projects and project exports both within and outside the Nordic area. Priority is given to investment and environmental loans for projects in the Baltic states, Poland and northwest Russia.

Address: Fabianinkatu 34, PO Box 249, FIN-00171 Helsinki, Finland.
Website: http://www.nib.int
President: Jón Sigurðsson (Iceland).

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES

Established in 1992 in Copenhagen following a conference of ministers of foreign affairs.

Members. Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden and the European Commission.

Aims. To promote co-operation in the Baltic Sea region in the field of trade, investment and economic exchanges, combating organized crime, civil security, culture and education, transport and communication, energy and environment, human rights and assistance to democratic institutions.

The Council meets at ministerial level once a year, chaired by rotating foreign ministers; it is the supreme decision-making body. Between annual sessions the Committee of Senior Officials and three working groups meet at regular intervals. The CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Development, Helle Degn (Denmark), appointed in Oct. 2000, acts independently to the Council, and supports and structures the promotion and consolidation of democratic development in the member states. In Oct. 1999 ministers of energy of the CBSS member states agreed to achieve the goal of creating effective, economically and environmentally sound and more integrated energy systems in the Baltic Sea region. Four summits at the level of heads of government of CBSS member states and the President of the European Commission have taken place; in 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002. The Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation (BASREC) is made up of energy ministers from the region and is chaired by the energy minister from the chair country of the CBSS.

Official language: English.
CBSS Secretariat: Strömsborg, PO Box 2010, S-103 11 Stockholm, Sweden.
Website: http://www.cbss.st
Director of the Secretariat: Hannu Halinen (Finland).

EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION (EBU)

The EBU is the world’s largest professional association of national broadcasters, with 70 active members in 51 European and Mediterranean countries and 47 associate members in 29 countries elsewhere in Africa, the Americas and Asia. One of the EBU’s best-known television activities is Eurovision which has a permanent network comprising up to 30 digital satellite channels, and two satellite channels relay radio concerts and operas, sports fixtures and major news events for Euroradio.

Headquarters: 17A Ancienne Route, CP 45, CH-1218 Grand Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.
Website: http://www.ebu.ch