

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The following summary and conclusions are based on round-table discussion between Ilze Donina, Magnus Enell, Anders Engström, Irene Gavéniéne, Urmo Kala, Curt Nicolin, and Markku Raimovara.

Mr Nicolin stated that the conference had been a very useful catalytic event seen from the perspective of this year's revival of Kalmar's early history as the "capital of the Nordic countries". Progress in the management of many "hot spots" and in efforts to isolate leachates from landfills reaching the Baltic Sea is reassuring.

However, there is obviously a need for innovative approaches and greater co-operation between industry, universities and government agencies. Progress towards a "Baltic Agenda 21" intergovernmental action plan was reported by Svante Bodin from the Swedish Ministry of the Environment. Important actors are also the Baltic Cities' Council mentioned by Kalmar's mayor, Anders Engström, and rapidly growing universities such as that Kalmar, where environmental concerns influence the R&D activities. With regard to solid waste treatment, organisations such as the International Society of Solid Waste Associations are important, as are also trade councils, for example, the Swedish Trade Council office in Vilnius, mentioned by Mantas Zalatorius. The hospitality shown complemented the formal presentations with opportunities to discuss about personal interests.

Dr Enell expressed his points of view as corporate environmental director for ITT Flygt AB. He has worked for more than 15 years on environmental issues in the Baltic Sea region. ITT Flygt is part of the American-based ITT Industries, a large multinational company.

Waste management in the Baltic and Nordic Countries is, for ITT Flygt AB, part of the main issue; environmental management in the Baltic Sea Region. Waste management and avoidance of pollution of land, air and water are important issues in the region. It is also a question of safety and health management in the Baltic Sea region.

The most important actor is probably industry. Other important actors are municipalities, farmers, forestry operators, politicians, local and national authorities, non-governmental organisations, the and society in general. The most important

tasks of these actors is to collaborate in research and education, financing and the implementation of environmentally positive measures

During recent years, industry has taken a leading role in environmental management; one reason for this being the implementation of environmental management systems, not only those connected with ISO 14001 and EMAS. Another important reason is that companies demonstrate their concern for the environment for the consumer. Environmental problems have no regard for, geographical borders, and this is of course one of the main reasons why industry in the Baltic Sea drainage area must actively participate in the protection of the Baltic Sea itself, as well as the countries around the Baltic Sea, especially in the eastern part of the area.

Most municipal solid waste, as well as industrial waste constitutes a resource and it is good economy to prevent the unnecessary production of waste, sort waste, and re-use and re-cycle waste. Re-use should be stressed. ITT Flygt AB is working actively on environmental issues, mainly for the sake of the environment itself, but also for marketing and economic reasons, for shareholders and investors, and of course also its employees. It is forecast that the environmental sector will generate many jobs. Who is going to pay the bill? The Clean up bill. Who wants to investment for the future? It is a question of putting up the right goals and to follow that track.

Ms Donina underlined the importance of waste management in the Baltic and Nordic countries from the perspectives of policies, education and co-operation. Accession to the EU is the most important goal of the government of Latvia. Therefore, EU directives is a priority in several sectors, including environmental protection and waste management in particular. The EU directives on waste management and water are recognised as sectors where implementation of certain directives in the states of accession will be connected with considerable investments. Therefore, the following tasks will be important for waste management in Latvia:

- implementation of EU directives on waste, drafting and introduction of legislation.
- implementation of EU directives (development and implementation of national strategies for the management of hazardous waste, specific projects e.g. landfills and incineration plants.

The following possibilities for cooperation could be mentioned:

- technical projects,
- institutional support (e.g. training of trainers specialists/students etc.),
- assistance in the development of legislation for waste management

Co-ordination with on-going projects is, of course, necessary. It should be stressed that in the field of environmental protection, including waste management, Latvia is co-operating, with the Nordic countries, but this could be extended.

Furthermore it was stated during the round-table discussion that the quality of the water in the Baltic Sea region deteriorating point of view it is important to improve the quality of the water. We must regard waste management as part of a much bigger issue e.g. land and soil, water, safety and health. This involves agriculture, municipalities and forestry not only industries. It is important to work with integrated environmental management systems. However, it is not just a question of the environment, but also of money. The younger generation stand for the future and it is therefore extremely important to employ young people.

Mr Engström pointed out that there are a lot of technical solutions, and that it would be beneficial to have a local Agenda 21 for the Baltic region. It is not primarily a question of theoretic education for the Eastern Baltic Countries, as it may be for Swedes and the Nordic countries. We need technical know-how and practical useful projects for cities in the Baltic countries. Kalmar tries to have EMAS for all municipalities. What can we do after this seminar? We can do something together which will make it easy to co-operate in the future.

Mr Kala: Responsibility, think a bit larger, not only enterprises. Think more and more about recycling processes as producers. Understanding, to show the good side of life, then the child will be better educated. During the coming years we should have seminars in smaller groups with one topic. Poor states on the eastern side, maybe it is possible to discuss some problems on national, international levels.

Mr Nicolin said that several countries are working hard to implement market economies and have high unemployment. Most of the Baltic countries are experiencing economic growth. Western countries should give contributions to eastern countries. International organisations should contribute, make an example of the Baltic Sea for others. We are jointly responsible for what we hand over to next generation.

Mr Enell finally concluded that we have two main tasks:

1. Improving the environment
2. Paying for our old sins.

He also gave the recommendations think positive, be optimistic, and turn problems into possibilities.