BALTIC SEA FORUM e.V. was founded in Helsinki in 1992 as a Finnish-German association. One of the founding members was the 2008 Nobel peace prize laureate S.E. Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland and today honorary chairman of the board of management and of the board of trustees of the Baltic Sea Forum.

Baltic Sea Forum e.V. was initially founded as a Finnish-German pool named Pro Baltica Forum to support the new Baltic States when they became independent. Since then the Forum supports the cooperation within the Baltic Sea area i.e. regarding the three Baltic States Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as well as with Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden. In 1995 the Forum’s headquarter moved to Hamburg, Germany. The international coordination and communication is managed there with intense cooperation with the members of the board. Members are from all countries bordering the Baltic Sea.

As a non-governmental organization (NGO) the Forum is networking closely within economy, politics, culture and other institutional partners in all Baltic Sea neighbour states. It understands itself as a community of interests for the Baltic Sea area. It supports the development of Northern and North-East Europe most diversely. Its alignment serves many important parts of society. The Forum’s targets are to support the integration of the Baltic Sea neighbour states and to help international cooperation. The Forum operates representative offices in all Baltic Sea neighbouring states and in German littoral states as well as in Brussels at the headquarter of the European Commission and in Switzerland.

The Forum is a strategic Partner of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), it also has an observer status in regard to parliamentarians of the Baltic Sea as well as in Helsinki Commission HELCOM. As a NGO it is a member with special consultative status since 2008 regarding the Economic Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN.

Besides, the Forum is a member at other institutions like the Baltic Development Forum, Institute for European Affairs, East and Central Europe Association inc. or Institute of the Danube Space and Central Europe. Other members and partners, see the introduction in the appendix.
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