



## ROUND TABLE RESOLUTION

### Ecology and Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region

Within the framework of the VII International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day”

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**Co-Chairs:** Irina Asanova (*St. Petersburg Institute of Hospitality*)  
Andrey Berezkin (*Commission for Sea and river tourism of the Marine Counsel of St. Petersburg Government*)

**Participants:** 45

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#### **Round Table participants:**

- Savonlinna Vocational College. East-Savo Educational Federation of Municipalities, Finland
- University of Greifswald, Department of Geography and Geology, Germany
- Haapavesi Vocational School, Finland
- University of Greifswald, Department of Geography and Geology, Germany
- Metsähallitus Vocational College, Finland
- Marine Council of St. Petersburg Government, Russia
- Admiral Makarov State Marine Academy, Training Center, Russia
- St. Petersburg Institute of Hospitality, Russia
- State Hydrology Institute, Russia
- St. Petersburg State University, Faculty of Geography & Geoecology, Russia
- State University Department of Ecological Safety and Regional Sustainable Development, Russia
- Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Russia
- Scientific Research Institute of Urbanitics, Russia
- LLC Management Company “Sea Façade”, Russia
- Representatives of Republic Karelia in St. Petersburg, Russia
- St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, Russia
- National Academy of Tourism, Russia
- State Enterprise Scientific Research Institute of Construction, Russia
- Public Corporation Passenger Port, Russia
- Administration of Kurortny District of St. Petersburg, Russia
- Support of Ecological Control Society and Security of North-West Federal District Fund, Russia
- Administration of Sea-Port of St. Petersburg, Russia
- Tourism and Sport Committee, Russia

- Association “St. Petersburg for Ecology of the Baltic Sea Region” , Russia
- Research Center “Ecograd”, Russia
- Economical Development Ministry of Karelia, Russia
- Cultural and Ecological Health programs for youth Fund “Eco-T”, Russia
- Corporation “The Inflow Worldwide St. Petersburg”, Russia
- Baltic Sea Friends, Russia
- Baltic Nature Fund of St. Petersburg Naturalists’ Association, Russia
- Corporation “St. Petersburg Express”, Russia
- University after Jan Kohanskiy, Poland

The greetings of the International Ecotourism Society, TIES, USA, Executive Director Martha Honey, of the Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC) Executive Director Thomas Mielke and of the Chairman of the Committee of Youth, Sports and Tourism of the Government of the Leningrad Region R. Kartashova, were received by the round table participants.

Environmental problems and connected with them peculiarities of tourism industry were discussed within the round table session **“Ecology and Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region”**.

The representatives of the four countries – the officials and employees of administrations, funds, representatives of science, education, business, mass-media of the region took part in the round table conference.

The following subjects were discussed within the framework of the round table:

1. Ecological aspects of intensive development of cruise, yachting and boating in the Baltic Sea region;
2. The experience and future trends of international cooperation in the sphere of ecological education in tourism;
3. Sustainable development of tourism in the protected coastal territories of the Baltic Sea Region.

Having heard and discussed the reports the round table participants note, that the Baltic Sea Region is one of the most attractive tourist's region. Every year the number of tourists increases. These are:

the tourists, who come for the recreation to the coastal territories and islands of the Baltic Sea, to the seaside cities;

the tourists who travel through the Baltic Sea by the cruise liners and passengers ferries, by their own sailing and motor yachts and other small water-crafts.

The new tourist's routes are being worked out. The tourists' hotel and transportation infrastructure develops in the coastal territories.

This results the increase of ecological load on the environment, and this is what causes anxiety of the round table participants.

The round table participants consider organizing the round table “Ecology and Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region” within the VII International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day” to be topical and timely, and recommend organizational committee of the Forum to put this round table on the agenda of the subsequent Environmental Forums.

The round table participants consider necessary to form the Coordinating Board of the Round Table **“Ecology and Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region”** of the International Environmental Forum, which will contribute to realization of their recommendations and will organize preparation of the next round table session within the VIII International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day” in 2007.

The round table participants note, that ecological and natural tourism are the most promising lines of tourism development in the conditions of the industrial world, and in the not too distant future they will become economically sound.

