

# EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

## The role of the European Union in the protection of the Baltic Sea

International Journalist Workshop

Gdansk, Poland

September 15, 2009

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# MAIN CHALLENGES IN THE BSR

- Rapid corrective action needed because of the state of the particularly vulnerable marine environment
- Maritime traffic, incl. oil and chemicals transport, is growing strongly -> increased risk of accidents
- Energy policy: networks - safety - renewables
- Need for enhanced internal security
- Economic challenges: recession, differences in development between regions and ageing labour force



# CHALLENGES: EUTROPHICATION

- The most serious environmental concern in the Baltic Sea
- Background: agricultural and municipal strain
- Solution: decreasing the phosphorus load

## HOW ARE WE GOING TO DELIVER THIS?

- Implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan 2007
    - > Wastewater treatment plants: optimised phosphorus removal
    - > Agriculture: decreased nutrient load
    - > Vessel transport: minimum amount of effluent pollution
- Requires common policies,  
instruments and funding at the EU  
level + international action



# CHALLENGES: INCREASING MARITIME TRAFFIC

ESTIMATED TRAFFIC INCREASE IN THE BALTIC SEA 2003-2020;  
**60 %**

OIL TRANSPORTS IN 2007: 145M TONS

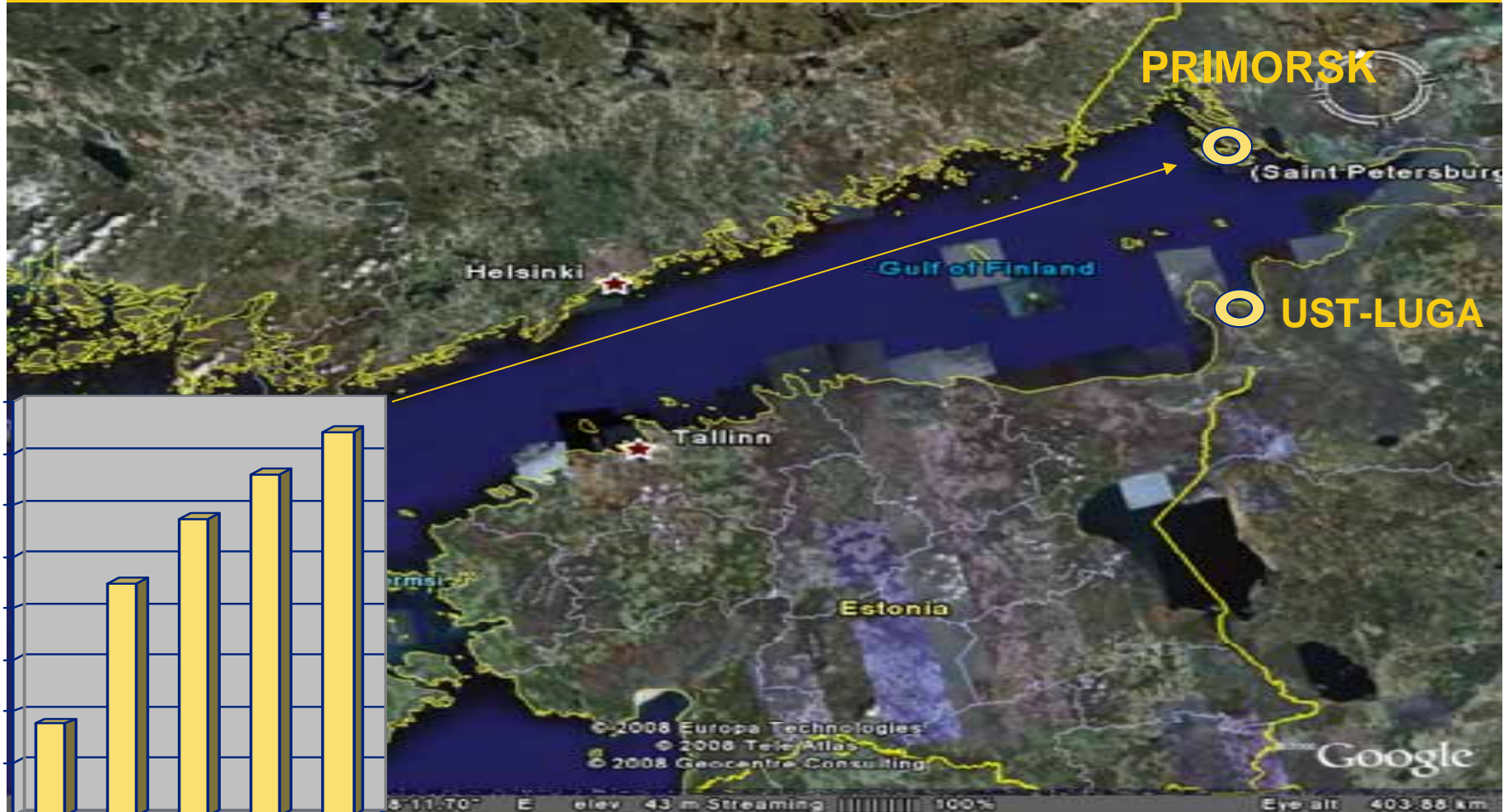
- > BY 2015 250M TONNES



**A SUMMER DAY IN THE GULF OF FINLAND: 600 MERCHANT VESSELS**



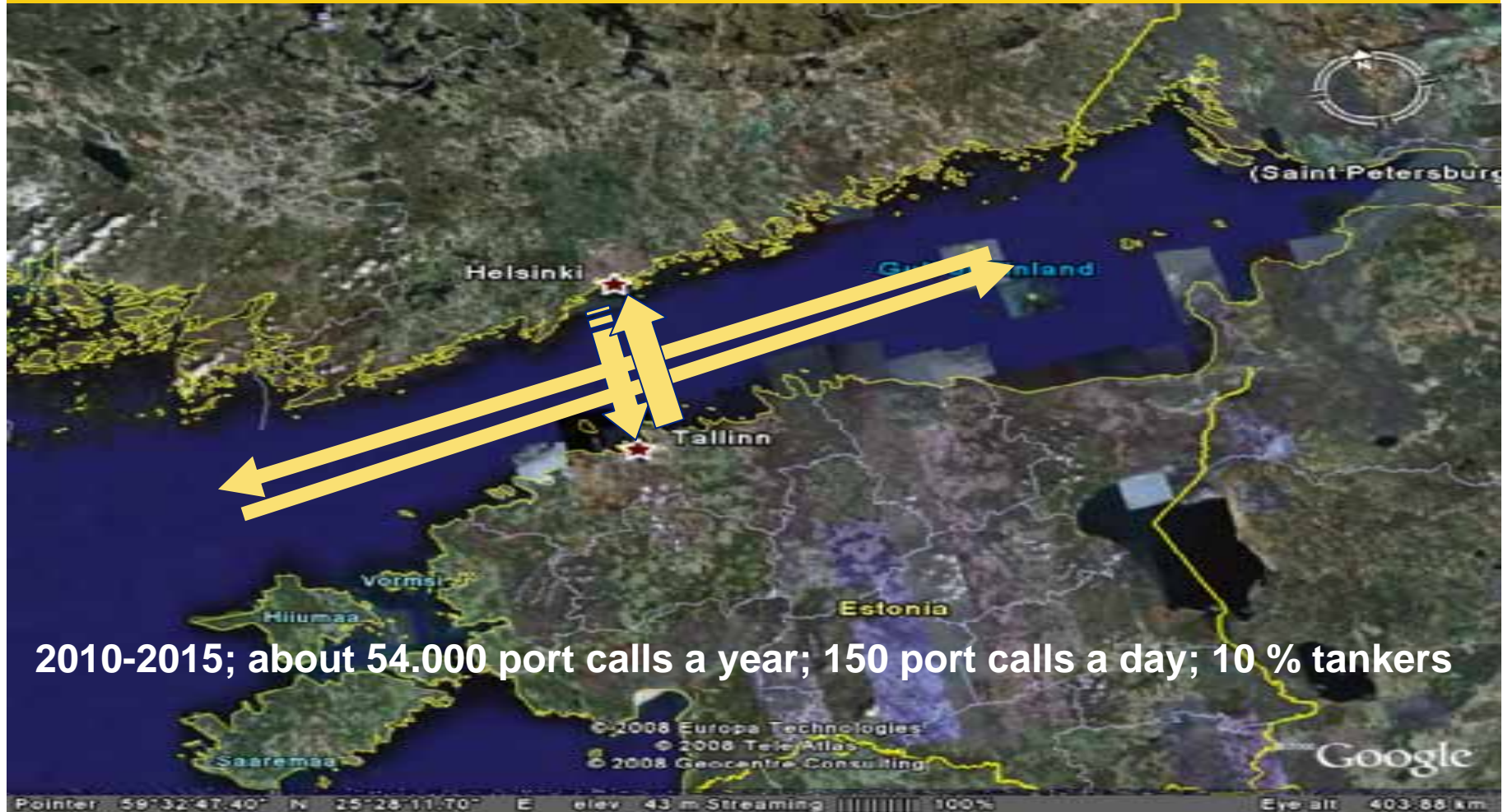
# THE GROWTH OF RUSSIAN PORTS



■ MIL OIL TONNES



# TRAFFIC CROSSING IN GULF OF FINLAND

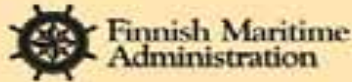


2010-2015; about 54.000 port calls a year; 150 port calls a day; 10 % tankers



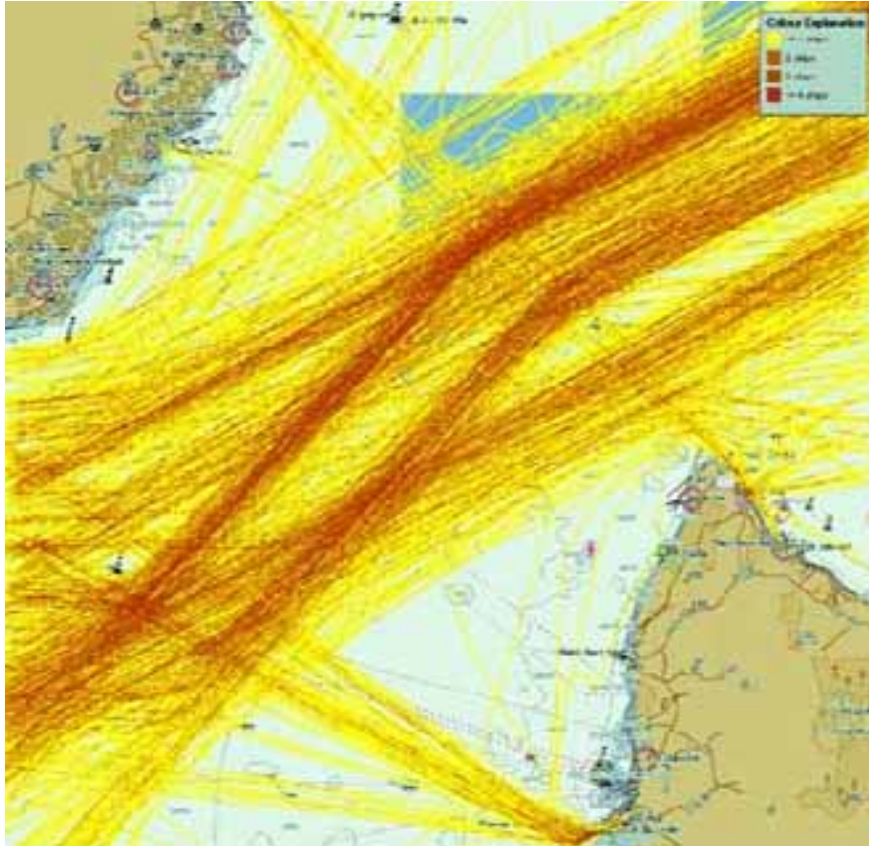
# GOFREP - Gulf of Finland Reporting System

