

## RESOLUTION ON DUMPING SEWAGE IN THE BALTIC SEA

In 2010-2011, the IMO (International Maritime Organization) took a decision to ban the discharge of sewage from cruise and passenger ships in the Baltic Sea – with the requirement that it would only go into effect once adequate port reception facilities were made available.

Furthermore, the Baltic States Environment Ministers and the European Commission decided in November 2007, under HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission), on a joint action plan, the BSAP (Baltic Sea Action Plan). This plan aims to achieve good environmental status in the marine areas and it has four objectives: a Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication, Baltic marine life unaffected by hazardous substances, a favorable conservation status of the Baltic Sea biodiversity and environmentally friendly shipping in the Baltic Sea. The plan is a clear letter that each nation should encourage ports and shipping companies to voluntarily disposal of sewage in the harbor facilities. The HELCOM commission has, in March 2014, decided to send a notification to IMO that there now are sufficient and adequate port reception facilities available to dispose sewage in the Baltic Sea harbors.

Despite this there are passenger- and cruise ships that dump sewage in the Baltic Sea. According to WWF (World Wide Fund For Nature), in May 2015, there are still many cruise ships who are unwilling to commit to stop the dumping and that their trade organization, CLIA (Cruise Lines International Association), are not willing to make such a commitment.

As representatives for the UBC (Union of the Baltic Cities) we are working towards an environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region and cannot therefore silently standby and know that this dumping still is happening. **We therefore strongly urge all passenger- and cruise ships to immediately take actions to stop dumping their sewage in the sensitive Baltic Sea. We also propose that all decision-makers work towards the goal to prohibit sewage dumping in the sea as soon as possible.**

*Resolution proposal by,*

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