



Press release

Parliamentarians from the Baltic Sea region deliberate in Berlin on strengthening democracy's resilience

The 32nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) meets from 27 – 29 August 2023 in the Reichstag Building in Berlin and is open to the press. The conference brings together around 150 members of Parliament, government representatives and experts from states and regions of the Baltic Sea. This year's topic is "Strengthening the Resilience of the Democratic Baltic Sea Region".

The conference will be opened on Monday, 28 August at 9.30 hrs in the plenary chamber by the President of the Bundestag, Bärbel Bas, and the current BSPC President and Member of the Bundestag, Johannes Schrap.

On Tuesday, 29 August at 13.00 hrs a press conference will be held, attended by Mr Schrap, along with his successor as BSPC President, Henrik Møller (Denmark), and Andreas Schoop, Chairman of the Committee of Youth Representatives of the Baltic Sea region Youth Forum (location: Members' lobby, plenary chamber level; consecutive interpretation in German/English).

At the conclusion of the conference, the participants intend to adopt a joint resolution. The resolution will be published on bundestag.de/bspc and bspc.net.

Background:

The BSPC was founded in 1991 as a forum for political dialogue between the parliaments in the Baltic Sea region. Alongside facilitating parliamentary exchange, it aims to take a unified approach to communicating the region's political, economic, social and environmental interests to the outside world.

The Presidency of the BSPC changes on an annual basis: the current President is the Head of the Delegation from the Bundestag to the BSPC, Johannes Schrap (SPD). The German Presidency focuses on the topics of how societies can be made more resilient, especially in the digital sphere, and how democracy can be strengthened.

During the conference, following the opening four sessions are to be held on the various aspects of this topic. The first session looks at "Peaceful and reliable neighbourliness and intense cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region on the basis of fundamental values"; speakers here include Federal Foreign Minister Baerbock and her Finnish and Estonian counterparts.

Two further sessions will be held on Monday: at 13.00 hrs on the topic of "Boosting democratic resilience and promoting digital resilience" and at 15.30 hrs on "Strengthening the resilience of maritime ecosystems", with Federal Minister for the Environment Steffi Lemke among the speakers.

In the fourth session on Tuesday from 9.00 hrs, a panel discussion will focus on “Strengthening the resilience of climate and biodiversity”.

Further information on the BSPC along with the detailed conference programme can be found at https://www.bundestag.de/europa_internationales/international/bspc/bspc-praesidentschaft-918532.

First: BSPC Youth Forum

In order to adequately reflect the growing significance of the participation of young people in political decision-making processes, in recent years the BSPC has established a Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum (BSPYF), held directly before the annual conference. The Youth Forum will take place in Berlin from 25 – 27 August 2023. The 48 BSPYF participants will subsequently also take part in the BSPC. The Youth Forum is thematically linked with the BSPC and will therefore focus this year on the topic of democratic resilience. The forum provides an opportunity for participants to meet and network with other young, politically-engaged people and with parliamentarians. Together, participants will work on policy recommendations, which will then be presented and discussed at the subsequent BSPC. The Youth Forum is not open to the press.

Information for the press:

The BSPC is taking place in the plenary chamber of the German Bundestag in the Reichstag Building and is open to the press. Please use the press gallery in the plenary chamber.

Media professionals require valid press accreditation from the German Bundestag in order to attend. Detailed information about this can be found here https://www.bundestag.de/resource/blob/190098/0fe8f6f7c4976b09cf9a7308c57c78ce/akk_en-data.pdf.

PHOTO CALL:

Following the opening speeches on Monday, 28 August a family photo will be taken in the plenary chamber, which can also be captured from the press gallery.

Herausgeber: Deutscher Bundestag

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