

# STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR OF GDAŃSK FRANCISZEK JAMROZ

- Mr Prime Minister
- The Representatives of the Polish Government
- The Ambassadors of the Baltic Countries
- The Representatives of the European International Organisations - The Mayors and the Representatives of the Baltic cities
- Honourable Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my privilege as the host to warmly welcome and greet the Distinguished Guests and Participants of the International Conference of the Baltic cities on behalf of the City of Gdańsk Authorities.

I wish to express my happiness and thanks that such distinguished guests and important Representatives of the Baltic Cities have arrived.

We are meeting here, in the heart of the City of Gdańsk, a city whose history is permanently connected with the sea as a road along which came merchants, sailors, warriors; the sea which is a working place for generations of fishermen and seamen.

I would wish to remind you here of the historic meeting of the Baltic Countries' Prime Ministers, which, at the initiative of Sweden and Poland, took place last year.

As the Chairmen of the Gdańsk City council at that time, carefully followed the meeting and the papers presented by the politicians; the more so as there was a Gdańsk accent there in the person of Mr Jacek Starościak who was at that time the Mayor of Gdańsk.

I fully agree with the address delivered by Mrs. Dahl, the Swedish minister, in which she said then that the sea is a mirror that reflects the fates of the nations living there.

Today we can see in our Gdańsk museums exhibits-replicas of the first primitive boats, Vikings' longboats and rich merchant vessels. Looking at them we imagine people who sailed on them, their hardships and the dangers they faced in their struggle against the marine element.

Those brave people were forerunners of progress, they were those people who created wealth in the cities they lived in. Unfortunately, the sea has also witnessed bloody wars that ruined cities, killed people, and wasted the fortunes of whole generations.

Nobody understands it better than we, the inhabitants of the city, which we had to rebuild, sacredly reconstructing each meter of walls, each house.

Today we are facing new challenges and new opportunities about which the former generations could not even dream.

This challenge is in the form of the threat, unheard of up till now, resulting from the polluted environment poisoned by the dynamically developing industry, intensive agriculture and the lack of municipal infrastructure in

many towns and cities. This resulted in closed beaches in former resorts, and the alarming news about the poisoned fish caught in our sea. We are aware that our city has much to do in this respect so that the future may look better.

I have mentioned opportunities - they are the political changes, the new democracies, the appearance of new relationships between people which were impossible before. Taking advantage of this opportunity is the challenge of our times and our generation which is at the moment taking its historic examination.

I think that people who live on the shores of the Baltic Sea know better than those living inland how fruitful can be the co-operation that is based on the awareness that one has access to the common good which should be rationally and carefully managed so that the inheritance from the years gone - the unbalanced economy in various Baltic countries - may become, as quickly as possible, technologically modern.

This state of affairs must be soon changed if we are to concretely speak about co-operation and creating guarantees for European order.

We have to develop a system of telecommunication, to span our shores with new ferry and air lines, to take advantage, for the common benefit, of the values characteristic of each nation living on the Baltic.

It is necessary that we have a common ecological policy on the implementation of which depends the development and the future existence of our cities.

The cultural exchange between the regions is still insufficient. The inhabitants of our City are doing their best to face the challenges of our times despite an economically difficult situation. The decisions made by the City of Gdańsk authorities equally concern the matters typical of everyday activities as the awareness of sharing the responsibility for a partnership co-operation in the region.

I wish to remind you here that during their first inaugurating session, on 6th June, 1990, and which as a newly elected Chairman of the City Council I had the privilege to chair, and at which there were many Chairmen of Councils from the Baltic cities or their representatives, the Gdańsk City Council adopted in their first resolution "a declaration of intention to stimulate co-operation between the Baltic Cities."

In the declaration we referred to the centuries-long cultural and civilisation ties between the Baltic Cities in economy, science, culture, environmental protection and tourism.

I fully realise that after the struggle for democracy the foundations of which we laid, here where a new historic process for the Polish Republic, and for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe began, we have to create model solutions of economic changes, changes in the local law and the system of management.

