

Euroregion Baltic
Council Meeting
Ryn, Warmia & Mazury
24 - 25 February 2009



Title	Final Minutes
Submitted by	SDD, International Permanent Secretariat
Summary / Note	This document provides the final minutes of the Board meeting held on 24 – 25.02.2009
Requested action	Adoption / Signing

Participants:

Niels Chresten Andersen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Lisa Andersson	Region Blekinge
Ulf Andersson	Regional Council in Sodra Smaland
Iwona Arent	MP, Member of the Polish Sejm
Henryk Banasiak	Honorary Consul of Lithuania in Olsztyn
Ken Bolmar	ERB Council member, Denmark
Clas Carlsson	Regional Council in Sodra Smaland
Bożena Cebulska	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Development Agency
Marta Chełkowska	Pomorskie Marshal's Office
Marek Chojnowski	Municipality of Ełk
Erik Ciardi	Regional Council in Kalmar County
Vilma Dauksiene	Klaipeda district municipality Administration
Sławek Demkowicz-Dobrzański	ERB International Permanent Secretariat
Karolis Dineika	ERB Youth Board member, Sweden
Karin Ekelund	ERB Youth Board member, Sweden
Eugenia Firkowicz	Russian language interpreter
Marie Fridh	Region Blekinge
Robert Gajos	ERB Council member, Sweden
Irek Gimaev	Government of Kaliningrad Region
Witold Gintowt-Dziewałtowski	MP, Member of the Polish Sejm
Jerzy Gosiewski	MP, Member of the Polish Sejm
Jerzy Gozdek	English language interpreter
Carolina Gunnarsson	Regional Council in Kalmar County
Hans Håkansson	Region Blekinge
Jan Harhaj	Member of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Council
Krzysztof W. Hećman	Mayor of Kętrzyn
Marie-Louise Hilmersson	ERB Executive Board member, Sweden
Paweł Jankowski	Member of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Council
Małgorzata Jaškowiak	Member of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Council
Władimir Jevremov	Consul of the Russian Federation in Gdańsk
Roger Kaliff	ERB Council member, Sweden
Józef Karpiński	Mayor of Ryn
Rafał Kiewisz	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office
Evelina Klang	ERB Youth Board member, Denmark
Rasa Kmitiene	Silute District Municipality Administration
Roman Kolicki	reporter
Marek Konopka	MP, Member of the Polish Senate
Irena Korcz-Bombała	Russian language interpreter

Elena Koroleva	Government of Kaliningrad Region
Victor Koshelev	Administration of Baltijsk Commune
PG Lindencrona	Region Blekinge
Krzysztof Lisek	MP, Member of the Polish Sejm
Maciej Lisicki	ERB Council member, Poland
Bo Lundgren	ERB Council member, Sweden
Jarosław Maciejewski	Pomorskie Governor's Office
Jon Madsen	Bornholm Library
Dalia Makuskiene	ERB Council member, Lithuania
Linnea Malmström	ERB Youth Board member, Sweden
Jan Mańnica	on behalf of R. Zaborowski, ERB Council member, PL
Tadeusz Mordasiewicz	Chair of County Council in Kętrzyn
Agata Nazar	Association of Polish Communes ERB
Mirosław Nowakowski	Member of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Council
Bożena Olszewska-Świtaj	ERB Council member, Poland
Krystyna Orłowska-Wojczulanis	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office
Andrzej Orzechowski	MP, Member of the Polish Sejm
Julian Osiecki	Chair of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Council
Andrzej Racki	English language interpreter
Per Ole Petersen	ERB President, Denmark
Zbigniew Pietrzak	Member of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Council
Irina Piliukova	ERB Youth Board, Kaliningrad
Jolanta Piotrowska	Mayor of Giżycko
Mihaił Pluhin	ERB Executive Board member, Russia
Jacek Protas	ERB Executive Board member, Poland
Włodzimierz Siudek	Member of Board of Association of Polish Communes
Jarosław Słoma	Vice-Chair of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Council
Henryk Słonina	Mayor of Elbląg, Poland
Viktoria Snioliene	Klaipeda County Governor's Office
Karol Sosnowka	ERB Youth Board member, Poland
Edmund Stachowicz	Mayor of Starogard Gdański
Evaldas Stonkus	ERB Youth Board member, Lithuania
Kora Stańczyk	Pomorskie Marshal's Office
Wacław Strażewicz	Chair of County Council in Giżycko
Paweł Sudara	ERB Youth Board member, Poland
Suzanne Svensson	ERB Council member, Sweden
Robert Szewczyk	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office
Dominik Tarnowski	Chair of County Council in Mrągowo
Bożenna Ulewicz	Member of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Council
Rasa Uznyte	Klaipeda County Governor's Office
Artur Urbański	Municipality of Ełk
Kazys Virsyła	Skuodas District Municipality Administration
Elise Wåhlin	ERB Youth Board member, Sweden
Małgorzata Wasilenko	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office
Anna Wasilewska	ERB Council member, Poland
Alexander Wendt	Deputy Chair of Blekinge Regional Council
Anna Wiktorsson	ERB Youth Board member, Sweden
Rafał Wolski	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office
Krystyna Wróblewska	Pomorskie Marshal's Office
Marek Wysocki	County Council in Pisz
Joanna Zielińska	ERB Council member, Poland
Andrzej Zdanowski	Member of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Council
Piotr Zwolak	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office