Mandatory Reporting System for ships of 300 GT and over, starting 1.7.2004

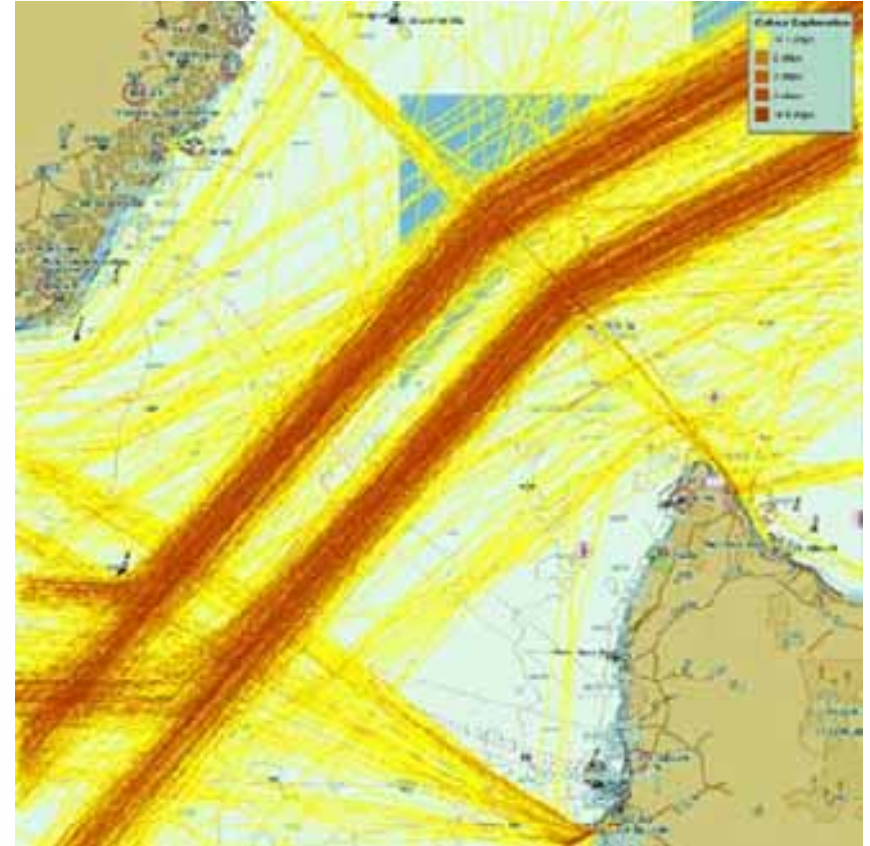


# The effect of routing measures at Bornholm area

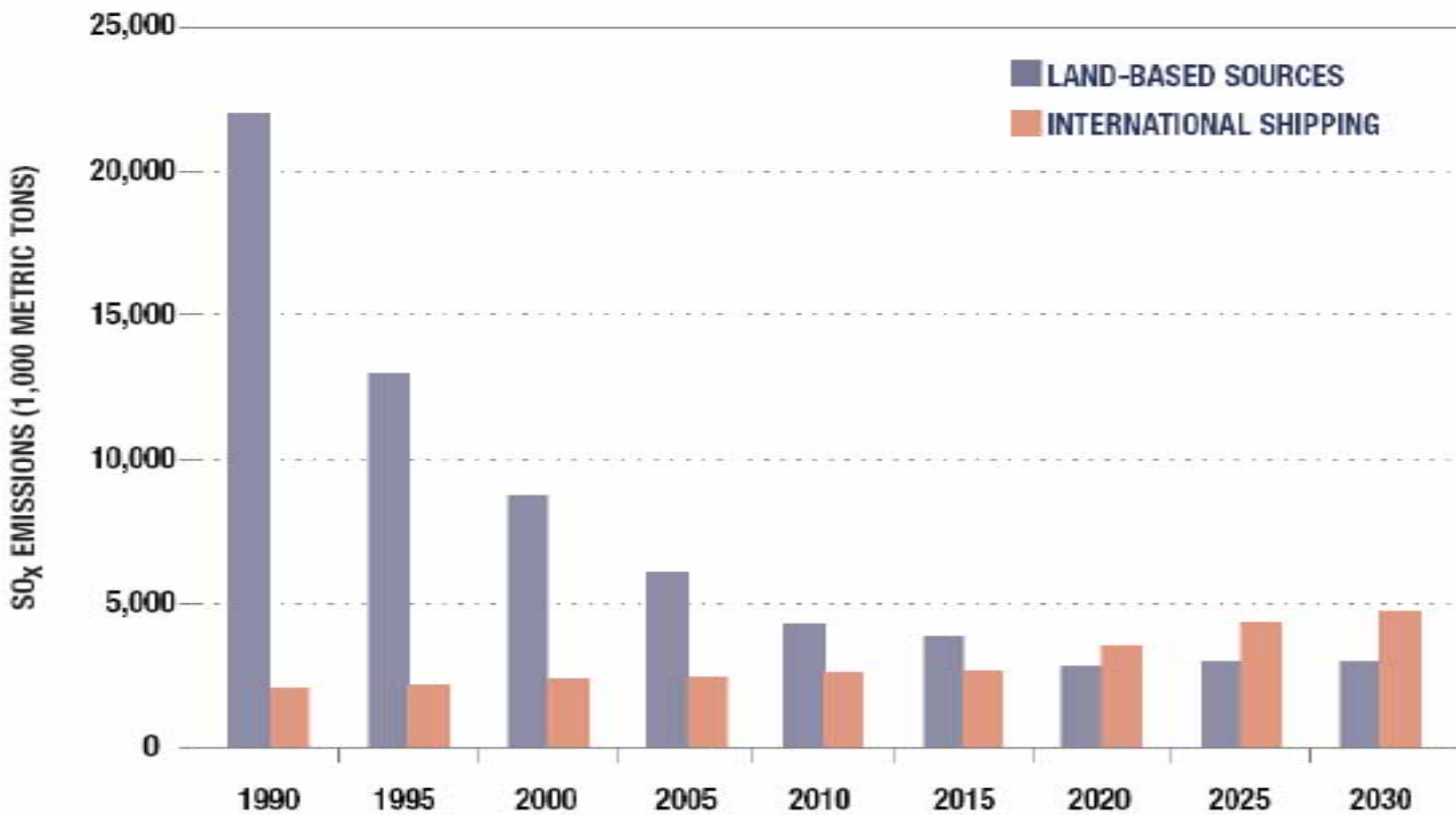
- situation before routing



- situation after a routing system



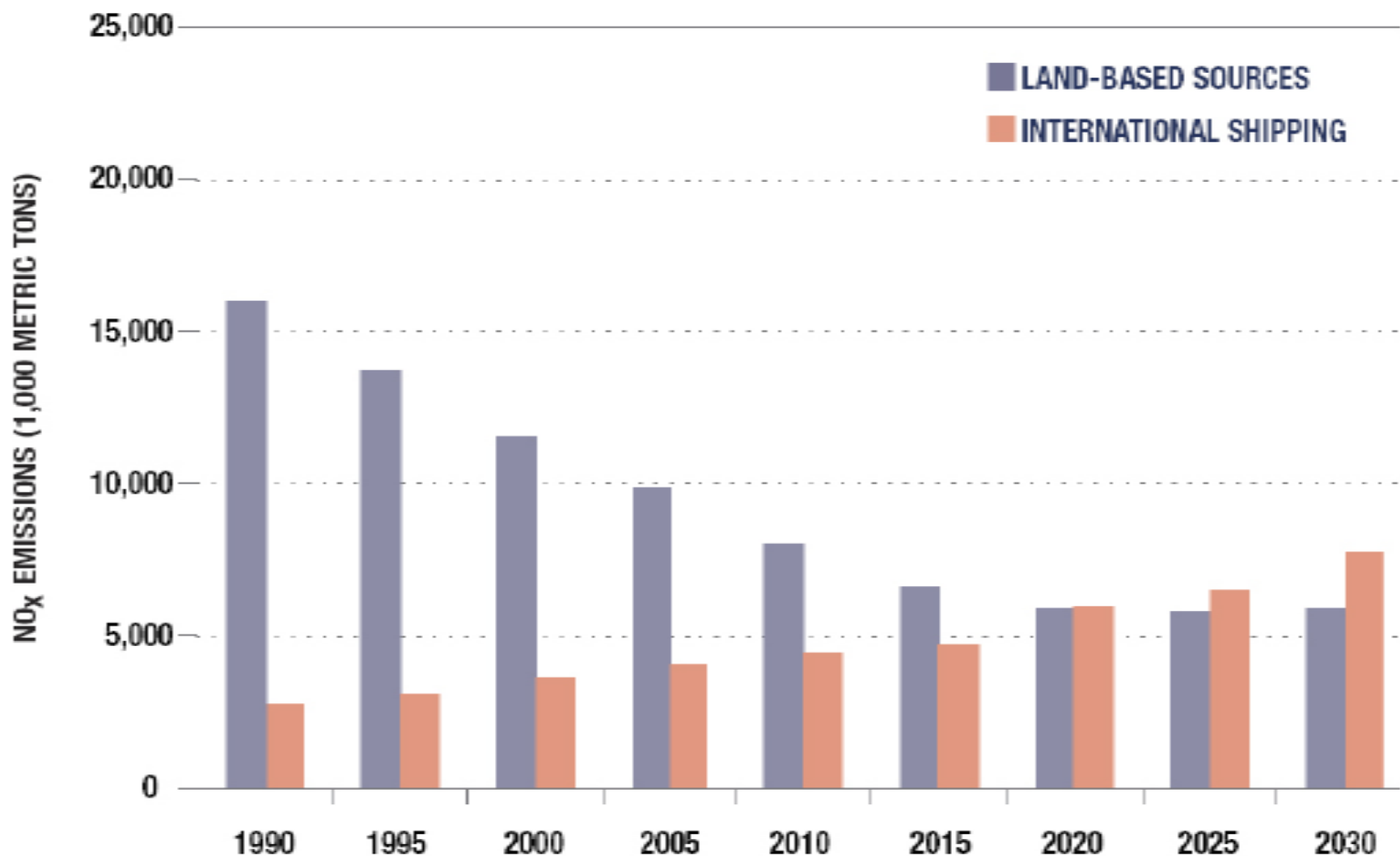
# GROWING SHIP EMISSIONS : SULPHUR OXIDES



c Clean Shipping Project



# GROWING SHIP EMISSIONS : OXIDIZED NITROGEN



c Clean Shipping Project



# MANY INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE...

A clean and healthy environment  
in the Baltic Sea Region

The  
HELCOM  
Baltic  
Sea  
Action  
Plan

Marine  
Strategy  
Framework  
Directive

Water  
Framework  
Directive

Urban  
Wastewater  
Directive



# FROM POLICIES TO A STRATEGY

- existing EU legislation, programmes and financing used in the regionally most beneficial way
- a focused strategy with a rolling action plan
- combined use of EU budget, contributions from Member States, private funding and international financial institutions (EBRD, EIB, NIB, NEFCO)
- joint strategy as a guidance in regional and international forums
- EU internal strategy needs an external dimension



# MANDATE TO THE COMMISSION

***"Without prejudice to the integrated Maritime Policy, the European Council invites the Commission to present an EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region at the latest by June 2009. This strategy should inter alia help to address the urgent environmental challenges related to the Baltic Sea. The Northern Dimension framework provides the basis for the external aspects of cooperation in the Baltic Sea region."***

***European Council conclusions, December 2007***



# EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

- Mandate from the European Council to the Commission in December 2007
- The Commission has consulted the Member States, regional organisations and local and private actors
- DG Regional Policy published the strategy and the action plan on 10. June 2009
- The Swedish EU Presidency: Friends of the Presidency group draft for Council conclusions in October and approval of Strategy at the European Council



# THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE STRATEGY

A sustainable environment and optimal economic and social development

An Environmentally Sustainable Place

A Prosperous Place

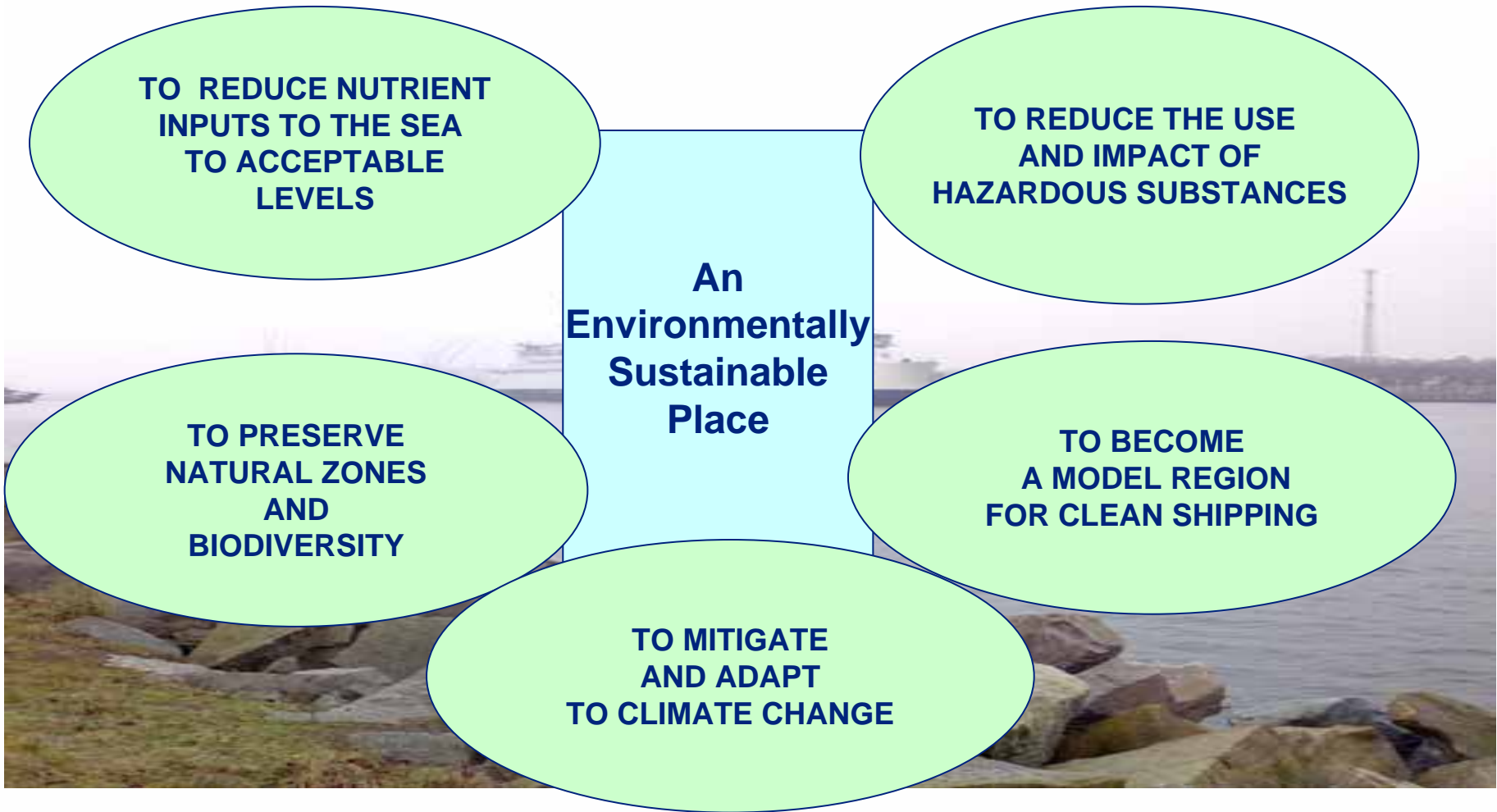
An Accessible and Attractive Place

A Safe and Secure Place

Implementation through PRIORITY AREAS (15)



# AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PLACE

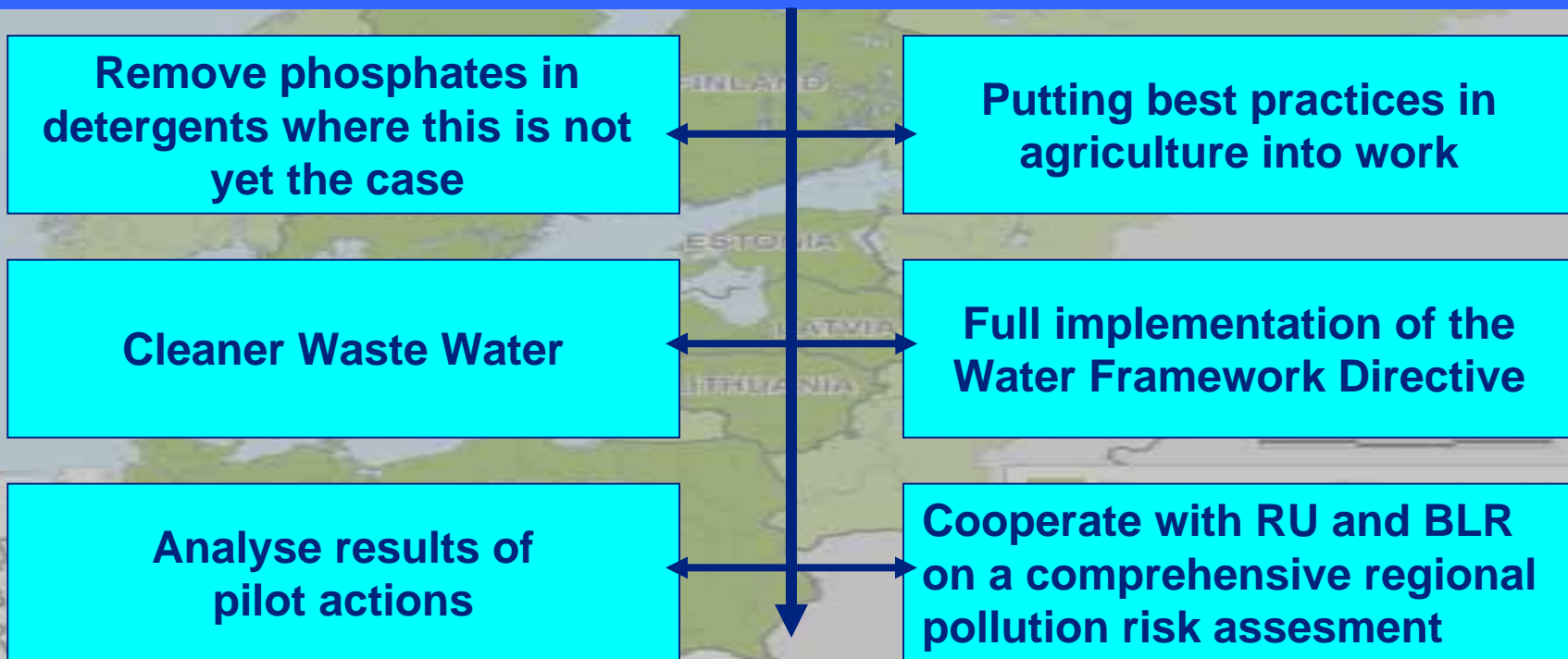


**Environment: five priority areas**



# REDUCE NUTRIENT INPUTS

Strategic actions: (1) implement actions to reduce nutrients and  
(2) promote measures and practices which reduce nutrient losses from farming and address eutrophication

