

**ERB BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Gdansk, 16th November 2004**

Location

Pomeranian Marshal's Office, Gdansk, Okopowa St. 21 – 27

Time

9.00 – 13.00 ERB Board meeting
13.00 – 14.00 Lunch at the venue

Participants

Members of ERB Board:

Mr Jan Kozłowski, Poland
Ms Annelise Molin, Denmark
Ms Lillebill Grähs, Sweden
(substitute for ERB Board member, Mr Anders Åkesson)

Secretariats:

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen, Denmark
Mr Gunta Ceplevica, Latvia
Ms Elena Butorova, Russia
Ms Olga Grigoreva, Russia
Mr Erik Ciardi, Sweden
Mr Zdzislaw Olszewski, Poland
Ms Magdalena Szymanowska, Poland
Mr Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski, Poland

Youth representatives:

Ms Ewelina Bonar, Poland

Invited guests:

Mr Rolf Karlson, Seagull Project Coordinator, Sweden
Mr Marcin Szpak, Vice-President of Gdańsk, Poland
Mr Ludwik Szakiel, Starograd Gdański City Office, Poland
Ms Anna Golec, Pomeranian Marshal's Office, Poland
Mr Dariusz Gobis, Pomeranian Marshal's Office, Poland
Mr Marcin Popiel, Pomeranian Marshal's Office, Poland
Mr Andrzej Łącki, Poland

Interpreter:

Ms Wanda Stec, Russian language interpreter

1. ERB Board's internal matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Due to temporary absence of ERB President, a proposal was put forward to first discuss points 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9 of the agenda. Ms L. Grahs suggested including two points to the agenda:

10) ERB position on proposed European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

11) ERB international website

The Board approved the proposal to extend the agenda, and agreed to discuss the proposed points.

1.2 Signing the Minutes from ERB Board meeting 3rd September 2004

The minutes of ERB Board meeting on 3rd September, 2004 were signed by Ms A. Molin, and ERB Board meeting on 16th June, 2004 by Mr J. Kozłowski. The Lithuanian partners will sign the minutes after they have been posted by the International Secretariat.

1.3 Appointing the Board members to co-sign the minutes from this Board meeting

The minutes of this meeting will be signed by Ms A. Molin and Mr J. Kozłowski.

7. Invitation to participate in the proposed projects of:

7.1 Operation Sail 2005

A presentation was delivered of an application involving the participation in the Sail Training International 2005, more commonly known as Operation Sail by Mr A. Łacki (Attachment 1). The project will be submitted within Phare Small Project Fund, Baltic Sea Region. After the presentation questions were asked. Mr N. Ch. Andersen asked if partnership statements are necessary, if promotional activities are envisaged in the ports where the yachts will harbour, if the youths are responsible for preparing these promotional activities, and how many people can board the yachts at the same time. Mr A. Łacki responded that at least one partnership statement is necessary (the Danish party signed such a declaration), 22 people can board the two yachts maximum, and that the yacht need three people crew each: a captain, a co-captain and an assistant. The youth taking part in the race do not need to have sailing qualifications. Relevant promotional materials should be provided by the secretariat in Elbląg and the national secretariats. Other organizational matters relating to the project were clarified. The Board accepted the proposal to submit the project and expects that more detailed information will follow from the beneficiary after the project has been approved.

7.2 Youth Olympic Games

Mr Ludwik Szakiel presented the project of the Olympic Youth Games to be held in the summer 2005, following Phare Managing Authority's approval. He officially invited ERB member regions to attend the event. After the presentation a short discussion

followed in which an approval was expressed by all to participate in the event. A request was also made that Starogard Gdański should submit another project within Phare Small Project Fund, which would enable to hold the games in 2006 too.

7.3 From the Sea We Are Arts Competition

Invitations were distributed among ERB regions' representatives to participate in the 21st edition of this arts competition, which will be held in May 2005.

2 ERB Youth Group's Phare Application

Following up on the meeting of ERB youths held in Olsztyn on September 3rd 2004, Ms Ewelina Bonar, an ERB youth group's representative outlined a project which is being prepared in order to facilitate cooperation among young people in ERB to be submitted within Phare Small Project Fund, Baltic Sea Region (Attachment 2).

