change)



# Benefits from cooperation within the Baltic Sea region

## • Environmental benefits

### • Emissions into atmosphere

• NO<sub>x</sub> -41%

• VOC -52%

• SO<sub>2</sub> -60%

• solid particles -74%

• CO<sub>2</sub> -56%

• CH<sub>4</sub> -42%

• N<sub>2</sub>O -67%





# Benefits from cooperation within the Baltic Sea region

- Environmental benefits

Pollution load of discharged wastewater

- $N_{\text{tot}}$  -50%
- $P_{\text{tot}}$  -65%
- $BOD_7$  -82%



- Benefits from cooperation within the Baltic Sea region

- Financial benefits

- More than 300 bilateral projects (1992-2002)

- Bilateral assistance more than 2.5 billion EEK

- Biggest bilateral donors Denmark, Finland, Sweden

- Main sectors – wastewater treatment, waste management, air protection

- Preparation to work with the EU Structural Funds



- Benefits from cooperation within the Baltic Sea region

- Political benefits


- Assistance to establish legal framework for environmental protection and draft the main environmental policy documents

- Technical assistance and cooperation

- Personal contacts

- Experience to work within international context

- Take over the EU environmental *Acquis*

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- Benefits from cooperation within the Baltic Sea region
  - Guidance towards becoming member of international environmental community
  - Regional cooperation
  - Global cooperation