



## ERB COUNCIL MEETING

### Agenda

**Date:**

14<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
14.30 – 18.30 hours (local time)

**Meeting Place:**

Vämö Center, Landstinget Blekinge, Gamla Infartsvägen, Karlskrona,

**Participants:**

**ERB BOARD MEMBERS**

Pluhin, Mr	Mikhail	ERB President, Kaliningrad Region
Johnson, Mr	Bernth	ERB Vice-President, Blekinge County
Kozłowski, Mr	Jan	Member of the Board, Pomorskie Region
Mincinauskiene, Ms	Raisa	Member of the Board, Klaipeda County
Petersen, Mr	Per Ole	Member of the Board, Bornholm

**ERB COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Andersson, Ms	Kerstin	ERB Council Member, Blekinge
Bolmar, Mr	Ken	Member of Regional Municipal Council, Bornholm
Gajos, Mr	Robert	ERB Council Member, Blekinge
Kaliff, Mr	Roger	Chair of the Board of Kalmar Municipal Council
Koshelev, Mr	Victor	Deputy Head of Municipality of Baltijsk
Kuznecov, Mr	Alexander	Member of Kaliningrad Duma
Makuskiene, Mrs	Dalia	Klaipeda County Administration
Nilsson, Mr	Åke	Member of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar
Pasławska, Ms	Urszula	Vice-Chair of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region Board
Rozkov-Yurevski, Mr	Yuri	Representative of Kaliningrad Region's Government to Poland
Semmerling, Ms	Jolanta	Mayor of Młynary

Ślonina, Mr	Henryk	Mayor of Elblag
Szmurło, Mr	Zbigniew	on behalf of Governor of Pomorskie Region
Torkan, Mr	Mikhail	Deputy for ERB Council member, Mr Boris Batalin
Yaroshevitch, Mr	Fedor	Head of Baltijsk Municipality
Zielińska, Ms	Joanna	Member of Gdynia Municipal Council

#### **SPECIAL GUESTS**

Baryła, Mr	Tadeusz	Scientific Research Centre in Olsztyn
Bülow, Mr	Hans	Sydösran Daily, Blekinge
Cederström, Ms	Anna-Lena	CEO of Region Blekinge Administration
Ciaglys, Mr	Mindaugas	Second Secretary of Eastern Europe & Central Asia Department at Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dolgov, Mr	Mikhail	Karlskrona Municipality, Baltijsk Project Coordinator
Johansson, Mr	Mats	Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Blekinge County
Kurczewska-Svensson	Magdalena	Honorary Consul of Poland in Karlskrona
Löfgren, Mr	Bo	Member of the International Committee, Region Blekinge
Lundgren, Mr	Bo	Delegate to the Board of Kalmar Regional Council
Macakanian, Mr	David	General Consul of Russian Federation in Gothenburg
Olsson, Mr	Tommy	Vice-Chair of the Board of Karlskrona Municipality
Schubert, Mr	Tilmah	Baltic Gateway Plus Project representative
Stavitskaya, Ms	Natalia	Head of Financial and Legal Department, Government of Kaliningrad Region
Svensson, Ms	Suzanne	Member of the International Committee, Region Blekinge
Szklany, Mr	Ryszard	Head of European Cooperation Unit, Department of Consular and Polonia Affairs, Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Wendt, Mr	Alexander	2nd Vice-Chair of Region Blekinge Board

#### **SECRETARIATS**

Andersen, Mr	Niels Chresten	Director of EU Office Bornholm
Andersson, Mr	Ulf	Administration of of Regional Council in Southern Smaland
Åstrand-Karlsson, Mr	Tor-Björn	Region Blekinge Administration Officer
Demkowicz-Dobrzański, Mr	Slawomir	Head of ERB International Secretariat
Grigoreva, Ms	Olga	Seagull 2 Staff
Joelsson, Mrs	Ulrika	Regional ERB Secretariat in Kalmar County
Koroleva, Ms	Elena	Coordinator at CBC Department, Ministry of Territorial Cooperation, Kaliningrad
Lindencrona, Mr	Per Gudmund	Region Blekinge, Project Coordinator
Liutkute, Ms	Viktorija	Klaipeda County Administration Officer
Olszewski, Mr	Zdzisław	Director of Secretariat of Association of Polish Communes ERB
Romanovski, Mr	Victor	Head of CBC Department, Ministry of Territorial Cooperation, Kaliningrad
Stańczyk, Ms	Kora	International Cooperation Department at Pomorskie Marshal's Office

