

BLUETOOTH NEWS

THE NORDIC/BALTIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE UPDATE APRIL 23, 2004

The U.S. Department of State's Nordic/Baltic Regional Environmental Office publishes this newsletter for government officials (both U.S. and Nordic/Baltic), NGOs and other organizations working in the Nordic/Baltic region. The information provided in this newsletter is disseminated informally and should not be taken as an expression of United States government policy or policy-making intentions. For subscription information, please see the [end](#) of this email.

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BALTIC SEA DESIGNATED AS PARTICULARLY SENSATIVE SEA AREA

At the recent International Maritime Organization (IMO) meeting, the Baltic Sea was designated as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). A PSSA, as defined by the IMO, is an area that needs special protection because of its significance for recognized ecological, socio-economic or scientific reasons and which may be vulnerable to damage by international maritime activities. The seven countries that proposed the PSSA status for the Baltic Sea now have two years to submit proposals to the IMO for new protective measures. The IMO will consider final approval of the Baltic Sea as a PSSA once it has studied the proposals. (www.norden.org, 4/5/04) <[back to top](#)>

GLOBAL ENERGY DEMAND TO DOUBLE BY 2025

World demand for all forms of energy is expected to grow by 54 percent over the next two decades, with oil consumption alone increasing by 40 million barrels a day, according to the U.S. By 2025, energy use in developing countries is expected to soar by 91 percent, while rising 33 percent in industrialized nations. World oil demand is forecast to rise from 81 million barrels per day (bpd) to 121 million bpd, with the U.S., China and the rest of developing Asia using 60 percent of the extra barrels. The report also notes that carbon dioxide emissions will rise from 23.9 billion metric tons in 2001 to 37.1 billion tons in 2025. The developing world will account for 61 percent of the increase because of reliance on coal and other fossil fuels. (Reuters, 4/15/04) <[back to top](#)>

ONLY 5 EU COUNTRIES SUBMIT EMISSIONS TRADING PLANS ON TIME

As of March 31, only Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Ireland had officially notified the Commission of their plans to distribute carbon dioxide emission allowances to their industries. The National Allocation Plans (NAPs) are part of the implementation of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme scheduled to begin on January 1, 2005. The Commission expects at least 10 other countries will submit their plans soon, but some believe the delay underlines the growing hesitation of several Member States concerning the EU's global leadership role on fighting global warming. The Commission plans to evaluate the Plans by June 30. (www.euractive.com, 4/2/04) <back to top>

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER SUPPORTS HYDROGEN-FUELED CARS

Gov. Schwarzenegger signed an executive order on April 18 aimed at making California the leader in introducing environmentally friendly hydrogen-fueled cars. Despite being known for his gas-guzzling Hummers, Schwarzenegger drove a Toyota Motor Corp. hydrogen-powered sports utility vehicle to a special refueling station at the University of California Davis. He then signed an order to encourage the production of fuel cells that produce power through a chemical reaction with only water vapor as a byproduct. California currently has 22 hydrogen refueling stations; Schwarzenegger hopes there will soon be enough stations across the state to encourage motorists to drive hydrogen-fueled cars. A hydrogen station costs about \$500,000 and would be funded by private and federal funds, not state money. (Reuters, 4/21/04) <back to top>

STOCKHOLM TO INTRODUCE TOLLS ON CARS

Motorists in Stockholm will have to pay a toll of between \$1.30 and \$2.60 to gain entry into the increasingly congested city. The 13-month trial period from June 1, 2005 to July 31, 2006, will conclude six weeks before a referendum on whether to make the tax permanent. The tolls will depend on the time of day a motorist drives into the city and are designed to alleviate traffic congestion and stem pollution. The plan is similar to the one adopted in London last year. The mayor of London has declared the tolls a success, cutting the traffic volume in central London by 18 percent. (AP, 4/23/04) <back to top>

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN ST. PETERSBURG HIGH PRIORITY

The city of St. Petersburg has been making great efforts to improve its environment. Dimitrij Golubev, Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Safety in St. Petersburg spoke at the recent Nordic Council theme meeting in Helsinki. Golubev acknowledged that St. Petersburg's waste water impacts the whole Baltic Sea area. The city has almost completed a cleaning project for the city's waste water that will cover almost 90 percent of discharge from the city. The city has developed an environmental policy through 2007 in close cooperation with over 700 NGOs. (www.norden.org, 4/15/04) <back to top>

WINDMILL PLANS COME TO A HALT IN NORWEGIAN NORTH

The owner of the Norwegian power grid, Statkraft, might put a stop to the major windmill plans in the northernmost county of Finnmark. Øyvind Bergvoll, department manager in Statkraft, says several billion NOK of investments into a new regional power grid will not be profitable. The existing capacity of the grid is insufficient for a large-scale windmill development and a new line will cost up to 5 billion NOK. Fifteen companies may want to build windmill parks in Finnmark. If Statkraft rejects a new line, only four parks can be built. (www.barentsobserver.com/138430, 4/16/04) <back to top>

