Policy Analysis – Baltic Sea Region Governments' statements regarding the implementation of the 27th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Resolution

*Dr. Tobias Etzold, Kiel/*Berlin

Basics

- 12 governmental responses → two fewer than in 2018.

- The twelve submitted statements vary considerably in thematic depth, length and structure.

- As the Resolution, gov. statements on average shorter than in previous years.

Structure of Resolution, corresponding statements and Analysis

- Preamble
- "Cooperation in the Region"
- "Vision of a Healthy Baltic Sea"
- "Sustainable Energy, Smart energy distribution platforms",
- "Migration and Integration",
- "Economic development and growth in the Baltic Sea region".

Assessments of thematic areas

- All thematic sections and most paragraphs addressed by at least several governments.
- Statements include both national as well as transnational measures.
- The analysis focuses on the latter but also gives a number of examples of the former.
- Those national and transnational measures that are linked with each other of particular interest.

Main Messages

- Submitted statements underline the notion that the responding governments have taken the 27th BSPC Resolution seriously.

- Statements overall contain some interesting and useful information on implemented as well as planned activities.

- Broad and rich picture of the cooperation networks across the Baltic Sea Region.

Main Messages

- Several statements straight to the point offering specific and informative answers.

- Others rather general and descriptive.

- Several statements read like technical exercises without revealing high political ambitions.

Main Recommendations

- Strive for higher common standard of comprehensiveness and quality as well as of concreteness and thoroughness.

- Systematization of the method - different topics every year, the same only every second year - and extending the reporting period to two years.

- Future Resolutions and governmental statements need to be even more aware of the general political climate and related changes.