

Euroregion Baltic  
Executive Board Meeting  
Brussels, Belgium  
12 June 2008



<b>Title</b>	Final Minutes
<b>Submitted by</b>	SDD, International Permanent Secretariat
<b>Summary / Note</b>	This document provides explanatory notes regarding the items included in the provisional agenda and, within a given item, specifies actions requested from the meeting participants.
<b>Requested action</b>	Signing

**Participants**

**ERB Executive Board**

Mr Per Ole Petersen	ERB President, Bornholm
Mr Jacek Protas	ERB Vice-President, Warminsko-Mazurskie
Ms Marie-Louise Hilmersson	ERB Board member, Södra Småland
Mr Per Gudmund Lindencrona	for Mr Bernth Johnson, ERB Board member, Blekinge
Ms Raisa Minčinauskienė	ERB Board member, Klaipeda
Mr Åke Nilsson	ERB Board member, Kalmar
Ms Krystyna Wróblewska	for Mr Jan Kozłowski, ERB Board member, Pomorskie
Ms Anna Gryazova	ERB Board member, ERB Youth Board

**ERB Council**

Ms Cajsa Augustzen	ERB Youth Board, Södra Småland
Mr Robert Gajos	ERB Council member, Blekinge
Ms Amelia Lilja	ERB Youth Board, Blekinge

**ERB Secretariats**

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen	ERB Secretariat, Bornholm
Ms Lisa Andersson	ERB Youth Project Leader, Blekinge
Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski	International Permanent Secretariat
Ms Marie Fridh	ERB Secretariat,, Blekinge
Ms Mariana G. Johannesson	ERB Secretariat, Södra Småland
Mr Hans Håkansson	Transport Infrastructure WG
Ms Viktorija Liutkute	ERB Secretariat, Klaipeda County
Mr Gunnar Nordmark	Infrastructure Committee Chair, Södra Småland
Ms Kora Stańczyk	ERB Secretariat, Pomorskie
Mr Rafał Wolski	Department of Int'l Relations, Warmińsko-Mazurskie

## **ERB EXECUTIVE BOARD AGENDA**

- 09:15 – 09:20 1. **Welcome and opening of the meeting**
- ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen welcomed the participants and opened the Executive Board meeting.
- 09:20 – 09:25 2. **Adoption of the agenda**
- ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen asked whether there are any additional suggestions to the present agenda.
- Mr Niels Chresten Andersen requested some time to present information on the seminar for the South Baltic contact points under point 8.1 of the agenda.
- Mr Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski asked to include a short discussion on the next Board meeting date under point 4.3 of the agenda, as well as to present information on Almedalen week in Visby under point 8.2 of the agenda.
- ERB Executive Board approved of the agenda with proposed changes.
- 09:25 – 09:30 3. **Adoption of 25.04.08 ERB Board Meeting minutes**
- ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen asked whether there are any additional comments to the minutes.
- ERB Board member, Mr Åke Nilsson asked to include the name of Ms Carolina Gunnarsson in the list of participants as it was missing in the minutes.
- Following the Board's approval, ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen and ERB Vice-President, Mr Jacek Protas co-signed the minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place in Svaneke, Bornholm on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008.
- 09:30 – 09:35 4. **Information by the International Secretariat**
- 4.1 on the request to provide data to the ERB statistical base for 2006
- Mr Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski asked the Board to offer their support to the ERB regional secretariats which will be asked to provide indicators to the ERB statistical database, as recommended by 2008 – 2009 ERB Action Plan (Priority 3). Following the establishment of the database within the Seagull II Project and provision of data for 2005, it is now time to complete it with recent socio-economic indicators as they become available. The timescale foreseen to complete the task is by 18<sup>th</sup> July 2008.
- ERB Executive Board members agreed to support their secretariats in the work related to the update of the ERB statistical database.

09:35 –  
09:40

4.2 on the first outline of ERB Information and Communication Strategy

Following the action recommended by 2008 – 2009 ERB Action Plan (Priority 3) and the appointment of the ERB I&C Strategy Task Force by the regions, two meetings have been held (on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> June) in an attempt to define the scope of the Strategy.

The ERB I&C Strategy Task Force now consists of:

- Mr Niels Chresten Andersen, Bornholm
- Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański, IPS
- Ms Mariana G. Johannesson, Södra Småland
- Ms Viktorija Liutkute, Klaipeda
- Mr Olof Sjölin, Blekinge
- Mr Rafał Wolski, Warmińsko-Mazurskie
- Ms Krystyna Wróblewska, Pomorskie

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański presented the outcome of the meetings to the Board:

- The new strategy should be a realistic update of the document prepared within the Seagull devERB Project;
- The strategy should be practical and concrete, defining target audiences of activities planned therein, personnel responsible for their delivery, as well as the strategy monitoring and assessment systems;
- the strategy should have external and internal components dealing with Euroregion's visibility and promotional functions, and with communications inside the organisation, respectively;
- lobbying should constitute a horizontal priority within the strategy as it both serves its external function (promotion and visibility) and internal one (anchoring in the member regions);
- the strategy should operate within the framework of existing financial, technical and human resources;
- the first draft of the strategy will be prepared by IPS and disseminated among the members of the ERB I&C Strategy Task Force before 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008;
- following work within the ERB I&C Strategy Task Force the second draft will be prepared and disseminated among the ERB Board and Council members, ERB Youth Board, ERB Working Groups and Secretariats for broad consultations by 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008;
- following the consultation period, the third strategy draft will be ready by 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008 to accompany documents for the ERB Board meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information presented.

09:40 –  
10:30

4.3 on the change of date for the ERB Board meeting in September 2008

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański requested that the Board considers changing the date for their next meeting, originally scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> September. The argument for the change of date is that BSSSC holds its annual conference in Kaunas between 17

and 18<sup>th</sup> September, which will probably be attended by some of the

ERB Board members, and having the two meetings one after the other would help cut down the travel cost and time. BSSSC has been the biggest regional organisation in the Baltic Sea Region and this year's annual conference will be co-organised with the Committee of the Regions to include one of the Baltic Sea Strategy round tables.

Ms Krystyna Wróblewska suggested that the place of the ERB Board meeting is changed to enable more effective time management. She proposed the BSSSC is asked to provide a place for the ERB Board to meet in Kaunas. Mr Niels Chresten Andersen pointed out that the objective of the ERB Action Plan was to spread meeting places around all the member regions so that ERB Board meets local politicians in the hosting regions. President Petersen agreed that we should try to keep to the original plan. Ms Raisa Mincinauskiene said she didn't see much sense in organising a short meeting in Kaunas just for the Board to meet. Instead, she offered 19<sup>th</sup> September as a new date for the Board to meet in Klaipeda. Mr P.G. Lindencrona stated the Board should go to Klaipeda but preferred 16<sup>th</sup> September. Ms Marie Louise Hilmersson commented by saying it is really difficult to keep track when dates are hanged every time we meet. Ms Raisa Mincinauskiene then recommended we keep the original date of 11<sup>th</sup> September. She said we have two different events with two different objectives and should be able to decide which is our priority. Mr Jacek Protas proposed the ERB Board meets in Klaipeda on 16<sup>th</sup> and anybody wishing to travel to Kaunas on 17<sup>th</sup> will be able to do so. Mr Niels Chresten Andersen said we need consensus around the date. He also observed that though normally ERB does not consider dates for BSSSC meetings, this year it should since it will include an important part of the Baltic Sea Strategy debate. For this reason, a financial aspect related to travel and accommodation expenses plays a role. He also informed that a partner forum for South Baltic beneficiaries will be held in Świnoujście on 11<sup>th</sup> September, although it will probably be of no priority for the ERB Board members to attend.

In conclusion, ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen asked each member of the Board whether their next meeting can be held in Klaipeda on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Since the proposal did not win consensus, Mr Per Ole Petersen stated the Board decided to keep the original time and date of their meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> September in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

10:30 – 5. **Proposals from ERB members**  
11.00

5.1 Proposal from ERB Board Member, Mr Jacek Protas

ERB Board Member, Mr Jacek Protas made a proposal of extending the ERB involvement in the European agenda with more active participation in the activities held within the framework of the Committee of the Regions, ENCORE (Environmental Conference of the European Regions), and NEEBOR (Network of Eastern External Border Regions).

