



# **EUROREGION BALTIC**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2007 - 2008**



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**Bernth Johnson**, Chairman of Blekinge County Council in Sweden chaired the **Euroregion Baltic Executive Board** that consisted of four other national representatives:

**Jan Kozłowski**, Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship, Poland

**Raisa Mincinauskiene**, Vice-Governor of Klaipeda County, Lithuania

**Per Ole Petersen**, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Denmark

**Mihail J. Pluhin**, Minister for Development of Territories and Cooperation with the Municipalities of Kaliningrad Oblast, Russia

During the Swedish Presidency **Euroregion Baltic Executive Board** met on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007 in Elblag (Poland), 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2007 in Vilnius (Lithuania), 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007 on Öland (Sweden), 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in Brussels (Belgium) and on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008 in Växjö (Sweden).

**Euroregion Baltic Council** held its meetings on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 in Karlskrona (Sweden) and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in Gdańsk (Poland).

In 2007 - 2008 **Euroregion Baltic Council** was constituted by 32 members:

**Bornholm - Denmark**

1. **Ken Bolmar**, Member of Regional Council on Bornholm
2. **Per Ole Petersen**, Member of Regional Council on Bornholm

**Klaipeda - Lithuania**

3. **Vaclovas Dackauskas**, Mayor of Klaipeda District
4. **Arvydas Jakas**, Mayor of Silute District, (replaced by **Virgilijus Pozingis**)
5. **Dalia Makuskiene**, Chief Officer of Foreign Relations Office in Klaipeda County
6. **Raisa Mincinauskiene**, Vice-Governor of Klaipeda County
7. **Vytautas Rinkievicius**, Governor of Klaipeda County
8. **Rimantas Taraskevicius**, Mayor of City of Klaipeda

**Kaliningrad - Russian Federation**

9. **Boris Batalin**, Member of Kaliningrad Region Duma
10. **Alexander Gregorev**, Association of Municipalities of Kaliningrad Region
11. **Fedor Jaroshevitch**, Head of Baltijsk Municipality
12. **Victor Koshelev**, Deputy Head of Baltijsk Municipality
13. **Alexander Kuznetsov**, Member of Kaliningrad Region Duma
14. **Mihail Pluhin**, Kaliningrad's Minister of Territorial Development
15. **Juri Rozkov-Jurevski**, Government of Kaliningrad Region
16. **Juri Savenko**, Mayor of Kaliningrad

**Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic - Poland**

17. **Maciej Lisicki**, Deputy Mayor of Gdańsk
18. **Jan Kozłowski**, Marshal of Pomorskie
19. **Bożena Olszewska-Świtaj**, Mayor of Górowo Iławeckie
20. **Piotr Karczewski**, Governor of Pomerania, (replaced by **Roman Zaborowski**)
21. **Jacek Protas**, Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie
22. **Anna Szyszka**, Governor of Warmińsko-Mazurskie (replaced by **Marian Podziewski**)
23. **Anna Wasilewska**, Deputy Mayor of Olsztyn
24. **Joanna Zielińska**, Chair of Association of Polish Communes ERB

**South-East Sweden**

25. **Bo Frank**, Regional Council in Southern Småland
  26. **Kerstin Haglö**, Regional Council in Blekinge, Region Blekinge
  27. **Robert Gajos**, Regional Council in Blekinge, Region Blekinge
  28. **Monica Haider**, Regional Council in Southern Småland
  29. **Marie-Louise Hilmersson**, Chair of Regional Council in Southern Småland
  30. **Bernth Johnson**, Chair of Blekinge County Council
  31. **Roger Kaliff**, Chair of Municipal Council in Kalmar
  32. **Åke Nilsson**, Regional Council in Kalmar County
- Substitutes: **Carl-Olof Bengtsson** (Södra Småland), **Suzanne Svensson** and **Bo Löfgren** (Blekinge), and **Bo Lundgren** (Kalmar)

## ADDRESS BY ERB PRESIDENT

Between 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008  
Euroregion Baltic was under the political leadership  
of the Chairman of Blekinge County Council,  
**Mr Bernth Johnson**



At the beginning of 2007 the Swedish Presidency in cooperation with our Danish successor preceded to develop a two year action plan outlining activities and goals for the Euroregion Baltic cooperation in 2007 and 2008. Our aim was clear - to strengthen the strategic management of our organisation.

