CBSS
Ministries of Labour
Declaration

15th of June, 2017
Berlin, Germany
High-Level Meeting of the Representatives of the Labour Ministries of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

DECLARATION

Adopted by the High Representatives of the Ministries of Labour of the Council of the Baltic Sea States 15th of June 2017 in Berlin, Germany

Preamble

High representatives of the Labour Ministries of the CBSS Member States met on the 15th of June 2017 in Berlin, Germany under the auspices of the Icelandic Presidency of the CBSS, at the venue of the City of Hamburg Representation. The meeting was held as a part of the joint event with the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) Annual Round Table. As grounds for discussion, the Policy Recommendations’ paper on issues related to the labour market, based on proposals from BSLF Members, representing both trade unions and employer’s organizations in the Baltic Sea countries, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), European Union Strategy for Baltic Sea Region (EUS BSR), Policy Area Education and participants from the Swedish Institute Baltic Leadership Program “Labour mobility”, has was delivered to the ministries in advance.

Addressing Joint Challenges of common concern and prioritising cooperation or experience exchange in the field of labour and employment the representatives define the key areas as follows:

Labour mobility; Demographic challenges; Knowledge supply; Youth employment; Migration/integration and Involvement into the labour market the groups of vulnerable people, including persons with disabilities

The Ministers and High Representatives of the Ministries of Labour of the Council of the Baltic Sea States agree:

- To recognize the cooperation in the field of labour and employment in BSR as a crucial focus area since the concerted efforts from all CBSS countries will be essential in meeting the challenges we are currently facing and in the future;
- To follow the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda with regional applications for the Baltic Sea region including multi-stakeholder partnerships and an inclusive approach to economic growth by reducing poverty, all forms of inequality, unemployment, informal work by promoting quality jobs and removing barriers for labour market inclusion and integration for all groups of the population; by considering trends alerting labour markets such as technological change and digitalization, demographic transitions and changing expectations about work; by responding to the critical challenges, including gaps in social protection resulting in part from the rise of non-standard forms of employment by a way of finding smart and innovative solutions which will respond both to employees’ and employer’s needs and ensure a high level of safety and health at work;

- To take into account the differences in the labour markets of BSR and economies by developing a win-win cooperation framework in the region, addressing the existing challenges of the labour market in a comprehensive and cross-sectoral way taking into account their interconnected and interdependent nature;

- To pursue the most efficient mechanisms and measures at hand to enhance such cooperation in the field of labour and employment, fostering sustainable labour markets in the Baltic Sea Region to ensure its competitiveness and social welfare.

- To consider the BSLF’ Policy Recommendations a valuable contribution to further strategic planning and decision making in the field of labour and employment keeping in mind the connection with the UN Sustainable Goals, the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, as well as national strategies of the CBSS Member States, being complementary and avoiding any overlapping;

- To recognize the work of the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) within the framework of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) since 2012 and coordinated by the CBSS Secretariat in supporting such cooperation by providing a platform for an established exchange of experience and communication between the key labour market stakeholders in the Region;

- To invite the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials and the CBSS Secretariat to consider the possibility to establish an Ad-hoc Working/Expert Group on Labour and Employment in the framework of CBSS Secretariat linked to BSLF as well as to Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Northern Dimension Partnership on Health and Social Wellbeing and engaging other relevant regional stakeholders.