



Euroregion Baltic Executive Board Meeting Svetlogorsk Russian Federation 8th April 2016



Title	Final Minutes
Submitted by	SM, International Permanent Secretariat
Summary / Note	This document provides final minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting in Svetlogorsk on 8 th April 2016
Requested action	Implementation

Participants: ERB Executive Board:

Mr Aleksander Bogdanov	ERB President, Deputy Chair of Kaliningrad Regional Government
Ms Akko Karlsson	ERB Vice President, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar County
Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board of Region Kronoberg
Mr Vaclovas Dačkauskas	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Mayor of Klaipeda District Municipality
Ms Alla Ivanova	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Minister-Head of Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region
Mr Robert Olesen	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board Region Kronoberg
Mr Ragnar Olsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Winicjusz Sokół	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of Board of Association of Polish Communes

ERB Youth Board:

Mr Mateusz Ankiewicz	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Mr Mateusz Kryżba	Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region

Mr Maksymilian Lewandowski	Member of ERB Youth Board, Association of Polish Communes
Mr Jędrzej Tadrzak	Member of ERB Youth Board, Pomorskie Region
Ms Alexandra Winberg	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County/Kumulus
Ms Yana Vorozheina	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Government of Kaliningrad Region

ERB Secretariats:

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Yana Eremeeva	Government of Kaliningrad Region
Ms Wioletta Dymarska	Office of the Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship
Mr Jarosław Grabarczyk	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Ms Klaudija Kionies	Association of Klaipeda Region
Mr Sebastian Magier	Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat
Mr Jan Martinsson	Regional Council in Kalmar County
Ms Liana Maximova	Government of Kaliningrad Region
Ms Romualda Naruszewicz	Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Ms Małgorzata Samusjew	Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Mr Piotr Zwolak	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region

Guests:

Mr Marcin Nosal	Consul General of Republic of Poland in Kaliningrad
Mr Jarosław Strycharski	Consul, Consulate General of Republic of Poland in Kaliningrad
Mr Vyatutas Umbrasas	Minister Counsellor, Consulate General of Republic of Lithuania in Kaliningrad
Mr Sergey Kuznetsov	Deputy Minister of Tourism, Government of Kaliningrad Region
Mr Denis Mironyuk	Executive of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Kaliningrad Region
Ms Raimonda Kučinskaitė	Head of Strategic Planning and Investment Department, Klaipeda District Municipality
Ms Camilla Wristel	Programme Manager, Swedish Institute

Mr Edmunds Sniķeris

Project Officer, South Baltic Programme Joint
Secretariat

Mr Paweł Kulasiewicz

Chair of Global Wave Foundation

Ms Agnieszka Nalepa

Morena Association

Mr Viktor Koshelev

Minutes:

1. Welcome and opening

Vice President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Aleksander Bogdanov welcomed the participants of the meeting on behalf of the hosts. After introducing the agenda of the meeting he requested the Executive Board for the approval of the agenda.

The ERB Executive Board approved the agenda as presented

2. Signing the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meeting

ERB International Permanent Secretariats has submitted the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meetings held in Gdańsk on 3rd November 2015 and online on 14th December 2015. Mr Aleksander Bogdanov asked the IPS to provide the minutes for signing.

Relevant ERB Executive Board members present at those meetings were asked to sign the minutes of ERB Executive Board meetings of 3rd November 2015 and 14th December 2015.

The minutes were signed as requested.

3. Approval of the ERB Annual Report 2015

3.a Speaking on behalf of the Polish ERB Presidency, Mr Sebastian Magier presented the letter signed by ERB President, Mr Wiesław Byczkowski summarising the results of the ERB Presidency in 2015. The letter was accompanied by the 2015 ERB Annual Report detailing the work of ERB within all focus areas.

3.b Mr Mateusz Kryżba, Chair of the Youth Board presented the YB activity report summarising the activities undertaken within the ERB Youth Board. The details of the YB report were included in the 2015 ERB Annual Report.

The ERB Executive Board members approved the 2015 ERB Annual Report

4. Transfer of ERB Presidency and ERB Youth Board Chairpersonship

4.a In accordance with the decision of the ERB Executive Board of 21st February 2011 approving the sequence of ERB Presidency transfers, the ERB Presidency was transferred from Poland to the Russian Federation, and Mr Aleksander Bogdanov, Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Kaliningrad Region assumed the position of ERB President.

At the same time, the position of ERB Vice President was assumed by Sweden with Ms Akko Karlsson, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar County taking over the position of ERB Vice President.

- 4.b ERB Youth Board Chairpersonship was transferred from Poland to Lithuania and Mr Tautrimas Rupulevičius representing the Association Klaipeda Region was appointed new ERB Youth Board Chair.

At the same time, the Russian party assumed the Vice Chairpersonship of the ERB Youth Board with Ms Veronika Kryukova appointed as the Vice Chair of ERB Youth Board.

The ERB Executive Board approved the new ERB President and Vice-President, as well as the new ERB Youth Board Chair and his Deputy.

5. **ERB Action Plan 2016-2017**

- 5.a President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Aleksander Bogdanov outlined the new Action Plan for the ERB cooperation in 2016 and 2017 draft of which had been submitted to the ERB Board members prior to the meeting.

In his speech Mr Bogdanov underlined the importance of the added value of ERB cooperation for the Kaliningrad Region as it allows regions from the south of the Baltic Sea Region to learn from each other and build trust and understanding in joint actions facilitating common interests.

He mentioned that the cooperation should take into account the most important strategic documents of Baltic Sea cooperation such as the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Strategy of socio-economic development of the North-West Federal District of Russian Federation.

In this context he pointed out to the importance of organising the Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders which in 2016 would possibly be held within the Annual Forum of EUSBSR Strategy in Stockholm and discuss the theme of youth cooperation, one of the ERB's focus areas. While speaking on the subject of youth cooperation, he also urged the ERB partners to focus also on activities connected to sports and culture as it undoubtedly improves this type of cooperation and allows for creating better ties among young people.

He also indicated that the new ERB Presidency would focus its activities on the development of cross-border tourism which in case of the Kaliningrad Region is one of the strategic elements of sustainable development.

Mr Bogdanov underlined that the ERB cooperation should be focused on practical activities bringing concrete, tangible results to the stakeholders of ERB cooperation through international projects or other similar result-driven activities. Thanks to such actions the ERB cooperation could further develop to provide even more results in the future.

- 5.b Acting on behalf of Mr Tautrimas Rupulevičius, ERB Youth Board Chairperson, Ms Klaudija Kionies presented main activities planned within the ERB Youth Board and included in the ERB Action Plan 2016-2017. The new Youth Board Chairmanship would strive for a more strategic approach to developing youth cooperation in the ERB. That would include development of and participation in international projects. The YB would be working with partners from regional youth organisations on the development of a joint Erasmus+ project on youth entrepreneurship and would also participate

actively in the implementation of the CASYPOT project dedicated to capacity building in strategic youth policy development and transnational cooperation. Within the project the ERB through the Association of Polish Communes ERB would be one of the project partners.

The YB would also strive to expanding its cooperation potential by engaging EVS volunteers to support its day-to-day activities as well as establish and further develop working contacts with other youth networks in the Baltic Sea Region such as Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation and Union of Baltic Cities and other actors.

The ERB Executive Board approved the ERB Action Plan 2015-2016.

6. Presentation of the tourism potential of the Kaliningrad Region

A presentation of the tourism potential of the Kaliningrad Region was delivered by Mr. Sergey Kuznetsov, Deputy Minister of Tourism of the Kaliningrad Region.

In his presentation Mr Kuznetsov focused on the main natural and cultural resources of the region as the base for developing modern tourist infrastructure and offers. Uniquely located in the centre of the south-east Baltic Sea area, the Kaliningrad Region focuses on the development different types of tourism including event, cognitive (historical), business, spa and wellness, ecotourism, water and active as well as rural tourism. Within the cognitive tourism the region utilizes its vast historical and natural heritage resources such as medieval castles, fortification complexes, famous amber deposits to develop several thematic brands. Among them the UNESCO heritage of the Curonian Spit is one of the most popular attractions and each year is the most visited national park in Russia. The business and event tourism is supported by modern and still developing business infrastructure (hotels, international airport, congress centres) and new cultural and event facilities such as the Amber Hall Theatre in Svetlogorsk. Similarly important is the development of water and active tourism which is based on the growing network of marinas and sea resorts as well as improved local infrastructure for hikers and bikers.

Responding to Mr Kuznetsov's presentation, Mr Niels Chresten Andersen indicated that there were two preconditions for ERB to be more involved in the development of tourism. The first was accessibility (ferries, air connections, border crossings) especially concerning seasonal connections and easier visa conditions and the second was mutuality which would provide better conditions for developing tourism cooperation.

Commenting on this, Ms Alla Ivanova stated that as far as easier visa regulations are concerned, there already was the small border traffic agreement in place on the Polish-Russian border which significantly simplified crossing procedure thus allowing far more people to cross the border without problems. Also, the Khrabrovo International Airport was expanding its operations extending cooperation offer to regional operators. Finally, much was being done to develop cruise and marina tourism in the region

Mr Sebastian Magier added that the ERB has been also promoting a cooperation initiative in the area of maritime tourism and education entitled

the Maritime Education Programme. The programme was launched in 2011 by the city of Gdańsk and its partners. Since 2013 the theme of each edition of the Programme refers to an annual issue of United Nations' World Water Day. In 2016 the Programme developed and international contest "How do we see the Baltic Sea". The contest is addressed to pupils in the Baltic Sea region from 13 to 18 years of age. The winners will join an international crew on a vacation cruise sailing the Baltic Sea. Through this experience they will gain a common perspective on the region and together they will prepare another work collecting various viewpoints of the cooperation. Mr Magier indicated that the Programme was looking for partners in the ERB area – cities, harbours, marinas – which would be interested to host young people during their cruise on the Baltic Sea. Such city or harbour could become a so-called pit stop during the cruise and include the arrival of the yacht as one of its summer events.

The ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

7. ERB cooperation potential in the area of tourism

Mr Sebastian Magier presented information about on cross-border initiatives and projects within ERB regions addressing the question of tourism development. In his information he focused on the tourist projects with direct participation in or support from Euroregion Baltic that had been submitted to the first call within the South Baltic Programme. These included the following projects - Baltic Sea Tourism Centre, South Coast Baltic, Attractive Hardwoods.

If approved the project would facilitate the implementation of the ERB Action Plan by providing necessary knowledge and exchange of experiences as well as include ERB in important cooperation networks developed within these projects.

The ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

8. Initiatives of ERB Water Core Group

Ms Akko Karlsson, Vice President of ERB and Chair of ERB Water Core Group presented the priorities with respect to the ERB cooperation in the area of water management.

In her presentation she focused on the need to strengthen the work of the ERB WCG by appointing relevant experts from ERB member organisations to facilitate its future work.

In 2016 the ERB WCG will organise a dedicated ERB Water Forum which will attract both politicians and experts from the ERB member organisations to discuss future joint cooperation on the preservation of water resources in the ERB area. Based on recent data from Swedish regions, there is a growing concern over the supply of fresh drinking water. The annual precipitation is falling as a result of the climate change, while the management of available water resources still needs proper changes to provide much needed sustainability of this basic resource.

The Water Forum on Bornholm on 8th June 2016 will serve not only as a discussion forum but will also try to address the issues identified by developing a joint project application for one of the upcoming calls within the South Baltic Programme.

The ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

9. **Results of the information seminar of 7th April 2016**

By Mr Sebastian Magier summarised the outcome of the information seminar held a day earlier in Kaliningrad. The goal of the event was to present the current offer European Territorial Cooperation programmes and Swedish international development instruments that can be used by the Russian stakeholders active in cross-border cooperation in Euroregion Baltic. In all around 100 participants from different levels of governance took part and were offered an extensive information about the current and upcoming calls within the Interreg Baltic Sea Region and South Baltic Programmes. Additionally, the representatives of the Swedish Institute as well as the Swedish International Centre for Local Self-Government gave presentation about upcoming initiatives that would allow Russian stakeholders to engage in international projects with Swedish organisations and their counterparts in other ERB countries. The seminar was well received by the participants and allowed to create new cooperation potential within Euroregion Baltic.

The ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

10. **Information from IPS on South Baltic Programme**

By Mr Sebastian Magier gave a brief information about the situation in the South Baltic Programme after the 1st call for proposals focusing on the submitted project proposals, upcoming Programme events and preparation for the 2nd call for proposals between 9th May – 17th June 2016.

The members of the ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

11. **Other cross-border cooperation initiatives**

Mr Viktor Koshelev gave a presentation about other cross-border cooperation initiatives in the area of sustainable transport development.

The ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

Conclusion and closing

12.

Speaking on behalf of President of Euroregion Baltic, Ms Alla Ivanova concluded the meeting of ERB Executive Board by thanking all the ERB representatives for coming to Kaliningrad Region. She expressed hope that the ERB would once more provide concrete results of cooperation through cross-border projects and other result-oriented initiatives designed to improve the sustainable development of all ERB member organisations.

The meeting of ERB Executive Board was concluded.

Ms Akko Karlsson
ERB Vice President

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Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson
Member of ERB Executive Board

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