A discussion followed where a variety of opinions were presented. Mr Z Olszewski talked about the danger to the project posed by the fact that the Polish Association of Communes would be its beneficiary as the EU delegation is reluctant to approve projects submitted by euroregions. He also proposed that Malbork municipality is a beneficiary. If this proposal is accepted by Malbork mayor, there is a good chance that the subsidy is granted to the project. Mr N.Ch. Andersen complimented the project and asked what contribution into its preparation was delivered by young representatives from the other regions. Ms. E. Bonar said she had informed via email the youth partners and received feedback from them. Mr E. Ciardi stated the project might be too vast, and the project's author replied that the project's main activity is to make a film and in order to meet all the expectations a large number of young people would need to be involved. Ms A. Golec commented on the project's title which in her opinion should be changed from "Let's get to know each other in Baltic Sea Region" to "Let's get to know each other in Euroregion Baltic". Ms E. Butorova asked who the film will be made by and how the relating costs will be covered. Ms E. Bonar responded that the project's budget includes the costs incurred in Poland, transport costs are covered by the participants, and shooting the film in Russia will be the Russian contribution into the project. A short debate followed on how to minimize the cost of making the film, e.g. by shooting it by amateurs and only editing it with the help of professionals, or even better to have it edited by such institutions dealing with film making as universities. Nevertheless, Ms E. Butorova said that even travelling to schools where the film would be made will result in costs and one-day visit to Poland of a group of 25 people is about EUR 250, which the Tacis programme cannot fund. In the end, an agreement was reached that at that moment the budgetary problems cannot be solved and we should not expect that these activities would bring about a professional output, but rather let the youths do what they can do within the budget available. Ms L. Grahs, Ms A. Molin and Mr E. Ciardi stressed that the important issue is to have the project approved as it would be the first effective activity by ERB young representatives.

9. Green Circle Schools' current status

Mr E. Ciardi outlined recent activities implemented within the project. Ms M. Szymanowska reported on a meeting held in Elbląg between 28th September and 1st October, 2004. Primary School No 19 and High School No 4 had organized a conference attracting teachers from the schools participating in the project, which is co-financed by

Socrates – Comenius programme and in its second year of implementation. The Polish partner financed participation of the Russian teachers from Zielenogradsk. That was the fourth conference, and a very successful one.

The project's activities are divided into 10 sectors. A Danish – Lithuanian – Polish calendar has just been issued on ecological lifestyle. A brochure is being prepared on clear waters.

A short break followed.

6. Crossborder Network III

Mr Z. Olszewski presented a proposal of a cooperation scheme called Crossborder Network, whose two previous editions brought together representatives of local and regional governments and organizations from Lithuania, Poland, and Russia in partner search activities. This suggested third edition would involve partners from Denmark, Poland, and Russia.

Mr N. Ch. Andersen confirmed the Danish participation, as Bornholm's attention is directed at cooperation with Polish and Russian partners, and suggested remaining open to a possible participation of the Swedish partner while implementing the project.

3. ERB International Permanent Secretariat's information on:

3.1 Interim Financial Report

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański presented a short interim report on activities by the International Secretariat, including financial report on the period between 1st July and 30th October, 2004 (Attachment 3).

3.2 Seed Money Application

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański informed that the Seed Money application was approved and activities planned in the project started on 1st November, 2004. ERB parties appointed the following representatives the Seagull II Project Task Force: Mr N. Ch. Andersen, Mr. E. Ciardi, Mr. M. Popiel, Mr. M. Karpiński and S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański.

3.3 Working visits to the ERB regions to discuss cooperation within the Seagull II Project

ERB International Secretariat made an itinerary of visits to the regions in order to anchor the project politically and to define the structure of its Steering Committee.

