

Kyösti Virrankoski
Mep

Helcom Baltic Sea Action Plan Stakeholder Conference 4.3 2008 Helsinki

Spending under Baltic Sea Strategy

The EU has no real Baltic Sea Programme. Baltic Sea strategy is placed more under the title Northern Dimension. Neither there is any special budget line concerning Baltic Sea strategy.

In its resolution Nov 16th 2006 the European parliament decided to ask for an EU Baltic Sea Strategy justified it with convincing arguments presented in this resolution. In its Annual Policy Strategy for 2009 presented last month the Commission promised to present a Strategy for the Baltic Sea region. That would pre-empt that the work in this field will be intensified and made more consistent and coherent with the goals which we regard very important.

Still this strategy is important and even functioning. The Baltic Sea strategy is a horizontal concept that covers many policy areas. And accordingly it is funded from various lines. In the European Parliament we have discussed on the alternative to create a special budget line for the Northern Dimension or, and for the Baltic Sea strategy. But after severe considerations we have concluded that it is better to use several budget lines in order to achieve the goals we have set for the Baltic Sea region.

The best way to find out, from where the Baltic Sea Strategy can be funded is to check the Multiannual Financial Framework 2007 2013. There we have programmes and budget lines which can be used for the Baltic Sea Strategy.

In the heading 1A we have TENs, from where traffic, electricity, oil and gas networks can be funded. Other programmes are research programmes, Life long learning and even Galileo

In the Heading 1B Structural funds and Cohesion fund are vital as we could hear.

In the Heading 2 Rural development is essential, as well as European Fisheries fund Life programme

In Heading 3A we can mention several programmes as well as in 3B

In Heading 4,EU as a global Palyer we have one of the main instruments, ENPI

Added to that we approved several pilot projects and preparatory actions in last Budgetary procedure

PP Sulphure dioxide emission trading in the Baltic Sea 1 m euro

PP preventative and recovery actions for the Baltic Sea bed 2,5 m euro

PA Fostering Baltic Sea regionalisation 1,5 m euro

PA An integrated coastal communication and risk management system, 1 m euro

Lets hope that the Commission can create fruitful actions with these money. These actions can last 2-3 years