With regard to his membership in the Committee of the Regions, RELEX Commission and its interregional group *Baltic Sea Regions*, and his duties of Vice-President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Jacek Protas proposed that Euroregion Baltic actively takes advantage of

possibilities created by his personal involvement in these institutions, with the aim of obtaining the synergy between ERB and CoR. The scope of activities of RELEX Commission covers *inter alia* relations with regional and local authorities of states from outside European Union, Neighbourhood Policy and Northern Dimension. The interregional group *Baltic Sea Regions* intends to reflect cooperation between regions of Baltic Sea and contribute to widely understood development of these regions. Both institutions pursue goals that are to a large degree shared by Euroregion Baltic.

ENCORE network (Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe) is a platform of political cooperation of regional ministers for environment, which has existed since 1993. It aims at effective implementation of EU environment policy, improvement of environmental governance and sustainable development at the European and regional level. The most important event in the ENCORE calendar is a conference, which takes place every 2 years, when regional ministers can discuss environmental issues of regional and supra-regional importance.

NEEBOR is an initiative associating currently 31 regions located along eastern, external border of the European Union. Its mission is to increase visibility of these regions, disseminate knowledge of problems resulting from their geographical location and to promote the area of cooperation and prevent the emergence of new dividing lines in Europe. Its aims include: dissemination of best practices, activation of partners from both sides of the border, facilitating the use of financial instruments, and networking.

Furthermore, Mr Jacek Protas requested the members of the Euroregion Baltic Executive Board to explore possibilities of establishing a closer cooperation with their neighbouring regions and possibly with regions of other states of the Baltic Sea Region within a framework of the Euroregion Baltic. Such cooperation could take a form of consulting ERB positions with other regions, concerning the issues of shared interests, inviting representatives of these regions to Euroregional events and encouraging partners from these regions to participate in projects implemented by Euroregion Baltic. Finally, such cooperation could lead to extending Euroregion Baltic with new members, which would increase its recognition and significance on the European agenda.

ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen thanked for the proposal saying that not often does one receive such offers for free. He stressed that all the ERB partners agree to let our voice be heard all around Europe and work towards better visibility of Euroregion Baltic in the European landscape. President Petersen thought it would be a good idea to use the proposed platforms and that ERB should benefit from this kind of cooperation. ERB Board member, Ms Marie Louise Hilmersson said it was an interesting proposal and asked two questions: how will the necessary work related to the cooperation be organised? And how will travel expenses be incurred? ERB Board member, Ms Raisa Mincinauskiene welcomed the idea and was of an opinion that it is important and beneficial for ERB to participate in

the work of such organisations. Mr P.G. Lindencrona said there are two separate questions that need answering: one of cooperation with other organisations towards which he was positive, and the other of a possible extension of Euroregion. In the latter, he went on, time is needed for a serious discussion on what will be added value of such

a process. Ms Anna Gryazova expressed her positive opinion to the proposal. Ms Krystyna Wróblewska pointed out that although it is quite evident that ERB must be more visible in Europe, the question is how many resources we will need more to deal with these extra tasks, especially when the main priority for ERB should be to implement its Joint Development Programme. She also agreed with P.G. Lindencrona that time will be necessary to think carefully whether extending ERB should take place. She thought that the Committee of the Regions should definitely be the arena for ERB to promote itself. She recalled an idea of holding an external CoR seminar in Kaliningrad which never worked out but could possibly be reinvented and proposed by the ERB member regions' representatives in the Committee. ERB Board member, Mr Åke Nilsson thought it was a good initiative. Mr Niels Chresten Andersen thought it was a good idea to have all the ERB Board members specialise in other organisations, e.g. a representative from Pomorskie could be a liaison with BSSSC, a representative from Bornholm could act as a liaison with the CPMR Island Commission, a representative from Blekinge could take up the role of a liaison with the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, etc. Euroregion, he continued, could benefit from all its members working with different issues. Monthly coordination meetings would be a good platform to discuss ideas, dates and events whereas ERB Board would a platform to discuss where ERB priorities should be placed, he concluded.