After the presentation a discussion followed on financial contributions the regions declared to pay in order to support ERB IPS. Ms G. Ceplevica stated that the Latvian partner did not agree to cover their contribution as the politicians who make such decisions are not convinced about the necessity of functioning of such a secretariat and they do see any benefit directly to their region. Most importantly, the 2004 budget does not make it possible for them to include such expenditure. Mr J. Kozłowski asked if a

budget for next year includes the contribution. Ms G. Ceplevica replied that it will be difficult to include the contribution in the next year's budget as she herself has no real influence on the decisions made by Kurzeme Regional Development Council. She also suggested that ERB President should come to Riga and talk to the Council. On her part she made an obligation to offer a few possible dates for the President to come to Latvia. Mr N. Ch. Andersen pointed out that no reaction had been voiced by the Latvian partner towards the decisions made by ERB Council and Board. For the past six months no personal contact has been possible with the representatives of the Latvian party, nor has there been any written statements on their official position. Mr Z. Olszewski presented added value that is available for the Latvian partner thanks to their membership in ERB. The number of Polish – Latvian projects implemented within Phare CBC has systematically decreased, and after the Latvian Secretariat was moved from Liepaja to Riga no single project has been made. Detailed information on crossborder cooperation between Poland and Latvia will be brought up at the meeting taking place later on the same day. Ms E. Butorove said that she had been denied for the third time to settle the Russian outstanding contribution by the Oblast Duma, but she hoped that following the election on 5th December new authorities will respond positively.

4. ERB / Seagull Conference on 2-3 December in Gdańsk

Mr D. Gobis presented the current preparation status to the conference. Simultaneous English – Polish – Russian interpretation will be provided at plenary sessions and two of the four daily workshops. A list of moderators and experts to take part in the workshops is being prepared. Mr R. Karslon confirmed the conference is a joint effort by ERB and the Seagull project, and the Seagull project will cover some of the expenditure. Cooperation with Pomeranian Marshal's Office and International Secretariat on this matter is very good. He also requested that a number of participants to the conference in each national delegation should be known. The Swedish partner will provide the shortened version of JTDP to be translated by the national secretariats and distributed among their delegations.

5. ERB Board meeting in Brussels in January 2005

Mr J. Kozłowski informed that the next ERB Board meeting will take place in Brussels on 24 – 25th January, 2005. The Board agreed that the meeting will take two days. EU Regional Policy Commissioner Ms D. Hubner will take part in the meeting on 24th January. The Polish party will prepare the meeting considering the possibility of holding an exhibition to present achievements by each ERB party with respect to crossborder cooperation, and the possibility of organizing the Polish evening with tasting of traditional Polish dishes. Together with the national secretariats it will attempt at holding a meeting with representatives of the ERB regions members, residing in Brussels.

Mr N. Ch. Andersen suggested that the second day of the Board meeting should be spent having working sessions including the issues of EU Commission proposals of European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and European Groupings of Crossborder Cooperation as they remain the key issues for the future of ERB. Mr Z. Olszewski informed that preparatory work on this meeting will begin once Ms K. Wróblewska is back from Brussels and ongoing information on the preparatory status will be available. Mr R. Karslon hoped that he will be able to present initial output of the Seagull project at the January meeting.

8. Seagull's current status

Mr R. Karslon reported on the Steering Committee meeting that was held in Gdańsk on 3rd November, 2004. He presented the current status of the Seagull project, focusing on the activities planned for the coming months.

10. ERB position on European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

Ms L. Grahs presented a draft position, as suggested by the Swedish partner on, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (Attachment 4). Ms. A. Golec presented a document voicing a common position by five Baltic organizations on the same issue (Attachment 5). Afterwards, a discussion began in which Ms A. Molin stated that it is important for ERB to have a position on the issue. Mr N. Ch. Andersen pointed out that a key element was missing in the Swedish proposal, i.e. important sea crossings. Mr D. Gobis suggested that the Pomeranian Marshal's Office should have time to know the Swedish proposal and prepare a position of good quality. ERB Board approved the proposal that the Marshal's Office in Gdańsk will make a draft position paper and send it out to the national secretariats for consultation.

11. ERB international website

Ms. L. Grahs proposed to include a calendar of events planned in ERB regions on our international website. ERB International Secretariat will request that all ERB national secretariats send such a list.

12. Any Other Business

Ms A. Molin appealed that ERB national secretariats request their elected politicians representing their regions in ERB Council and Board to take active part in ERB work and meetings.

The meeting was concluded.

.....
Jan Kozłowski
ERB President

.....
Annelise Molin
ERB Board Member