**The main goal of the round table “Ecology and tourism” is to create conditions for sustainable development of tourism in the coastal territories, islands and waters of the Baltic Sea.**

The participants of the round table establish that for sustainable tourism development in the region is necessary:

1. To formulate proposals to Governments of St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region and North-Western Region for ecological and natural tourism development

- for development of infrastructure and advertising of yachting and boating, ecological and rural tourism;
- for securing free passage of high-masted yachts in connection with construction of Western Speedway;
- for encouragement of environmentally friendly marinas, fuel filling stations, sailing and motor yachts and cruise liners;
- for organization centralized information gathering of visiting the national parks and other protected areas by tourists;
- for facilitation of customs and passport control procedures for tourists' and pleasure vessels, and small water-crafts in St. Petersburg (Kronshtadt), Vyborg, to cooperate by establishing the frontier and customs point on the Gogland Island;
- for making television broadcasts dedicated to ecotourism on the “5”, “LOT” and “STO” television channels.

2. To prepare an official appeal to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia with the initiative to work out the purposeful program “Development of Ecotourism in the Protected Areas of Russia”.

3. To prepare an official appeal to the Federal Tourism Agency for working out the Federal purposeful program “Silver Ring of Russia”.

4. To work out the concept of including the tourists' routs of the North-West of Russia (Silver Ring of Russia and others) into the international tourists' routs.

5. To develop cooperation with European Cruise Council, International Ecotourism Society (Washington, USA) and other international tourists' organizations of the Baltic Sea in the sphere of sustainable tourism development and environmental protection in the waters and coastal territories of the Baltic Sea.

6. To develop cooperation and the international projects with European Cruise Council in the sphere of environmental protection in the conditions of intensive cruise shipping development in the Baltic Sea.

7. To pay a special attention to development of transboundary cooperation within the framework of realization of international projects and programs in the sphere of environmental protection and ecological education in tourism with the educational institutions of Germany and Finland, within the international program “Baltic 21” and the international projects AGORA, and “Learn Coast”.

8. To pay a special attention to the questions of the activities of cruise lines in the sphere of environmental protection in the Baltic Sea region, to the questions of use the modern waste processing and utilization technologies on the cruise vessels and ferries, in the cruise ports and yacht marinas of the Baltic Sea.

9. To work out proposals for the ecological certification of yachts and boats berthing, marinas, cruise vessels, restaurant and hotel complexes, located in the coastal zones of the Baltic Sea. To contribute to development of certification program “The Blue Flag” in St. Petersburg in the North-West of Russia.

10. To organize the accessible information of environmental monitoring, which is to be directed to the certain task groups – tourists, representatives of tourist's, hotel and restaurant business, cruise lines, ferries and other passenger vessels; the special attention must be paid to catastrophes and dangerous natural phenomena forecasting and opportune informing of target groups mentioned above.

11. To support an initiative to form a laboratory of introduction of sustainable tourism concept in the North-Western Region of Russia.

12. To support the initiative to carry out the international scientific and practical conference “The Parliament of Ladoga” dedicated to formation the regional protected area – the National park “The Ladoga Archipelago”.

13. In the programs of local and regional development and in the international projects the attention must be paid to the development of following “smaller forms” infrastructure:

- bicycle lanes and traffic signs;
- rural guest houses;
- appointed and serviced stations in the green zones;
- successful local decisions experience exchange.

14. To develop multiple-discipline and multilevel ecological training of the specialists in tourism and hospitality:

- to develop international cooperation among schools, tourists' institution of secondary and higher education;
- to organize summer classes for the students, trainings and seminars among students and teachers of the Baltic Sea Region;
- to form training information systems of ecological monitoring of tourists' and recreational recourses, tourist's interest objects;
- to create system of use the protected areas to develop ecological training of the students;
- to hold an international ecological forum dedicated to sustainable tourism development together with the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs;
- to work out within methodical integration “Service and Tourism” and specialization “Ecological Tourism” a new specialization “Ecological Boating” and to charge St. Petersburg of Hospitality with working out training and methodical manuals in this specialization.

15. To involve mass-media in coverage of ecological aspects of tourism development, making documentary films, to propagandize ecological and natural tours of the region.

16. To assist organizers of the International Tourist's Forum “Tourism and Resorts” and INWETEX exhibition in carrying out conferences and round table sessions on ecological subjects with the use of HELCOM recommendations and the Resolution of the Round Table.

17. Considering Sustainable tourism development in St. Petersburg and North-Western region of Russia one of the main lines in yachting and boating, the Round Table participants apply to include formulated proposals and recommendations in the current and long-term plans of the Marine Counsel of St. Petersburg Government, as well as to provide organizational and informational cooperation to the Coordinating Board of the Round Table **“Ecology and Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region”** of the International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day”.

18. The round table participants consider expedient to publish the articles on subject “Ecology and Tourism”, as well as to create and to support an Internet-site on this topic.

The participants of the round table discussed the concrete project proposals put in an applications in the various sponsoring programs and funds to solve problems listed above.