

COUNCIL OF 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 meetings the Committee of Senior Officials meets once a month. A number of action programmes have already been adopted and are now implemented.

Headquarters: Strömsborg, PO Box 2010, S-103 11 Stockholm, Sweden.

Website: <http://www.baltinfo.org>

Director: Jacek Starosciak.

EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION (EBU)

The EBU is the world's largest professional association of national broadcasters with 66 active members in 49 European and Mediterranean countries and 51 associate members in 30 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 13 channels on a Eutelsat satellite, plus 5,500 km of permanently rented terrestrial circuits.

Headquarters: C.P. 67, CH-1218 Grand Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.ebu.ch>

BLACK SEA ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION GROUP (BSEC)

Founded 1992 to promote economic co-operation in the region. Priority areas of interest include: transport and communications, energy, environmental protection, tourism, trade and industrial co-operation, agriculture and agro-industry, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, science and technology, finance administration.

Members. Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Observers. Austria, Egypt, Israel, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Tunisia.

There is a *BSEC Business Council*, and a *Black Sea Trade and Development Bank* was established in Thessalonika, Greece, in 1993, with a founding capital of US\$300m. In May 1994, members met to try and create a mechanism for the solution of conflicts in the region, under the auspices of the Group's Interparliamentary Legal and Political Affairs Committee.