ERB Board member, Mr Jacek Protas thanked for the comments and interest expressed by the participants and said the main message within the first part of his proposal is that he offers himself as a channel of communication with these organisations, communication that will need to go both ways: from and to Euroregion Baltic. He stressed that such communication should be very effective in situations when debates are held across Europe on issues which are very important for the regions and their citizens, e.g. an EU strategy for the Baltic Sea. Joint positions are always more powerful than individual ones, he continued. He also said that closer cooperation will not require extra ERB resources and be dealt with at the regional level. Referring to the second part of his proposal, Mr Protas said it as a food for thought, a theme that could be further discussed and developed.

ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen expressed his appreciation for comments and questions from the Board. He thought that the proposal made by Mr Jacek Protas should also be reflected in the upcoming ERB Information and Communication Strategy. He concluded by saying the proposal involves a significant extension of the cooperation platform for Euroregion Baltic so we should take into consideration the fact it will have to be followed up by next presidencies, which might not have capacities which match those of Polish Marshals. Mr Per Ole Petersen also recalled the ERB Board decision taken in 2003 in Kaliningrad not to extend ERB cooperation

with new countries, and should a request be made to add new regions from the countries which are already included in ERB, to let the regions which are already in decide about applicant regions. Naturally, he completed, any Board decision should be changed if all partners agree so. ERB Board member, Ms Marie Louise Hilmersson proposed that a proper documentation set is prepared in order to have an effective extension debate. She also recommended that the

Board works further with an idea proposed by Ms Krystyna Wróblewska of a Committee of the Regions' external seminar in Kaliningrad.

ERB Executive Board decided to:

- introduce the topic of cooperation with other organisations into the regular agenda of Board meetings and secretariat coordination meetings;
- ask its members working in the Committee of the Regions to propose to co-organise an external seminar in Kaliningrad;
- ask the ERB Information and Communication Task Force to consider the proposal in the scope of the new strategy;
- work further with an ERB extension proposal by asking the secretariats to prepare relevant background material.

#### Proposal from the Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic

11.00 – 5.2  
11.15

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański presented a request from the Mayor of Elbląg, Mr Henryk Słonina, supported by the Board of the Association of the Polish Communes, to consider involving partners from the Western Ukraine into the work of ERB Working Groups. The area of the Western Ukraine is considered both by its hydrographical and historical traditions to be part of the south-eastern corner of the Baltic Sea Region, the ambition now to be confirmed by the willingness of Ukraine's Supreme Council to sign the Helsinki Convention.

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański informed that the representatives of the county cities of Luck and Lvov asked their partners in Elbląg to enable them to participate in the work within Euroregion Baltic Working Groups, based on a concept called "Baltic Ukraine", with special interest towards:

- Water WG, following Polish – Swedish – Ukrainian ecological education cooperation supported by the Polish Ecology Club, Uppsala Baltic University and Ukrainian Secondary Schools in Górowo Iławeckie;
- Water WG, following proposals to improve the environmental condition of the Ukrainian parts of Rivers Bug and San aiming at decreasing the negative impact of eutrophication and the outflow of nutrients into the Baltic Sea;
- SME / Innovation WG, following a proposal to develop cooperation in the amber industry since the area of Western Ukraine was part of the Amber Route.

This request, he went on, comes at the time when Poland proposes an EU Eastern Dimension with support among others from Sweden.

ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen said it was in a way a good proposal though not an easy one. He thought it will be best to ask the ERB Working Groups what scope of cooperation with external partners they can see suitable. ERB Board member Mr Åke Nilsson

and Ms Krystyna Wróblewska both agreed that the ERB Working Groups should be given the right to decide. Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański agreed the Working Groups within Euroregion with their main objective of implementing the Joint Development Programme will have to assess how relevant proposals from the Ukrainian partners are to that main goal. ERB Board member, Ms Marie Louise Hilmersson noted that there are a number of questions relating to the extension of ERB cooperation and therefore considered it

necessary to produce a set of rules that will apply every time a

similar proposal is received. ERB Youth Chair, Ms Anna Gryazova said the Youth Board had also proposed that ERB Working Groups should be extended with young members and thought it was a good idea to have an admittance policy. Mr P.G. Lindencrona thought it was not a difficult question. ERB Working Groups have clear tasks and will know themselves whether or not an inclusion of external partners in their projects is going to be effective. ERB Board member, Ms Raisa Mincinauskiene agreed with Mr Lindencrona. Mr Niels Chresten Andersen thought an idea of a clear policy could be explored and said that it should be ok to include external partners if the Working Groups themselves are positive, and if no extra money is needed. He also pointed out that we will have "foreign" partners in ERB projects, anyway, e.g. in a rural project within the Interreg IV B Programme or others to be implemented within the South Baltic.

ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen concluded the discussion by saying the ERB Board accepts the proposal that external partners could participate in the ERB Working Groups if the Groups find cooperation with these new partners relevant and beneficial in their activities towards the implementation of the Joint Development Programme.

11.15 – 6. **Progress made by ERB Working Groups**  
11.45

6.1 ERB Working Group on SME / Innovation

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski informed the Board two projects are being prepared by the Group for the second call within South Baltic: Development of Innovative Systems through Knowledge and Exchange – a project to be led by the Municipality of Elblag in a partnership of science and technology parks from Lithuania, Poland and Sweden, and South Baltic Distance Learning Platform for Social Development - a project to be implemented in a partnership of educational institutions and authorities from Lithuania, Poland and Sweden.

Ms Raisa Mincinauskiene presented an outline of the project called . Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski said he will distribute the proposal among the members of the ERB Working Group on SME & Innovation.

6.2 ERB Working Group on Rural Development

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen informed the Board that the Regional Council in Södra Småland is going to be a leader in a pre-study project, co-financed by SIDA, which will lead into the preparation of

a big transnational project facilitating the establishment of the South Baltic Rural Development Centre, to be submitted in the autumn to the BSR Interreg IV B Programme.

6.3 ERB Working Group on Social Dimension

Ms Kora Stańczyk informed the Board that a project called South Baltic Networking Development for Labour Markets Integration is being prepared by the Group for the second call within South Baltic. The project will be led by Marshal Office of Pomorskie Region in a



partnership of labour market institutions from Denmark, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden.

#### 6.4 ERB Working Group on Water Forum

Mr Åke Nilsson informed the Board the Group is now working on securing the partnership of the project called Modern Water Management. Although there has been good response from the regional authorities, work is being done now to provide the project with local partners who will be ready to appoint their communes as pilot areas in the project. The Regional Council in Kalmar County will be the Lead Partner of the project to be submitted in the autumn within South Baltic. Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański added that the Polish Association of Communes in cooperation with the two Marshal Offices in Pomorskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie are also promoting the project among Polish local communities.

#### 6.5 planned Working Group on Transport Infrastructure

Mr Hans Håkansson informed the Board about the upcoming infrastructure and transport projects and activities relevant for Euroregion Baltic, including East-West TC II and Baltic Master II with Region Blekinge as Lead Partner, Baltic Tangent with Region Kalmar as Lead Partner, Trans Baltic with Region Skåne as Lead Partner, and A-B Landbridge with Region Veneto as Lead Partner. Also, the European Commission will continue work on the Motorways of the Sea and Trans European Networks. Mr Hans Håkansson said these transport projects will be evaluated during fall and possibly approved in October 2008. Same goes for the Motorways of the Sea applications which have to be sent from ports and regional authorities to national governments for evaluation on June 20<sup>th</sup> latest.

The TEN-revision proposals, first in the national stage concerning road, railways, seaports and airports have been sent out from national central authorities to the regions. EU Commission will arrange 12 workshops in Brussels in September 2008 to discuss the suggestions. ERB Transport Group will monitor preparations for the seminar. After the workshops a draft green paper will be sent out before the end of 2008. 2009 will see the results of consultations. In the middle or towards the end of 2009 revised TEN guidelines will be open for negotiations within the TEN-budget.

Mr Hans Håkansson informed that the High-Level Transport Group at the Baltic Development Forum was founded within the InterBaltic project in 2006. It was also formally dissolved when the InterBaltic project ended in 2007. The BDF itself will now concentrate more on climate, energy and other issues and has no resources for the

management of the transport group. They might though be interested to be a partner of such a group.

