

UDENRIGSMINISTERIET

EUROPAUDVALGET

Alm. del - bilag 1078 (offentligt)

Medlemmerne af Folketingets Europaudvalg
og deres stedfortrædere

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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges i forbindelse med Det Europæiske Råd i Thessaloniki den 19.-20. juni 2003 brev af 13. juni 2003 fra de nordiske & baltiske statsministre til formanden for Det Europæiske Råd og kommissionsformanden vedr. maritim sikkerhed.

P. H. Orskov

Copenhagen, Tallinn, Helsinki,
Riga, Vilnius, Stockholm 13 June 2003

H.E. Mr. Costas Simitis
President of the European Council
ATHENS

H.E. Prof. Romano Prodi
President of the European Commission
BRUSSELS

The recent accident with the bulk carrier Fu Shan Hai outside the Swedish coast once again highlights the urgent need to strengthen the measures on maritime safety within the European Union in order to avoid irreparable damage to our common marine environment. The Baltic Sea is, as you know, a highly sensitive marine area since it is a closed sea with slow water renewal.

In the near future, eight out of nine Baltic Sea States will be full members of the European Union. This gives the Union a unique opportunity to be more proactive in strengthening maritime safety standards and preventing pollution in our region.

At a meeting on 6 June, the six Nordic and Baltic Prime Ministers that represents present and new members of the Union discussed this issue. In order to contribute to our common goal to ensure a high level of maritime safety within the Union and to limit the risk of new and even more serious accidents within the Baltic Sea Area, we would like to draw your attention to the need for the following actions:

- Encourage Russia to accede to the EU deadline for an accelerated phasing out of single hull tankers from 2015 to 2010 and to prohibit as soon as possible transport of heavy grades of oil in single hull tankers to and from Russian ports in accordance with the coming EU-regulation.
- Underline in accordance with the conclusions of the Transport Council on 5-6 December 2002 the need to implement the ERIKA-package and adopting the final legislation on actions to increase Maritime Safety within the EU
- Asks for the support of the EU Member States for the work in the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) on submitting a proposal to the International Maritime Organization for the designation of the Baltic Sea as a Particular Sensitive Sea Area, including, at a later stage possible associated maritime safety and marine protection measures such as possibilities of enhanced use of pilotage as well as improved routing measures.

- Underline the need for the EU Member States to act in an effectively coordinated manner within the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

We would like to seek your co-operation for reflecting in a suitable way these points in the conclusions from the upcoming meeting of the European Council in Thessaloniki.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen
Prime Minister of Denmark

Juhan Parts
Prime Minister of Estonia

Anneli Jäätteenmäki
Prime Minister of Finland

Einars Repše
Prime Minister of Latvia

Antanas Valionis
Prime Minister of Lithuania

Göran Persson
Prime Minister of Sweden