We want to take advantage of the experience other cities have to solve our problems and to avoid mistakes.

Today I can say - which will be dealt with later on more extensively by Mr Andrzej Januszajtis, the Chairman of the City Council - that the City of Gdańsk co-operates with many twin cities, on the Baltic, in Europe, but not only. The councillors and experts take part, together with their Danish colleagues, in working out an ecodevelopment programme for Gdańsk. We co-operate with Barcelona, we took part in the Eurocities Conference in Birmingham.

It is my pleasure to inform you that I have just been informed by the Minister for European Integration and Foreign Aid, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski who, together with the delegation from our city participated in the Eurocities

Conference, that Gdańsk was admitted to the Eurocities Consortium and, together with Barcelona, gained the status of the leading city in introducing the Land Information System Programmes in the Polish cities.

In this way our city can become a meeting place of two city networks - the Baltic cities and those associated in Eurocities. The geopolitical position of our city and the historical infrastructure of our contacts would make it possible for Gdańsk to play the part of an interface relations between these cities, with a full support for the idea from us. The idea, which also found its expression in honouring our city as a meeting place for Baltic cities, could find its material expression in a joint enterprise, namely: a programme of revitalisation of Wyspa Spichrzów (Granary Island). The programme has won the support of the Polish Government, as well as the representatives of European Communities and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.

Taking advantage of this meeting I would like to invite the representatives of the Baltic cities to engage in the project and build their representative offices through joint ventures, with a full support from the Gdańsk authorities, in the place where two city networks meet: the Eurocities and the Baltic Cities.

Each councillor, each man that lives in this historic city is fully aware that he is taking part in a race with time in creating harmony and order and at the same time we are ready to share this knowledge with others. This is how we understand co-operation, in this way we want to build the future for the generations to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

To conclude I would like once again to thank you for your acceptance of my invitation which awes the expression of will of our local parliament as a whole, a parliament which was elected last year in the first free and democratic elections.

I wish to express my conviction that those hours here, those two days which will be devoted to working out a new concept of co-operation in the Baltic Sea area will become a milestone in the history of our nations.

Wishing you all many successes in your private and professional life I wish to express a hope that the plenary meetings and the debates in technical groups will bear good fruit.

I hope that we shall manage together to work out the Statute of the Union of the Baltic Cities which will represent a practical formula for co-operation between our cities, and in the future we shall collectively take care of the greatest treasure we share - the Baltic Sea.

Ladies and Gentlemen, from now on Gdańsk is in your hands, I give to the disposal of the Conference all the best we have: tradition, the talents of those who rebuild it and those who create its future.

Thank you for your attention.

## STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF REPUBLIC OF POLAND JAN KRZYSZTOF BIELECKI

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I wish to welcome warmly the representatives of the Baltic Cities who have come to attend the first Baltic Cities Conference. I also wish to greet all guests attending the conference.

Welcome to Gdańsk, the birthplace of Solidarity. It is here that in 1980 the first independent trade union was set up in the region or Central and Eastem Europe. It is from here, too, that in 1981 the famous message of freedom, independence, democracy, human dignity and human rights was beamed to the peoples of the region.

Since then, unprecedeted political developments have occurred in the region. The process of revolutionary transformations is still under way. Its most recent manifestation is the recovery and recognition of the independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. We are glad to welcome most sincerely the representatives of Ryga, Tallinn and Klaipeda present at the Conference. We are happy to note that these states are so vigorously striving to join international co-operation within the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and elsewhere. I have no doubt that they will be active contributors to co-operation in the Baltic Sea region.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The overthrow of totalitarianism, the unification of Germany and the end of the European division into the two opposing military and political blocks have given us a great chance of unrestrained co-operation between all states of our continent, a chance to build a united, democratic Europe in the future.

One of the ways leading to that objective is regional co-operation, particularly important in this period of transition. It is also a pre-condition of a new European architecture of overall security and co-operation. Last but not least, it is the evidence that those artificial barriers that used to divide the people of Europe in the post-Yalta system are dead and gone.

