

Plans for 2024 and climate strategies discussed in Stockholm

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During a stationary session in the capital of Sweden, the Baltic Ports Organization's (BPO) Board gathered on 28 November 2023. The topics discussed included the 2024 activity plan as well as climate port strategies and investments.



Photo: Ports of Stockholm

Magdalena Bosson and Staffan Forsell, the Ports of Stockholm's CEO and Chief Strategy and Development Officer, spoke about the Swedish capital as a leader in Europe's climate transition and the role of its harbours in that process. Among the five EU missions with a deadline for implementation by 2030, the 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 one was particularly mentioned.

Regarding the Board-approved BPO Work Plan 2024, the Organization will conduct, among others, several key events: a conference on offshore wind

energy during Transport Week in Gdynia, the Ports 4.0 Conference in Riga, the annual Baltic Ports Conference in Klaipėda, and the BPO Climate Conference in Tallinn.

The Stockholm assembly also touched upon green energy, alternative fuels and climate issues, with a particular focus on onshore power supply (OPS) and its specific challenges, such as financing, lack of standardisation, and other barriers to wider uptake. The meeting saw an exchange of views on the situation in the ports, especially the impact of the recent economic and environmental aspects. The BPO Board also approved the budget for the following year.

Bogdan Ołdakowski, BPO's Secretary General, said, "The Organization has very recently adopted the BPO Ystad Climate Declaration. Our activities will focus on climate strategies, investments and also challenges when meeting climate goals. During the meeting, we learned how the City of Stockholm and the port, being a part of the municipality, is aiming to achieve climate neutrality in 2030. We have also discussed investments in OPS installations in ports, which are obligatory for passenger and container vessels by 2030. The discussion proved that such investments are costly and complex issues involving many stakeholders in the port ecosystem." ■