Baltic-Mediterranean Axis:
A New Framework for Cooperation?

DIPOLI Congress Centre, Espoo, Finland
April 4-5, 2011

Draft programme (210311)

Monday, 4 April

8.30 – 9.30  Registration
9.00 – 9.30  Coffee

9.30 – 10.30  Opening session

Welcome
Anne Haaranen, Chair of the board, Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU, Kehys

Finland’s role in Baltic-Mediterranean cooperation
Astrid Thors, Minister of Migration and European Affairs

EU and inter-regional environmental cooperation
Sirpa Pietikäinen, Member of the European Parliament

EU and the two seas
Representative of the European Commission
10.30 – 11.10 Civil society cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region

Promoting intercultural dialogue in the EuroMed region
Andreu Claret, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation

EuroMed Non-Governmental Platform
Abdelmaksoud Rachdi, Chairman of the EuroMed Non-Governmental Platform

11.10 – 11.30 Civil society cooperation in the Baltic Sea region

Baltic Sea NGO Forum
Darja Arkhutina, Director General, Association for co-operation with Nordic countries "NORDEN"

11.30 – 12.00 Break

12.00 – 13.15 Examples of existing regional and interregional cooperation

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and project cooperation
Esa Kokkonen, Director, the Baltic Institute of Finland

A new cooperation model to save the Baltic Sea
Mathias Bergman, Secretary General, Program Director / Maritime activities, Baltic Sea Action Group

Mare Balticum – Mare Nostrum documentary film project
Paul Lwoff, Giuseppe Lugano, MBMN Productions Ltd

Baltic-Mediterranean civil society cooperation in practice:
“Facilitating political dialogue in the Baltico-Mediterranean Axis”
Olga Borou, Research fellow, International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)

13.15 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 15.45 Working group sessions

WG 1: Sea environment in the Baltic Sea and Mediterranean regions: common challenges, common solutions?

Facilitator: Evelin Andrespok, Policy officer, Estonian Roundtable for
Development Cooperation

Topics:
* Environmental risks connected to maritime traffic
* How to reduce eutrophication in the two seas?
* Raising awareness about the sustainable use of the seas

WG 2: Mobility and its obstacles: perspectives from North and South

Facilitator: Najia Benserhir, Researcher, Groupement d'Études et de Recherches sur la Méditerranée (G.E.R.M.)

Topics:
* Labour migration and EU migration policies
* Migration, human rights and the notions of citizenship

WG 3: Intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region

Facilitator: Tuomo Melasuo, Professor, Research director, Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI)

Topics:
* Prejudices vs. shared values: the basis of intercultural dialogue in light of the events in the Middle East and North Africa
* Education as a tool for intercultural understanding

15.45 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 17.30 Working group sessions continue

19.30 – 21.00 Reception

Tuesday, 5 April

9.00 – 9.30 Coffee

9.30 – 12.00 Working group sessions continue
12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 15.00 Closing plenary

Facilitator: Risto Veltheim, Roving Ambassador for Algeria, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Results and recommendations of the working groups
Facilitators of the working groups

Panel discussion:
The future perspectives of Baltic-Mediterranean cooperation

Heidi Hautala, Member of the European Parliament

Timo Behr, Researcher, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Tuomo Melasuo, Professor, Research director, Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI)

Rilli Lappalainen, Secretary general, Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU, Kehys

Closing remarks
Representative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland