Statement Baltic Sea Forum (BSF)

52nd Session, Commission for Social Development
Business development as an economic program for social cohesion –
best practice examples from Northern Europe in the fight against poverty

ACL – Project
ACL is financed by the Interreg- Programme of the European Union for the Baltic Sea
Region (European Union’s Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013) and by the
European Neighbourhood- and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).
INTERREG is a community initiative of the European Union and part of the structural
policy. INTERREG promotes the collaboration between EU- member states and non-EU-countries. The programme fosters cross-border measures of the collaboration,
like infrastructure purposes, the collaboration of public utility companies, joint actions
of companies or cooperations in the fields of environment protection, education,
landuse
planning or culture.
Goal of the ACL-project is to establish/construct multimodal reloading- and logistic
points and with that to improve the accessibility of mal-connected regions in the
southeastern Baltic Sea Region and its natural Hinterland, Belarus, Ukraine and
Kazakhstan. Three project partners are from Belarus: The research facilities “School
of Business and Management of Technologies of Belarusian State University” and
“Scientific Technological Park ‘Polytechnik’” as well as the federation “Belarusian
Association of International Forwarders”. Beside it, there are ports, companies,
authorities and institutes for scientific research of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Denmark
and Germany involved.

Background
By expansion of the traffic- and logistics infrastructure the countries of
Middle- and Eastern Europe are more strongly incorporated into the
international trade connections. As a result of this they participate more
strongly in the value chain and with that increase their prosperity. At it, focal
precondition is the integration of the logistics centres into the traffics beside
the transport infrastructure.

This kind of prosperity promotion by traffic- and logistics projects is applicable to other regions as best practice example. Therefore we want to share the experiences and results of ACL with you.

The Baltic Sea Forum advocates this best practice exchange so that the prospects of this collaboration become recognisable. Partnerships between the EU and developing countries serve as promoting of growth, stability and development in the particular developing countries. With a strategy of close partnership a development for peace, security and stability gets promoted with respect to economic development, eradicating poverty, democracy, human rights, control of the global risks. The European Commission wants a political partnership based on mutual values, which consider the strengths in the economical and ecological fields and facilitate the social cohesion.

This promotion concerns a social solidarity and poverty eradication, which causes new chances by creating a sustainable basis of existence. These efforts are going to be geared to the way the civil society develops and the possibilities to support e.g. social safety nets, as well as income possibilities for the poorest demographic groups. Beside direct financial promotion this happens by Know-How-Transfer and with that the support of the building of structures in the region. There is a big challenge hiding for the economy of Northern Europe and the developing countries, which could base on the expansion of the infrastructure and new logistics centres. For this the Baltic Sea Region is a model for Europe and it shows how innovative projects can contribute to the adjustment of living conditions.

The ACL-Project offers solution approaches and scientific perspectives to the subject of environmental-friendly Hinterland-connections and how they can improve the economic relations. It aims on the development of sustainable mobility beside of the development of new traffic and transport connections and commodity flows. The development and the expansion of logistics locations, which at the same time improve the living conditions of the civil society and help to reduce/ eradicate poverty, are connected with that. As a matter of fact, due to the integration into the traffic connections, the Hinterlandregion and the Baltic rim grow together to a common
economic area.
This economic development on the basis of the expansion of the transport infrastructure and the merging of Hinterlandregions into functioning economic commodity flows brings along the strengthening of the European values – here of the European Union. The experiences of the ACL-Project shows that the building-up of trade structures come along with the development of civil structures in the sense of the EU. Because of that the EU supports the aspect of strengthening the civil society in ACL.

Therefore the BSF together with the Lead Partner Hafen Hamburg Marketing (HHM) will show the ways to the development of the flow of goods traffic into a Hinterlandregion using the example of the Baltic Sea and Belarus in a side-event about the ACL-Project. We are glad about this opportunity to introduce the Interreg-Programme and the INTERREG-Project ACL to an international community within the frame of our work with ECOSOC.

This impulse of the development of the civil society should be put as impulse for other projects within the frame of the UN and the Commission for Social Development and show how the adjustment of living conditions can be achieved and how poverty eradication relates to transport and the development of trade connections.

He, who seriously wants to reach global improvement, has to start the different ways nearly at the same time: High-tech and economic cooperation with concrete projects, research, qualification and education, efficient supply and health structures and regional policy of micro-instruments by the use of global funds, together with accessibility to ways of transportation and the extension of logistics centres.