



Euroregion Baltic
Present Presidency
Southeast Sweden 2001-2002

11 March 2002

Minutes Euroregion Baltic Executive Board Liepaja, 11 March 2002

- Board members:** Roger Kaliff, President, Southeast Sweden
Normunds Niedols, Vice President, Liepaja City Council
Henryk Slonina, Poland
- National secretariats:** Roma Stubriene, Klaipeda County
Victor Koshelev, Kaliningrad region
Maria Lindbom, Southeast Sweden
PG Lindencrona, Southeast Sweden
Gunta Strele, Liepaja City Council
Gunars Ansins, Liepaja City Council
Zdzislaw Olszewski, Poland
Niels Chresten Andersen, Bornholm
- Interreg IIIB (PIA):** Håkan Brynielsson, Chairman of Working group
Rolf A Karlson, Expert
Zbigniew Czepulkowski, member of Working group

§ 1 Appointment of member to co-sign the minutes of today's meeting

Mr Niedols is chosen to check and co-sign the minutes of today's meeting.

§ 2 ERB Statutes proposal

Björn Johansson presents the new version of the ERB statutes, including amendments, which the national secretariats have agreed to include in the proposal to the Executive Board. The proposal has been sent to the national secretariats prior to this meeting.

The board discusses the proposal by going through the statutes article by article. The following changes are agreed:

§4: between the points "working groups" and "the secretariats" add "*as an administrative body*"

§5c: in the end of the sentence add "*and the Agreement*"

All other articles are left unchanged.

Decision

The proposal is accepted by the board and will be presented and finally decided on by the Council later this afternoon.

§ 3 ERB 2002+ Final Report

As a result from discussions in two seminars, common priorities have been identified for ERB efforts during 2002-2003. The Swedish presidency therefore proposes to give special attention to the following issues:

- Make it possible for the National Secretariats and Working Groups to meet.
- Elaborate a training course for project supervisors and project managers (*which will partly be carried through within the "Good Governance" project*).
- Initiate a dialogue about border crossing problems.

Decision

The board takes the report to the minutes and gives priority to the above-mentioned issues during the year 2002.

§ 4 EXPO 2002

The EXPO was discussed at a secretariat meeting in Klaipeda mid February. The Russian party then declared that it is not possible to postpone the event. An invitation will be sent to all parties within AMOKO soon. Also actors from other parts of Russia have shown interest in taking part.

According to Baltic Expo in Kaliningrad 42 companies had registered by the beginning of February – mostly from Poland and Lithuania.

The secretariats' proposal to the board/council:

- The EXPO shall contain two different parts; one focusing on SME:s and one on local and regional authorities (e g tourism).
- The SME-expo shall focus on tourism and environmental protection.
- It is not obligatory to participate, neither in the SME- nor in the municipal part.
- No other official ERB meetings will be held during the EXPO.

The Polish party informs that the Chambers of Commerce in Elblag and Gdansk are involved and that they expect approximately 50 companies to participate.

Decision

The board approves the information and proposals presented by the National Secretariats.

§ 5 Maritime Safety – Kaliningrad project proposal

Victor Koshelev informs about a project idea concerning Maritime Safety in the ERB region. The ERB co-operation is based on trade routes; ship-/cargo routes that once existed. Now when new connections are established, there is a need to discuss issues of maritime safety in the Southeast Baltic Sea region.

In Kaliningrad oblast a safety organisation is now being formed. The long-term aim of a project within ERB could be to create a common rescue organisation. Later the project could also include air-safety and safety on roads in the ERB region(s).

Decision

The board fully supports the idea to form a project as presented by Mr Koshelev and gives the task to the new board/Latvian Presidency to further develop details together with the Kaliningrad region.

§ 6 Letter from AEBR concerning ERB membership fee 2002

Several letters have been received from Assembly of European Border Regions (AEBR) concerning ERB membership. Due to financial problems, the council has earlier declared that ERB is not yet ready to apply for a full membership in AEBR. ERB however wish to remain in contact with AEBR for further discussions about alternate possibilities.

Decision

The new board/Latvian Presidency shall contact AEBR to discuss prerequisites and possibilities for co-operation/ERB membership.

§ 7 ERB Annual Report 2001

Maria Lindbom summarises briefly the proposal for ERB Annual Report 2001.

In 2001 discussions and operations focused on the following issues and areas:

- Strategy for Euroregion Baltic
- Development of the ERB organisation; aims, forms, resources and methods for co-operation
- Continued networking between different actors of the ERB regions
- Efforts to form project applications
- Development of a common ERB web site (<http://www.eurobalt.org>)
- Border Crossing problems
- Visa regulation problems between the ERB regions
- Continued efforts of ERB Working Groups (see below)
- Development of the yearly event ERB EXPO

The secretariats are kindly asked to send corrections and additional information within two week, before translating and printing the report.

Decision

The board approves the presented Annual Report 2001.

§ 8 PIA group progress report

Rolf Karlson describes the progress of the Seagull project preparations.

§ 9 Approval of project “Good Governance”

The Swedish Government has approved the project Good Governance (SEK 1 940 000).

The project includes 3 one-day seminars for politicians and 2 three-day seminars for officials/trainers, as well as financial support to the national secretariats. Main project beneficiaries in ERB are the Latvian, Lithuanian and Kaliningrad parties. The Polish and Danish parties are of course welcome to participate at their own expense.

English and Russian translations of the project will be sent to the national secretariats within a few weeks. The “Good Governance” meetings and seminars will be co-ordinated with other ERB meetings as much as possible.

§ 10 Forthcoming dates

Dates for board/council meetings in year 2002 will be discussed later this afternoon during the Council meeting.

Roger Kaliff
President

Normunds Niedols
Vice President

Maria Lindbom
Secretariat