



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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BARROSO (2006)A/ 3924
BARROSO (2006)D/ 1442Mr Paweł ZABOKLICKI
Secretary General
UBC
Waly Jagiellonskie 1
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Dear Mr Zaboklicki,

Thank you for your letter of 22 June to President Barroso presenting the Union of the Baltic Cities Maritime Logistics Policy Paper.

I am pleased to see that the main recommendations made in this document agree with the priorities of the European Union in the fields of Transport and Regional Policy.

Maritime transport is indeed a key development factor for the countries of the Baltic Sea Region. The European Commission – through the White Paper on Transport published in 2001 and the Strategic Guidelines for Cohesion adopted in 2005 – recommends the development of motorways of the sea, involving a greater activity for the ports of the European Union.

Moreover, you stress the need for a regional cooperation in maritime affairs, in particular for the development of port infrastructures: regional cooperation is one of the three main objectives of the 2007-2013 European Cohesion and Regional Policy.

Lastly, you mention the importance of Public-Private Partnerships in transport, the need to develop research applied to maritime transport, the concern to guarantee optimum safety in transport and the need to take the impact of maritime transport on environment into account. All these issues join the major current priorities of the EU, in particular those expressed through the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies as well as in the Strategic Guidelines.

On 7 June the Commission published a Green Paper on the future European maritime policy. This text pleads for an integrated approach and transport and logistics are obviously part of it. The execution of this new policy will depend to a large extent on national, regional and local stakeholders. I am delighted to see the Union of Baltic Cities involved in this process.

Yours sincerely,

Henning KLAUS