Poland is vitally interested in the development of co-operation both in the framework of bilateral relations with all the Baltic States and also within the multinational and regional framework. I am confident that the other Baltic States are guided by the same intentions.

Inhabitants of the Baltic Cities speak different languages but they also have a common vocabulary based on maritime tradition. This vocabulary should be extended now. The Baltic Sea will not divide us again. I hope that no one will ever illegally emigrate through the Baltic, as it was the case in Poland a few years ago.

Let me remind you that at Poland's and Sweden's initiative, the Conference of the Prime Ministers of the Baltic States was held at Ronneby in September 1990 and the Declaration on the Baltic Sea was approved there. The outcome of the conference was not only to support the Baltic region co-operation, but likewise to establish the Task Force to deal with the renewal of the Baltic Sea environment.

Now , the Baltic Sea is no longer dividing us. And yet we have to recognise that it is an urgent priority for us to save the environment of the Sea and to restore the ecological balance as soon as possible.

We should also undertake co-operation on a broader scale in the field of transport and communication. The conference of government ministers on this issue is to be convened in March, 1992.

Moreover, there are possibilities, only partly used, of broadening the economic co-operation.

We are interested in promoting co-operation in culture and science, as well as in tourism. It may be appropriate to begin closer co-operation in the field of information. It is a legacy of the past that our mutual knowledge of each other is still insufficient.

Europe should be developing not only latitudinally but likewise along its meridian reach - North to South. Only then will it be possible for us to ensure a harmonious growth to the whole of Europe and narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. Let me emphasise Poland's geographical advantage. As I said in Dubrovnik, at the Hexagonale meeting, Poland "lies on the crossroads of European opportunities".

For some time now the Nordic Council has been discussing the idea of setting up the Baltic Council. Poland supports this useful initiative.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thanking you for inviting me to address your Conference, I may also take this opportunity of re-affirming that the Government of the Republic of Poland attaches much importance to it. The success of co-operation is determined not only by government but also by local authorities and self-government bodies and even by or perhaps above all by the whole of society.

It is in this context that I wish to say how glad I am that the representatives of several cities from the Baltic states have come to this conference at the invitation of Gdańsk, now nearly 1000-years old. It shows that this initiative has matured now and is likely to gain momentum.

Let me conclude by saying that the Government of Poland expresses its support for the idea of establishing the Union of the Baltic Cities, an association that may be very useful for the development of co-operation in the Baltic region, in particular between the provinces and cities located along the Sea.

I hope that your conference will produce important and enduring results giving benefit to each and every city and to regional co-operation.

Please accept President Lech Wałęsa's and my own wishes for a successful conference.

Thank you.

## CONFERENCE OF THE BALTIC CITIES, GDANSK 19-20, SEPTEMBER 1991

Speech delivered by the President of the Nordic Council, former minister Anker Jorgensen, Denmark on behalf of the Nordic Council

Mr Chairman

Dear colleague and friends,

It is an honour for me as president of the Nordic Council to speak to you - distinguished delegates of this first conference of the Baltic Cities.

It is a surprise to me that this first conference in the city of Gdańsk in Poland. For more than ten years Gdańsk has played an important role in re-establishing democracy in Poland. The brave fight for democracy in Poland has inspired other countries in Eastern and Central Europe to do the same.

Due to this strong wish for democracy, Europe is changing very rapidly. I find it very wise to establish structures for co-operation on many levels and between different groups of people. In that way we will be better able to take care of the results we already have seen towards more freedom and democracy for the peoples in Europe. We will also be able both to strengthen and to widen the democratic functions and the human rights in our societies. The initiative to establish a co-operation between the Baltic cities is from my point of view, very interesting.

Mr Chairman,

I am myself representing the Nordic Council - an organisation which has been active for almost 40 years in co-operation between the five Nordic Countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden and the three self-governing areas, Greenland, Faroe Islands and Anland Island. The Council consists of parliamentarians from countries and self-governing areas and of members of the governments.

