



**Address by Staatsrat Gerhard Fuchs**  
**Conclusion of INTERREG Baltic Sea Conference**  
**at Curiohaus, Rothenbaumchaussee, Hamburg on 11 May 2007**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

We have nearly reached the end of this meeting, originally planned as a “Kick-off Conference”.

Let me close this event by briefly presenting a few thoughts from the viewpoint of the City of Hamburg, the host of this conference.

We were not alone.

What the past days have shown us is that a meeting of this kind would not have been possible without the outstanding cooperation of many people – a joint project that encourages us for the in-depth cooperation that has been outlined in the last two days and which we trust will lead to cooperation in future projects.

I would like to thank the German Federal Government and the Council Presidency, the speakers, our Senate Chancellery, and in particular Ms. Scherrer and the Secretariat in Rostock, without whose active and impressive help this conference would not have been possible.

I would like to express great recognition for the organisation team from the Ministry of Urban Development and the Environment, in the team led by Mr. Jacob – anyone who has ever organised an event of this nature is well aware what it means, and knows how much has to be arranged behind the scenes to ensure that everything goes smoothly.

And I would like to thank Ms. Saeternes as the moderator – it was a pleasure to experience your style in chairing the sessions, with charm and yet with an unerring sense of the right way to guide our deliberations.

## FAREWELL

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope that alongside all the factual information on the new programme, you have also been able to make many useful contacts for future cooperation – contacts which will be converted into presentable results in the near future. I can assure you that the impetus with which we are launching into the new programme period will be maintained for a long time here!

Hamburg has defined the Baltic Sea Region as one of the focal points for its international activities – and looking at the active style of cooperation here, I am confident for the future.

I would like to thank all of you for coming here, some of you coming a very long way. For those who have to go back today, I wish you a safe journey; and for those who are able to stay on for our annual Port Festival, the Hafengeburtstag – have a wonderful time and take home with you unforgettable impressions of this remarkable event.

Enjoy our city – and come back to visit us again.

You will always be welcome here, for leisure or for your work as future cooperation partners.

Auf Wiedersehen!