Szymanowska, Mrs	Magdalena	Secretariat of Association of Polish Communes ERB
Wolski, Mr	Rafał	Director of European Integration Department at Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office
Wróblewska, Ms	Krystyna	Director of International Cooperation Department at Pomorskie Marshal's Office
Zdanova, Mrs	Julia	Seagull 2 Staff
Zwolak, Mr	Piotr	Department of European Integration at Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office

#### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Dawicka, Ms	Grażyna	English language interpreter
Firkowicz, Ms	Eugenia	Russian language interpreter
Fridh, Ms	Marie	Trainee, Region Blekinge
Grabarczyk, Ms	Małgorzata	Swedish language interpreter
Kanthak, Ms	Anna	Swedish language interpreter
Korczy-Bombała, Ms	Irena	Russian language interpreter
Krzyżanowski, Mr	Wojciech	English language interpreter
Polakowski, Mr	Ryszard	Conference video coverage
Rzeczyński, Mr	Alexander	Translation equipment service person
Taczyński, Mr	Tomasz	Translation equipment service person

09.45 – 12.45 Study Visit, Program by Bernth Johnson, Blekinge County Council Chairman and President of Euroregion Baltic (ERB).

13.00 Lunch at the venue (Vämö Center)

14.00 Start of the meeting

## **1. WELCOME**

Mr Bernth Johnson, ERB Vice-President and host of the meeting welcomed the participants.

## **2. OPENING OF THE ERB COUNCIL MEETING**

ERB President, Mr Mikhail Pluhin opened the Council meeting.

## **3. SIGNING THE MINUTES OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING IN SVETLOGORSK**

ERB President, Mr Mikhail Pluhin and ERB Vice-President, Mr Bernth Johnson placed their signatures in approval of the minutes from the previous ERB Council session on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

## **4. SUBMISSION OF THE 2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

ERB President, Mr Mikhail Plukhin presented the 2006 Annual Report for Euroregion Baltic, including the activity and financial parts. The participants received the 2006 Annual Report released by the International Secretariat, which distributed its copies of the Report among the ERB Parties.

## **5. TRANSFER OF ERB PRESIDENCY TO THE SWEDISH PARTY**

The outgoing President, Mr Mikhail Plukhin transferred the chairmanship of the ERB Board to Mr Bernth Johnson, Blekinge County Council Chairman.

Mr Mikhail Plukhin, and his aid, Mr Victor Romanovsky, as well as the Head of the Russian Secretariat, Mr Victor Koshelev and the Head of the International Secretariat, Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański received gifts from the delegations of Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden.

The incoming President, Mr Bernth Johnson gave a brief opening speech, addressing all the participating parties with a request for assistance in his work for the benefit of the Euroregion, expressing his belief that collaboration will result in a successful year ahead.

With the transfer of the ERB presidency the position of the ERB Vice-President was now taken by Mr Per Ole Petersen, representing the Danish Party.

## **6. ADOPTION OF ERB STRATEGY FOR 2007 – 2008**

The national secretariats of Denmark and Sweden prepared an outline of the strategy for the Swedish and Danish presidencies from March 2007 till March 2009. This outline is a logical consequence of the institution building process within Euroregion Baltic, having been implemented since 2003: beginning with the development of a common strategy, through the establishment of a joint secretariat, to the realisation of the Seagull II project. Following the debate at the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007 in Elblag, the ERB Board presented the Strategy to be discussed and adopted by the ERB Council members.

