



Minutes  
Euroregion Baltic Board Meeting  
Malbork, 24 February 2003

Participating Executive Board Members:

Normunds Niedols, BSCPR, Latvia  
Annelise Molin/Knud Andersen, Bornholm, Denmark  
Zbigniew Karpowicz, Vice Mayor of Olsztyn, Poland  
Alexander Kuznetsov, Mayor of Baltijsk, Kaliningrad Oblast  
Ulf Andersson, Kronoberg Region, Sweden (replacing Bo Frank)

Secretariats:

Gunta Strēle, ERB Presidency secretariat, Latvia  
Gunta Cepleviča, ERB Presidency secretariat, Latvia  
Niels Chresten Andersen, ERB national secretariat, Bornholm  
Karen Lynn Jacobsen, ERB national secretariat, Bornholm  
Roma Stubriene, ERB national secretariat, Lithuania  
Vytautas Rinkevičius, ERB national secretariat, Lithuania  
Zdzislaw Olszewski, ERB national secretariat, Poland  
Viktor Koshelev, ERB national secretariat, Russia  
P.G. Lindencrona, ERB national secretariat, Sweden

Other guests:

Rolf A. Karlson, Seagull project manager

Mr. Niedols, Chairman of the meeting welcomed everybody for the meeting of the ERB Executive Board in Malbork and stressed that it marks the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the ERB.

Mrs. Gunta Strele informed about the agenda for the Board and for the Council meetings.

Everybody agreed to the proposed agenda of the meeting.

§ 1 Approval of previous Board minutes.

Mr. Niedols asked for comments to the minutes of the previous Board meeting.

Decision: To approve the minutes of the previous Board meeting.

§ 2 Appointment of person to co-sign minutes of the current Board meeting

Decision: Mrs. Annelise Molin is appointed to co-sign the minutes of the meeting.

### § 3 Information on organisational changes

Mrs. Gunta Strele informed that the function of the Latvian ERB national secretariat is transferred to the Baltic Sea Coast Development Agency (to be reorganised as the Kurzeme Planning Region Development Agency) from December 2002.

After the elections in Lithuania new Council Members could be appointed. Only internal changes in the national Secretariat.

Decision: To take the information for further consideration.

### § 4 Report from Seagull project

#### **4.1. Changes of Steering Committee members**

Mr. Rolf A. Karlson informed that the Steering Committee of the Seagull project consists of the 3 representatives from the Swedish side and a representative from all other partners. The following changes have been introduced: the Russian Kaliningrad Region will be represented by Mr. Victor Koshelev and the Polish Warmia - Masurian Region – by Mrs. Bozena Wrzeszcz - Zwada.

Decision: To take the information for further consideration.

#### **4.2. How to proceed with the Ronneby resolution**

Mr. Rolf A. Karlson informed that the resolution approved in Ronneby by the end of the year 2002 was sent out to all of the ERB members and secretariats.

The Board and the Council should discuss and give recommendations, the Seagull project secretariat will come up with the proposal to the Board and the Council.

Mr. Rolf A. Karlson initiated exchange of information concerning further development of the Interreg IIIA programme that will become available for the new member states starting from the beginning of 2004.

It was stressed by the participants that the awareness on the programme in these countries should be risen, the programme implementation schemes should be agreed and the cross border co-operation should be maintained within the programme to complement the measures financed under the EU Structural Funds.

Decision:

1. The secretariat should prepare a proposal for a letter promoting ERB to become a status as an INTERREG IIIA-like area, addressed to European Commission.
2. The secretariat should include this question in the agenda for the next Board and Council meeting.

### § 5 AEBR membership

Mr. Niels Chresten Andersen informed on the current situation concerning AEBR membership and reminded that this question was discussed already for long time.

The discussion started on the strong and weak points for different associations, the aims of the ERB for taking part in any of them.

The proposal was put forward to organise the next ERB Board meeting in Brussels and to use this possibility to meet some of the associations and to discuss the membership question with representatives of the Committee of Regions.

Decision:

1. The secretariat should inform Mr. Jens Gabbe that the ERB Board did not took the decision on the Membership.
2. The secretariat should propose the place for the next ERB Board meeting.

§ 6 Visit to event organised by East - West Institute

Mr. P. G. Lindencrona told about the visit to the Euroregion Karpati that was organised by the East West Institute. The East West Institute is one of the founders of the Euroregion Karpati were Poland, Slovenia, Romania, Ukraine takes part. This Euroregion assumes themselves as one on the poorest euroregions, they have offices in all of the countries of the euroregion and can spend around a 1.0 MEUR on small projects for the euroregion activities.

Within the framework of the Euroregion Network project a seminar on co-operation of the euroregions is planned in March 2003 in Kaliningrad.

Apart from Mr. P. G. Lindencrona also Russian, Latvian, Polish and Swedish representatives have participated in the visit.

The report on the visit is available on the web site.

Decision: To take the information for further consideration.

§ 7 Resolution on Maritime Safety

Mr. P. G. Lindencrona introduced the prepared Resolution on Maritime safety (the text was copied and distributed to the all participants). The resolution was discussed and small editorial corrections in the text were proposed and supported.

Decision:

1. Mr. P. G. Lindencrona and Mrs Gunta Strele should make the agreed editorial corrections in the text of the resolution by the beginning of the ERB Council meeting.
2. The national secretariats, after the approval of the resolution by the ERB Council, are responsible for sending out the resolution to the parties concerned in their countries.

§ 8 Proposal on new logo

Mr. Victor Koshelev presented an idea of the amended ERB logo surrounded by the flags of all ERB member states. He stressed that the current logo does not reflect multinational character of the ERB.

During discussion a view was expressed that it could be better not to change the current logo as the process to agree on the design of logo took three years, now it is acknowledged and changing of it will be costly. The professional arguments against the Russian proposal was presented and also a new proposal came up to amend the bottom of the official letter with the flags of all ERB countries.

Taking into account the importance of the question the members agreed to return to include this question in the agenda for one of the next ERB Board meetings.

Decision: To ask the WP5 of the Seagull project to investigate the question on ERB logo and come up to the ERB Board with a proposal for action.

## § 9 Annual Report from the presidency

Mrs. Gunta Strēle presented the printed Annual Report for the year 2002 in English that emphasises the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Euroregion Baltic. The report provides with the aims and structure of the ERB organisation, gives the contact information, as well as describes the Seagull and Good Governance projects.

Each country is going to receive a number of printed copies. The Russian translation of the report will be available later on.

The text of the 2002 Annual Report is available also on the web site.

Decision: To take the information for further consideration.

## § 10 Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

Mr. Normunds Niedols,  
President of ERB

Mrs. Annelise Molin,  
Member of the ERB executive Board  
Mayor of Bornholm

Gunta Ceplevica  
ERB Secretariat