This action plan recognised the significant progress made since the establishment of Euroregion Baltic (ERB) in 1998. At the same time, it identified specific challenges that ERB would need to face in order to continue to grow and build up its competences. These challenges were reflected in the action plan's overall objective, as well as in its specific goals:

1. successful implementation of the Seagull II project,
2. strategic and visible management,
3. broader anchoring of the cooperation and an increased feeling of ownership,
4. more involvement of the youth in the decision making processes; and
5. improving the social and economic integration.

During the Swedish Presidency a number of important achievements have been made. First of all, we finally managed to get the European Commission's approval of our Cross-border Cooperation Programme in the South Baltic Sea area, thanks to strong commitment and hard work in all the ERB member regions. This was an indubitable milestone of great significance for our future cooperation within Euroregion Baltic.

Another important accomplishment for Euroregion Baltic was the establishment of the ERB Youth Board in Gdansk in December 2007. I look upon this initiative as an critical step in the integration of youths into our organisation and its decision making processes. I would like to extend special welcome to our new Youth Board members and to assure I will with great interest follow progress made by this new ERB body.

During my Presidency we also carried out a number of interesting Board and Council meetings: important resolutions were signed and the ERB statutes were revised. Together we also finalised the Seagull II Project: the networks which resulted from the project will continue their work with new ideas for common projects within Euroregion Baltic.

2007-2008 Action Plan has been of undeniable strategic implication for the development of Euroregion Baltic and I hope this report gives a good account of the efforts taken by the Council, the Executive Board and our secretariats to meet its objectives. I believe we have laid a solid foundation for the Danish Presidency to continue the positive development within Euroregion Baltic!

Bernth Johnson  
President of Euroregion Baltic, 2007-2008

*A conference connected to each Council meeting, focusing on a specific subject of special importance for ERB...*

14th March 2007

Karlskrona, Sweden



The first ERB Council meeting in 2007 took place in Karlskrona, Sweden on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007. In connection to the meeting, the second conference on the border crossing issues called *Perspectives for future border crossing people and cargo within Euroregion Baltic* was held with guest appearances by Mr Mindaugas Ciaglys of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Taduesz Baryła from the Scientific

Research Centre in Olsztyn and Mr Ryszard Szklany of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The discussions held in Karlskrona concerned perspectives for euroregional cooperation between the Kaliningrad Region and its neighbours in the Baltic Sea Region in the light of EU-Russia relations and the new Northern Dimension Framework Policy. The findings were presented of the study commissioned by Euroregion Baltic and delivered by the Scientific Centre in Olsztyn, Poland, on the short-term and long-term impact of the 2004 EU Enlargement on the flow of cargo and people between the Kaliningrad Region and the other ERB regions.

As a result of the conference the ERB Council adopted a resolution containing its position towards the future development of the border facilitation process on the EU's external border with the Kaliningrad Region. This position also shows agreement between the EU and non-EU partners is possible even on the very sensitive border crossing issues (see pages 25 - 26).

6th December 2007

Gdańsk, Poland

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On 6<sup>th</sup> December a conference dealing with the construction of Nord-Stream, the German-Russian Baltic Sea Gas pipeline was convened in connection to the second ERB Council meeting in 2007. Nord Stream is planned to transport up to 55 billion cubic metres of natural gas each year from Russia to businesses and households in the European Union via the pipeline placed on the bottom of the Baltic Sea. Since Nord

Stream project attracts significant controversy over its political and ecological impact, the debate was planned to give the Council more detailed insight.

In order to better understand the economic and environmental consequences of this construction project, as well as to facilitate a beneficial exchange of opinions, a debate between Professor Olof Lindén from the University of Kalmar (Sweden) and World Maritime University, and Mr. Jens D. Müller, Nord Stream Communications Manager was organised and moderated by Mr. Kjell Albin Abrahamson, Swedish Radio foreign correspondent in Eastern Europe.

7th December 2007

Gdańsk, Poland

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Clusters in the Baltic Sea Region: reality or just a vision? That was the title of the seminar accompanying the closure of the Seagull II project. Arguments for were based on the fact that possible Baltic clusters seem to have considerable potential to build global competitiveness. Baltic clusters could create an opportunity to connect qualities of developed countries (higher level of technical and organization development, high innovation potential, high R&D expenditures) and the catching up countries (lower labour costs, vast human capital resources, rapid growth).

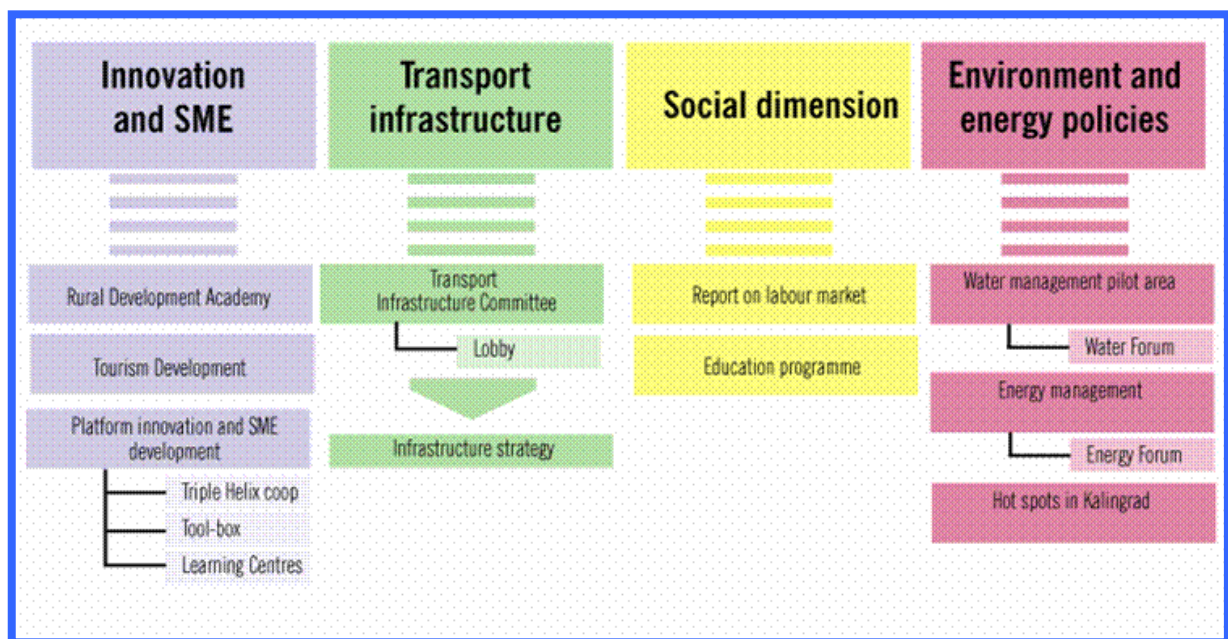
Within the seminar experts presented the competitive potential of Baltic Sea Region and tried to identify potential area of cooperation. Cooperation development initiatives and international clusters in the Baltic Sea Region were given as an example, in particular Medicon Valley, ScanBalt, Interregional Maritime Cluster and Baltic Sea Regional InnoNet.



### *Successful implementation of the Seagull II project*

The Interreg III B project Seagull II was concluded in December 2007. Its key objectives were to improve organisational capacities within ERB in assistance to the implementation process of the Joint Development Programme (JDP), mainly by establishing permanent cooperative ERB networks of professionals and creating project development teams.

Joint Development Programme identified four focus areas of development: Competitive Business Environment (including activities in support of innovation and SME, rural development, and tourism), Transport Infrastructure, Social Dimension and Environmental Policies (including contribution to the implementation of water management methods, introduction of energy saving production and elimination of the hot spots in the Kaliningrad Region). The Seagull II project built networks around eight specific tasks of the JDP.



The expected results from the work of the Seagull II turned 2007 into a decisive year for the success of the project, as well as for the subsequent implementation of the JDP. The large number of activities for the eight reference networks of experts, politicians and ERB staff can be summarised as follows:

SMEs and innovation		
Main activities	Main results	Future activities
4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> July Study visit, Sweden  29 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> October Seminar, Gdynia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of a Network of Innovation and SME within Euroregion Baltic.</li> <li>- SME/Innovation toolbox to be developed</li> <li>- Generation of outline of project ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue exchange of good practices</li> <li>- Training for librarians and teachers</li> <li>- Analyses of labour market needs</li> <li>- Inventory of existing resources</li> <li>- Create Learning Developing Centres (networking)</li> </ul>

Rural development		
Main activities	Main results	Future activities
20 <sup>th</sup> February - 1 <sup>st</sup> March 4 Information meetings Kaliningrad, Olsztyn, Gdansk, Bornholm  18 <sup>th</sup> April Project partner meeting Elblag, Poland  5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> December Rural partners meeting Gdansk, Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outline for the South Baltic Development Centre concluded</li> <li>- Project partnership partly established and project leader appointed</li> <li>- Initial smaller project identified and agreed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elaboration of application to the South Baltic CBC program</li> <li>- Implementation of smaller project 2008-2009</li> <li>- Elaboration of application to the BSR program, 2009</li> <li>- Implementation of bigger project 2009-2012</li> <li>- Keep the network active and considering other projects</li> </ul>

