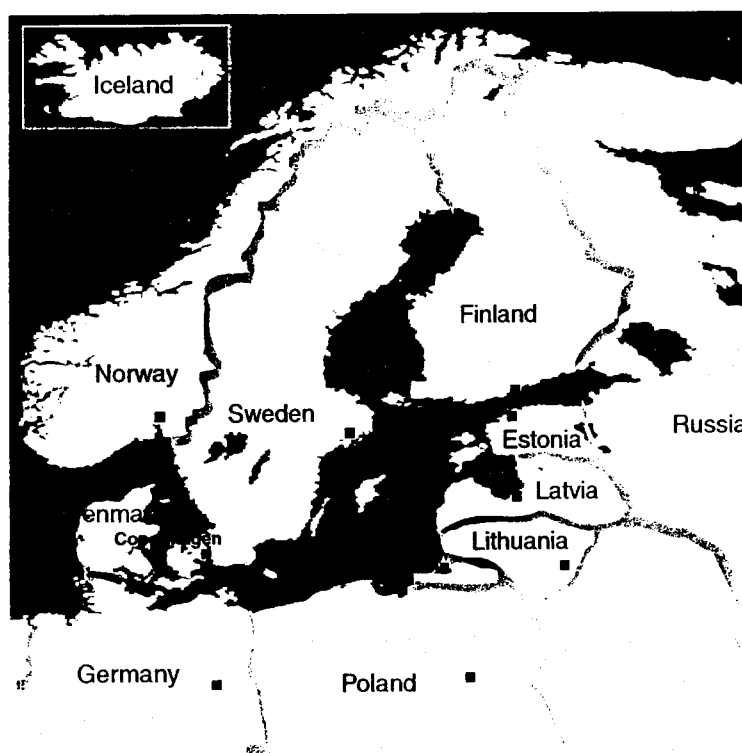




Conference on The Baltic Sea Region in the Future of Europe

Copenhagen, 7 - 8 April 2002



**Perspectives of the EU enlargement
in preparation for the Danish Presidency**

The EU-Department of the Folketing - 4.4 2002

Some Economic Facts and Figures of the Baltic Sea Region

- 1. The population in the Baltic Sea Region**
- 2. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the Baltic Sea Region**
- 3. GDP pr. Capita**
- 4. Export**
- 5. Unemployment**

Annex

The population in The Baltic Sea Region

Box 1

	Year 2000	Population (million)
The candidate countries	Estonia	1,4
	Lithuania	3,7
	Latvia	2,4
	Poland	38,7
	<i>subtotal</i>	46,2
EU- member states	Finland	5,2
	Sweden	8,9
	Denmark	5,3
	Germany	82,2
	<i>subtotal</i>	101,6
EEA ¹⁾	Norway	4,5
	Iceland	0,3
	<i>subtotal</i>	4,8
	Russia	145,6
	Total	298,2
	EU-15	376,5
	USA	275,6

¹⁾ European Economic Agreement

The Baltic Sea Region consists of 11 countries. We have the four EU-candidate countries Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland, which together have a population of 46,2 mill. inhabitants.

Then we have the four EU-member states Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany with 101,6 mill inhabitants.

Norway and Iceland are also among the countries and are both members of the European Economic Agreement (EEA). They have 4,8 mill. inhabitants.

Finally Russia is among the countries with 145,6 mill. inhabitants.

This means that the total population is not less than 298 mill. inhabitants; a little more than the population of the United States of America with its 276 mill. people.

The countries of the Baltic Region clearly represent a vast area and a considerable population (Box 1).

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the Baltic region

Box 2

	Year 2000	GDP (billion €)	Growth (%)
The candidate countries	Estonia	5,5	6,4
	Lithuania	12,2	3,3
	Latvia	7,7	6,6
	Poland	171,0	4,0
	<i>subtotal</i>	196,4	5,1
EU member states	Finland	131,2	5,7
	Sweden	233,1	3,6
	Denmark	174,4	3,2
	Germany	2.025,5	3,0
	<i>subtotal</i>	2.564,2	3,9
EEA	Norway	184,7	2,3
	Iceland	7,7	3,6
	<i>subtotal</i>	192,4	3,0
	Russia	287,4 ¹	7,5
	Total	3.240,4	4,9
	EU-15	8.526	3,3
	USA	10.706	4,2

¹ Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit. Calculated in Purchasing Power Parities (PPP) the figure is much higher (around 825 billion €)

A measure of the total volume of goods and services produced in a country is the so-called Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For example: the GDP for Denmark in the year 2000 was 174,4 billion € meaning that the total value of all production (including services) was 174,4 billion €.

The GDP for the countries of the Baltic Sea Region varies a lot (box 2): from 5,5 billion € in Estonia to not less than 2.025 billion € in Germany.