NORDIC/BRITISH ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

Organic farming, environmentally-friendly energy and radioactive emissions into the sea will be key issues in the new environmental partnership between the Nordic Council Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the British Irish Interparliamentary Body's Environment Committee. At a meeting in Cork, Ireland, Asmund Kristoffersen, the chairperson of the Nordic committee, and the British/Irish delegates agreed to work more closely together on environmental issues. Provided the committee approves the proposal, the members of the British and Irish environment committee will be invited to a joint meeting with the Nordic Council Environment and Natural Resources Committee in Åland this autumn. (www.norden.org, 4/20/04) <back to top>

ENVIRONMENTALISTS WANT NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO REMOVE BELOKAMENKA

The Norwegian environmental organization Green Warriors sees the single-hulled tanker Belokamenka as the biggest security risk in Russian oil shipping in the North. In a letter to Norwegian Minister of Industry, Ansgar Gabrielsen, the organization demanded that the Norwegian government finds a way to remove the tanker. The 360,000-ton tanker, which the Rosneft Company last year rented from the Bergesen Shipping Company, is operating as an oil terminal ship in the Kola Bay outside Murmansk. (www.barentsobserver.com/138853, 4/20/04) <back to top>

NORWEGIAN NGO TAKES OVER RESPONSABILITY FOR OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS

The Norwegian NGO Redningssselskapet will have the main responsibility for oil spill preparedness along parts of the Norwegian coast, and in May next year it will officially take over the management of the Scandi Beta tugboat. The Ministry of Fisheries will fund the acquisition of the vessel as well as pay for management and operations. Scandi Beta, which has a price tag of 40 million NOK, will be based in the port of Honningsvåg and operate along the coast towards the Russian border. (www.barentsobserver.com/139039, 4/21/04) <back to top>

U.S. GOVT. ALLOCATES MONEY FOR HIV CAMPAIGN IN MURMANSK

The U.S. government has allocated 1 million USD to the fight against HIV/AIDS in Russia. The first of several projects are to be initiated in Moscow and Murmansk. Project coordinator Yekaterina Ivanova says the emphasis will be on preventing the spread of AIDS. In Murmansk Oblast more than 1000 individuals are registered with HIV. (www.barentsobserver.com/139223, 4/23/04) <back to top>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 26 - 28: [BaltCoast 2004 Managing the Baltic Sea](#), Rostock-Warnemunde, Germany

April 26 – 28: [5th International Conference on Environmental Problems in Coastal Regions](#), Alicante, Spain

May 2 - 5: [9th Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Telemedicine Association](#), Tampa, Florida (US)

May 3 – 4: [Sea Our Future: Maritime Safety Conference Baltic 2004](#), Kiel, Germany

May 4 - 5: [Senior Arctic Council Officials Meeting](#), Selfoss, Iceland

May 11 – 14: [WindEnergy 2004](#), Hamburg, Germany

May 13 – 14: [Maritime Safety and Environment in the Baltic Sea](#), Trelleborg, Sweden
May 22: [International Day for Biological Diversity 2004: Food, Water and Health for All](#)
May 19 - 23: [5th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences](#), Fairbanks, Alaska (US)
May 29 – 30: [HIV/AIDS Workshop](#), St. Petersburg, Russia
June 1 – 4: [International Conference for Renewable Energies](#), Bonn, Germany
June 2 – 4: [World Bio-energy Conference and Exhibition](#), Jönköping, Sweden
June 5: [World Environment Day: Wanted! Seas and Oceans – Dead or Alive?](#)
June 9 - 11: [4th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns](#), Aalborg, Denmark
June 15 – 17: [USA – Baltic International Symposium: Advances in Marine Environmental Research, Monitoring & Technologies](#), Klaipeda, Lithuania
June 16 – 18: [ECOBALTICA: 5th International Youth Environment Forum of Baltic Region Countries](#), St. Petersburg, Russia
June 16 – 19: [HIV/AIDS Workshop](#), Riga, Latvia
June 21: [5th Baltic Sea States Summit](#), Laulasmaa, Estonia
June 23 – 25: [Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health](#), Budapest, Hungary
July 3 – 9: [HIV/AIDS Workshop](#), Tartu, Estonia
July 7 – 9: [HIV/AIDS Workshop](#), St. Petersburg, Russia
August 16 - 20: [14th Stockholm Water Symposium](#), Stockholm, Sweden
August 22 – 25: [GIWA Troubled Waters Conference: Bridging Science and Society](#), Kalmar, Sweden
August 29 – 31: [13th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference](#), Bergen, Norway
September 19 – 24: [13th Annual Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species](#), Ennis, Ireland
October 2 - 14: [13th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES \(Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora\)](#), Bangkok, Thailand
November 9 – 12: [ACIA International Scientific Symposium: Climate Change in the Arctic](#), Reykjavik, Iceland

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Whenever a subject of interest passes your desk, do not hesitate to fax, email or call us at the REO. We look forward to receiving contributions including newspaper articles, memos, and your thoughts on future projects and on relevant activities in your country.

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