As a consequence of the political development in Europe, most of existing European organisations or co-operation are forced to redefine their tasks, fields of activity and areas of operation. This is also true for the Nordic Council.

Until recently Nordic co-operation has concentrated mostly in dealing with intra-Nordic questions. This does not mean that Nordic co-operation isolates the Nordic countries from the rest of Europe. Actually the speed and focus of the Nordic co-operation has to a large degree been inspired by important developments in our surroundings.

The process of progress within the European Community will have a great impact on the co-operation between the five Nordic countries. The same goes with the changes and the democratisation of Eastern and Central Europe.

Mr Chairman,

The future united Europe will consist of the regions of Europe. I believe that the regional aspects of the new European architecture will become increasingly politically important. This is one of the reasons why co-operation in the region around the Baltic Sea is necessary. Establishing and strengthening regional co-operation may help to reduce - what we today call - the parliamentary deficit that can be a risk in the integration in Europe.

Developments in Eastern and Central Europe have given rise to a new opportunities for co-operation and contacts with the Baltic states other neighbours. Co-operation with the Baltic states has already and will more and more give a new dimension to the Nordic Council's international activities. For general political, historical, cultural and economic reasons the Baltic countries and Baltic Sea Region will become to an ever greater extent a natural partner in co-operation for the Nordic Region.

The Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have for historical and cultural reasons close ties and contacts with the Nordic Region. It is a natural course for the Nordic Council to give priority at this stage to co-operation with the Baltic states. It is my earnest hope that the Baltic countries will develop their Baltic Council along parliamentary lines. In this way there will be a natural partner in future co-operation for the Nordic Council.

Mr Chairman,

In certain specific sectors Nordic co-operation cannot, and should not be limited merely to the Baltic states. For instance in the case of environment or communications, the co-operation should comprise larger geographical areas such as the Baltic Sea Region. In the years to come, the co-operation certainly will be extended to other political issues. One should not underestimate the value of growing cultural and human exchange and building of friendship between the people of the Baltic cities for such a development.

Mr Chairman,

Let me in this connection tell you that the Presidium of the Nordic Council has decided to invite parliamentarians from all parliaments around the Baltic Sea to the Baltic Sea Conference to discuss the tasks and the best forms of a future parliamentarian co-operation in broader region. The conference will take place next spring. It will be a follow-up of the conference held in Helsinki in January this year.

We must be aware that just now many ideas about the future co-operation in Northern Europe are floating around. Some of them are more realistic than others. It is therefore important to carefully consider what aims we want to obtain in our co-operation and what structure we want to co-operate within.

It is very important not to create organisations which in one way or another are overlapping or working against each other. We must bear in mind that some international or European structures will have - and should have - priority over others. Regional co-operation, for example must be a supplement to the whole idea of the European integration.

Mr Chairman,

In my view it is therefore important to build to the co-operation around the Baltic Sea in a realistic way. We should start with the important and urgent problems and gradually extend to the co-operation in scope and develop the necessary organisation to deal with the problems.

In this spirit I hope that we can start and develop a matter of co-operation. It is my belief that this realistic strategy will open a new era for our cities and countries.

Mr Chairman,

During the last 2-3 years same really fantastic things have happened. Individuals and groups of people have in ever increasing numbers travelled between east and west and between the Baltic and Nordic countries. Much information about models of societies has been given. People from different countries, have exchanged thoughts on almost all topics in order to be able to develop true democracy.

I believe that one should establish grassroots movements in the former communist countries and organisations than can take care of interest of different groups of people. These organisations should also become responsible part of the democratic societies.

After all, this is the most important part in the development of democracy can't be built from above. It must have its roots deep in and be nourished by the people.

Independence and freedom for each nation are very important conditions for a democratic and peaceful Europe. But a true democracy must also be built on the rights of minorities. We must respect and accept this way of thinking.

Mr Chairman,

I wish you all the best with your work at this conference. I hope that the result of the conference and the co-operation in the years to come will be to the best for the people around the rim of the Baltic Sea.

Thank you for your attention!