A debate followed in which ERB President Bernth Johnson indicated the Strategy will help to focus and coordinate the cooperation within Euroregion Baltic. Mr Per Ole Petersen pointed out that the Strategy presents the joint effort of the Danish and Swedish Parties to better coordinate the implantation of the Joint Development Programme (JDP) and the next presidency transfer. This view was backed up by M Niels Chresten Andersen who added that apart from the ERB JDP, the Strategy also looks

into other important aspects of the ERB cooperation, e.g. youth and people-to-people projects.

Mr Bo Löfgren brought up the issue of maritime safety which, he said, was missing in the Strategy. He informed the Council that a Green Paper was launched in June 2006: "Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union". Until the end of June 2007 everyone can give their input in the consultation of this Green Paper, which will lead to a Commission report by the end of 2007, summarising the results of the consultation process and proposing the way forward. Since the ERB consists of regions heavily depending on the maritime economy and as an EU Maritime Policy cannot be managed without cooperation with third countries like the Russian Federation, it seems obvious for the ERB to take active part in the consultation on the Maritime Green Paper. Therefore, he proposed that the ERB Council gives the ERB Board the task of preparing a statement regarding the Green Paper.

The ERB Council members unanimously approved of the ERB Strategy 2007 – 2008 and the motion to take up the task of drafting the statement regarding the Green Paper.

## **7. ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION FOR THE ORDER CROSSING CONFERENCE**

Based on the discussions at the first Border Crossing conference in Svetlogorsk on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006 and the study commissioned to examine the impact of the EU Enlargement, at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007 the ERB Board agreed on an outline for a resolution to be discussed at the ERB Council meeting and adopted at the second Border Crossing conference in Karlskrona on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

After the Board meeting the National Secretariats and IPS consulted national foreign ministries and adjusted the resolution contents. The comments came from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and were consulted among the ERB Secretariats before the ERB Council meeting. The comments from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs came only a few days before and had not been up to that moment consulted among the ERB Secretariats. Therefore, ERB President Bernth Johnson called for a 15-minute break, allowing the Secretariats to consult each other and work out an agreed text of the resolution.

During the break, representatives of the National Secretariats discussed the contents of the resolution in the light of the comments proposed by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and agreed on the final text of the resolution. After the break ERB President Bernth Johnson resumed the meeting and the ERB Council members formally adopted the resolution that was signed on their behalf by all the ERB Board members.

## **8. ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION ON THE GDYNIA – KARLSKRONA MOTORWAY OF THE SEA**

A request was presented by the Swedish partnership of the Baltic Link Association and the Polish partnership of the Amber Road Cities Association in support of the initiative aiming at the establishment of the "Motorways of the Sea Karlskrona – Gdynia", as well as the Lithuanian – Swedish partnership aiming at the construction of the "Motorways of the Sea Klaipeda - Karlshamn". It came up as a follow-up to the Joint Statement of Euroregion Baltic (ERB), regarding upgrading of the TEN transport corridors in Europe, adopted by the Council on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

The ERB Council members adopted the resolution that was signed on their behalf by all the ERB Board members.

## **9. INFORMATION ON EU TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES COVERING THE ERB AREA IN 2007 – 2013**

Mr Victor Romanovski presented the information on the preparation work towards the new generation of the trilateral Neighbourhood Programme for the crossborder cooperation between Lithuania, Poland and Kaliningrad Region. Although this process is only in its early stage and no definite arrangements had yet been confirmed, the Programme may constitute a very important financial instrument to facilitate the cooperation among the Lithuanian, Polish and Russian partners of Euroregion Baltic, offering a total budget of over 160 million euros.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen presented the information on the preparation work towards the new programme for the crossborder cooperation in the South Baltic. He informed that the newly appointed Joint Programming Committee (JPC) met on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 in Warsaw to discuss the first programme draft and further time schedule for the programming process. A full programme draft will be transmitted to the European Commission on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007 for informal consultation including a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007. The JPC will meet again 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007 and expects to have a final draft programme ready for public consultations in the involved member states and regions between 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007. The final draft will then be transmitted to the European Commission for final approval before the end of May 2007.

