

4 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
- 14.00–18.30 Registration at the hotels
- 18.30–19.00 Departure by bus from the hotels for The Old Arsenal, National Museum of Lithuania
- 19.00 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: The Old Arsenal, National Museum of Lithuania, 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
- 8.30–9.00 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, and Ms Virginija BALTRAITIENĖ, Chair of the Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

 Welcome speech by H. E. Mme 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

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 Linas LINKEVIČIUS, Minister of Foreign Affairs 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

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

- 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