

# Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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## HELCOM Baltic Sea Recovery Plan for Leningrad Oblast' and Russian-Nordic Environmental Cooperation



The Nordic Council of Ministers Information offices in St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad and the Government of Leningrad Oblast' in cooperation with HELCOM Secretariat are hosting a major Stakeholder Workshop on 11 February in St. Petersburg in order to build up support for this multinational strategy to rescue the troubled marine environment as one of the first steps towards the upcoming implementation of the strategic HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Senior government officials of Russia's Leningrad Oblast', representatives of the scientific and business communities, international financial institutions, NGOs, as well as officials from neighbouring countries will discuss the regional implementation of the wide-ranging programme of actions which was adopted a year ago by

the Baltic Sea countries and the European Commission - all members of HELCOM - to drastically reduce pollution to the sea and restore its good ecological status by 2021.

The overall objective of the Workshop, is to facilitate the involvement of stakeholders into the process of implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan concerning combating eutrophication caused by excessive inputs of nitrogen and phosphorous in Leningrad Oblast'. Both pollution from municipal wastewater as well as from agricultural run-off and the status of biodiversity will be addressed at parallel sections in order to elaborate concrete actions to solve existing environmental problems. The financial aspects of the plan's implementation and the cost-efficiency of measures will also be on the agenda.

To enhance the cross-border dialogue the seminar on Russian – Nordic cooperation focusing on environmental technology for reduction of emission of phosphorus to the Baltic Sea will be following on 12 February 2009. The event will provide an opportunity to share good practices of measures to reduce the Baltic Sea pollution. It is expected the report of the seminar will provide an input to the road map for implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan for the North-West Russia.

Source: Elena Golubeva, Deputy Director, Nordic Council of Ministers Information office in Saint Petersburg, e-mail: [eg@norden.ru](mailto:eg@norden.ru), <http://www.norden.ru>

Photo: Alla Nielsen, NCM, St. Petersburg

## The UBC Commission on Environment Meeting



On 17 - 18 March 2009 the Meeting of UBC Commission on Environment will be held in St Petersburg. The meeting will concentrate on the *Stakeholder Involvement and finalizing the next UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010 - 2015*.

The UBC EnvCom meeting will be in connection to the HELCOM X International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day".

This UBC EnvCom meeting will offer an efficient networking opportunity for the cities to exchange experiences, learn from each others, discuss of possible common project ideas and establish co-operation, not just within the commission on Environment, but also with other UBC Commissions.

Source: UBC Commission on Environment, [www.ubc-environment.net](http://www.ubc-environment.net)

## Congress “Transportation, storage and transshipment of crude oil, liquefied gases, and oil products – Oil Terminal”



The congress organized in the end 2008 in Corinthia Nevskij Palace Hotel has earned a reputation within the industry as the best source of information on transportation routes (pipelines, railways, shipping) and storage for the development of crude oil and products exports.

The Congress enabled participants to gain an in-depth knowledge of trade flows in the CIS and in Europe, identifying the prospects of various markets and informs delegates of new transportation and infrastructure developments. The event also delved deeply into the economic issues surrounding different types of transportation and investment in oil transshipment and tank storage facilities. Among the participants of the year 2008 were senior representatives from European ports, management of Russian ports, Russian Ministry of Transportation, Latvian Ministry of Transportation, Estonian Transit Association (TRASS), Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Finance of Russia. Other participants included about 30 oil, products and LPG terminal representatives, plus oil trading, exporting and transportation companies and oil refineries: Rosneft, StatoilHydro, TNK-BP, AGIP, Lukoil, Baltic Fuel, Eesti Chem OU, Nordic Storage, Vopak Chemicals, Logistics Finland OY, Nord Gas,GAZEXPORT, Neste Oil, Scandinavian Tank Storage AB,Siemens Belgium, BaltTransServis, Gazprom Export, GAC Sweden Shipping and Logistics, North-Western Alliance and many others.

