

INVITATION · 3RD BALTIC SEA PEACE CONFERENCE

BALTIC SEA — A SEA OF PEACE

From Confrontation to Dialogue

SATURDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2026

11:00–18:00 CET | 13:00–20:00 St. Petersburg time

Event details

FORMAT	LANGUAGE	REGISTRATION
Online via Zoom A hybrid option with limited in-person attendance will be arranged in St. Petersburg.	English. Interpretation into Russian will be provided; Zoom translation into German will also be available.	Please register online bit.ly/Baltic-Conference

Welcome

Dear friends and colleagues,

We warmly invite you to participate in the 3rd Baltic Sea Peace Conference, which will take place online on Saturday, 28 November, from 11:00 to 18:00 (CET), from 13:00 to 20:00 St. Petersburg time.

The conference is organized by the International Peace Bureau (IPB) and the Baltic Civil Peace Initiative (a network of peace activists, scientists, and ecologists from Russia), with the active involvement of peace and environmental organizations from Scandinavia, as well as civil activists, experts, and representatives of local communities from all countries in the Baltic Sea region.

The conference is a strictly non-partisan, non-governmental civic initiative; it is independent of any government and open to all individuals and groups who share the goals of peace, demilitarization, and environmental security in the Baltic region.

Our shared vision

The Baltic Sea must remain a sea of peace, cooperation, and common environmental security. Today, however, we are witnessing a spiral of mutual militarization that has reached unprecedented levels. The region is being integrated into strategic war planning, military budgets are rising, new bases are being built, and the possibility of deploying nuclear weapons is openly discussed.

The dangerous dynamic is inextricably linked to the ongoing war in Ukraine; the drift of the conflict into the Baltic—through drone attacks on ports and oil infrastructure—makes dialogue and de-escalation here a matter of survival for all states in the region.

These actions not only increase the risk of direct military confrontation between NATO and Russia/Belarus, but also create an environmental threat of planetary scale. More than 30 nuclear reactors and numerous radioactive waste storage sites are located in the Baltic Sea catchment area. Their destruction during hostilities would render the region uninhabitable for an indefinite period. The history of the Baltic Sea is already scarred by the environmental devastation of two world wars, the consequences of which we live with to this day. Militarisation has immense and immediate consequences for the environment—from pollution to the destruction of soil and the poisoning of water.

The vision of the Baltic as a Sea of Peace is not new. In the late 20th century, serious proposals were advanced to create a Nordic–Baltic nuclear-weapon-free zone. We return to this legacy, seeking modern forms of détente fit for the 21st century.

Our goal is to mobilize civil society, experts, and regional policymakers to promote dialogue, reduce risks, and develop practical steps towards détente. We want to deepen the understanding of the dialectical relationship between war and the environment.

A safe space for open exchange

To ensure a safe space for open exchange, all sessions will be conducted under the Chatham House Rule—an international principle for discussions that allows the information shared during a meeting to be used, while strictly prohibiting the disclosure of the identities or affiliations of the speakers and other participants.

Conference objectives

1. Present an objective picture of the threats—military, environmental, and socio-economic—for the 90 million inhabitants of the region.
2. Identify “door-openers”—concrete first steps towards de-escalation: demilitarisation, peaceful relations, talks, contacts, joint radiation monitoring, environmental projects, humanitarian and cultural initiatives.
3. Build a transnational civil society coalition ready to issue joint statements and implement projects across political borders, focusing on peace and the nexus between militarisation and the environment.
4. Adopt a Baltic Peace Declaration affirming a shared rejection of war and a commitment to common security principles.
5. Advance the establishment of a politically independent, citizen-based radiation monitoring network involving civil society from all countries of the catchment area.

Preliminary programme

TIME	SESSION
11:00 – 11:15	Welcome and opening remarks by Oleg Bodrov
11:15 – 12:00	**Keynote:** "Escalation in the Baltic Sea Region—risks of direct military confrontation and pathways to peace" Ingeborg Breinis and Reiner Braun Russian speaker (20 minutes)
12:00 – 12:45	Discussion
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch break (informal networking)
13:30 – 15:50	**Country reports:** seven minutes each; moderated by Kathrin Otte Finland, Ulla Klötzer Denmark, Karen Petersen Sweden, Thomas Magnussen Norway, Einar Braathen Germany, Niki Müller Russia, Oleg Bodrov
15:50 – 16:15	Break
16:15 – 17:00	Prospects for peaceful development in the Baltic Sea area—first steps to peace and environmental protection Tord Björk, Sweden Dr. Ralf Stegner, member of the German Parliament
17:00 – 17:30	Joint discussion of projects and initiatives chaired by Sean Conner
17:30 – 18:00	Adoption of the Baltic Peace Declaration Presented by Oleg Bodrov
18:00	Closing remarks by Reiner Braun

Join the conversation

Register: https://bit.ly/Baltic-Conference

Organised by the International Peace Bureau (IPB) and the Baltic Civil Peace Initiative

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