24 FEBRUARY, DAY ONE: ARRIVALS AND WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

- 15.00 1. **ERB Working Group meetings**
17.00
- ERB Working Groups met in order to discuss scope of their cooperation in 2009, affecting the action plans to be presented to the Council on 25th February. Water WG and Youth Board also considered their future activities in relation to the projects which will hopefully be implemented in 2009 – 2011. The outcome of these considerations was presented to the Council on 25th February.
- 15.00 1.1 **Water Forum Working Group**
17.00
- led by Carolina Gunnarsson
- 15.00 1.2 **ERB Youth Board**
17.00
- led by Karol Sosnowka
- 15.00 1.3 **Local Initiatives Working Group**
17.00
- led by Mr. Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański
- 15.00 1.4 **Tourism Working Group**
17.00
- led by Ms Marta Chełkowska
- 17.00 2. **Meeting of ERB Secretariats**
18.00
- ERB Secretariats met to discuss current administrative matters, including:
- proposals were made as to a possible approach to the development of a new joint ERB project; secretariats made their recommendations and proposed further proceedings, including the planning of the special meeting in April;
 - regional membership in ERB Working Groups was discussed; following the debate at the Board meeting on 22nd January 2009, WGs were asked to identify lacking members.

25 FEBRUARY, DAY TWO: SIGHTSEEING TRIP

- 07.00 1. **Breakfast**
08.00
- 08.30 2. **Departure**
- 08.30 3. **Trip**
14.00
- Two sites were visited: Wolf's Lair, Hitler's headquarters in Gierłoż and Święta Lipka, Virgin Mary's Sanctuary.
- 14.00 4. **Buffet lunch**
15.00

25 FEBRUARY, DAY TWO: WORKING ERB COUNCIL MEETING

- 15.00 1. **Welcome**
15.05
- by the host, Mr. Jacek Protas, Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, who welcomed all the ERB Council members and also the special guests, including the representatives of the Polish Parliament and the Regional Assembly of Warmińsko-Mazurskie.
- 15.05 2. **Opening**
15.10
- by ERB President, Mr. Per Ole Petersen, who thanked the host for the beautiful location of the meeting and expressed his satisfaction with the meetings of the Working Groups on the previous day.
- 15.10 3. **Address**
15.25
- By Mr Krzysztof Lisek, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Lisek highlighted the importance of cooperation as such in the times of the financial crisis. He also presented the main goals of Poland's international policies, focusing around the following:
- Poland as an active member in the EU
 - Poland as reliable partner in NATO
 - Poland as an example of the successful transformation 20 years after the Solidarity revolution
 - Poland in close ties with Poles living abroad
 - Poland with modern diplomacy service
- He also stressed the significance of the cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region in the context of the upcoming EU strategy.
- 15.25 4. **Adoption of 20.11.08 ERB Council meeting minutes**
15.25
- ERB Council members approved of the minutes of the previous Council meeting which took place on 20th November 2008 in Ronne, Bornholm.
- 15.25 4.1 **Presentation of 2008 activity reports and 2009 action plans by ERB Working Groups**
16.00
- ERB Council members heard the reports presenting the work conducted by the following Working Groups in 2008: SME / Innovation WG, Rural Development WG, Tourism WG, Transport Infrastructure WG, Social Dimension WG, Water Forum WG, Energy Forum WG. The Groups also presented their activity plans for 2009.
- 16.00 4.2 **Presentation of 2009 action plans by new ERB Working Groups**
16.15
- ERB Council heard the action plans from the 2 newly planned groups on Environment Protection and Local Community Initiatives.
- ERB Council made their formal decision to establish the Groups, providing them with a mandate to perform the activities planned in 2009.
- 16.15 5. **ERB Youth Board**
16.25
- ERB Council heard the representatives of the ERB Youth Board informing them of recent activities performed within the Youth Board

as well as outline their plans for 2009.