Tourism cooperation		
Main activities	Main results	Future activities
2 workshops in Gdansk, Pomerania <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- April, Gdansk Tourism Fair</li> <li>- November, Gdańsk</li> </ul> 1 study visit in Pomeranian Region in April  Common promotion, Tourism Fair in April, Gdansk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6 defined common project areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of marketing strategies</li> <li>- Common promotion of regions</li> <li>- Staff training and exchange</li> <li>- Transport corridor North-South</li> <li>- Product development and promotion around water tourism, bike routes and cultural heritage</li> <li>- Living history</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permanent network</li> <li>- Preparation of at least 1 project under 2008 led by Pomeranian Tourism Organization</li> </ul>

Social dimension		
Main activities	Main results	Future activities
on-line meetings meetings workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permanent network</li> <li>- Identified fields of cooperation</li> <li>- Project idea and draft: cooperation between labour market institutions including on-line meetings, study visits, workshops, expertise exchange ...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Application to South Baltic Interreg IV A Programme</li> </ul>



Water management		
Main activities	Main results	Future activities
February - May Meetings in Rostock, Kaliningrad, Gdansk and Sweden  13 <sup>th</sup> August 2nd Water Forum Seminar Öland, Sweden  6 <sup>th</sup> December 3rd Water Forum Seminar Gdansk, Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project idea presented “Modern water management”</li> <li>- Project idea presented “Eco-friendly agriculture”</li> <li>- Project idea presented “Forestry and water”</li> <li>- Other ideas ICZM, Sovietsk, Hot spots, aquatic biomass...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eco friendly farming in Gdansk</li> <li>- Project seminar around forestry and water</li> <li>- Meeting with Kaliningrad Oblast, “Eco friendly farming”</li> <li>- Draft project plan designed, “Eco friendly farming”</li> <li>- Draft project plan designed, “Forestry and water”</li> </ul>

Energy forum		
Main activities	Main results	Future activities
6 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> September Energy Forum  6 <sup>th</sup> December Energy Core Group meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four main areas discussed and to focus on               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- electricity,</li> <li>- transport,</li> <li>- heating</li> <li>- knowledge enhancement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-line meetings and continuation of the network</li> <li>- Common applications in Interreg IV A and B, IEE and other EU programmes.</li> <li>- Regional energy plan needs to be developed in all regions</li> <li>- Common seminars in different Topics</li> </ul>

More detailed information on the work and results of the networks can be found at the project homepage ([www.seagull2.euroregionbaltic.eu](http://www.seagull2.euroregionbaltic.eu)), including reports, agendas and other relevant documents.



With the decision of the ERB Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008 these six Seagull II project reference networks turned into ERB Working Groups with the patronage of the members' regional authorities:

1. SME / Innovation Working Group will be led by the Mayor of Elbląg, Mr Henryk Stonina;
2. Rural Development Working Group will be led the member of the Regional Council on Bornholm, Mr Per Ole Petersen;
3. Tourism Working Group will be led by the Director of Tourism Department at the Marshal Office of Pomorskie Region, Ms Marta Chetkowska;
4. Social Dimension Working Group will be led by Director of International Cooperation Department at the Marshal Office of Pomorskie Region, Ms Krystyna Wróblewska;
5. Water Forum Working Group will be led by the Chair of Kalmar Municipal Council, M Roger Kaliff.
6. Energy Working Group will be led by the Vice-Chair of Regional Council in Södra Småland, Ms Monica Haider.

Two more JDP-related cooperative structures are expected to be established in 2008: Transport Working Group and Kaliningrad Environment Protection Working Group.

The already established six Working Groups will continue to actively search for more relevant and interested partners from the regions. Naturally, Working Groups, project managements, project teams and partners involved therein will need to further face challenges such as insufficient resources, co-financing problems, linguistic and other barriers but Seagull II will leave euroregional networking one step ahead by the benefit of all the competence built and skills acquired during the years of its implementation.



