To save the Baltic Sea: Baltic Sea Forum awards its prize “BSCM Award” for innovative Baltic Sea shipping and outstanding maritime developments this year again

At the annual meeting of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region (EUSBSR) in Berlin the Baltic Sea Forum (BSF) awarded again its environmental prize "BSCM Award". The prize rewards outstanding projects in three categories; 32 applications were received by an independent jury of seven experts which selected the final nine winners. On June 14 BSF President Prof Kurt Bodewig, Federal Secretary ret’d for transport and infrastructure, at the annual meeting handed over the prize for the Lithuanian project of liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply as a new energy source for the young Baltic State (category I, "Infrastructure"). The HH Ferries Group got its award by BSF ("innovative technology" category II) for its innovative, completely emission-free shipping. The ferry-line connects the cities of Helsingör (Denmark) and Helsingborg (Sweden) with solely battery-powered vessels, thus entirely emission-free. For innovation and science (category III), the initiative "MARELITT Baltic" received a special prize for fighting against waste-"disposal" in the water of the Baltic Sea.

Against the background of the first UN ocean conference recently past BSF President Kurt Bodewig highlighted the MARELITT Baltic action as "virtually prophetic": in New York all (!) member nations of the UN unanimously acted against the pollution of the oceans. "It honors the MARELITT Baltic and its initiator, the Swedish municipality of Simrishamn, for their pioneering role to protect the seas in a very remarkable manner. Thus it made visible why the Baltic Region earned the distinction of "Model region"

rightly", President Bodewig said. The United Nations had awarded the title "Model region" shortly after the turn of the Millennium to the Baltic sea and its neighbouring countries.

The ceremony took place in the Foreign Ministry in Berlin, it was one of the highlights of the two-day Baltic Sea Strategy Council (EUSBSR) at the conclusion of this year’s meeting. The Councils programe dealt on green energy production and consumption as well as on research and research cooperation, maritime transports, and offers of contacts to Western Russia and Belarus. At the opening of the annual EUSBSR German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel spoke to the roughly 200 delegates, followed by Martti Ahtisaari, Nobel Peace Laureate and former Finnish Foreign Minister. He decisively had contributed to establish the BSF after the fall of iron curtain. The EUSBSR delegates came from all Baltic Sea countries, as well as from Norway and the Netherlands.

Valuable support for its "Clean Baltic Sea Maritime (BSCM) award" the Baltic Sea Forum received from partners such as the "Helsinki Commission", the Council of the Baltic Sea States CBSS, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference BSPC and from scientific institutions. The members of the seven person jury are listed below (cf attachment 1.) The "BSCM" is to be awarded at annual intervals. His physical form is composed of a glass sculpture and a corresponding certificate. The complete list of all nine this year’s winners see also below, attachment 2.

Contact person for the press named by BSF chairman Federal Minister (ret’d) Kurt Bodewig:  
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Attachment 1

Baltic Sea Clean Maritime Award – supplement to press info from June 14th 2017

Members of the jury for BSCM-Award 2017 were wellknown experts, so Mr Tommy Halén, CEO, Trelleborgs Hamn AB; Mrs Anna Sigrid Hamran, Director, port of Oslo; Mr Markku Mylly, Director of European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA); Mr. Henrik Hololei, Director DG Move, EU Commission; Mr. Ralf Nagel, CEO German Shipowner’s Association; Prof. Dr. Peter Ehlers, member of consulting-board to Baltic Sea Forum, president (rt’d) of German Federal Hydrographic Agency; President BSF Prof. Kurt Bodewig, Federal Secretary rt’d for Transport and Infrastructure.

Attachment 2

Baltic Sea Clean Maritime Award – supplement to press info from June 14th 2017

- complete list of all prize winners 2017 –

The three categories of the award are as:

I Infrastructure and Development
II Technology and Innovation
III special category “Innovation and Science”

And the winners are:

I, first place Blue Baltics – LNG infrastructure facility deployment in the Baltic Sea Region of Lithuania.
Partners: Klaipedos Nafta SC, SE Klaipeda State Seaport KSSA (both Lithuania); Bernhard Schulte Group (Germany); Alexela Energia (Estonia); AGA (Sweden).

2nd place GREEN CRUISE PORT - sustainable development of Cruise Port Locations. HPA (Germany).

3rd place VG EcoCoaster. Meriaura Group (Finnland) and Partners.

II, 1st place Zero EmissionFerries – A green link across the Öresund. HH Ferries Group (Sweden).

2nd place LNG Value Chain for Clean Shipping, Green Ports & Blue Growth in Baltic Sea Region (Go LNG). Klaipeda Science and Technology Park (Lithuania) and Partners.

3rd place LNG in Baltic Sea Ports II. Ports of Helsingborg, Trelleborg and Sundsvall (Sweden), Rostock (Germany) and Klaipeda (Lithuania).

III 1st place MARELITT Baltic. Founder: Municipality of Simrishamn (Sweden), Partners in Estonia, Germany, Poland, Sweden and Finland).

2nd EE-Baltic. Lifting the potentials of Baltic Ports as contributors to reduced environmental impact of shipping transport. New knowledge to increase energy efficiency measures. City University of Applied Sience, Bremen (Germany).
3rd Back from Black – deployment of the affordable scrubber retro fitting technology für SME shipowners. Langh Group Oy AB (Finland), Partners: Joerg Koepping 2te und 3te Bereederungs-GmbH, Hans Lehmann KG, Lehmann GmbH (Germany), Port of Helsinki, Scrubber Tech Pikis Oy (Finnland).