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UNECE Steering Committee on ESD  
Third meeting 31.3. - 1.4.2008

## A short announcement on the Finnish participation in the Baltic 21 framework

Dear colleagues,

As a member of the Steering Committee I'd like to make a short announcement on the future participation in the Baltic Agenda 21 by the Ministry of the Environment in the capacity of a political coordinator.

The Finnish Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have made decision to withdraw from the cooperation in the framework of the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic 21). Ministry of the Environment has coordinated the Finnish participation from the very beginning of this cooperation. Baltic 21 has been successful especially in its cooperation on education for sustainable development. This cooperation and networking can of course continue by the committed partners. However, the Baltic 21 as a political strategy process has fulfilled its main tasks, and its time to strengthen those political processes which can best guarantee the environmental protection and sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. Our understanding is that we should - and the Finnish Government will - strengthen our efforts in the framework of HELCOM and in the European Union.

What I have said here on the Baltic 21 process does not change our participation in the UNECE work on Education for Sustainable Development.

Yours Sincerely

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