



The Government of
the Republic of Latvia

Summit host



sustainable growth · innovation · competitiveness

15th Baltic Development Forum Summit Riga 29–30 May 2013



NEW REALITIES – NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Competitiveness, Investment and Business development in the Baltic Sea Region



The Baltic Development Forum and the Government of the Republic of Latvia welcome you to Riga for 15th Annual Summit. The last few years have been difficult and included many reforms and adjustments following the economic and financial crisis. Still adjustment will be needed to the new realities, but the Baltic Sea Region is again becoming the Top of Europe representing the best performing area in Europe and new opportunities emerge. In different ways, the countries of the region are perceived as role models in handling the economic crisis but sustainable growth remains to be achieved.



Baltic Development Forum Summit once again offers a unique platform for debating important regional and European issues in a global context. At the Summit decision makers will have the opportunity to meet representatives from politics, business, academia and media from the 11 countries in the region, as well as regional organizations. This year's Summit will bring together more than 400 stakeholders and Region's decision makers to discuss:



- ⇒ The state of the region – economically and politically
- ⇒ Energy – a driver for growth and cooperation
- ⇒ Investment promotion in the Region identifying common interests and shared challenges
- ⇒ The Digital Single Market as a real growth issue and economic potential
- ⇒ Smart Specialization and Growth

Welcome to Riga!

Rethinking Opportunities in the Baltic Sea Region

Latvia and its beautiful capital Riga is the first country to host BDF's new – and optimistic – tour around the Baltic Sea after BDF has had Summits in all the countries around the Baltic Sea since 1998. Coming back to the Latvian capital is a great possibility to recall the theme of the Baltic Sea Region as Global Frontrunner discussed in 2003 and to present new perspectives and realities on competitiveness, investment attraction and business development in Northern Europe.

Competitiveness

Discussions on competitiveness upgrading strategies need to include a wider regional perspective. At the BDF 2012 Summit, BDF announced that it would seek to convene an Advisory Council on regional competitive-



ness consisting of top CEO's, leading economists, banks and think tanks. The objective is to present recommendations related to fields such as investment strategies, innovation, manufacturing, research and entrepreneurship. One of the goals with Riga Summit is to push forward this agenda both regionally and on a European level. The State of the Region Report will help setting the scene.

Investment and Business development

Cross-national cooperation in business development and flows of investments requires solutions at the European and regional level. The EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region gives a novel framework for new initiatives. The main actors to ma-

terialize new opportunities are countries having common challenges, goals and opportunities. After the economic crisis, a key issue to address is whether the regional value chains have been strengthened, especially between the Baltics and the Nordics, and manufacturing exports increased from the Baltics, contributing to the restructuring efforts in companies in the Nordics and Germany. Areas to discuss cover infrastructure in energy, transport, e-commerce, e-governance, as well as innovation, clean-tech, cluster development and talents.

Baltic Development Forum Summit again offers a unique platform for debating these important key issues among decision makers in the Baltic Sea Region.

Among the speakers



Valdis Dombrovskis,
Prime Minister, Latvia



Algirdas Butkevicius,
Prime Minister, Lithuania



Andrus Ansip,
Prime Minister, Estonia



Hans Skov Christensen,
Chairman of BDF

A Plenary session with Prime Ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will offer unique opportunity to discuss potentials and goals of the Baltic States upgrading their international competitiveness.

Moreover, the Summit will raise discussions about the political situation in the Region, smart specialization and growth in connection with the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and other topics important in describing the new realities after the financial recovery. Speakers from European Commission, Nordic Investment Bank, European Investment Bank, Ministers of



Nordic countries and many other decision makers from politics, business and academia will inspire lively discussions.

New Realism in the Region Discussed in Current Reports

At the Summit, BDF will present two reports analysing the current situation in the Region. State of the Region Report sponsored by European Investment Bank and Nordic Investment Bank this year again will provide a solid overview and will be the starting point to the discussions. Political State of the Region Report will raise discussion about regional integration and challenges and opportunities of the Region.



Christian Ketels, Member of the Harvard Business School faculty



Bernd Henningsen, Professor Humboldt University, Berlin

Networking Village

Display your company, your organisation, project or just make your point

Networking lunches and contact breaks form a perfect setting for meeting new business partners and discussing issues of common interest with key decision-makers. An exhibition stand in the Networking

Village provides you with an excellent opportunity to reach out to an international audience by showcasing your company, organisation or project. Here you can present your achievements and results and

engage new partners for current and future projects.

By exhibiting in Riga you will contribute to making this an exciting and informative event.



Baltic Development Forum will help you to equip and organize your stand.

For more information and prices please contact: Jørgen P. T. Christensen, Deputy Director +45 60 21 85 80 or jc@bdforum.org

Baltic Business Arena



Parallel to Summit sessions BDF is hosting a business matchmaking event – Baltic Business Arena (BBA). BDF has been co-organiser of this concept since 2012, together with the Swedish Agency for Regional Economic Development, Tillväxtverket and ALMI. The BBA brings together approximately 100 small and medium sized

companies and offers opportunities for face-to-face meeting, free consultancies and other business networking. Besides organizing a BBA event at Riga Summit, BDF works together with the Latvian Confederation of Industry (LDDK) in bringing business organizations of the region together.

www.b2match.eu/balticbusiness2013

Venue

Riga Congress center – the multi-functional space for seminars, concerts, theatres, congresses, meetings, exhibitions and corporate events – is hosting the 15th BDF Summit in Latvian capital. In this spacious venue sessions, meetings, networking and other activities will be arranged.

The address of the Congress Center: K. Valdemara Street 5. The place is near Riga old town and is served by good transport connections.



Awards

Baltic Sea Award

The Baltic Sea Award is assigned to an individual or an organization that has made an extraordinary contribution to the development of the Baltic Sea Region. The Baltic Development Forum's Annual Award was established in 2007 in order to highlight and encourage positive progress in the Region.

We welcome all nominations to the Award. The winner is selected by the award sponsor and BDF. The award is signed by a Prime Minister of the Region. Last year Baltic Sea Award was dedicated to Professor in condensed matter physics Lars Börjesson for revolutionary material research.

"I think it is a very big prize and it is a general prize so it goes to science and – research and development." Lars Börjesson



Summit Website www.bsr2013.eu

The website features program details, a speakers list, news updates, background material, participation fees, exhibition prices, hotel and travel information etc.



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29-30 May 2013 Riga, Latvia

Meet BDF at: www.bdforum.org, Nytorv 3, 1st floor, 1450 Copenhagen, Denmark