

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During 1997, Kalmar was celebrating the 600 th anniversary of the union between the Nordic countries. More than 200 seminars and conferences were held in Kalmar during the celebration and about 100.000 people from all over the world participated.

During the last decades the environmental problems related to the handling of waste and the impacts on the Baltic Sea have accelerated.

Rapid economic and industrial growth is expected in the Baltic Sea Region. This economic development must be followed by adequate measures and education to combat the most urgent environmental problems. Many of the highly industrialised countries around the Baltic Sea are also facing the need to upgrade their waste systems.

It is now time for intensifying the co-operation between the Nordic countries including our neighbours around the Baltic Sea and, through united efforts to find solutions for the common environmental problems. The seminar on Waste Management and the Environment in Kalmar is one step in this direction.