



WWF *for a living planet®*

WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme

Ulriksdals Slott
SE-170 81 Solna
Sweden

Tel: +46 8 624 74 15

Fax: +46 8 85 13 29

sewagefreebaltic@wwf.se

www.panda.org/baltic

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To: CLIA Member Companies with operations in the Baltic Sea

Dear CEO,

On behalf of WWF partners around the Baltic Sea, we are writing on a subject of increasing concern around the region - the protection and sustainable management of the Baltic Sea.

Already in 2007, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) contacted cruise operators trafficking the Baltic Sea and asked them to sign a 'Statement of Commitment' to cease discharging (or continue not discharging) sewage from cruise ships visiting the Baltic Sea.

In May 2009, following our request, the cruise lines, through their umbrella organisation ECC/CLIA, finally made a voluntary commitment to stop discharging their sewage in the Baltic Sea "when certain conditions were met". These conditions included "adequate port reception facilities which operate under a 'no special fee' agreement". This commitment was soon followed, in 2010, with the welcome decision by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to ban the discharge of sewage from cruise and passenger ships in the Baltic Sea – with the requirement that it would only go into effect once adequate port reception facilities were made available.

Following these developments, WWF and its partner organizations in the nine coastal countries bordering the Baltic Sea have been actively engaged through our advocacy work also with the ports and through HELCOM's work on this and understand that these conditions are now met in the major ports around the sea.

As you are aware, the dumping of cruise sewage is a highly symbolic question for people around the region. The cruise and passenger industry are seen to be profiting from tourism to the region while at the same time, through the dumping of sewage, contributing to a problem which negatively affects the very environment which not only is attracting these visitors to the Baltic Sea but is seen to be undermining the livability of the region. Furthermore, in many countries, private pleasure boat users are not allowed to dump their sewage into the sea and thus expect the cruise industry to be held to the same standard. Public interest, as well as frustration, around this issue and practice has been building for some time. We are therefore increasingly being asked by journalists and by our supporters: "Which cruise ships visiting our countries can be trusted not to dump their sewage in our waters?" We would like to help them answer this question and therefore now direct this very simple question to you:

Do you confirm that the cruise ships you operate do not discharge untreated sewage¹ in the Baltic Sea and that sewage is either properly treated on board or fully disposed at port reception facilities²?

¹ As defined by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) MARPOL Annex IV

² This confirmation should assure that all sewage is either brought ashore for treatment or effectively treated on board the ship using the best available technology – i.e. ensuring that nutrients are effectively reduced (at least 70% reduction in Nitrogen and 80% reduction in Phosphorus).

We believe this question can be answered with a simple *yes* or *no*. When we report back to journalists, partners and supporters, we will therefore only treat a clear *yes* as a confirmation. **We will need your answer by 4 May to be sure to list you among the operators that can be trusted to not dump their sewage into the Baltic Sea.**

We trust you care as much as we do about the Baltic Sea and we look forward to your positive reply. Of course, should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Håkan Wirtén
Chair, WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme
Shareholder Group
CEO, WWF Sweden



Pauli Merriman
Programme Director
WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme