

Euroregion Baltic
Executive Board Meeting
Gdańsk, Poland
27th September 2011



Title Final Minutes

Submitted by SDD, International Permanent Secretariat

Summary / Note This document provides final minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place on 27th September 2011 in Gdańsk, Poland.

Requested action Signing

Participants: ERB Executive Board

Ms Alla Ivanova	ERB President, Minister-Head of Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region
Ms Carina Bengtsson	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council of södra Småland
Mr Wiesław Byczkowski	Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Pomorskie Region
Mr Mats Johansson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Board of Region Blekinge
Mr Martin Sten Jörgensen	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Grzegorz Grzelak	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Pomorskie Regional Parliament
Ms Monica Haider	Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council of södra Småland
Mr Åke Nilsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Executive Committee of Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Per Ole Petersen	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Virgilijus Pozingis	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of Klaipeda Regional Development Council
Ms Anna Wasilewska	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region

Participants: ERB Youth Board

Mr Irmantas Sujeta	Chair of ERB Youth Board, Klaipeda Region
Mr Karl Holst	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Rasmus Hounisen	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Mathias Juhl	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Sissa Pagels	Member of ERB Youth Board, Region Blekinge
Ms Oliver Rosengren	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council of södra Småland
Ms Krystyna Stec	Member of ERB Youth Board, Association of Polish Communes ERB
Mr Paweł Sudara	Member of ERB Youth Board, Pomorskie Region

ERB Secretariats

Mr Niels Ch. Andersen	ERB Regional Secretariat, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Erik Ciardi	ERB Regional Secretariat, Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański	Head of ERB International Permanent Secretariat

Ms Yana Eremeeva	ERB Regional Secretariat, Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region
Ms Marie Fridh	ERB Regional Secretariat, Region Blekinge
Ms Mariana Gomez Johannesson	ERB Regional Secretariat, Regional Council of södra Småland
Ms Karen Lynn Jacobsen	Financial Officer, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Sebastian Magier	ERB International Permanent Secretariat
Ms Agata Nazar	Association of Polish Communes ERB, ERB Regional Secretariat
Ms Asta Raugalienė	Secretariat of Klaipeda Regional Council
Ms Wioletta Sokół	Director of International Cooperation Department, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office
Ms Kora Stańczyk	ERB Regional Secretariat, Pomorskie Marshal's Office
Ms Elise Wåhlin	Youth Project Coordinator, Region Blekinge
Sofia M. Westerberg	Head of Regional Attractiveness, Region Blekinge
Joanna Woźniak	ERB Regional Secretariat, Pomorskie Marshal's Office
Ms Krystyna Wróblewska	Director of International Cooperation Department, Pomorskie Marshal's Office
Piotr Zwolak	ERB Regional Secretariat, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office

Guests:

Mr Pavel Bekker	Kaliningrad Regional Government
Ms Christina Mattisson	Member of Executive Board of Region Blekinge
Ms Marta Piskorz	Director of Innovation Support and Regional Policy Department, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Development Agency
Mr Mihail Plukhin	Chair of Federal Electoral Commission, Kaliningrad Region

1. Opening

Ms Monica Haider, Chair of the ERB Executive Board meeting welcomed the participants and opened the meeting of the ERB Executive Board. All participants of the meeting briefly introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of the agenda

ERB Executive Board approved the agenda of the Executive Board meeting.

3. Information from Kaliningrad Region

Ms Alla Ivanova, Minister of International Relations of the Kaliningrad Region, presented the ERB Executive Board with the official letter from the Governor of Kaliningrad Region informing that she was appointed new member of the ERB Executive Board replacing Mr Mikhail Plukhin, who ceased his work as the Deputy Governor and became Chair of the Federal Electoral Commission in the region.

The ERB Executive Board welcomed Ms Ivanova as a new member of the Board, and consequently, new ERB President. ERB Executive Board members thanked Mr Pluhin for the many years of his engagement in the ERB cooperation.

4. Adoption of 18.05.2011 ERB Board Meeting minutes

ERB Executive Board approved the minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place in Gdańsk on 18th May 2011.

5. Reflections on 2nd Annual Forum of Stakeholders

Ms Monica Haider, Chair of the ERB Executive Board meeting opened the discussion aiming at sharing comments and opinions on the 2nd Annual Forum of Stakeholders held on the previous day.

It was acknowledged that the Forum discussed some of the most important issues currently faced by the ERB member regions such as employment, development of cross-border labour markets, education. They also agreed that some of these issues should be included in the future ERB Action Plan. Moreover, the participation of external experts and senior government officials in the Forum was highly valued as it greatly contributed to the future ERB cooperation and allowed ERB to present its regional perspective to the national level.

Executive Board believed that ERB Annual Forum could take place the day before the second Folkemødet Political Festival between 14-17th June 2012 on Bornholm. However, the final decision is to be taken after more information is made available by Bornholm and after the visits to the member regions by ERB Vice-President, Mr Roland Gustbée.

6. ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan

Ms Monica Haider invited the Executive Board to the discussion on the process of drafting the ERB Action Plan 2012 – 2013.

Ms Mariana Gomez Johannesson presented a proposal of the ERB Action Plan drafting process which will include visits to all the ERB member regions by Mr Gustbée in November 2011. Detailed information on the dates and places were given in the invitations handed to the representatives of all the ERB member organisations. It was suggested that these meetings should involve leading politicians, ERB staff in the regions and members of the ERB Youth Board. Based on the results of these meetings, the draft of the ERB Action Plan will be prepared by the end of November 2011 and presented to the ERB member organisations to discuss and anchor. The final draft of the ERB Action Plan will then be agreed during the special Executive Board online meeting in December 2011.

ERB Executive Board approved the above mentioned proposal of drafting the ERB 2012-2013 Action Plan.

7. Adoption of ERB Position Paper on the EUSBSR implementation

Ms Marie Fridh, Leader of the EUSBSR Task Force presented the background for the Position Paper on the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, its highlights and proposals how to disseminate it.

Mr Mats Johansson proposed that a new flagship project related to the reviewed EU fishing policy is proposed in the third part of the ERB position paper. ERB Executive Board members thought that the EU fishing policy is a complex area requiring thorough discussions and careful decisions, and therefore decided against the proposal.

ERB Executive Board adopted the document without amendments urging its active promotion, including meeting other Baltic organisations.

8. Adoption of ERB Position Paper on South Baltic CBC Programme after 2013

Mr Niels Chresten Anders, Leader of the Cohesion Policy Task Force presented the background for the Position Paper on South Baltic CBC Programme after 2013, its highlights and proposals how to disseminate it.

Ms Alla Ivanova was concerned about the section in the paper limiting the thematic focus of the programme to the EUSBSR since it is an internal EU strategy. After a brief discussion it was agreed to also include the Northern Dimension Policy in the position.

ERB Executive Board adopted the document and urged its active promotion.

9. Adoption of ERB Youth Board Action Plan

Mr Oliver Rosengren, member of ERB Youth Board presented the ERB Youth Board Action Plan 2011-2012.

Following a discussion, ERB Executive Board adopted the document.

10. **Discussion on ERB Youth Board project proposal**

Mr Karl Holst, member of the ERB Youth Board presented a proposal of the joint ERB Youth Board project.

Following a discussion, the ERB Executive Board agreed that the ERB Youth Board should continue its work on the project and plan in more detail the concrete activities, outputs and results expected to be achieved. Sources of funding should also be considered more carefully. ERB Executive Board also thought that the ERB Youth Board should continue its efforts to become a Flagship Project in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region which will help to define the scope of the future work by the Youth Board and specificity of their new project.

11. **Information**

- a. Ms Monica Haider proposed to hold the next ERB Executive Board meeting on 9-10th February 2012 in Southern Småland. She also proposed that the second ERB Executive Board meeting in 2012 could take place on Bornholm in June, thus coinciding with the ERB Annual Forum, while the third meeting could take place in Klaipeda in October 2012.

ERB Executive Board agreed to the proposed dates and places.

- b. Mr Virgilijus Pozingis informed the ERB Executive Board on the situation in Klaipeda County regarding their participation in the ERB cooperation. All the seven municipalities in Klaipeda will form an association as of January 2012 which will be responsible among others for international cooperation and tourism promotion.

ERB Executive Board welcomed the presented information.

- c. Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański updated the ERB Executive Board on the work on B2B project as well as other upcoming events and activities in which ERB will be involved.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information.

12. **Closing**

Ms Monica Haider concluded the meeting of the ERB Executive Board.