



Euroregion Baltic
Present Presidency
Southeast Sweden 2001-2002

25 September 2001

Minutes Euroregion Baltic Executive Board Klaipeda, 25 September 2001

- Board members:** Roger Kaliff, President, Southeast Sweden
Normunds Niedols, Vice President, Liepaja City Council
Henryk Slonina, Mayor of Elblag
- National secretariats:** Roma Stubriene, Klaipeda County
Dalia Makuskiene, Klaipeda County
Maria Lindbom, Southeast Sweden
Björn Johansson, Southeast Sweden
PG Lindencrona, Southeast Sweden
Gunta Strele, Liepaja City Council
- Interreg IIIB (PIA):** Håkan Brynielsson, Chairman of Working group
Rolf A Karlson, Expert
Zbigniew Czepulkowski, member of Working group
- Other guests:** Alexander Michailov, Deputy Governor Klaipeda County
Catharina Blom, Director Region Blekinge
Knut Hjorth-Johansen, Director Nordic Council of Ministers, Vilnius
Pronin Pavel, Russian Consulate
M. Nicotin, Russian Consulate
Ligita Laipeniece, Liepaja County
Stanislaw Wojtasiak, interpreter Elblag
Pjotr Grizenko, Director Baltic Expo, Kaliningrad

The Danish party is not present at the meeting.

§ 1 Welcome

Mr Kaliff opens the meeting by welcoming everybody to the board meeting in Klaipeda, thanking Mr Michailov Deputy Governor of Klaipeda County for the hospitality.

§ 2 Approval of board minutes from 27 June 2001

The minutes of the board meeting 27 June in Elblag have been approved and co-signed by Mr Slonina.

Unfortunately nobody was chosen to check the minutes of today's meeting. Consequently the minutes have to be approved by the board at the next meeting in Liepaja 12-13 November.

§ 3 Seagull/PIA group - Interreg IIIB project

Mr Rolf Karlson describes the process of the PIA group's work to form an Interreg application. Next meeting with the PIA group will be held in connection with the Interreg III-Partenariat in Riga 25 October.

The project has to be narrowed – the content is too broad at present.

Connection with other IIIB projects are discussed, e.g. projects on the German side "Sapphire" and "South Baltic Arc". We should consider cooperation – maybe not joining but coordination of the projects.

It is important to decide what project(s) to give priority to, which is why a "Letter of Intent" (LoI) ought to be signed by each party. Mr Karlson has earlier sent out a draft of such a LoI, which is now discussed by the board. Some changes concerning the wording about co-financing are proposed by the Polish party.

Decision

The LoI will be adjusted in accordance with the Polish proposal - a Draft III will be distributed to all ERB secretariats. The PIA group will discuss and agree on the final wording during the meeting in Riga 25-26 October.

§ 4 ERB 2002+

Mr Johansson has sent a report from the seminar in Karlskrona 21-22 August to the secretariats. Next seminar within the project will be arranged 12-13 November in Liepaja (as well as Council- and Board meetings).

Themes for discussion in the next seminar will be:

- proposal long-term vision ERB
- proposal changes in the statutes
- concrete actions
- financing of the ERB cooperation

Decision

The board approves of the report from seminar no 1 in Karlskrona
Next seminar will discuss long term vision, change of statutes and how to achieve concrete actions.

- the swedish presidency shall present suggestions concerning long term vision and change of statutes.

§ 5 Assembly of European Border Regions (AEBR)

Secretary General Jens Gabbe makes a brief summary of the organisational structures of AEBR.

§ 6 ERB marketing/information

"Quarterly"

The amount of money previously collected to produce a new issue of the Quarterly is suggested to be transferred to the present Presidency – Sweden (from the Lithuanian party?). We should stick to the previous principle that the responsibility to produce such reports should follow the Presidency. We discuss the matter of replacing the "Quarterly" with a common updated "*Annual Report*" on the activities of ERB after each presidency and that newsletters should be a matter for each region to deal with themselves.