By summer 2009 Corinthia Nevskij Palace Hotel will see the extension which will add another 107 executive guestrooms to the hotel, together with a 270 square-metre Presidential Suite, bringing the hotel's total inventory to 388 rooms, together with a new Executive Lounge. In addition, the extension will feature the City's finest hotel conference centre, with 8 state-of-the-art meeting rooms including a Grand Ballroom, with a total capacity for over 1,000 guests. This will enable Corinthia to market St Petersburg internationally as a top class destination for meetings, incentives, conferences and events.

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### New Congress Hall for St. Petersburg

After reconstruction the *Pribaltiyskaya* hotel will have 30 new conference halls and a congress hall for 1500 participants. The reconstruction started in January and planned to be completed in September 2009. The estimated investments are

about \$ 5000000.

At present the *Pribaltiyskaya* hotel is a leader in St. Petersburg conference market.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper

Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

### Facts and Figures

#### Conference Facilities in St. Petersburg

Hotels – 36 %

Museums and palaces – 31 %

Exhibition, sport and concert halls – 14 %

Business centers – 4 %

Scientific institutes – 4 %

Others – 11 %

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper,

### Facts and Figures

#### Rooms in St. Petersburg Hotels

Total number of rooms in 549 St. Petersburg hotels in 2008 was 24,500. Among those hotels 464 are mini-hotels with 6,400 rooms.

Number of hotel rooms increased by 1265 in the period from 2005 to 2008. In 2009 increase is estimated to be about 300 rooms.



Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper

Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

## Finnish Representations Processed More Than 65% Visa Applications in St. Petersburg in 2008

Finnish representations around the world treated 806,156 visa applications in total in 2008, which is 12% more than in the previous year (718,483). The number of applications was higher than ever before. More than 90% of the applications (a total of 742,237) were processed in the four Finnish representations in Russia where the number of applications increased with 15% last year. 144,204 visa applications were processed at the Embassy of Moscow and 524,404 at the Consulate General in St. Petersburg. The two separate offices in Petrozavodsk and Murmansk that operate under the administration of the Consulate General processed 54,268 and 19,361 applications.

In 2005 Russians received 373,000 Finnish visas.

Source: [www.finland.org](http://www.finland.org), <http://www.travel.ru>, photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)



## Turku and Saint Petersburg Develop a Common Cultural Space

In October 2009 during the "Saint Petersburg Days in Turku" the City of St. Petersburg will present its cultural life. Every year Turku and St. Petersburg share their cultural experience in accordance with the collaboration agreement between the cities signed in 1953.

This year the Institute for Cultural Programs has issued the brochure "Calendar for Cultural Events 2009. Turku – Saint Petersburg". The Calendar contains information about the most important cultural events of the year 2009 organized in Turku and in St. Petersburg: festivals, theater premieres, concerts, exhibitions, fairs, sport events and holidays. The brochure is produced in collaboration with the City of Turku Bureau of Cultural Affairs and is supported by the St. Petersburg Committee for Culture.



The Calendar is available both in English and in Russian on the website <http://www.spbculture.ru>

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Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)



## Baltic Sea Region NGO Forum

The Baltic Sea NGO Forum is held annually under the auspices of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and its rotating chairmanship. The Forum aims at making NGOs of the Baltic Sea area more visible and at influencing the democratic decision-making process on national, regional and EU level. This year Forum takes place in Denmark, 26.02.09 – 1.03.09, and is going to work through the following topics tied with the Baltic Sea: "Environment and Climate Changes", "Social Affairs", "Civil dialogue", "Cultural Diversity and Tolerance", "Lifelong Learning". Network NGO's leaders, EU officials and CBSS representatives are to make reports, lead workshops and discussion sessions.

Association for co-operation with Nordic countries "NORDEN" is Russian national coordinator and member in the Coordination Committee of the Forum. More information at <http://www.bsngoforum.org>

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The archive of the newsletters can be found at [http://www.stockholmregion.org/website1/sd\\_page/16/1/index.php](http://www.stockholmregion.org/website1/sd_page/16/1/index.php)

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