



EUROREGION BALTIC

INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

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## JOINT AGENDA OF ERB BOARD AND SEAGULL 2 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

### **Date:**

7<sup>th</sup> February 2007  
09.00 – 18.30 (local time)

### **Location:**

3/4 Św. Ducha Street, Elbląg,  
Old Town's Conference Hall,

### **Participants:**

#### ERB Board / Seagull 2 Steering Committee

Mikhail Pluhin	ERB President, Chairman of the Seagull 2 Steering Committee, Russia
Dalia Makusiene	on behalf of Raisa Mincinauskiene, ERB Board member, member of the Seagull 2 Steering Committee, Lithuania
Bernth Johnson	ERB Vice-President, Vice-Chairman of the Seagull 2 Steering Committee, Sweden
Jan Kozłowski	ERB Board member, member of the Seagull 2 Steering Committee, Poland
Per Ole Petersen	ERB Board member, member of the Seagull 2 Steering Committee, Denmark

#### ERB Secretariats / Seagull 2 Personnel

Niels Chresten Andersen	Head of Danish ERB Secretariat, Seagull 2 Work Package 3 Leader, Bornholm
Ulf Andersson	Seagull 2 Regional Coordinator, Kronoberg
S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański	Head of ERB International Secretariat, Seagull 2 Coordinator, Poland
Olga Grigoreva	Assistant to Regional Coordinator, Kaliningrad
Carolina Gunnarsson	Seagull 2 water reference network expert, Region Kalmar
Hans Hakansson	Senior Clerk at Region Blekinge,
Victor Koshelev	Head of Russian ERB Secretariat, Seagull 2 Regional Coordinator, Kaliningrad
P.G. Lindencrona	Head of Swedish ERB Secretariat, Seagull 2 Regional Coordinator, Blekinge

Virginija Liutkute	Regional Economic and Social Development Office, Klaipeda County Administration
Zdzisław Olszewski	Head of Polish ERB Sekretariat
Kora Stanczyk	Seagull 2 Work Package 1 Leader, Pomorskie
Magdalena Szymanowska	ERB Sekretariat, Poland
Piotr Zwolak	Seagull 2 Regional Coordinator, Warmińsko-Mazurskie

Guests:

Henryk Słonina	Mayor of Elbląg, ERB Council member
Elena Koroleva	Consultant of Department for Co-ordination of Region Representatives Abroad, Government of Kaliningrad Region
Krystyna Wróblewska	Director of International Cooperation Department at Pomorskie Marshal's Office
Violeta Baneviciene	State Education Supervision Service, Klaipeda
Rafał Wolski	Director of European Integration and International Cooperation Department at Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office
Zbigniew Szmurło	Advisor on Relations with Kaliningrad Region to the Voivode of Warmińsko-Mazurskie
Mirosław Dymczak	Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of Elbląg for International Affairs
Wiktor Romanowski	Head of Department for Co-ordination of Region Representatives Abroad, Government of Kaliningrad Region

## **09.30 – 13.00      PROGRAMME OF THE MAYOR OF ELBLĄG**

09.30	Departure from <i>Hotel Vivaldi</i>
09.45	Visiting a new sports hall, also housing the <i>Elbląg Incubator of New Information Technologies</i>
10.30	Drive to <i>Green Terraces</i> ; a complex of sports and cultural facilities: the cinema, swimming pool, theatre, skating rink
11.10	Visit at the District Geodetic and Cartographic Enterprise <i>OPEGIEKA</i> ; presentation of the <i>Spatial Information System</i>
12.30	Visit at the Traders' Gate and walk along the Old Town's streets
13.00	Lunch at <i>Hotel Vivaldi</i>
14.20	Walk to the <i>Old Town's Conference Hall</i> in 3/4 Św. Ducha Street

## **14.30 – 18.30 OERB BOARD AND SEAGULL 2 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **1. Welcome by the Mayor of Elblag, Henryk Słonina**

### **2. Opening by the ERB President, Mikhail Pluhin**

### **3. ERB Board's internal matters**

3.1 Approval of the Agenda

3.2 Appointment of the Board member to co-sign the minutes

### **4. Strategy of ERB development between 2007 and 2008, with the Swedish and Danish presidencies**

Recently, the national secretariats of Denmark and Sweden have been working on an outline of priority activities for the Swedish and Danish presidencies between 2007 and 2008. This outline is a logical consequence of the institution building process within Euroregion Baltic, having been implemented since 2003: beginning with the development of a common strategy, through the establishment of a joint secretariat, to the realization of the Seagull II project. Following some consultations with the International Secretariat, the attached outline (Attachment\_1) has now been presented to be discussed by the ERB Board members. They are requested to comment and approve the strategy as a programme document for ERB in 2007 – 2008.

