



CHARTER of the B7

Charter approved by B7 Steering Committee: **08 September 2004**

CHARTER of the B7 Islands Network

ARTICLE 1: NAME of ORGANISATION

Full name: B7 Baltic Islands Network

Short-forms: B7

ARTICLE 2: VISION, AIMS, STRATEGY

VISION:

The long-term vision for the islands is:

- the islands find themselves with a richer, smarter and happier population.
- the islands are also more in control of their own destiny than in year 2001.

AIMS: The aims and objectives of the B7 are:

- Learning through exchange of experiences and ideas.
- Developing the Islands through projects, activities and events.
- Lobbying to achieve the vision of the B7 islands.
- Organised to serve the interests of the B7 islanders.

The aims and objectives of the B7 can be adapted by the approval of the Steering Committee as a result of updating the B7 Strategy.

STRATEGY:

- The strategy of the B7 is updated at the request of the B7 Steering Committee.
- The B7 Strategy normally covers a period of 5 years.
- The purpose of a B7 Strategy is to give the co-operation direction and create the framework for the future work of the B7.



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ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

B7 – PRINCIPLES of MEMBERSHIP

- Each member is a Baltic Sea island.
- Membership of the B7 is decided by the Steering Committee
- The B7 is a partnership of equals.
- Each island believes that the B7 can better serve the interests of its islanders and achieve more as a co-operation than alone.
- Each island contributes to the B7 budget based on population size. The B7 Steering Committee agrees the membership fee to be paid by each member island and any special conditions at the annual conference.
- Each member agrees to work towards fulfilling the visions and achieving the objectives of the B7.

BENEFITS and OPPORTUNITIES of the NETWORK:

- An organisation that can lobby to promote island issues at the national and international level.
- A co-operation to exchange experiences and ideas.
- An organisation that works at the political, public official and grass roots level
- A co-operation to develop interregional programmes and projects.
- A co-operation with an extensive network.
- An Annual Conference that brings together in meetings and plenary sessions the islands' politicians, public officials and members to debate policies, exchange experience and promote the interests of the islands and their citizens.

EXPECTATIONS FROM MEMBERS

- Island representatives appointed to work with the B7 are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on their island and the B7.
- Each island is expected to appoint representatives to the various bodies of the B7 and work with the agreed projects, events, seminars and other activities entered into by the B7, in order to fulfil the vision and achieve the objectives of the B7.

ARTICLE 4: LEGAL STATUS

- This Charter governs the operations of the B7.
- The Charter can be modified by the approval of the B7 Steering Committee.
- The B7 is not registered as a legal entity.
- A member island can, as required, and with the agreement of the B7 Steering Committee, appoint one of the member islands to represent it in a legal capacity.
- Differences in understanding and interpretation of the B7 Charter and Annexes can be decided by a majority vote of the B7 Board or referred to the B7 Steering Committee for a decision.



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ARTICLE 5: ORGANISATION

The B7 has two decision making bodies:

- B7 Steering Committee
- B7 Board

These two bodies are supported by

- Annual Conference
- Chairmanship
- Secretariat
- Workgroups
- Focus Groups
- B7 Facilitator
- Brussels Representation

The duties and responsibilities of the B7 Steering Committee, B7 Board and the Annual Conference are laid out in the following paragraphs.

The following documents outline in detail the duties of the Chairmanship and Secretariat, Facilitator, Brussels Representation plus the budget and accounting practices of the B7 and are to be drawn up, maintained and kept updated by the B7 Board:

"B7 Chairmanship and Secretariat - Annex to B7 Charter"

"B7 Workgroup – Annex to B7 Charter"

"B7 Facilitator – Annex to B7 Charter"

"B7 Brussels Representation – Annex to B7 Charter"

"B7 Budget and Accounting Practice – Annex to B7 Charter"

The B7 Charter is to be made available on the B7 website in the public area and the Annexes to the B7 Charter made available on the B7 Website in the "Members Area".

B7 STEERING COMMITTEE

The B7 Steering Committee is the political body of the B7 and provides the framework and direction of the B7 Co-operation.

The Steering Committee:

- Consists of one politician from each of the member islands.
- Meets at least twice per year as agreed in the annual programme.
- The representative of the island holding the annual rotating chairmanship chairs meetings.
- Members review and approve the B7 Strategy, policies, annual programme and annual budget of the B7.
- Can delegate responsibilities to the B7 Board.



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- Members lobby for the islands in areas of common interest.
- Ensure a civil servant at executive level is appointed from each island to participate as a member of the B7 Board.
- Representation from four islands is needed to make a quorum.
- The B7 Steering Committee can decide on the B7 flag, logo, hymn and other symbols of the B7

B7 BOARD

The B7 Board is the management body of the B7 and manages the work of the B7 within the framework of the B7 Strategy to ensure the effective operation of the B7.

The B7 Board:

- Consists of senior civil servants from each of the member islands.
- Meets as agreed in the annual programme.
- The representative of the island holding the annual rotating chairmanship chairs meetings.
- Manages – plans, leads, organises, monitors, controls, evaluates - the work of the B7 with the representatives from the other member islands.
- Reports on the activities of the B7 to the B7 Steering Committee on a quarterly basis, including an executive summary and statement of accounts.
- Ensures representatives from their islands are appointed to work in the other B7 bodies and work to implement the B7 Strategy and annual programmes of the B7 within the agreed budget.
- Develops and approves the guidelines for the B7 Board, Chairmanship and Secretariat, Workgroups, Facilitator, Brussels Representation, Webmaster and other bodies or representatives of the B7.
- Representation from four islands is needed to make a quorum.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference is the focal point of the B7 year. The purpose of the Annual Conference is to convene all the members of the B7 once a year to review the past year and agree the plans for the coming year within the framework of a B7 Strategy. The Annual Conference consists of, as a minimum, a Steering Committee meeting, Board Meeting and open plenary sessions for debate and discussion.

Details relating to the organisation and content of the Annual Conference are to be set out in the document "**B7 Chairmanship and Secretariat** - Annex to B7 Charter"



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ARTICLE 6: FINANCE

- The operations of the B7 are financed by an annual membership fee, which is based on the population of the island.
- At the Annual Conference of the B7, the Steering Committee must approve the annual membership fee for each island.
- At the Annual Conference of the B7, the Steering Committee must approve the annual budget, which cannot be more than the total of the annual membership fee.
- Guideline for the B7 budget must be set out by the B7 Board and approved by the B7 Steering Committee.
- The B7 Steering Committee must approve changes to the budget.
- The B7 cannot take on debt.
- In the event that the B7 is terminated, any money remaining after all commitments are paid, is to be divided between the islands in proportion to the last membership fees paid by each member island.

ARTICLE 7: CO-OPERATION with other ORGANISATIONS

- The B7, within its financial and personnel resources, works with other international organisations to promote the common interests of the B7 islands.
- The Steering Committee of the B7 decides which organisations the B7 co-operates with on a formal basis.
- The member islands of the B7, while representing their own islands can represent the B7 and present policies, documents, positions etc as agreed with the B7 Board.