**Remarks by John Morgan**

Can I start my remarks Mr Mayor by saying thank you for inviting me to this very important conference of mayors of cities around the Baltic Sea. I was last in Gdańsk in May last year when I came as official observer for the Council of Europe to observe your first democratic local government elections and was very impressed by all arrangements. No one could complain of the efforts taken to ensure a fair system of elections. On the Sunday night I was late to bed, spending a pleasant hour with the deputy governor of Gdańsk discussing the economic and pollution problems of this great city.

I represent here today the local government arm from the Council of Europe and, as I believe democracy starts at the bottom, the level nearest the people, and works upwards, I consider the conference of local and regional authorities of Europe, usually referred to as clear as its first pillar alongside the parliamentary assembly, the Council of Ministers and its Court of Human Rights.

In your letter of invitation to this conference of the 25 June, you referred to the historic tradition of co-operation amongst the Baltic cities and now that you and Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia have won your freedom and independence to enjoy rebuilding your democracies, you can be assured of the full support and co-operation of all your friends in the existing 25 member countries of the Council of Europe. I recently spent two days in discussions with the leaders of local government in three Baltic states and was very impressed by their enthusiasm and determination to quickly take their rightful place in the rest of democratic Europe.

As I get older I realise how quickly life passes and it is important that the problems you inherited from past decades, including the problems of pollution of your sea and environment, are tackled quickly for your own sakes and the sakes of future generations. Our conference has an environment committee which I chaired some years ago and during my chairmanship we sought to get all the local authorities around the Mediterranean Basin to sit at one table and discuss the pollution problems of that sea. Since then we have held two conferences, one in Marseilles and one in Malaga, and preparations for the third conference are well under way. I remember to this day my pleasure of seeing the Israeli ambassador and Arab Ambassadors sitting at my lunch table and discussing the problems in a friendly and constructive way. Here in the Baltic it should be easier, as most of the local authorities, both cities and regions that border the Baltic Sea, are already members of the Council of Europe and we hope to welcome shortly the three Baltic republics, and your own country Mr Mayor, as full members. It would be a tragedy with the urgency of your problem with pollution of your sea if you wasted time on recreating the wheel when the Council of Europe is only too willing to share its experiences and know-how with you on this subject.

Last March at our conference in Strasbourg we adopted a resolution on transfrontier co-operation between local and

regional authorities and have recommended to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe that the rights of local and regional authorities to conduct transfrontier relations is recognised in national law. I am referring to resolution 227. In 1989 after the second Mediterranean Conference, when out of the 14 countries represented at that conference 7 came from outside Europe, we again passed a resolution at our plenary session that year seeking the support of national government of the Mediterranean region both for tourism and communications, and asked the Committee of Ministers to examine our proposals for interregional co-operation. As it was in the Mediterranean and as it is now in the Baltic Sea, it is only co-operation between the local and regional authorities bordering the sea that is essential in making progress, but also trust in each other and that trust must come from grass roots. For the first time in the lifetime of many there is the opportunity of working together to produce a safer and better world. Mr Mayor, I return to your letter of invitation to this conference, the purpose of which is to launch The Union of The Baltic Cities, to co-operate together in solving your three crucial problems: environmental protection, transport and marine industry and telecommunications, and to assure you of the fullest co-operation and support of the local government arm of the Council of Europe with all its know how at your disposal.

Best wishes to you all for the future.

#### WELCOME STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF HELCOM, PROFESSOR HARALD VELNER GDANSK, 19 SEPTEMBER 1991

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I have the honour and privilege on behalf of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission to congratulate your Conference as a first forum of the Baltic cities. We hope that your Conference will launch the Union of the Baltic Cities as a very important step to strengthening the co-operation between the Baltic Coastal Cities in our common European home. From our side we are very satisfied that one of your aims should be the crucial problem for the Baltic Cities - environment protection of the Baltic Sea.