### **5. A proposal of a joint project by the Lithuanian Party**

A possible cooperation project idea will be presented by the Lithuanian delegation. It is called: *Policy of Schoolchild Socialisation through Leisure Time Activities* (Attachment\_2). The ERB Board members are requested to take note of the information and discuss whether the project should become part of the 2007 – 2008 strategy or whether it can be one of the topics to be dealt with by the Seagull II project social dimension reference network.

### **6. Open Days in Brussels, 8 – 11 October 2007**

The ERB Board is recommended to consult the 8 member regions in order to organise two ERB events during the Open Days 2007, organised by the European Commission DG REGIO and the Committee of Regions (CoR) 8 – 11 October 2007.

One of the arguments in favour of participating in the event is ERB's promotional activity. In the proposed ERB Strategy 2007-2008 increased visibility is included in one of the five specific objectives, and together with strategic management and lobbying activities considered to be the Boards main responsibility. The Open Days event has become a major and highlighted EU event, with an increasing number of participants. At the Open Days 2006 there was registered more than 21 000 downloads of the programme brochure from the specific Open Days website.

The implementation of the Seagull II project in 2007 constitutes another good reason for ERB to apply for and organise events in connection with the Open Days. The

overall objective of the project is to improve the institutional capacity of the ERB, and one of the main outputs will be a manual presenting ERB as a transferable model for euroregional cooperation. In connection to this manual a study visit is planned to Vilnius between 31<sup>st</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2007 in order to exchange information and experiences with the project leader of the BEN-project (Baltic Euroregional Network), and with euroregions in the area.

Open Days events would be a perfect chance to gather representatives from other euroregions, to exchange information and experiences, and to discuss specific issues related to euroregions such as legal status, statutes, structures, elaboration and implementation of joint development strategies, partnership building within the Euroregion, financing aspects, technical tools, lobbying function etc. The Open Days events hereby could form the last activity in preparation of the manual, to be presented at the Final Conference of the Seagull II project, scheduled to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

## **7. Main themes in ERB 2006 Activity Report**

Members of the ERB Board will be presented with the themes to the activity report of the Euroregion under Russian chairmanship. The report will be printed and officially submitted at the meeting of the ERB Council on 14 March 2007. The following themes are proposed to be included:

- referring to the aims of the Russian Presidency, i.e. the opening of the crossborder and euroregional cooperation centre in Baltijsk, involvement in the issues related to crossing the border with the Kaliningrad Region, cultural and sports cooperation;
- Seagull II report;
- participation in other projects: Baltic Master, Balic Master, BEN, East – West;
- participation in the preparatory work to the CBC South Baltic programme;

ERB Board members are requested to contribute with possible supplement into the report content and to approve of its final form.

## **8. Discussing the proposal of the ERB Council meeting agenda on 14.03.2007**

ERB Board members will be presented with the main topics of the agenda of the ERB Council meeting which will be held in Karlskrona on 14 March 2007. This agenda is proposed to include the following items:

- Presenting the Annual Report;
- Handing over the Presidency to the Swedish Party;
- Adopting the political declaration in the connection with the border conference on the following day;
- Approving new documents after the withdrawal of Kurzeme Region from ERB and introducing preliminary proposals of changes to the ERB Statutes;
- Setting the date of the next Council meeting;
- Seagull 2 status report;
- Thematic discussion

ERB Board members are requested to discuss proposals for the thematic discussion as well as to complete the agenda with their ideas and approve its final form.

## **9. Seagull 2 status report**

### **9.1 Seagull 2 Action Plan and the objectives of the Project networks**

The representatives of the project and reference networks will present the ERB Board members with the schedule of the networks' activities, including the following elements:

- Introducing the members of the network and the core group;
- Presenting the expert of the network;
- Introducing the outcome of the first activities held in January 2007;
- Presenting the schedule of activities for 2007, considering concrete results, that were planned during the first meetings;

Since the Seagull 2 project in 2007 enters its decisive stage of the realisation, the activity of the networks will have major significance for the success of the project, as well as for the subsequent implementation the Joint Development Programme. Therefore, we ask ERB Board members to accept the schedules to be the formal action plan in the Euroregion Baltic. During following meetings of the Board and Council the networks will present status reports allowing for the permanent monitoring of their progress.

