



EUROREGION BALTIC
INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT SECRETARIAT
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EUROREGION BALTIC BOARD SEAGULL 2 STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date:

14th August 2007
09.30 – 12.30 hours (local time)

Meeting Place:

Halltorps Gästgiveri, Öland

Participants:

ERB BOARD / SEAGULL 2 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Johnson, Mr	Bernth	ERB President, Blekinge County
Petersen, Mr	Per Ole	ERB Vice-President, Bornholm
Mincinauskiene, Ms	Raisa	Member of the Board, Klaipeda County
Wróblewska, Ms	Krystyna	On behalf of Kozłowski, Jan Member of the Board, Pomorskie Region
Pluhin, Mr	Mikhail	Member of the Board, Kaliningrad Region

ERB SECRETARIATS / SEAGULL II STAFF

Andersen, Mr	Niels Chresten	ERB Secretariat, Bornholm
Andersson, Mr	Ulf	ERB Secretariat, Kronoberg
Demkowicz-Dobrzański, Mr	Sławomir	Head of ERB International Secretariat
Fridh, Ms	Marie	ERB Secretariat, Blekinge
Håkanson, Mr	Hans	Seagull II Transport Network Leader
Joelsson, Ms	Ulrika	ERB Secretariat, Kalmar
Johannesson, Ms	Mariana	Seagull II Rural Network Leader
Lindencrona, Mr	Per Gudmund	ERB Secretariat, Blekinge
Makuskiene, Ms	Dalia	ERB Secretariat, Klaipeda
Nichapiarovich, Mr	Dymitry	Seagull II Kaliningrad Hot Spot Network member
Shmeleva, Ms	Liudmila	Seagull II Kaliningrad Hot Spot Network member
Stańczyk, Ms	Kora	Seagull 2 Staff



Zdanova, Mrs	Julia	Seagull 2 Staff
Zwolak, Mr	Piotr	ERB Secretariat, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
GUESTS		
Brynielsson, Mr	Håkan	CEO, Regional Council in Kalmar County
Cederström, Ms	Anna-Lena	CEO, Regional Council in Blekinge
Gunnarsson, Mr	Johan	Regional Council in Kalmar County
Kaliff, Mr	Roger	Regional Council in Kalmar County, ERB Council member
Koroleva, Ms	Elena	Ministry of Territorial Cooperation, Kaliningrad Region
Larsson, Mr	Leif	President, Regional Council in Kalmar County
Löfgren, Mr	Bo	Member of the International Committee, Region Blekinge
Lundgren, Mr	Bo	Member of the Board at Regional Council in Kalmar County
Nilsson, Mr	Åke	Regional Council in Kalmar County, ERB Council member
Romanovski, Mr	Victor	Head of CBC Department, Ministry of Territorial Cooperation, Kaliningrad
Stavistskaya, Ms	Natalia	Ministry of Territorial Cooperation, Kaliningrad Region
Wolski, Mr	Rafał	Director for Int'l Cooperation & Promotion, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region



1. WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE ERB BOARD / STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

ERB President and Chairman of the Steering Committee, Mr Bernth Johnson opened the Board meeting and welcomed its participants.

2. SIGNING THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING IN VILNIUS

ERB President and Chairman of the Steering Committee, Mr Bernth Johnson and ERB Vice-President, Mr Per Ole Petersen placed their signatures in approval of the minutes from the previous ERB Board session on 2nd June 2007.

ERB President and Chairman of the Steering Committee, Mr Bernth Johnson, and ERB Vice-President, Mr Per Ole Petersen agreed to co-sign the minutes of this meeting.

3. INFORMATION FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IN KALMAR COUNTY

Mr Hakan Brynielsson, Director of the Regional Council in Kalmar County made a presentation of the China Baltic Sea Business Forum 2007.

Mr Brynielsson gave the background of the cooperation with the Chinese region of since 2004. He also distributed leaflets and invited the Board and the regions to take part in the event.

The ERB Board members took note of the information provided.

4. INFORMATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

IPS Head, Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski presented updated information on the following topics:

- a. the adoption of the position paper on the EC Green Paper "Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: a European vision for the oceans and seas" by the ERB Board

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski gave the background of the adoption process which started at the ERB Council meeting on 14th March 2007 and ended with the publication of the position paper on the EC website. In order to finalise this process, he asked the Board members to place their signatures on the paper.

On behalf of the Russian delegation, Mr Mikhail Pluhin explained he has no powers to sign a document related to the EU policies, and therefore requested that his signature be excluded from the paper and a relevant note be made in the minutes.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen proposed that at the next Board or Council meeting an overview be presented listing comments submitted in the adoption process of the EC Green Paper.

Ms Krystyna Wróblewska said that heated discussions are now going on before the approval of a White Paper and also that the number comments provided is so large it would be extremely difficult to have them all presented at an ERB meeting.

The ERB Board, save the Russian Party representative, agreed to formally sign the position paper. The position thus became an official document of Euroregion Baltic, having considered the abstention of Russian Party.



b. debate on an ERB future budget

Head of Danish ERB Secretariat, Mr Niels Chresten Andersen presented a proposal of the Danish party of how to further proceed with an internal debate within ERB with the aim of constructing a joint budget that will meet the ambitious goals of the ERB cooperation. The proposal is basically two-fold, i.e. recommends the contribution provided by the ERB member regions is increased by the 15% index, and a separate project generation fund is created within ERB, requiring new fees on the part of the regions. The arguments behind this ambitious proposal include further build-up of capacities necessary to implement ERB JDP, increased benefit of the ERB IPS joint budget employed to generate external funding, new programming opportunities, e.g. South Baltic CBC and Poland – Lithuania – Kaliningrad ENPI programmes.

The current membership fees only cover basic costs of the International Secretariat and will not be sufficient to continue the now available support to the organisation of ERB Board and Council meetings, reference network seminars, etc.

The Danish proposal recommends that a number of bilateral meetings be held, including the meeting on Bornholm on 29th August and in Gdansk on 11th September with the participation of Vice-President Per Ole Petersen.

President Bernth Johnson supported the idea, explaining the regions will have to discuss the matter internally before they take their final decisions.

Mr Mikhail Pluhin stressed it would be impossible to disagree to such convincing arguments. He also pointed out there are important events ahead like the Anniversary Celebrations which will need money that is never. He also recommended that a separate Anniversary budget is established and supported the idea of increasing the joint budget due to inflation. Regarding the project generation fund, Mr Pluin noted that it will be important to know how such a fund will be established and to consider other EU financial instruments available. He thought bilateral and multilateral meetings in order to discuss such matters are needed.

Mr Niels Andersen promised to develop a detailed description of such a financial mechanism following Board approval of the idea.

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski pointed out that there is substantial amount of money that can be generated through the involvement of the regional personnel in the Seagull II project if only the member regions are capable of delivering the internal hours specified in the project application. The amount of about 60,000 EUR could be available.

Mr Leif Larsson, President of the Regional Council in Kalmar County agreed that internal discussions will need to be taken before any specific decisions are taken.

The ERB Board approved of the plan to hold internal debates within the regions, as well as bilateral meetings with Vice-President Petersen in order to further discuss the Danish proposal.

c. financial implementation of the Seagull II project

IPS Head, Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski presented the current Seagull II implementation status and its financial implications. He noted that:

- it is necessary to borrow around 90,000 EUR in order to complete the Seagull II project;
- as a result, there will be an extra charge in the joint budget of about 4,000 EUR covering the cost of the loan;
- cash contribution towards the Seagull II project is limited until the end of 2007 to the eligible amount of 81,800 EUR;



- as a result, the Council meeting in December and the project final conference will not offer covering the transport costs for participants;

The ERB Board members agreed to pay their own transportation costs related to the Council meeting in Gdansk in December 2007 and took note of the financial information provided.

d. outline for the celebration of ERB Anniversary

The ERB Board members discussed the first draft of a proposal on how to celebrate the ERB 10th Anniversary during 2008.

President Johnson recommended inviting political friends to the celebratory Council meeting in February 2007.

Ms Krystyna Wróblewska proposed to invite all ex ERB presidents. She thought necessary that a publication on the development of ERB also includes information on tangible effects that common ERB projects have contributed, what practical solutions they have offered, and achievements they have been proud of.

Ms Krystyna Wróblewska also commented on the idea for ERB events at Open Days 2008. This year will make it possible to see how conglomerates work and what is expected of them. Since it is difficult to stand out in such a crowd of organisations an alternative way could be explored. She reiterated that the Pomorskie office in Brussels can help in inviting guests like Mrs Hubner to the 10th Anniversary meeting.

ERB member regions have been requested to send in proposals for regional events to be included in the proposed event calendar until the next Board meeting in Brussels.

President Johnson stated it is responsibility of each member region within ERB to prepare the Anniversary well, and the Board took note of the information presented.

5. ERB YOUTH CONFERENCE: DISCUSSING A SCOPE OF COOPERATION WITH YOUTHS IN ERB

Head of Södra Småland Europe Direct Office, Ms Mariana Johansson presented the evaluation of the youth conference and the final outline of the youth cooperation as a background for continued discussion on an ERB youth structure, well in line with the four-step process that the ERB Board have agreed on in order to define a potential scope of cooperation for the youth network within ERB.

Concrete proposals now include the introduction of 8 regional representatives into the ERB Youth Board who will also be members of the ERB Council. The appointment procedure will be autonomous in each region. The Chairperson of the ERB Youth Board will become the member of the ERB Board. The ERB Board will use around 5,000 EUR from the joint budget to help the Youth Board attract external funding. Changes in the ERB Statutes will be necessary and proposed by the Board to the Council.

President Johnson welcomed the proposals and said ERB will now open up for young people. Mr Per Ole Petersen stressed it is important to allocate money to support the youth. He also proposed to bring down the age range to e.g. 16 and 20

More comments followed from the ERB President who said it is the regional structures that make it happen, and from Ms Mariana Johansson who reminded everyone that the youth are not so patient. Ms Raisa Mincinauskiene proposed inviting youth to the ERB 10th Anniversary.



After the discussion, ERB Board members sustained their approval of the ongoing process and urged the International and National Secretariats to prepare the final proposal of the Youth Board for the next Board meeting in October.

6. STATUS OF 2 SEAGULL 2 NETWORKS: SOCIAL COOPERATION, WATER FORUM & KALININGRAD HOT SPOTS

Mr Dymitry Nichapiarovich, Director General of Sovetsk Pulp & Paper plant presented a proposal or an activity within the Kaliningrad Hot Spot Network. The implementation of the objectives of the ERB Joint Development Programme indicate the elimination of some of the HelCom-identified hot spots in the Kaliningrad Region. This proposal is in direct relation to Hot Spot No 49.

The Board took note of the proposal and requested support to the proposal from the member regions.

WP 1 Leader, Ms Kora Stańczyk presented the activities within the social cooperation network, including the meetings held on 18th January, 5th February and 23rd May. There will be more on-line working meetings, Ms Stańczyk announced and a seminar between 13 and 14th November 2007. A project idea currently discussed by the group is a networking project between labour market institutions involving the regions of Pomorskie, Kronoberg, Bornholm, Baltijsk and Klaipeda.

The Board took note of the information presented and supported the project idea in progress.

Informed by the Water Forum Leader, Ms Carolina Gunnarsson, Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski presented the outcome of the Water Forum that took place on 13th August 2007, including their ambition to work with the ERB Water Forum Toolbox and the ERB Water Forum Conference. While working on the preparation of a concrete project idea, the network is considering to look into two projects under construction at the moment (both coordinated by the Regional Council in Kalmar County): *Modern water management, local and regional level* and *Environmental adapted farming*.

The ERB Board members took note of the information provided and supported the ongoing process.

7. PREPARATION FOR SUBSEQUENT ERB EVENTS

IPS Head, Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski informed the participants on the two ERB meetings that are going to be held before the end of this year:

- a. Board meeting in Brussels on 10th October

The Board approved of the agenda proposed for the meeting and accepted information from the Russian Board member, Mr Mihail Pluhin, explaining his absence during the meeting in Brussels. The other Board members confirmed they will participate.

- b. Council meeting / Seagull II final conference in Gdansk on 6 – 7 December

The ERB Board members took note of the information provided and supported the preparation process.



8. INFORMATION ON COMING EVENTS

a. FROM THE LITHUANIAN SECRETARIAT

Member of the Board, Ms Raisa Mincinauskiene presented the invitation to the **International Scientific & Methodical Conference** to take place on October 26th 2007 in Klaipeda on Economics, Management and Technologies in Regional development.

b. FROM THE RUSSIAN SECRETARIAT

Head of the Russian Secretariat, Mr Victor Koshelev presented the invitation to the **International Business Forum** to take place between October 11 and 13th 2007 in Kaliningrad on "Cooperation and Entrepreneurship Initiatives".

c. FROM THE SWEDISH SECRETARIAT

Head of the Swedish Secretariat, Mr PG Lindencrona presented information on the two coming events involving ERB partners: i.e. the BEN Final Conference between 25 and 26th October in Jelgava in Latvia and the Baltic Gateway Plus Final Conference between 8 and 9th November in Brussels.

The ERB Board members welcomed the invitations and took note of the information provided.

At that moment the agenda was completed and ERB President Bernth Johnson closed the official part of the meeting.

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Mr Bernth Johnson
ERB President
Steering Committee Chairman

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Mr Per Ole Petersen
ERB Vice-President
Steering Committee Vice-Chairman

