

AGENDA AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Economics, Energy and Innovation Committee and the Natural Resources and Environment Committee of the Baltic Assembly in 2018

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| <p>Agenda of the Committees in 2018</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy package of the European Commission “Clean Energy for all Europeans”, relations with the third countries - Electricity generation adequacy in the Baltic States. Renewable energy: joint Baltic projects, support schemes for renewables - Synchronisation of the Baltic electricity networks with the European Networks - Regional gas and electricity market - Astravyets nuclear power plant - Nord Stream 2 - Implementation of Paris Agreement and the EU Climate and Energy targets 2030 - The consequences of climate change for agriculture: challenges and opportunities in the context of Paris climate change agreement |
| <p>Resolution of the 36th Session of the Baltic Assembly and Statement of the 23rd Baltic Council (2017)</p> | <p>Recommendations of the Baltic Assembly, initiated by the Committees:</p> <p>in regard to the economic cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to coordinate joint measures to support digital infrastructure and apply modern technologies across different sectors as well as spread the practice of secure electronic signing, usage of e-signature and digital document exchange among the Baltic States; - to start cooperation in regard to building of common innovation and industrial system of the Baltic States; - to intensify trilateral consultations of the Baltic States about the next EU multiannual financial framework by defining and securing common interests; <p>in regard to transport and infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to speed up the implementation of <i>RailBaltica</i> project thus securing timely realisation, respecting of set time-line and preventing increase of total expenditures of the project as well as ensuring continued EU support and funding at the highest permissible EU co-funding rates in the forthcoming EU multiannual financial frameworks; - to continue to strengthen our partnerships with Poland and Finland in regard to the <i>RailBaltica</i> project; - to intensify negotiations about future transport and infrastructure projects in the Baltic States, including maritime and aviation sector, intelligent transport systems and modern traffic information systems; - taking into account budgetary limitations by each state, to prioritise the development of the road network and agree on the Joint Action Plan for Development of road network in the Region; <p>in regard to the synchronisation of the Baltic electricity networks with European networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - taking into account results of the Joint Research Centre study, to make swift decision of the Baltic States about the best and the most cost-efficient scenario for synchronization of the Baltic electricity networks with the European networks; - to agree on the timetable and concrete measures for implementation of |

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| | <p>synchronization project;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to ensure that all the necessary measures are taken for the smooth execution of the tasks at hand in terms of preparation for the project; <p>in regard to the regional gas and electricity market:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to continue work towards creating transparent regional gas and electricity market conditions in order to attract investments and new market participants, and facilitate competition; - to implement Regional Gas Market Development Action Plan and to report the status of its implementation to the Baltic Assembly at least once a year; - to continue putting effort on the decision about the economically viable long-term regional solutions and jointly seek the financial support of the European Union for the implementation of the agreed regional solution; - to intensify the cooperation with Finland and Poland on their more active involvement and participation in the regional gas and electricity markets; <p>in regard to the Astravyets nuclear power plant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to take a unanimous position regarding development of Astravyets nuclear power plant; - to represent a common request for an international audit of the Astravyets nuclear power plant in order to promote highest international safety standards; <p>in regard to Nord Stream 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to take a unanimous position that the Nord Stream 2 project is not in line with the EU strategy of diversification of sources of supply and routes of transit of imported energy, as well as the EU's energy security strategy and foreign, security, and Eastern Partnership policy goals, reinforcing the EU's dependency on Russian gas supply; - call therefore on the European Commission to thoroughly assess the compatibility of the Nord Stream 2 project with EU policy aims and ensure that all relevant EU legislation is fully respected. |
| <p>Resolution of the 37th Session of the Baltic Assembly and Statement of the 24th Baltic Council (2018)</p> | <p>Proposals on recommendations, initiated by the Committees:</p> <p>in regard to the synchronisation of the Baltic electricity networks with European networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to start technical implementation for synchronization of the Baltic electricity networks with the European networks; - to launch informative campaign for societies of the Baltic States about synchronization of the Baltic electricity networks with the European networks; <p>in regard to the regional gas and electricity market:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to carry on target-oriented coordination of activities towards developing of common regional gas and electricity market of the Baltic States; - to commence negotiations among relevant stakeholders of the Baltic States about additional primary reserves for regional electricity generation adequacy after 2025; - to commence negotiations among relevant stakeholders of the Baltic States about joint investments and common support schemes into common projects of renewable energy; - to analyse experience of other EU member states in regard to the sale of "green bonds" as long-term obligations and examine options of introducing such an approach in the Baltic States; - to continue reaching of the national targets, coordinate approaches and |

measures of the Baltic States in regard to the implementation of the Energy Package of the European Commission “Clean Energy for all Europeans”;

- to coordinate positions and approaches of the Baltic States regarding Article 3.2 of the EU Internal Electricity Market Directive;
- to represent a common request to Belarus to comply with all internationally agreed norms, highest international safety standards and transparency in regard to the Astravyets nuclear power plant;
- to launch comprehensive dialogue among relevant stakeholders of the Baltic States in regard harmonised Baltic approach in prosumers issue;

in regard to transport and infrastructure:

- with an active and targeted approach, to continue the implementation of the *RailBaltica* project thus securing timely realisation, respecting the set time line and preventing increase in total expenditures of the project;
- to elaborate and implement joint actions to ensure continued EU support and funding at the highest permissible EU co-funding rates for the *RailBaltica* project in the next EU multiannual financial frameworks;
- to reach an agreement on infrastructure management model of the *RailBaltica* project in the first half of 2019;
- to continue strengthening partnership with Finland and Poland in regard to the *RailBaltica* project;
- to introduce a unified tolling system in the Baltic States;

in regard to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the EU Climate and Energy targets 2030: Actions of the Baltic States:

- to start exchanges with regards to the preparation of draft integrated national energy and climate plans in the context of regional cooperation enshrined in the proposal for the EU’s Energy Union governance regulation;
- to enhance exchange of experience and best practice for the implementation of climate and energy targets till 2030 including the transposition of EU legislation and implementation of requirements;
- to elaborate joint priorities and common interest projects for the EU Multiannual Financial framework for the period 2021-2027 in relation to mainstreaming climate objectives into different economy sectors development programmes;
- to cooperate presenting achievements of the Baltic States regarding the implementation of climate and energy policy in the UNFCCC (COP24) conference in Katowice, Poland.
- to ensure cooperation in preparing long-term low emission strategies in the Baltic States;
- to start harmonisation of pollution tax rates for vehicles in the Baltic States;

in regard to the consequences of climate change for agriculture and climate smart agriculture: challenges and opportunities in the context of Paris Climate Change Agreement:

- to enhance exchange of experience and best practice on sustainable and climate resilient agriculture and forest land management in order to increase carbon dioxide absorption potential and decrease greenhouse gas emissions in land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector;
- to ensure cooperation and experience exchange in preparing Forest Reference Levels for the period 2021-2030;
- to extend cooperation on application of sustainable, innovative technologies used for farming and agriculture practices.