



Contact:

Felix Zimmermann

Telephone:

+49 163 300 06 61

E-Mail:

presse@stadthafen-sassnitz.de

PRESS RELEASE

Baltic-Sail Association visited the City Port of Sassnitz

Baltic ports sign cooperation agreement to preserve traditional ships

Sassnitz, 21 October 2022 – On October the 19th, the Baltic Sail partner cities signed a new cooperation agreement in the City Port of Sassnitz on the island of Rügen. In addition to the German partners Sassnitz and Rostock, the Lithuanian city of Klaipeda, the Polish port cities of Szczecin and Gdansk, the Finnish city of Turku as well as Guldborgsund from Denmark and Karlskrona from Sweden are currently members of the Baltic Sail network. Their common goal: to support each other in organising maritime events and to contribute to the preservation of traditional sailing ships and historic vessels.

While in other regions of the world only a few traditional ships are left, in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea there are 2,500 vintage ships in operation. The range of this unique maritime heritage extends from sailing ships to steamboats. Their age varies from several decades to more than a century. The operators are mostly non-profit organisations and associations.

In the majority of European countries, it is not permitted to use this type of vessel as a business. However, income may be generated and used for the preservation of the traditional ships, e.g. within the framework of events like the Hanse Sail Rostock or the Sail Sassnitz.

"We founded the Baltic Sail Association to support these ship owners in their efforts to maintain this European cultural asset. We support them by hosting major events that focus on traditional ships," says Holger Bellgardt, Manager Maritime Tourism at the Rostock & Warnemünde Tourist Board and lead spokesperson for the Baltic Sail Association.



The cooperation agreement now signed is a relaunch after a two-year break due to the Corona pandemic. The Baltic Sail Association itself has existed since 1996 with partly changing members. Last year it would have celebrated its 25th anniversary.

"After two years, we are finally able to take off together again and create this transnational event platform where maritime classic ships can present themselves. Especially nowadays, in the midst of so many conflicts, this cooperation of eight cities from six nations is an important sign of understanding and of great significance for all partners," says Bellgardt.

Thomas Langlotz, Managing Director of the City Port of Sassnitz, confirms this: "We are proud to be part of this alliance and to host this year's meeting. We are also hoping for new impulses and concepts for Sail Sassnitz to be able to provide support for many more traditional sailing vessels in our port next year. A first idea, for example, would be to offer tours from the Hanse Sail Rostock to the Sail Sassnitz as an additional source of income for the ship owners. We would be more than happy to be able to implement this together."

About the City Port of Sassnitz

The City Port of Sassnitz presents itself as an attractive mixture of fishing and tourist port. Waterborne visitors who moor their boats here can expect a marina offering the highest possible degree of comfort. Ship chandlers, sailmakers, a bunker station, shopping facilities and restaurants are all located close by in the city port. A bakery provides freshly baked goods and former fishing cutters sell smoked fish and fish rolls. Museums, artisans and local traders all offer culture, art and culinary delights from the region.

www.stadthafen-sassnitz.de

About the Baltic Sail Association

Baltic Sail is an open network of partners, especially port cities. Its aim is to support the maintenance of maritime culture and the preservation of maritime traditions, especially traditional ships, as a unique part of our common European maritime heritage. The first major maritime events organised by Baltic Sail were established in 1996 and took place in 1997 in Gdansk (Poland), Helsingor (Denmark), Karlskrona (Sweden) and Rostock (Germany). Baltic Sail events are international festivals for everyone, not only bringing maritime traditions and cultural maritime heritage closer to visitors, but also promoting the Baltic Sea as a prime sailing destination. All festival programmes offer maritime flair and a variety of activities, including seamanship, sailing trips aboard lovingly restored traditional ships as well as exhibitions.



www.balticsail.info