But taken together all the countries in the Baltic Region achieved a total GDP of 3.240 billion € in 2000. Around a third the size of the GDP for the United States (10.706 billion Euro). From an economic point of view the Baltic Region therefore represents a vast potential for growth.

The economic growth in the four candidate countries in 2000 is on average 5,1 pct. with Estonia and Latvia on top with an annual growth of approximately 6,5 pct (box 2). The growth rate among the four EU-member states is slightly lower. It is expected that with the coming membership of the EU, the growth rate in the four candidate countries will accelerate even further.

GDP pr. Capita

Box 3

	Year 2000	GDP pr. capita in euro
The candidate countries	Estonia	3800
	Lithuania	3300
	Latvia	3200
	Poland	4400
	<i>(average)</i>	4300
EU-member states	Finland	25400
	Sweden	26300
	Denmark	32700
	Germany	24700
	<i>(average)</i>	25200
EEA	Norway	41200
	Iceland	27600
	<i>(average)</i>	40000
	Russia	2000¹
	Total (average)	11000
	EU-15	22600
	USA	38900

The average GDP pr. head of the Baltic Sea Region varies enormously from 2.000 Euro in Russia to 41.200 in Norway. On average GDP pr. head in the Baltic Sea Region (excl. Russia) is around the half the size of the GDP in the United States (box 3).

¹⁾ Calculated in Purchasing Power Parities the figure is around 5.700 €

Export

Box 4

	Year 2000	Export (billion €)
The candidate countries	Estonia	5,2
	Lithuania	3,5
	Latvia	5,6
	Poland	53,4
	<i>subtotal</i>	67,7
EU-member states	Finland	49,9
	Sweden	94,3
	Denmark	55,5
	Germany	597,5
	<i>subtotal</i>	797,2
EEA	Norway	86,1
	Iceland	1,7
	<i>subtotal</i>	87,8
	Russia	111,7
	Total	1064,4
	EU-15	2503,3
	USA	1125,0

Export out of the Baltic Sea Region is enormous. Compared with the United States, export from this region is approximately the same size as the entire export of the United States (Box 4). But it is still far below that of the existing 15 EU-member countries. Especially for the four EU-candidate countries the perspective for growth in export to the EU must be viewed optimistically, when they join the European Union.

Unemployment

Box 5

	Year 2000	Unemployment (%)
The candidate countries	Estonia	13,2
	Lithuania	15,6
	Latvia	14,2
	Poland	16,3
	<i>(average)</i>	14,8
EU-member states	Finland	9,8
	Sweden	5,9
	Denmark	4,4
	Germany	7,9
	<i>(average)</i>	7,0
EEA	Norway	3,4
	Iceland	2,
	<i>(average)</i>	2,9
	Russia	9,6
	Total (average)	8,6
	EU-15	8,1
	USA	4,0

The level of unemployment of the Baltic Sea Region is on average only slightly higher than the unemployment for the EU-15. But compared to the United States the rate of unemployment is twice as high. The level of unemployment varies considerably within the Baltic Sea Region. The four candidate countries still have a relatively high level of unemployment compared to Norway and Iceland. With membership of the EU it can be assumed that the level of unemployment for the candidate countries will converge towards the rather high level of the EU-countries.

Annex

Facts about the Baltic Sea Region

	Year 2000	Population (million)	GDP (billion €)	GDP pr. capita €	Growth (%)	Export (billion €)	Unemployment (%)
The candidate countries	Estonia	1,4	5,5	3800	6,4	5,2	13,2
	Lithuania	3,7	12,2	3000	3,3	3,5	15,6
	Latvia	2,4	7,7	3200	6,6	5,6	14,2
	Poland	38,7	171,0	4400	4,0	53,4	16,3
		46,2	196,4	4300	5,1	67,7	14,8
EU- member states	Finland	5,2	131,2	25400	5,7	49,9	9,8
	Sweden	8,9	233,1	26300	3,6	94,3	5,9
	Denmark	5,3	174,4	32700	3,2	55,5	4,4
	Germany	82,2	2025,5	24700	3,0	597,5	7,9
		101,6	2564,2	25200	3,9	797,2	7,0
CIS A	Norway	4,5	184,7	41200	2,3	86,1	3,4
	Iceland	0,3	7,7	27600	3,6	1,7	2,3
		4,8	192,4	40000	3,0	87,8	2,9
	Russia	145,6	287,4	2000	7,5	111,7	9,6
	Total	298,2	3240,4	11000 (average)	4,9 (average)	1064,4	8,6 (average)
	EU-15	376,5	8526	22600	3,3	2503,3	8,1
	USA	275,6	10706	38900	4,2	1125,0	4,0