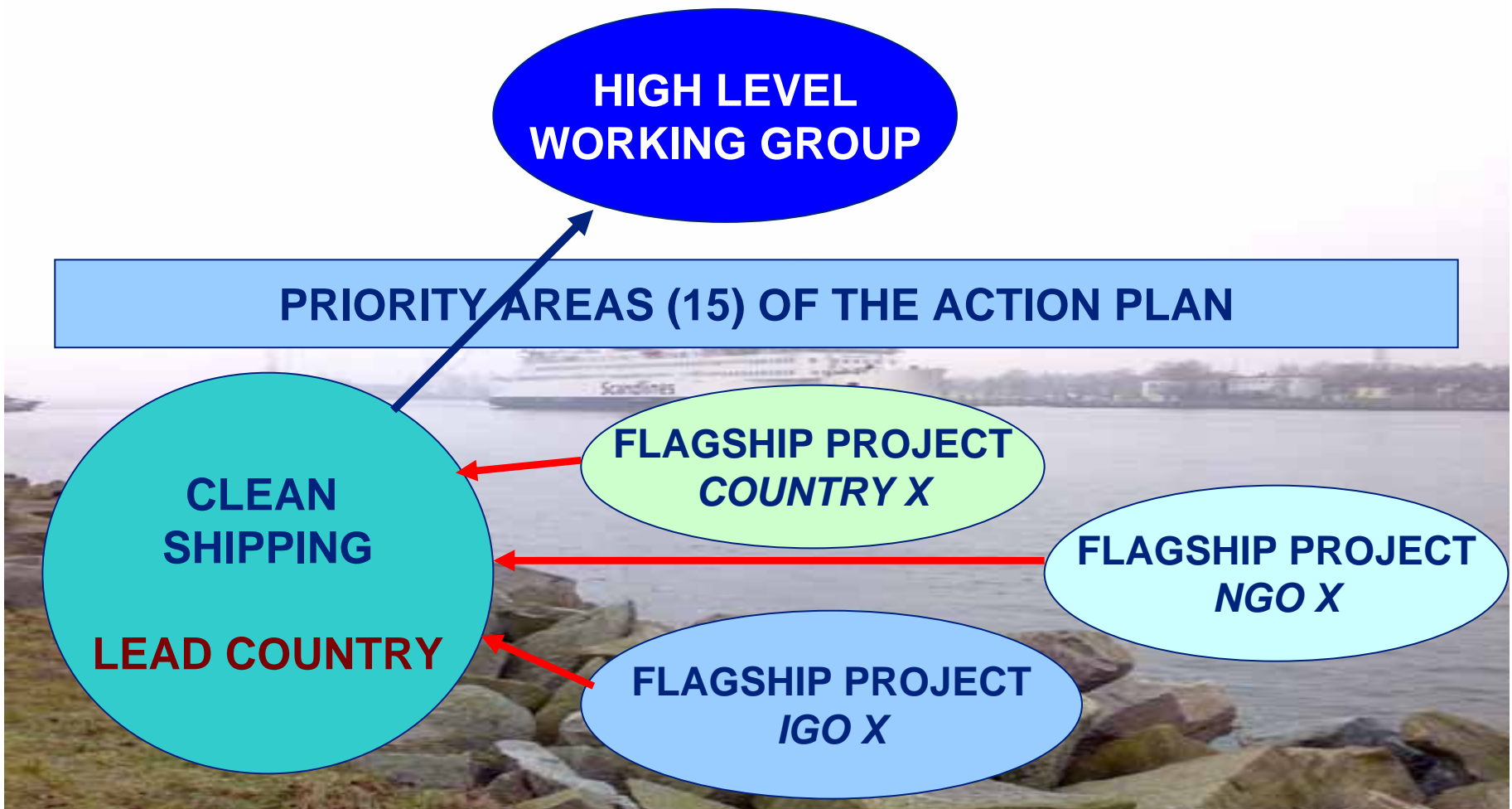


The strategic actions + examples of

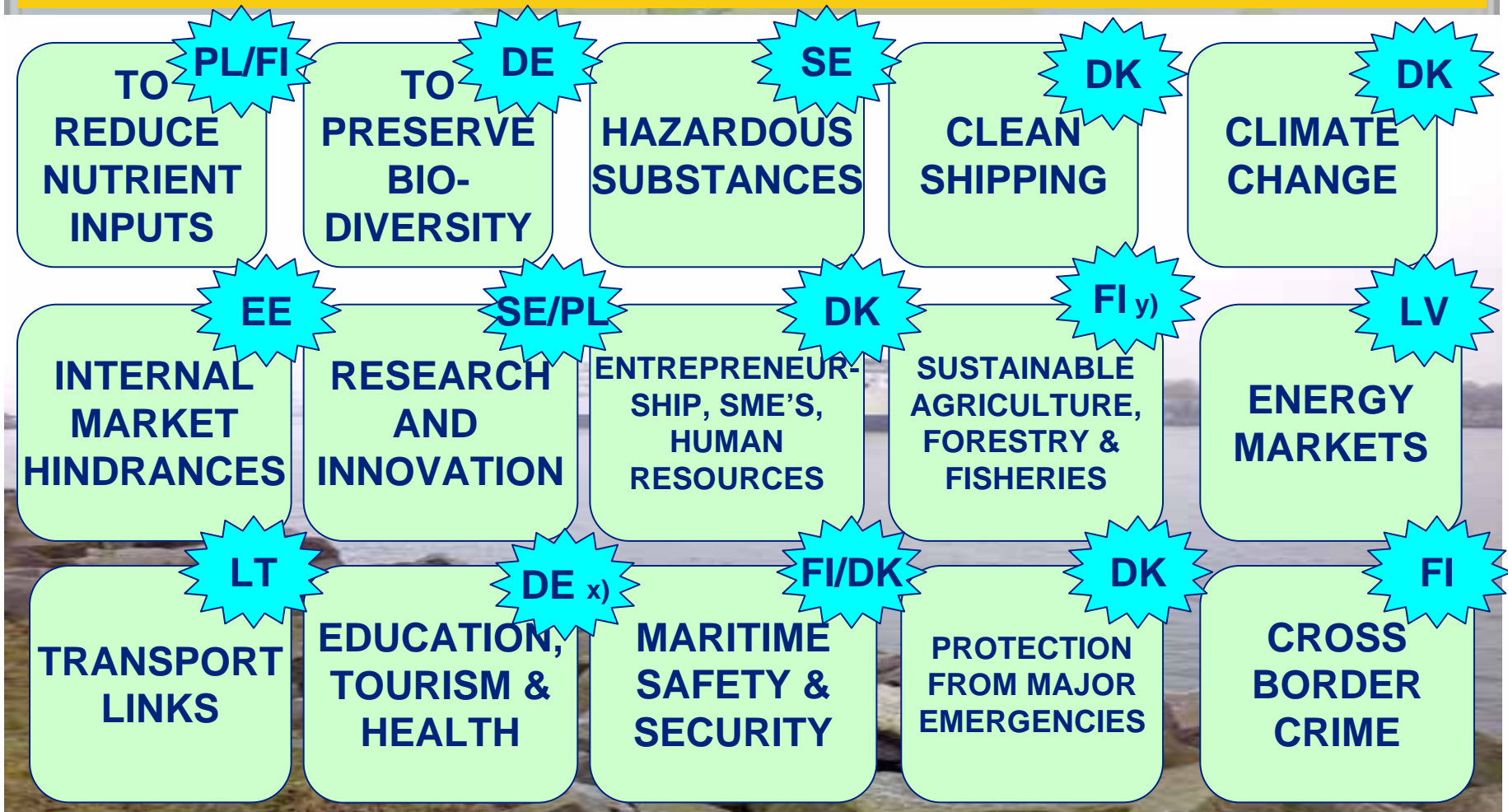


flagship projects

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY



# COORDINATION OF PRIORITY AREAS



x) =DE/Mecklenburg-Vorpommern /NDPHS



y) = fisheries coordinated by SE

# WHAT TO DEMAND FROM THE EU STRATEGY?

Regionally efficient implementation and use of EU policies, programmes and financing

Practically orientated, rolling action plan for implementation

Encouragement for BSR-wide networking of both public and private actors

Intensive cooperation in implementation and development of the strategy btw Commission, MS' and other actors

EU strategy for the BSR requires cooperation with Russia, Norway and Belarus

Financing from a variety of sources; EU, Member States and other public and private actors + IFI's



# HOW THE REGIONS COULD CONTRIBUTE

- participation in the national setting of priorities
- contribution by excellence, best practices etc.
- implementation of actions and flagship projects
- use of links and alliances between regions
- creating links between the EU strategy and regional & local strategies
- active participation in the stakeholder consultation



# THE ADDED VALUE OF EU STRATEGY I

- **BOOST FOR COMBATTING EUTROPHICATION**
  - **THE HELCOM BALTIC SEA ACTION PLAN AS A BASIS**
  - **REFORM OF THE CAP AND THE FISHERIES POLICY**
  - **CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR CLEANING URBAN WASTEWATER**
  - **SUPPORT TO DEVELOP WASTE RECEPTION CAPACITY AT PORTS**
- **BEST PRACTICES IN AGRICULTURE - > ADVISE FOR THE FARMERS**
- **SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH & PROJECTS BY PRIVATE ACTORS**



