

Euroregion Baltic
Council Meeting
Kosta, Södra Småland
Sweden
28-29 October 2010



Title Final Minutes
Submitted by International Permanent Secretariat
Summary / Note This document provides final minutes of the ERB Council meeting which took place between 28-29th October 2010.
Requested action Signing

28th OCTOBER, DAY ONE

1. **Study visit to Lessebo**

The participants had an English guided tour of the Paper Factory in the Municipality of Lessebo.

2. **Welcome**

Ms Marie-Louise Hilmersson, Chair of Regional Council in Södra Småland, and member of ERB Board welcomed the participants of the Euroregion Baltic Council meeting.

3. **Opening**

Mr Jacek Protas, President of Euroregion Baltic opened the meeting of the Euroregion Baltic Council.

4. **Presentation of Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean**

Mr Boris Meggiorin, a representative of the Ministry of Culture and Media in the Government of Catalonia, gave a presentation of the cooperation in Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean, including cultural activities and the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends, commissioned by the Council of Europe and delivered by ERICarts Institutue.

5. **ERB Youth Board and YC3 Presentation**

ERB Youth Board members and YC3 Project staff informed ERB Council members about activities recently held within the scope of their cooperation, including the YC3 project and the initiative of a youth flagship project to be developed under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Following the presentation, the ERB Youth Board invited participants to join in an activity workshop aiming at presenting different opinions on youth cooperation. The workshop involved a series of activities and allowed both ERB Youth Board and ERB Council members to exchange ideas and views concerning the involvement of youth in the ERB cooperation.

6. **BaltNet Project Meeting**

Simultaneously to the ERB Youth Board presentation, Ms Kora Stanczyk led an exclusive meeting of the representatives of labour market institutions in order to conclude the process of re-submission of the BaltNet project.

29th OCTOBER, DAY TWO

7. **Adoption of 05.03.10 ERB Council meeting minutes**

ERB Council approved the minutes of the 05.03.2010 ERB Council meeting.

8. **Conclusion of the ERB cooperation review process**

Mr Roger Kaliff, Member of the ERB Council gave a short speech concluding the ERB cooperation review process which began in October 2009 at the ERB Board meeting and continued throughout 2010. The highlights of the process included the adoption of the cooperation review roadmap by the Council in March, ERB Stakeholder Conference in June, anchoring process in the member organisations in July and August, and the ERB Board meeting in September. ERB Council was requested to take a series of decisions concerning the adoption of the strategic documents developed in the process.

9. **Adoption of ERB 2020 Agenda**

Following a short presentation by Ms Mariana Johannesson, ERB Council members adopted the ERB 2020 Agenda.

10. **Adoption of revised ERB Statutes**

Following a short presentation by Mr Piotr Zwolak, ERB Council members adopted the revised ERB Statutes.

11. **Adoption of ERB Action Plan 2010 – 2011**

Following a short presentation by Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański, ERB Council members adopted the ERB Action Plan 2010 – 2011.

12. **Establishment of ERB Task forces**

ERB Council members made the decision to establish the following ERB Task Forces:

- ERB Task Force on the EU Cohesion Policy, and adopted its Terms of Reference presented by Mr Niels Chresten Andersen;
- ERB Task Force on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and adopted its Terms of Reference presented by Ms Marie Fridh;
- ERB Task Force on the Annual Forum of Stakeholders, and adopted its Terms of Reference presented by Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański;
- ERB Task Force on the Joint Project, and adopted its Terms of Reference presented by Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański.

These Task Forces will be the main instruments to implement the objectives of the ERB cooperation as specified in the ERB Action Plan 2010 – 2011.

13. **Comments**

Mr Bo Lundgren proposed that the ERB Executive Board investigates the ongoing work on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy to be concluded next year. The ERB Executive Board asked the IPS to prepare a relevant discussion for the next meeting of the ERB Executive Board in February 2011.

Mr Roger Kaliff informed that the European Commission has invited the Regional Council in Kalmar County to develop a proposal of a new horizontal action within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region on multi-level governance, local and regional spatial planning and sustainable development. He asked that Euroregion Baltic should be an active partner in the process. The ERB Executive Board agreed and asked the International and Regional secretariats to coordinate the effort.

14. **Debate on the ERB's role in the forthcoming EU Cohesion Policy**

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen presented the current situation regarding the preparation of the future EU Cohesion Policy. He then went on to moderate the debate and asked the ERB Council members to offer their views on the following questions:

1. Does your region want to receive structural funds support after 2013? If so, please explain why and for what purpose.
2. Should the INTERREG programmes be given higher, lower or the same priority as in the next programme period 2014-2020?
3. Should the South Baltic CBC programme continue after 2013? Do you want changes of the programme, such as in the geography, thematic scope, budget framework, priorities and measures?

A discussion followed and its results will be considered by the ERB Task Force on the EU Cohesion Policy in its work towards the development of a joint position of Euroregion Baltic on the future Cohesion Policy.

15. **BSSSC Position Paper on EU Cohesion Policy**

ERB Council members were requested to address the request from the BSSSC Board to co-sign the Position Paper on the EU Cohesion Policy adopted by the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation Annual Meeting in Tallin on 13th October 2010.

A discussion followed. In result, ERB Council members found the document generally in accordance with the earlier statements on the EU Cohesion Policy adopted by the ERB but asked for two weeks' time in order to discuss and anchor it in the their member regions.

16. **Closing of the ERB Council meeting**

Mr Jacek Protas, President of Euroregion Baltic closed the meeting of the Euroregion Baltic Council.