*The Trans Baltic* project (led by Region Skåne) has discussed with the Northern Investment Bank the possibility to take the leading role in the High-Level Transport Group if and when the project is approved. ERB Transport Group will investigate opportunities for the ERB Board to become a formal member within the High-Level Transport Group.

Mr Hans Håkansson said the next ERB Transport Group meeting is planned to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> July on Bornholm. Invitations and the agenda will be sent out in week 26.

6.6 ERB Working Group on Environment Protection in Kaliningrad Region

In absence of Mr Victor Koshelev, Ms Anna Gryazova informed the Board the Group continues its preparations for projects dealing with two environmental hot-spots in the Kaliningrad Region: nos 49 and 73. The meeting was held with possible project partners and the ideas were also presented at the environmental forum held in Kaliningrad.

planned ERB Working Group on People-to-People Cooperation

6.7

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski informed the Board that the Association of Polish Communes has now appointed its Chair, Ms Joanna Zielińska to be in charge of the planned ERB Working Group on People-to-People Cooperation. The appointment comes as a result of the ERB Board giving its green light for the Association to initiate work with the aim of formally establishing this ERB Working Group. The Secretariat of the Association will perform administration duties for the Group and will soon contact all the ERB partners.

Status report from the ERB Youth Board

6.8

Ms Anna Gryazova informed the Board that the Youth Board held two meetings between 25<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> June, and the next will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Unfortunately, the Youth still operates MSN service and observes participation problems. The main objectives will now be to launch the Youth Board website and to have young members in the ERB Working Groups. Whereas, there is money allocated in the joint budget to finance the website, questions remain unresolved how to finance youngsters in the ERB Working Groups. Ms Anna Gryazova also said the Youth Board decided not to have a youth conference this year due to lack of sufficient resources. Then, she introduced Ms Lisa Andersson who is a coordinator of the ERB youth project. Ms Andersson briefly discussed the main outputs of the project and informed the Board it will start with a kick-off conference between 28 and 29<sup>th</sup> June in Gdańsk. She also asked the Board members to assist their young representatives in the work within the Board.

ERB Board member, Ms Raisa Mincinauskiene asked what assistance is needed. Ms Lisa Andersson said that they need help to operate the Marratech system in the first place. A discussion followed in which it was explained that the members of the Youth Board are occupied during the day and can only have meetings in the late

afternoons. For this reason, they are not able to use the facilities at the regional offices as they are closed this late. Therefore, they each must have computer and internet connection at home, to be able to use the Marratech. Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski said all the Youth Board members received their Marratech usernames, logins and instructions in March and were encouraged to start using the system as early as possible. Ms Mariana Gomez Johannesson pointed out that the participation problem is not only that some of the members do not take part but also that even if they do, they do not act the way they are expected. She asked the regions to make sure their youths provide quality participation at the meetings. Mr P.G. Lindencrona informed the Board he had been asked to organise a seminar for young people on the strategy for the Baltic Sea, and thought of holding it together with Euroregion Baltic.

ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen thanked all the presenters and everyone taking floor in the discussion. He said all the ERB Executive Board members took note of the information delivered and listened attentively to the arguments put forward. The President gave particular address to the youth by telling them to have courage to go on. ERB Executive Board decided to:

- let the ERB Transport Working Group follow up on a possible cooperation with the High-Level Transport Group;
- make sure the member regions offer necessary assistance to the ERB Youth Board so that they provide genuine, active and quality participation in the Board's activities, and not at least begin operating the Marratech system.

11:45 –  
12.00

7. **ERB contribution to the Baltic Sea Strategy**

7.1 ERB Conference in Brussels and

7.2 ERB Statement on the Baltic Sea Strategy

ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen offered a few comments on the seminar held on the previous day by saying it was good to see so many participants from a number of places who left the building with new knowledge of the Baltic Sea Strategy but also with knowledge of Euroregion Baltic. He said he was impressed by the speakers at the seminar, in particular with a speech delivered by a Helcom representative. He thanked the secretariats for the preparation of the seminar and the hosts – Pomorskie Region – for the venue. He concluded by saying Euroregion Baltic should hold conferences in Brussels.

