

20 November 2013

MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND THE COMMITTEES ON STATE ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Macro-Regional Strategies: Development and Prospects

Vilnius, 24–25 November 2013

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Sunday, 24 November

Arrival of the delegations

15.00–19.00 Registration at the hotels
„Amberton Vilnius Centre“, L. Stuokos-Gucevičiaus g. 1, Vilnius
„Kempinski Cathedral Square“, Universiteto g. 14, Vilnius
„Radisson Blu Astorija“, Didžioji g. 35/2, Vilnius

18.30 Departure from the hotels for the Museum of Applied Arts by bus

19.15 Concert in the Museum of Applied Arts

20.00 Dinner hosted by Mr Algimantas SALAMAKINAS, Chair of the Committee on Environment Protection, and Ms Virginija BALTRAITIENĖ, Chair of the Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
Venue: Museum of Applied Arts, Arsenalo g. 3, Vilnius

22.00 Return to the hotels by bus

Monday, 25 November

8.15 Departure for the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania by bus
Gedimino pr. 53, Vilnius

- 8.15 Registration in the Seimas (for those not registered yet)
Venue: Lobby, Building II of the Seimas

OPENING SESSION

Venue: Plenary Hall of the Seimas, Building II of the Seimas

- 9.00 Introductory remarks by Mr Algimantas SALAMAKINAS, Chair of the Committee on Environment Protection of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
- Welcome speech by H. E. Ms Loreta GRAUŽINIENĖ, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
- Adoption of the agenda

SESSION I: SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Chaired by Mr Algimantas SALAMAKINAS, Chair of the Committee on Environment Protection of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

- 9.15 **Integration of climate policy into regional development strategies**
Ms Connie HEDEGAARD, European Commissioner for Climate Action

Debate

Results of the Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
Mr Rimantas ŠADŽIUS, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania

Debate

- 11.00–11.30 Family photo
Venue: Stained Glass Gallery, Building I of the Seimas

Coffee break
Venue: Stained Glass Gallery, Building I of the Seimas

SESSION II: ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION OF MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Chaired by Mr Algimantas SALAMAKINAS, Chair of the Committee on Environment Protection of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

- 11.30 **The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region *vis-à-vis* other forms of cooperation in environmental protection of the Baltic Sea Region**
Mr Valentinas MAZURONIS, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Environmental dimension of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Mr Andreas BECKMANN, World Wide Fund for Nature, Director of the Danube-Carpathian Programme

Debate

- 13.00–14.30 Lunch
Venue: Stained Glass Gallery, Building I of the Seimas
- 13.00 Press Conference
Venue: Press Conference Room, Building II of the Seimas

SESSION III: CONTRIBUTION OF THE EU INSTITUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Chaired by Ms Virginija BALTRAITIENĖ, Chair of the Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

- 14.30 **Development and prospects of European Union macro-regional strategies**
Mr Johannes HAHN, European Commissioner for Regional Policy
- Macro-regional strategies and their significance from the perspective of the European Parliament**
Ms Danuta HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament
- Debate
- 16.15 Debate on and adoption of the Conclusions of the meeting
- 16.45 Guided tour of the Seimas (in English or French) *optional*
- Return to the hotels or departure for the airport by bus
- 17.30 Return to the hotels by bus