



PRESS RELEASE  
2014-11-19

## **Nordic trade union leaders meet in Tallinn**

**Today, 19 November, Trade Union leaders from the countries around the Baltic Sea meet in Tallinn. Key topics for the Baltic Sea Trade Union Network High Level meeting are the contribution of Trade Unions to the economic development of the region and the expansion of the Trade Union movement in the Baltic Sea region. The meeting will be opened by the President of Estonia, Toomas Hendrik Ilves.**

At the meeting Trade Union leaders will discuss the free movement of labour, the possibilities it offers the economies and the challenges it presents for the unions in the aftermath of the crises.

From a Trade Union perspective the European and the Estonian economies and labour markets are not improving at sufficient speed. “Coming out from the low point is not easy, especially when the expectations of workers for wage increases have grown. On the other hand any wage increases need to be secure to withstand any future crisis” the president of the Estonian Trade Union Confederation, Peep Peterson said before the meeting.

The other key issue to be debated during the meeting is the organising and Trade Union development. The exchange of experience and best practices in this area is vital. “We will highlight some of the most successful modern organising and recruiting examples from Nordic and Baltic countries“says General Secretary Magnus Gissler from the Council of Nordic Trade Unions, NFS.

The Baltic Sea Trade Union Network has 22 member organisations that in all represent more than 11 million trade union members. The BASTUN High Level meeting in Tallinn is organised by the Estonian presidency of the BASTUN, which runs from July 2014 to June 2015, and the secretariat, which is operated by the Council of Nordic Trade Unions, NFS.

The aim of BASTUN is to influence political decision-making processes and social development in its member countries through international projects and consultation.

The meeting will be attended by Trade Union leaders from the whole of the Baltic Sea region. The BASTUN High Level meeting starts at 13.00 p.m. and is organised at the Hotel von Stackelberg in central Tallinn. The meeting agenda and list of participant can be found on [www.bastun.nu](http://www.bastun.nu).

Media contacts:

Peep Peterson, President EAKL and BASTUN, [peep.peterson@eakl.ee](mailto:peep.peterson@eakl.ee), +372 64 12 800 (Estonia)  
Magnus Gissler, General Secretary, NFS, [magnus.gissler@nfs.net](mailto:magnus.gissler@nfs.net), +46 (0)8 588 925 86 (Sweden)  
Maria Häggman, BASTUN facilitator, NFS, [maria.haggman@nfs.net](mailto:maria.haggman@nfs.net), +46 70 566 2582 (Sweden)