



# BPO Ystad Climate Declaration

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The Members of the **Baltic Ports Organization** recognize the growing, negative impact climate change has had on Earth's ecosystem and the human society in the last decades. We strongly believe that combating climate change is the responsibility of all, including the businesses forming the transport, shipping and port sectors.

As representatives of the port sector in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR), we declare our readiness to put forth the best effort to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from port activities, inspire environmental consciousness and cooperate with business partners and a wide range of stakeholders in order to protect our climate.

With the European Green Deal, and the adoption of various associated initiatives, such as the Fit for 55 package, the European Commission set the course towards a climate neutral European Union. The maritime industry is called to contribute its share to the ambitious goals laid down by the policymakers. The push towards the greening of maritime transport, both in Europe and on a global scale, further underscored by the recent approval of IMO's GHG Strategy, is one of the defining factors shaping the future of the maritime transport sector.

At the same time, recent events made clear the crucial and strategic role seaports play for Europe's economy, and the continuous efforts aimed at decarbonization and Europe's energy independence. As the gateways between road and sea transport, ports ensure the security of supply of goods and materials and fuel Europe's uninterrupted development. With sufficient support, this unique position will allow them to take an active role as enablers of change.

While we support the plan formulated by the European Commission, we also firmly believe that only through a practical and rational approach, combined with transparent dialogue between the involved parties, a carbon

neutral Europe can be made a reality. The goals need to be achievable, the road to meeting the targets set clearly outlined, and the necessary financial and legislative support provided.

Over the years, the Baltic ports' achievements in the field of environmental protection and climate responsibility allowed them to develop a set of good practices positioning the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) as a role model for green transport. By embracing technologies such as on-shore power supply (OPS) systems and alternative fuels, including, among others, hydrogen, ammonia and methanol, early on, Baltic ports and their partners already started paving the way for a green future. Furthermore, numerous Members of the BPO have set their own GHG emission reduction and "zero-emission" goals, exceeding those proposed by international organizations.

Our most recent initiative – **Baltic Ports for Climate** – is aimed at the further development and construction of OPS installations in ports located in the BSR, expanding the already existing OPS network. At this point in time, OPS usage on a broader scale is hindered by the lack of uniformity between the grids and electricity networks on ships. Further standardization is necessary, and that requires cooperation.

It is clear that the tasks at hand can only be completed by working together. We declare our continuous willingness to share the experience we have gathered and cooperate with the maritime community and the policymakers with a single goal in mind – to help propel Europe into a green era characterized by responsibility, resilience and competitiveness.

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September 8, 2023, Ystad, Sweden