

Dear Conference Guests

For centuries, Hamburg has been closely connected with its neighbours of the Baltic Sea region. We are co-operating in numerous fields – be they political, economic, scientific, or cultural. I would like to highlight the project "Co2ol Bricks", which is centrally coordinated by Hamburg: Together with our partners around the B.S. we are working on maintaining the historic red-brick architecture of the North while saving energy at the same time.



For Hamburg, fostering relations around the Baltic Sea is highly relevant. That is why I am very pleased that Germany has taken over the presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States for 2011 and 2012, and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg will gladly host a conference within the frame of this presidency. Under the headline „From Education to Employment: Optimising Transition Management“ various topics related to the two core aspects of the conference will be focused: How can we manage the transition from school to vocational training or university? How can we increase the mobility of skilled labour in the states bordering the Baltic Sea? How can we avoid youth unemployment? What is at issue here is the innovative power and future economic sustainability of our countries.

I trust that all participants of the conference will gain interesting insights into the concepts of their neighbours, and wish all of them fruitful exchanges, much success and a pleasant stay in Hamburg.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Olaf Scholz'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
Olaf Scholz



Baltic Sea Conference on Education

31 May and 1 June 2012