The main focus of the programme will be:

- Competitiveness, in relation to entrepreneurial development, labour market integration and transport accessibility
- Attractiveness and common identity, in relation to the Baltic Sea environment, energy savings and renewable energy, natural and cultural heritage, and local community initiatives.

ERB Council members took note of the information and emphasised the fact of great importance to the ERB partners that the Programme operational document specifically indicates the Kaliningrad Region as an external partner in the Programme.

## **10. STATUS REPORT ON THE SEAGULL II IMPLEMENTATION**

The representatives of the project and reference networks: Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański, Kora Stańczyk, Niels Chresten Andersen and Ulf Andersson presented the schedule of the networks' activities, including the following elements:

- Introducing the members of the network and the core group;
- Presenting the expert of the network;
- Introducing the outcome of the first activities held in January 2007;
- Presenting the schedule of activities for 2007, considering concrete results, that were planned during the first meetings;

Since the Seagull 2 project in 2007 enters its decisive stage of the realisation, the activity of the networks will have major significance for the success of the project, as well as for the subsequent implementation the Joint Development Programme. Therefore, the ERB Council members were requested to consider the schedules to be the formal action plan in the Euroregion Baltic.

During the following discussion a few essential problems related to the effective functioning of the networks were addressed in search for political and administrative support on the part of ERB member regions into the implementation process. It was recommended that the ERB Council members contact Seagull 2 regional coordinators in order to find who the project partners are in their respective regions in order to facilitate more active and efficient involvement of relevant actors in the project. It was also

proposed that every Board and Council there will be a regular review of all the network activities.

Mr Ken Bolmar suggested that the networks which do not function well should be eliminated. Elimination criteria should be set against the fulfillment of their 2007 action plan. The reason is lack of response and participation, especially within the Energy Network. The decision to eliminate particular networks needs to be taken if the situation does not improve and the partners registered in the networks remain inactive.

## **11. PREPARATION OF THE ERB BOARD MEETING IN BRUSSELS**

In order to improve the visibility and lobbying functions of the Euroregion, the ERB Strategy 2007-2008 proposes organising an ERB Board meeting in Brussels during the Open Days week in October 2007, held by the European Commission DG Regio and the Committee of Regions.

ERB Council members were informed that the preliminary date for the meeting is 11<sup>th</sup> October, and the venue is planned to be the Regional Office of Pomorskie in Brussels, following confirmation of availability of the conference room.

The International Secretariat will continue preparations for this meeting regarding the enrolment for the Open Days events and assisting in hotel accommodation although the travel expenses will have to be borne by the ERB parties themselves.

## **12. PREPARATION FOR THE EUROREGIONAL CONFERENCE IN SVETLOGORSK**

Upon President's request, the Head of ERB National Secretariat in Russia presented the information on the conference organised within the BEN project in Svetlogorsk in September 2007.

The Head of the Russian Secretariat, Mr Victor Koshelev informed the Council that the Conference will deal with euroregional cooperation. During its course a round table will be held and devoted to the collaboration of the North-West regions of Russia and the Baltic States which the ERB could partake of. The Conference is scheduled for 27 and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and more information will be available after the coordination meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

ERB Council members took note of the information on the preparation status and requested further briefing once more details are disclosed.

## **13. SETTING OF THE DATE FOR THE NEXT ERB COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Council meeting was proposed to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in Gdańsk in Pomorskie Region, in accordance with the ERB Strategy for the Danish and Swedish presidencies, as well as with the schedule of the Seagull II project, whose final conference will follow on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

At the ERB Board meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007 it was agreed that the heads of the regional representations in Brussels, which some of the ERB members have, will also be invited in order to facilitate a discussion on ERB participating in the Open Days event in October 2008.

ERB Council members approved of the both dates, also giving their support to the idea of inviting the heads of the regional representations in Brussels.

**17.30 CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

At that moment the agenda was completed and ERB President Bernth Johnson closed the official part of the meeting.