Ms Krystyna Wróblewska agreed conferences in Brussels should be continued. What is needed is the right subject and message to be communicated. She also stressed Euroregion Baltic must now closely follow further developments on the Baltic Sea Strategy, including the big conferences which will be held in Stockholm in September and in Rostock in February, as well as the Strategy round tables like the one in Kaunas. Ms Krystyna Wróblewska also reported on a conversation with Mr Knud Andersen, the Head of the Danish Delegation at the Committee of the Regions during which he proposed that a joint position on the Strategy could be developed among a number of the Baltic Sea organisations like CPMR, B7 or UBC. She thought it would be a good idea to meet at the working

level and prepare a position which can be divided into common and separate parts. ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen informed that he had also conversed with Mr Knud Andersen and the Committee of the Regions plans to invite the Baltic partners to join in such a common process. Mr Gunnar Nordmark completed the seminar and the speakers but said gender equality was not observed during the event. ERB Board member, Ms Raisa Mincinauskiene also thought the seminar had good informative presentations. ERB Board member, Mr Jacek Protas said the seminar was very good and he liked the idea of preparing a joint position paper on the Strategy although he expected some difficulty in achieving consensus among so many organisations. ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen noted that there were some technical problems with audio equipment which should be avoided next time. Ms Krystyna Wróblewska thanked both for positive and negative comments and pointed out that the gender

equality aspect would be far more balance if not for the last minute change of two female speakers with their male replacements. Mr Niels Chresten Andersen proposed that the seminar conclusions will be put down in writing and distributed, and made available on the website. He also recommended that the ERB position should include a few pages were the first will list concrete actions proposed by ERB to be taken and the following pages will discuss other aspects related to the Strategy like the Kaliningrad Region.

ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen concluded by saying that a future ERB position on the Strategy should be consulted among the regions, ERB Working Groups and the Youth Board before its public announcement. ERB Board also recommended that possibilities are explored for a joint position on the Strategy with other Baltic partners. The draft Strategy statement should be ready for presentation to the Board before their meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

12:00 –  
12.15

## 8. **Any Other Business**

### 8.1 Almedalen Week, 7-8 July 2008

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski told the Board that the organisers of the Almedalen Week on Gotland, who had previously invited an ERB representative to speak during the second day of the event, were already informed that ERB Board member, Mr Jan Kozłowski will attend. Recently, however, they contacted IPS again asking whether it will be possible for another ERB speaker to take part in the first day. He then invited the Board to propose a second ERB representative. ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen asked whether it will be possible for ERB Board member, Mr Jan Kozłowski to do both sessions. Ms Krystyna Wróblewska said it would probably be possible but proposed that Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski takes on the other session. Mr P.G. Lindencrona agreed with Ms Wróblewska and added that ERB Board member, Mr Bernth Johnson will also attend the Almedalen Week. ERB Youth Board Chair, Ms Anna Gryazova asked whether it will be possible for an ERB Youth Board member to take part too?

ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen concluded by asking the Board to approve the ERB delegation of ERB Board member, Mr Jan

Kozłowski and IPS Head, Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski to represent Euroregion Baltic at the Almedalen Week. The Board agreed, requesting the secretariat to investigate possibilities for an ERB Youth Board member to take part.

### 8.2 South Baltic Contact Point Seminar

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen informed the Board about the meeting of the South Baltic Contact Points which was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June in Gdańsk. He said the meeting helped resolve some of the unclear issues related to the implementation of the Programme, e.g. the 10% flexibility rule as for ERDF expenses made outside the European Union. He also presented the recent information regarding the Programme's first call. 17 project applications were submitted, out of which 2 were too late and 5 failed their technical checks. In total, 10 applications will be presented for approval by the Steering Committee at their meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July in Gdańsk. On the same day,

the Programme Monitoring Committee will also meet to approve the proposed dates for the second call (between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008) and a match making forum for potential partners to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> September in Świnoujście.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information delivered.

At this point the agenda of the meeting as completed and President Petersen closed the meeting.

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Per Ole Petersen  
ERB President

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Jacek Protas  
ERB Vice-President