Internet web-site

An ERB web-site was established in 1998 but has since then not been paid for. Therefore it is now a free site. Sweden proposes to register the site again to start working actively. The cost is approx. 300 USD and an additional yearly amount of approx. 30USD. Sweden suggests that the responsibility/practical work with the Web-site should follow the Presidency. When the secretariat moves to a new region the codes are given to the new presidency secretariat for them to be able to put out information on the web.

The Web-site could for instance contain minutes from meetings, information on working group activities, partner search etc. The national secretariats will discuss more in detail what should be on the web/what should not etc.

Mr Andersen suggests that a group of technical experts from each region is formed to handle web-site issues etc.

Decision

The board agrees to registering the web site again. The Swedish Presidency will take the charge. The responsibility/practical work with the web site shall follow the presidency in office.

An annual report replaces the Quarterly and is produced by the Presidency in office at the time. The amount of money on a Lithuanian account previously meant for an issue of the Quarterly should be transferred to the Swedish presidency – to produce an annual report.

§ 7 VASAB 2010 Plus Draft Report

Mr Karlson comments on the letter sent to VASAB. The chairman has received approx. 500 comments.

The Polish party regrets not having been able to give any input before sending the letter since it is a very important document.

§ 8 EXPO 2002 in Kaliningrad

The Swedish party states that it is important to choose specific fields/a focus for the EXPO. If not there is a risk that no companies will participate.

Possible fields with an interest from businesses in South-east Sweden could be Environmental Technology and Polymer/Plastic.

The Centre of Baltic Expo has reported that possible exhibition dates are within the period 23 May – 7 July 2002.

Forum South Sweden will be held in Kaliningrad 30-31 May 2002. The Swedish party would like to investigate the possibility of arranging the EXPO parallelly to the Forum if possible.

Mr Slonina suggests that each country prepares two parts for the EXPO :

1. info-stand – e.g. on tourism
2. commercial part – companies with the special focus that we decide on – seminars

It is important to decide the exact dates as soon as possible for the Chambers of Commerce to prepare everything, Ministries of Economy etc etc

Each party should present a contact person for the EXPO to Victor Koshelev.

Mr Kaliff suggests that each party thinks it over during the summer – contacts companies at home to learn more about their interest. In August a decision has to be taken about the Focus.

Decision

A definite decision has to be taken in August 2001. The board however decides that the preliminary focus should be as follows :

- environmental technology
- tourism/foods
- possibly two more areas will be chosen after discussion with the Chambers of Commerce in each region

Preliminary dates for the EXPO: 30-31 May 2002

§ 9 Projects

An invitation concerning a football tournament in Kaliningrad end October 2001 has been given to the Swedish secretariat. One club in Kalmar has shown an interest in taking part but more specific information is needed.

Poland has no information at all and wishes to receive more information about such a project.

§ 10 Forthcoming dates/Activity plan 2001

Mr Kaliff repeats the importance of sticking to decided dates for meetings.

He also presents an idea to invite the ambassadors in Latvia representing the national level of each ERB region to the meeting in Liepaja 12-13 November (Board/Council and ERB 2002+ seminar). We would then inform about our work in ERB. In August the Swedish party will present the idea more in detail after consulting the Swedish Foreign Ministry.

The Polish party reports about meetings with the national level in Poland in which ERB issues are considered thoroughly. Once a year a meeting with all Polish Euroregions is held to discuss matters concerning foreign co-operation.

Mr Andersen strongly supports the idea to invite ambassadors as well as representatives from governmental level to inform about our work.

Decision

The Swedish party will present the idea more in detail in August.

§ 11 Multiple Visa for ERB members

Victor Koshelev explains the difficulty to receive a visa to Latvia.

Decision

The Swedish party will discuss the matter with the Foreign Ministry in Sweden to see what possibilities there might be from a Swedish point of view. The board will continue the discussion on border crossing problems and possibly produce a common letter from all parties to each national level to explain the problems.

§ 12 AEBR

20-22 September the 30th Anniversary of the Assembly of European Border Regions is celebrated. Mr Kaliff and Ms Lindbom will participate for EBR.

A representative for the AEBR will take part in the Council meeting 21-22 August to inform about membership fees etc (*has later been cancelled*).

Roger Kaliff
President

Henryk Slonina, Mayor of Elblag
Elected to check the minutes

Maria Lindbom
Secretariat