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# Baltic-Mediterranean Axis: A New Framework for Cooperation?

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DIPOLI Congress Centre, Espoo, Finland

April 4-5, 2011

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Draft programme (240311)

## Monday, 4 April

8.30 – 9.30 Registration

9.00 – 9.30 Coffee

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## **9.30 – 10.50 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*

### **Intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region: new demands, new opportunities**

*Andreu Claret, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation*

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

**EU and the two seas**  
*Representative of the European Commission*

**10.50 – 11.30 Civil society cooperation in the Mediterranean and Baltic Sea regions**

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

**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 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)*

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13.15 – 14.30 Lunch

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**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
- \*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**

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19.30 – 21.00 Reception  
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**Tuesday, 5 April**

9.00 – 9.30 Coffee

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**9.30 – 12.00 Working group sessions continue**  
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12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

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**13.00 – 15.00**    **Closing plenary**

**Facilitator:** *Risto Veltheim, Coordinator for Euromed Affairs, 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*