# THE ADDED VALUE OF EU STRATEGY II

## BETTER SAFETY AT SEA

- ENHANCED COOPERATION BY MARITIME AUTHORITIES
- MARITIME SURVEILLANCE / TRAFFIC IMAGE IN THE WHOLE BALTIC SEA
  - BOOST FOR ELECTRONIC NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT
    - A RISK ANALYSIS FOR THE BALTIC SEA AREA
- BETTER CAPACITY TO COMBAT OIL SPILLS AND TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES



# IN THE NEAR FUTURE...

- The Baltic Sea is an increasingly important maritime route
- the sea is used more intensively for pax and cargo transport, for cruising and leisure and for transport, transfer and production of energy etc.
- will the Baltic Sea Region emerge as an integrating, attractive and globally successful economic region ?
- ever more focus on sustainability -> the institutional and legal framework will strengthen both at the EU level and globally
- economic integration and other strengthening links will help to ease tensions -> better possibilities to joint problem solving
- Russia's development continues to be one of the most determining factors for the region



# THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN?



- loss of long-term vision in the midst of the economic crisis
- cuts in public spending slow down investments needed for the strategy and the action plan
- weaker possibilities for private business to contribute
- + recovery budgets give boost to some investments ( f.ex. energy)
- + more focus to energy efficiency
- + older and more polluting industrial and transport capacity withdrawn
- + shrinking resources and need for better productivity encourage cooperation



**Thank you  
for your attention!**



Jari Luoto, Ambassador for Baltic Sea Issues,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, 2009