As you know the Convention of the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Sea was signed in 1974 and entered formally into force in May 1980. The Steering Agency of the Convention is the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM). Our Commission has operated mainly on Recommendations for action by the Contracting Parties based on the information on the state of the sea and on the load of pollution. During the last ten years the Commission has adopted about 30 recommendations concerning reduction of pollution load entering the Baltic Sea from land-based sources. More than 60 Recommendations have been adopted in the Maritime and Combating fields. Unfortunately the Convention does not provide HELCOM with any means of enforcing national implementation of the Recommendations. In other hand in 1974 when the Helsinki Convention was signed, it

proved politically impossible to include in the Convention text the coastal waters and the catchment area of the Baltic Sea. Now when the political situation in the Area is drastically changed, the revised Convention text should be adopted in a near future by all nine countries of the Baltic Sea.

At end of the 80's, it was clear that new drastic steps are needed to provide reductions of pollution in the Area.

During the ninth meeting of HELCOM in February 1988, the Ministers of the Baltic states responsible for the environmental protection adopted the Ministerial Declaration. In this environmental political document the Ministers declared, inter alia, their firm determination to reduce substantially the inputs of heavy metals, toxic or persistent organic substances and nutrients e.g. in the order of 50% out of the total discharges of each of them as soon as possible but not later than 1995.

But to be realistic, one should admit that substantial reduction of pollution entering the Baltic Sea does not face the lack of decisions but in most cases the lack of implementation caused by limitations of resources available for application of best available technology and best environmental practice.

With a view to introducing a fresh approach to international co-operation in the enhancement of the Baltic Sea environment and to bring about more drastic reductions of pollution, the Prime Ministers of Poland and Sweden invited their colleagues from the other states within the catchment area of the Baltic Sea to conference in Ronneby, Sweden, 2-3 September 1990.

The conference established an ad hoc high level Task Force to prepare during 1991 a joint comprehensive programme for restoration of the ecological balance the Baltic Sea, taking into account available technical and financial resources. The programme is intended to be submitted to the Ministerial meeting for adoption in early 1992. The Task Force functions within the Helsinki Commission and involves all the Baltic Sea states, Czechoslovakia, Norway, the Commission of the European Communities and the international financial Institutions, such as the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Nordic Investment Bank.

The Task Force elaborated the Work Plan in which areas that need both national and international financing were identified. The practical work to be done within these areas was divided between the international financial institutions acting as the Executive Agencies for the pre-feasibility studies in these problem areas. The work is, however, paid by the Baltic Sea States.

In order to facilitate the preparation of the Joint Comprehensive Programme, the Ministers in Ronneby invited all countries involved to submit their National Plans on reduction of pollution of the Baltic Sea.

On the basis of the National Plans overview reports have been prepared on different topics, such as municipalities, agriculture, industries, waste management and radioactive substances.

The main target of the Joint Comprehensive Programme is to identify the priority environmental projects which will lead to decisive reduction of pollution in all states within the catchment area of the Baltic Sea. Setting of

priorities is necessary because the investments would be tremendous and we never have enough. Preliminary findings indicate that there are some 100 "hot spots" in the Baltic Region. Early investment estimates that it will cost at least 20 billion dollar. A multitude of funding sources will be necessary.

We have witnessed a rapid development of bilateral and multilateral co-operation between the cities round the Baltic in environmental issues. From HELCOM point of view all these activities might need closer coordination in order to make joint endeavours most effective.

The main possible areas of future co-operation between the Baltic Sea Cities and HELCOM might be outlined as follows:

- improvement of municipal sewerage systems and wastewater treatment plants including maintenance and training of personnel;
- drastical reduction of water- and air-pollution from industry, power plants and traffic, implementation of "Cleaner production" approach;
- environmentally acceptable management of solid wastes;
- management of ports and ship-yards;
- implementation of local monitoring programmes on discharges and environmental impact assessment (expertise of local projects);

The role of Cities in this context should be remarkable. As a good example could be mentioned the ongoing co-operation between Kalmar and Visby, Tammisaari-Ekenäs and capital of Saaremaa Kuressaare, where the central biological purification plant will be given soon in operation.

Let me once more wish you all the best in your very important work.

Thank you for your attention.