



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

ENVIRONMENT



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Towards the Copenhagen Agreement

There are still chances for an agreement in Copenhagen in December, but it is time to step up the pace and other working methods are needed. This is how Anders Turesson, Chair of the EU group at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, summarised last week's climate negotiations in Bonn. The informal climate negotiations, with over 2,000 delegates in place in Bonn, have been in progress over the period 10–14 August. The Swedish delegation, consisting of officials from several ministries and government agencies, is leading the EU expert working groups during the Swedish Presidency of the EU.

The next climate negotiations meeting will take place on 28 September–9 October in Bangkok.

For more information, please visit the UNFCCC website here: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

“The Baltic Sea region can be a role model for the rest of Europe”



Maria Åsenius has been State Secretary under Sweden's Minister for EU Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, since the autumn of 2008, and coordinates the work on the EU's Baltic Sea Strategy in Sweden. She feels it is high time the region was restored to its former glory. She has great hopes for the EU's Baltic Sea Strategy, which is due for adoption during the Swedish Presidency. The strategy aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the Baltic rim countries, combat human trafficking and save Europe's



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largest inland sea from environmental collapse. During the Middle Ages, the Baltic Sea was a sort of marine motorway, and trade in the region flourished. Then came the Cold War and the Iron Curtain split the sea down the middle. It is now 20 years since the Berlin Wall collapsed and five years since the EU's eastward enlargement, following which eight of the nine Baltic countries are now Member States.

Back in December 2007, the EU's heads of state and government called on the European Commission to draw up a strategy for the Baltic Sea region. In June 2009, the Commission presented its proposals.

In September, a ministerial conference on the Baltic Sea Strategy will be held in Stockholm, and a few weeks later the EU heads of state and government are due to adopt the strategy.