16.25
17.00

Coffee break

17.00
18.00

6. **Euroregion Baltic Council resolution on the Green Paper on EU Territorial Cohesion**

Mr. Niels Chresten Andersen briefly presented the key messages behind the EU Cohesion Policy, and in particular its consequences for the ERB cooperation. Next, Mr. S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański presented the draft of the ERB position towards the EU Cohesion Policy.

Later, national delegations voiced their opinions and contributions as to the proposed text of the ERB position. Comments from the Swedish delegations required redrafting of the text whose final phrasing was eventually adopted by the ERB Council members (see the attached GreenPaper-draft (2).doc.)

18.00
18.15

7. **2008 Activity Report**

ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen presented the key activities performed in Euroregion Baltic during his presidency; see the attached activity report (ERB2008_Presidents_Report.pdf) and financial report (Budget 2008.xls).

18.15

8. **Closing**

by ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen

25 FEBRUARY, DAY TWO: CEREMONIAL ERB COUNCIL MEETING

19.45
20.00

1. **Performance by the Dance & Song Ensemble "Ełk"**

20.00
20.10

2. **Opening of the Anniversary ERB Council Meeting**

by ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen

20.00
20.30

3. **Appreciation**

Small souvenirs were exchanged in appreciation of the contribution by the ERB Executive Board and their support staff.

20.30
20.35

4. **ERB Presidency Transfer**

Outgoing ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen handed the post to the incoming President, Mr Jacek Protas, who will chair Euroregion Baltic in 2009 on behalf of Polish Party.

20.35
20.50

5. **2009-2010 Action Plan**

New ERB President, Mr Jacek Protas, outlined the key objectives of the Polish and Lithuanian presidencies in 2009 and 2010. He said the following:

Since 2007 the party taking over the presidency in Euroregion Baltic

and the one following it have presented two-year Action Plan. Activities for 2009 – 2010, proposed by Polish and Lithuanian party, will be to great extent a continuation of activities undertaken in 2008. Priorities, which were agreed a year before will be continued and extended with new tasks.

Priority 1: Improving socio-economic cohesion in Euroregion Baltic through the continued implementation of the ERB Joint Development Programme, assumes that effective implementation of the Programme will be still an important task for Euroregion working groups. Working groups on SME/Innovation, Social Dimension, Energy and Water will carry out projects already submitted to South Baltic Cross-border Cooperation Programme and working groups on Rural Development, Transport and Environment Protection will prepare project proposals and will submit them for funding. All working groups will strive to enable participation in their work for partners from outside Euroregion, as well.

Integration of local communities, and of youth in particular, will be a main focus of priority 2: Enhancing cultural and societal integration within Euroregion Baltic. Newly established working group on Local Community Initiatives will provide a framework and will set up rules for fulfilment of tasks in favour of local communities in such exemplary areas, as: culture, education, entrepreneurship, health care, sport or tourism. Working group will select one or more areas and will prepare project proposals with the participation of local partners. Furthermore group will coordinate preparation for Euroregion Baltic participation in the Baltic Festival in Karlshamn in this and next year summer. Euroregion Baltic Youth Board will focus on anchoring and promotion of its activities in member regions through implementation of youth cooperation project, organization of annual meetings of youth in successive member regions and setting-up cooperation with partners from non-governmental sector.

Priority 3 intends to make Euroregion Baltic a more recognisable brand at national, Baltic and European level. This priority will specifically deal with Information and Communication Strategy approved in 2008. Euroregion will maintain and develop cooperation with the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions. In 2009 there are planned two events co-organized with the Committee of the Regions: Eastern Partnership and Baltic Sea Region development conference, which will be held in September in Ryn, and seminar on the Baltic Sea Action Plan in Brussels in October during Open Days. There will be also investigated the opportunity of creating a „fast track” to consult documents of the Committee of the Regions in member regions’ structures. Euroregion Baltic will be an active player in the debates regarding relevant European Union policies. While continuing its involvement in the EU Baltic Sea Strategy, Euroregion will propose the organization of Baltic Congress to other institutions and organizations from the Baltic Sea Region. Such congress could take place in January 2010.

Priority 4: Strengthening ERB institutional capacities contains the implementation of joint Euroregion Baltic project. The theme of the project will be decided in agreement with regional authorities and consulted with the Joint Technical Secretariat of the South Baltic Programme. Moreover, there will be internal debates with a view to define new areas of interest for Euroregion Baltic, the application of the legal status, available financial instruments and exchange of experiences with other euroregions.

20.50 6. **Closing of the Ceremonial ERB Council Meeting**

by ERB President, Mr Jacek Protas

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Per Ole Petersen
ERB President
2008-2009

.....
Jacek Protas
ERB President
2009-2010