

Baltic ports gathered in Gdańsk to define the future of regional maritime cooperation

by Monika Rogo, *Communication Manager, BPO*

The 2025 edition of the Baltic Ports Conference (BPC), organised by the Baltic Ports Organization (BPO) and hosted this time around by the Port of Gdańsk, was held during the 23rd International Maritime and Military Fair BALTEXPO in Gdańsk on 6-8 October. The event tackled some of the most topical issues faced by the port & shipping industries: developmental prospects in times of uncertainty, handling regulatory pressures (especially on the environmental side), and safety. Also, BPO penned a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ukrainian Sea Ports Administration (USPA) and bid a hearty farewell to the Port of HaminaKotka's Kimmo Naski, its Chair for the past seven years, concurrently warmly welcoming the Port of Gdańsk's Alan Aleksandrowicz at the helm.

This year's BPC started unofficially with an evening welcome reception at the Vidokova Restaurant in the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk. The following two

days included substantive sessions, key internal meetings for BPO, and many networking opportunities.

Kimmo Naski, Arkadiusz Marchewka, Secretary of State at the Ministry of

Infrastructure of Poland, Piotr Grzelak, Deputy Mayor for Sustainable Development and Economy at the City of Gdańsk, and Alan Aleksandrowicz, Vice-President of the Management Board for Finance and



The banner features a dark teal background with a wavy, light blue-green pattern on the right side. On the left, there is a white logo consisting of a stylized 'U' shape with horizontal lines above it. To the right of the logo, the text 'BALTIC PORTS FOR CLIMATE CONFERENCE' is written in white, with 'FOR CLIMATE' on a separate line and 'CONFERENCE' in a rounded rectangle. On the right side, a red rounded rectangle contains the text '19-20.11.2025' and 'Port of Gdynia, Poland' in white. At the bottom, there are three logos: the BPO logo, the 'BALTIC PORTS FOR CLIMATE' logo, and the 'PORT GDYNIA' logo with a stylized 'G' in a circle.



Photos: GospodarkaMorska

Security at the Port of Gdańsk Authority, opened the conference.

The first day was devoted to putting the finger on where the region's seaports are right now – also charting a growth course in these times of unpeace and trade fluctuations. Participants learned about innovative approaches to the green transformation, including investments in port & ship decarbonisation (some of them cutting-edge and truly world's first).

After session I, the BPO-USPA partnership was signed & sealed by Vitalii Vaidych, Head of the Investments and Public-Private Partnership Department of the Head Office of USPA, and Bogdan Ołdakowski, BPO's Secretary-General, the overarching aim of which is to develop cooperation between the two organisations and their members (among others, exchanging experiences and best practices in port management; attracting

hard- & software investments; working together on environmental policy and 'green port' initiatives; developing logistics, new supply chains, and trades; promoting professional development, and providing assistance and support in restoring and rebuilding post-war port infrastructure).

After session II, Ewelina Ziajka, Senior Key Account Specialist at the Port of Gdynia, invited BPC participants to attend the **Baltic Ports for Climate Conference** hosted by her seaport on 19-20 November 2025.

In the afternoon, after the concluding session III, participants could partake in the BALTEXPO tour, while the BPO General Assembly took place. During the vote, a new BPO Chairman was elected in the person of Alan Aleksandrowicz. Day 1 ended with the official gala dinner, the Salmon Evening, featuring the titular fish in many shapes and forms.

Day 2 of the BPC focused on the security and resilience of ports in the face of global threats and challenges. Experts discussed risk management strategies, military mobility, and how modern vessel traffic systems do their best to ensure safe and smooth navigation.

After session I, there was an official farewell to the outgoing Chairman of the BPO, honoured with a witty laudation and a commemorative gift. This was followed by introducing the organisation's new helmsman. Session II ended with an official handover of the BPO flag to the host of BPC 2026, the Port of Turku. The conference concluded with a somewhat rainy, but notwithstanding the soggy weather, merry boat tour around Gdańsk's Inner Port.

See you on the Finnish southwestern coast from the 2nd to the 4th of September 2026, at the next edition of the Baltic Ports Conference! *Kippis!*