**Dear stakeholder of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region,**

The fourth working meeting on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) will be organised as two closely linked back-to-back meetings on 10 April and 11 April 2013 in Espoo, Finland (Aalto University Dipoli Congress Centre, Otakaari 24, 02150 Espoo, Finland). The Meetings are organised in close cooperation between Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission and INTERACT Point Turku.

The **Meeting on day 1** is aiming at discussing practical aspects of the EUSBSR implementation among the key actors of the EUSBSR – National Contact Points, Priority Area Coordinators and Horizontal Action Leaders (limited participation).

The **Meeting on day 2** will bring together key implementing stakeholders of the EUSBSR and Member State representatives responsible for national strategic planning for 2014-2020 and implementation of Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, HELCOM, concerned Directorates General of the European Commission and other interested representatives to identify concrete areas of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region for mutual benefit in 2014-2020 (see attached preliminary agenda and draft discussion papers).

More specifically, European Commission suggests organising the discussions around the objectives of the EUSBSR Action Plan and related topics (priorities) that are of great relevance for all Member States in the macro-region, namely:

1. “Save the Sea” and environmental measures of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (including energy efficiency and renewable energy);
2. “Connect the Region” and main TEN-T transport corridors;
3. “Increase Prosperity” and Smart Specialisation Strategies (including R&D, innovation, entrepreneurship, competitiveness and education).

Participants are encouraged to address questions on cooperation modalities, taking into consideration possible cooperation models, available instruments, tools and funding sources. They are invited to examine how to set-up cooperation processes between the Member States to embed the EUSBSR in future national and when relevant regional programmes.

Please register for the **Meeting on day 1 and day 2** on <http://forms.interact-eu.net/4th-working-meeting-eusbsr>.

Please register for the **Meeting on day 2** on <http://forms.interact-eu.net/4th-working-meeting-eusbsr-11april>.

*Registration for the Meetings is open until 4 April 2013.*

Please be informed that special room rates are agreed with Radisson Blu hotel Espoo for the bookings done before 27 March 2013. After registering, you will receive information regarding practicalities.

We look forward to seeing you in Espoo!