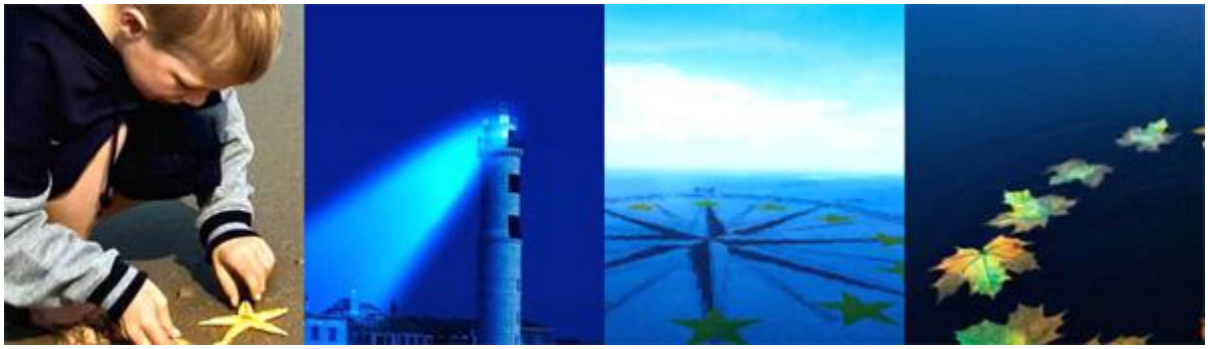

Terms of Reference
International Steering Committee

for the implementation of Priority Area 13 on maritime safety and security in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Adopted in Helsinki on 21 June 2010

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was adopted and the accompanying Action Plan taken note of by the European Council in October 2009.

1. Terms of reference

1.1 The Steering Committee is created in order to advice and assist Denmark and Finland in their capacity as Priority Area Coordinators for priority 13 on maritime safety and security in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, with the view to ensure that actions are anchored all over the region.

2. Members and observers

2.1 The Members of the Steering Committee are: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and the European Commission. Other interested Baltic Sea States (in particular Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation) can also become members of the Steering Committee should they so wish.

2.2 Members are represented in the Steering Committee by a relevant ministry, or state agency operating in the field of maritime safety and security and the European Commission by a representative of the relevant service.

2.3 Flagship Project Leaders whose flagship projects are within priority 13 in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region may also attend Steering Committee meetings.

2.4 The Steering Committee may assign the status of Observer to other states, organisations or financial instruments, having a legitimate interest in the priority area. The Steering Committee may invite third parties as guests to its meetings.

3. Actions by the Steering Committee

3.1 The Steering Committee may provide advice and assistance to the Priority Area Coordinators by serving as a forum for dialogue and discussion regarding the implementation of priority 13 in the action plan for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The Steering Committee is to discuss and recommend actions pertaining to the implementation of the priority area. The Steering Committee will also operate as a forum for dialogue for flagship projects.

3.2 The Steering Committee may, within the mandate given to the priorities, initiate and implement projects relevant to the enhancement of maritime safety and security in the Baltic Sea Region and explore their financing with a view to focusing work in areas where it creates most added value.

3.3 The Steering Committee may establish and terminate sub working structures, such as task forces, to deal with specific task having a clear and time-limited mandate.

4. Rules and Procedures

4.1 The Steering Committee takes overall political guidance from the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its Action Plan as well as from the Annual Stakeholder Forums and the High Level Group. The Steering Committee may also consider policy documents on the Baltic Sea Region from relevant states or organisations.

4.2 Decisions within the Steering Committee are taken by consensus among members. However, non-EU members are not in the position to block cooperation among EU members in a given field, but may instead choose to opt out of a particular field of cooperation.

4.3 The Chairmanship of the Steering Committee rotates between the two Priority Area Co-coordinators.

4.4 The Chairman of the Steering Committee prepares the agenda for the Committee meetings. Members may present their proposals for the agenda to the Chairman.

4.5 Progress reports on the priority area drafted by the Priority Area Coordinators, are circulated to and discussed among members before submission to the European Commission.

4.6 All Steering Committee meetings are conducted in English.

5. Meetings and finance

5.1 The Steering Committee holds meetings, as needed.

5.2 Participants may bring interpreters at their own expense.

5.3 The member hosting meetings bears the costs connected with the meeting, unless otherwise decided. Participants in the meetings cover their respective travel and accommodation expenses.