

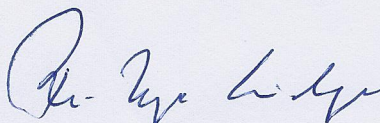
Statement

The **Baltic Sail Association**, represented by the Hanseatic City of Rostock, Bureau Hanse Sail, Warnowufer 65, 18057 Rostock (Germany) in co-operation with the **Polish Maritime Museum Gdańsk, Centralne Muzeum Morskie**, ul. Ołowianka 9-13, 80-751 Gdańsk (Poland) had organized under the patronage of Mayor of Gdańsk City Mr. Paweł Adamowicz and in consultation with European Maritime Heritage (EMH) the international seminar "Maritime Traditions in European Waters - Floating Culture - Protection, Reconstruction and Operation" on November 8th 2012 .

The participants of the seminar entitled the signees to state the following:

1. Maritime heritage highly attracts people and people's interest and therefore has to be protected by the society and disseminated in the society in the best possible way.
2. Maritime heritage is a common European cultural good of high value. The protection and dissemination by / in the society needs international co-operation but works as a tool for co-operation.
3. European Maritime Heritage (EMH) is the right organisation to join the forces of all the - in many cases private - initiatives of protection and dissemination of maritime heritage by / in the society. The stories have to be told to the society.
4. Traditional ships in operation are masterpieces of maritime heritage. The EC is asked not to develop new European rules and regulations for the safe operation of the ships but rules and regulations to safeguard the income and with the income the safe operation and though the upkeep of the ships.
5. The Baltic Sail initiative to organize conferences or seminars as platforms for individuals, interested in protection and dissemination of maritime heritage by / in the society, to meet is welcome. The exchange of technical experiences and skills shall be in the focus of the next meeting(s). Practical training should be part of the agenda.

Gdansk, 8th November 2012

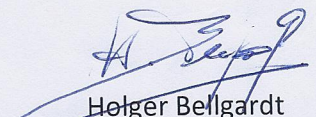


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