### **9.2 Border crossing conference in Karlskrona on 15 March 2007**

In line with the decision of ERB Council the second conference on the subject matter of border crossing will take place in Karlskrona on 15 March 2007. According to the Seagull 2 project application, and on Euroregion's request a report has been prepared (Attachment\_3) by Dr Tadeusz Baryła. The author will introduce the highlights of the report to the Board. We ask members of the Board to take note and contribute with their comments to the report.

Niels Chresten Andersen will introduce the draft text of the declaration (Attachment\_4), which will finalise the conference. We ask the ERB Board members to contribute with their comments to the text to the declaration.

### **9.3 Third Seagull II study visit between 31.05 – 01.06.007 in Vilnius**

One of the main outputs of the Seagull II project will be a Manual presenting ERB as a transferable model of constructing a euroregion. One of the activities foreseen in this respect is a study visit for the project Steering Committee and staff to a euroregion or working community similar to ERB. The aim is to seek best practices and experience in management of joint policies related to the ERB Joint Development Programme.

It is recommended to make a study visit to Vilnius 31<sup>st</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2007, with a programme including meetings with the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Vilnius, the lead partner in the BEN project (Baltic Euroregional Network). Besides this it is proposed to include visit euroregional projects within the euroregions Nemunas and Sesupe – including meetings with main representatives from these euroregions, to exchange information and experiences. (Attachment\_5).

ERB Board members are requested to take note of the information presented and approve of the proposal to organise the study visit and the ERB Board meeting in Vilnius.

## **10. Youth Conference within the cooperative framework of Europe Direct relays**

The Europe Direct information relays in the ERB regions and the ERB Secretariat in Baltijsk are preparing an ERB Youth Conference to take place in Elbląg 20 – 21 April 2007. The aim of the Conference is to improve the integration of the youth in Euroregion Baltic, and with a particular focus on:

- the intercultural dialogue among youth, through a wide range of activities including increased use of the European Voluntary Service (EVS),
- the role and involving of youth in the sustainable development, including focus on how to improve positive attitudes among youth towards a sustainable environment,
- meetings and consultations between politicians and youth, aiming to improve the democratic participation among youth,
- involving the youth more as a force in the regional development, such as focus on young entrepreneurship, increased accessibility and mobility, development of youth related tourism etc.

The target group for the conference will be main ERB politicians, regional politicians dealing with youth issues, youth representatives and leaders of youth institutions and youth NGO's, including student organisations.

Based on the Conference the Europe Direct information relays want to re-establish a Youth Network within ERB and promote youth cooperation between the regions.

ERB Board members are requested to take note of the information presented.

## **11. Any Other Business**

### **11.1 In search of a twinning partner**

The town of Kościerzyna, member of the Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic, would like to establish international cooperation with a municipality within the area of the Euroregion. It is seeking a partner similar to Kościerzyna, which is about 24 thousand inhabitants. Kościerzyna lays in Pomorze, in the region called Kashubian Switzerland. It is active in raising financial means from the European Union, and at present is in the process of implementing three projects co-financed by the EU: the extension and the modernisation of the sewage treatment plant together with the expansion of the sanitary sewage system, improvement of the Koscierzyzna - East road infrastructure, construction of the Kashubian Culture Centre. The city is growing fast; apart from the projects listed there are also: the construction of the Kashubian Sports and Leisure Centre and Central Centre of the Sports Training.

Kościerzyna has three partner towns: in Germany, France and the Ukraine. However, it has not yet managed to initiate contacts with the municipalities within the Euroregion the Baltic.

### **11.2 In search of an environmental partner**

We ask your kind assistance in the search that the Landscape Parks in Elbląg are conducting for contacts from around the Euroregion Baltic in order to establish cooperation with similar units dealing with the protection of nature, including trainings, exchange of experiences, marking touristic routes, research, etc. We ask your kind assistance in the search that the Landscape Parks in Elbląg are conducting for contacts from around the Euroregion Baltic in order to establish cooperation with similar units dealing with the protection of nature, including trainings, exchange of experiences, marking touristic routes, research, etc.

### **11.3 Gdańsk Tourism Fair**

Between 13th and 15th April 2007 the Tourism Fair will be held in Gdansk. It will be accompanied by the Fair of Water Sports and Fair of Tourism Investment. Last year, the Euroregion Baltic stand presented the offer of the Polish communes and of the Regional Municipality of Bornholm. This year too, upon the condition that at least ten Polish communes take part, the Polish Party invites all the ERB foreign partners.

- 18.30 End of the meeting
- 18.50 Transfer to Izba Staropolska, in 195 A Street
- 19.00 Dinner