**BSSSC closing session - September 12th, 2018; 12:00 – 12:30**

**Wiesaław Byczkowski - Deputy Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship**

Ladies and gentlemen,

In this conference resolution we say, among others, "BSSSC stresses the need to base our Baltic Sea Region 2030 on solidarity, tolerance, friendship, alliances, common identity and on the fact that we need each other to prosper and grow" . I would stress that, in order to prosper and grow, and to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, we have to follow the blueprint in the form of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN.

During this conference we have discussed some of the many challenges we face nowadays. To successfully address them, we have to act together. And while being realistic, we also have to be optimistic. This optimism so visible in what the BSSSC youth say in their declaration: "The smart future presents itself with fantastic opportunities for enhancing life in the Baltic Sea Region”. We have to keep seeing those opportunities in spite of all disadvantages around us. Anyway, Shakespeare said already 400 years ago: "Wise men never sit and wail their loss but cheerily seek how to redress their harms."

Looking now back into the days we have spent together in Gdańsk, I hope we have had both good talks and fun. And I believe that our discussions have been a sort of introduction to the next year's Annual Forum of the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and the Baltic Youth Camp accompanying it - both to be held in Gdańsk in June 2019.

Inviting you already to those events, I have the great pleasure to pass the BSSSC conference to the next host - Klaipeda in Lithuania.

But before I leave the floor, I would like to thank Roger Ryger – our chair for the high spirit and his staff for great, professional cooperation. And Pomorskie team for enthusiasm, energy and involvement. And finally..

Thank you and all the best to you all!