



## Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen's commitment for the Baltic Sea Action Summit

The Government of Finland makes the commitment that all sectors take intensified measures to ensure a good state for the Archipelago Sea by the year 2020.

Finland strives to become an example region in the recycling of nutrients.

Intensified measures for **improving the state of the Archipelago Sea** are taken in all sectors.

### 1. Nutrient loads from agriculture in the catchment area of the Archipelago Sea are reduced

- Use of fertilisers is optimised further and the hibernal vegetal coverage of fields is increased; special measures are developed for the most sloping fields bordering water bodies.
- Methods are developed for the full utilisation of nutrients contained in farmyard manure, for instance by dividing liquid manure into three fractions: nutrient solution; humus-like organic matter; and water. The recycling of phosphorus in municipal sludge should also be increased.
- Farm-specific environmental planning and consultancy are developed on the basis of the TEHO project that will come to an end in 2010.
- The targeting of environmental measures is intensified in the current programme period, and the focus of the programme period starting in 2014 will be on measures to increase the efficient regional targeting of support.

### 2. Effort is made to become an example region in the recycling of nutrients

- Calculations of balances show that manure contains enough phosphorus for use as fertiliser in areas where animal husbandry is practised. Often even more phosphorus is produced than is needed locally on fields. However, it is not economically profitable to transport manure over long distances. Recycling of nutrients therefore requires substantial development of manure technology. The fractioning of liquid manure into nutrient solution, humus-like organic matter and water is currently under development in several projects in Finland. It has been calculated that if all manure accumulated in the course of one year were spread on the entire cultivation area in Finland, the amount of phosphorus spread would be 8 kilograms/hectare (Maa- ja elintarviketalous 138/2009). Phosphorus is also accumulated in municipal sludge which, if recycled, would increase the reuse of phosphorus.
- Finland is mainly dependent on imported nitrogen. Nitrogen production consumes a lot of fossil fuels. Recycling of nitrogen promotes the well-being of the Baltic Sea and also helps mitigate climate change.

### 3. Municipal wastewater loads are reduced

- The nitrogen recovery of municipal wastewaters is intensified as necessary when the environmental permits of plants are reviewed.
- The transfer sewer projects planned for the catchment area of the Archipelago Sea are supported.

### 4. Wastewater loads from scattered settlements are reduced

- Provision is made for building-specific wastewater treatment.
- Building of dry toilets, especially in holiday homes, is supported.

### 5. Phosphate-free detergents are taken into use in the entire Baltic Sea region

- Work is done together with other EU Member States in order to develop EU-level legislation on phosphate-free detergents.
- Extensive adoption of phosphate-free or low-phosphate detergents in the Baltic Sea region on a quick timetable is promoted as a joint effort with HELCOM.

### 6. The discharge of wastewaters from vessels into the sea is minimised

- In cooperation with other Baltic Sea countries, active effort is made in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) so that the IMO would designate the Baltic Sea a special area where vessels would not be allowed to discharge wastewater into the sea.
- The reception of wastewater from ships at ports is made more efficient, and the work of the organisation "Keep the Archipelago Tidy" is supported.

### 7. The environmental damage caused by dredging is minimised

- Work is done to develop legislation so that reports on hazardous substances, in particular, receive more attention in environmental permits concerning dredging.

### 8. The reduction of phosphorus in the sea is promoted by fishing underutilised stocks (cyprinids), and the use of fish caught in the Baltic Sea as feed in aquaculture is encouraged (closed nutrient cycle)