The Seagull II ended with a final conference at the premises of the Concert and Leisure Centre in Gdansk - Ołowianka, on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007. During the final conference reports from six project reference networks (innovation, rural development, tourism, social dimension, water forum and energy forum) were presented. The networks and the project leader and other speakers involved focused

on the lessons learnt during the project implementation period, presentation of a transferable model manual and an insight into the 10-year history of euroregional cooperation.

Through the presentations held, it was highlighted that under the project implementation the improvement of technical capacities and the improvement of human resources of ERB politicians and civil servants increased.

*... before the end of 2007  
the current membership fee system should be reviewed ...*

A debate was held within ERB with the aim of constructing a joint budget that would meet the ambitious goals of the ERB cooperation. The proposal was basically two-fold, i.e. recommending that the contribution provided by the ERB member regions be increased by 15%, and that a separate project generation fund be set up, requiring extra fees on the part of the member regions.

The budget indexation was supported by all the member regions, primarily but not exclusively due to inflation. The project generation fund, however, did not win general approval and the Board agreed to have further talks on the subject in the future.

*Board meetings will be spread in each of the 8 member regions ...  
as well as in Brussels*

In line with the 2007 - 2008 strategy, the ERB Executive Board convened its meetings in a changing environment of five different locations, meeting leading local and regional politicians. The aim was to anchor the ERB cooperation more and to improve the feeling of ownership at the local and regional political level.

The following cities hosted the Euroregion Baltic meetings in 2007:

Seagull II Study Visit  
31<sup>st</sup> May - 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2007  
Vilnius, Lithuania



The two-day study visit was organised within the Seagull II project and brought the ERB Board members and staff to Lithuania between 31<sup>st</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The visit included meetings at the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Vilnius, at Euroregion Sesupe Office in Siakai and at Euroregion Nemunas Office in Mariampole.

During the visit discussions on the legal status of crossborder cooperation structures like Euroregions and the relation to the future ERB standing were in focus. Recommendations made by the ERB Board included the decision to monitor the work of the newly established Committee of the Regions Working Group on the European Groupings of Territorial. Further debate was also advised regarding the future of the Seagull II networks after they conclude preparing project applications at the end of 2007. The ERB Board members also encouraged taking more intensive visibility activities even though ERB might seem to be well promoted.

The Board also adopted a paper on the future EU Maritime Policy following the launch of the EU Green Paper June 2006: *Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas*. Since ERB consists of regions heavily depending on the maritime economy and includes Kaliningrad, active part in the consultation seemed obvious. Following internal discussions and debates, a joint position towards the European Commission Green Paper on a Future Maritime Policy for the European Union was agreed and officially accepted (see pages: 26 - 28).

Water Forum

13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Halltorps Gästgiveri, Öland



The meeting focused on water management in the Baltic Sea area, which is one of the focus areas in the ERB Joint Development Programme. This first discussion also concerned the ideas of future projects and the related technicalities (hydrological borders and data, land use, nutrients, potential actors in Water Using Partnerships, etc).

The overriding goal behind ERB Water Forum is to realise concrete measures aiming at good ecological and chemical status in the ERB waters, as a base for sustainable development of the area. This

requires - among other things - good knowledge, sufficient resources and political decisions at different levels. To be able to establish ERB as a pilot area for transnational and crossborder cooperation and implementation of modern methods for water management and the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), there is a need to gather different kinds of competence and to implement concrete measures.

The specific objectives include:

- acting as a catalyst for significant change towards sustainable water management in all sectors of ERB societies;

- promoting regional competence, mediating contacts and increasing cooperation between public administration, science and private sector;
- acting as a forum for development and exchange, dissemination of views, information and policies on sustainable water management, as well as for the development of transnational project proposals;

Open Days

10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Brussels, Belgium



In order to improve the visibility and lobbying functions of Euroregion Baltic, another ERB Board meeting was held in Brussels during the Open Days Week in October 2007 organised by the European Commission DG Regio and the Committee of Regions. The purpose was twofold: to allow the ERB Board and staff to

experience this enormous event, and to decide on a possible future participation in the subsequent Open Days Week 2008.

The ERB Board members and staff selected which activities programmed within the event to attend. A very special invitation came to take part in the Scottish-Polish breakfast at the Regional Office of Pomorskie at the Scotland House Conference Centre in Brussels; followed by a seminar on “Future scenarios: strategies for delivering growth and jobs in maritime regions”.

Different opinions were voiced for and against the formation of an ERB Open Day conglomerate in 2008. Administrative, personnel and organisational costs of such a solution weighed against the visibility impact that might be lost in the overabundance of institutions taking part seemed to have convinced the Board members who opted for the organisation of an exclusive ERB seminar in Brussels instead. The seminar is planned to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in the premises of the Regional Office of Pomorskie and aims both to help promote Euroregion Baltic among the EU officials as well as contribute to the debate on the forming EU Baltic Sea Strategy.





The last Board meeting during the Swedish presidency took place at the Teleborg Castle in Växjö. Its main objective was to prepare the presidency transfer Council meeting in February 2008, including a debate on the changes to the ERB Statutes and the establishment of ERB Working Groups dealing with the themes of the Joint Development Programme. One other subject concerned the ERB position on the

future of the EU cohesion policy.

The public consultation on the future of EU cohesion policy was launched by Commissioner Danuta Hübner on 27 September 2007 during the "Fourth European Forum on Cohesion" and ended on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008. It aimed at collecting ideas and contributions on the question of how the Union's cohesion policy should adapt to new challenges and how its delivery can be improved in order to maximise its impact in the future.

Contributions came from national governments and public bodies, regional and local governments, European interest organisations on territorial issues, economic and social partners, civil society organisations, academics and research institutions, and citizens. They were based on a number of questions which were published in the European Commission's Fourth Report on Economic and Social Cohesion.

All contributions were made available to the public at: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/4thcohesionforum/all\\_contrib\\_en.cfm?nmenu=3](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/4thcohesionforum/all_contrib_en.cfm?nmenu=3), among them the one submitted by Euroregion Baltic (see pages: 29 - 30). A report on this consultation will be presented by the European Commission DG Regio in spring 2008, together with the Fifth Progress Report on Economic and Social Cohesion.

### *Increasing the feeling of ownership*

Apart from arranging the ERB Board and Council to meet in a number of different locations around the Euroregion Baltic area, the Swedish Presidency initiated a number of changes to the Statutes. These changes addressed new challenges in the evolution of Euroregion and will hopefully facilitate a more efficient and effective development of the organisation.

The chapter of the Statutes stipulating the work of the ERB Executive Board was revised to enable the regionalisation of the Board. Before, the Board had five national representatives from Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden. New provisions in the Statutes, adopted at the Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008 in Elbląg, enable the Board to have members from all the eight regions of Blekinge, Bornholm, Kaliningrad, Kalmar, Klaipeda, Kronoberg, Pomorskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie. This step reflects the ever-increasing role of the member regions in planning and implementing joint crossborder initiatives within ERB as well as their financial support to the International Permanent Secretariat.



*More involvement of the youth in the decision-making ...  
and through cooperation activities*

ERB Youth Conference

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Between 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2007 Euroregion Baltic gathered around 120, mostly young people from Sweden, Russia, Poland, Lithuania and Denmark at a conference in the city of Elblag. The conference was a direct result of a small exchange project between Europe Direct relays in Sweden, Poland, Lithuania and Denmark. The Euroregion Baltic Youth Conference was co-financed by SIDA Östersjöenheten, City of Elblag and Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal Office. The organisational responsibility lay with the Europe Direct relays in Blekinge and South Småland (Sweden) and the ERB Secretariat in Elblag, Poland.

<b>Workshop 1</b> <b>Changing attitudes for a sustainable environment</b>
Environment as a concept and environmental vulnerability of the Baltic Sea were the main topics for Workshop No 1. Its participants were able to discuss the challenges that the problematic area presents and ways of solving them both in a visionary and concrete aspect.
<b>Workshop 2</b> <b>Changing attitudes among youth - improving intercultural dialog</b>
Differences, similarities and dialogue were discussed by the participants of Workshop No 2. The main questions focused on the necessity of intercultural dialogue and how to implement it at the regional level.
<b>Workshop 3</b> <b>The democratic participation perspective</b>
The participants of Workshop No 3 discussed different specific actions concerning democracy, participation and development in the region. A dialogue on infrastructural, political and living conditions was part of the workshop as well.

The purpose of this conference was to highlight regional cooperation from the youth perspective. The ERB Joint Development Program served as a basis for discussions during the conference and three different workshops with active participation of the youth.



In his closing speech ERB Vice-President, Mr Per-Ole Petersen expressed his gratitude to a number of different actors and pointed out a further process with the aim of improving the integration of Youth within the framework of ERB cooperation. He also indicated plans to establish a Youth Board in 2007 with representatives of the eight ERB member regions.

Conclusions from the workshops, participants' opinions and the evaluation of the conference will constitute an integral part of the future plans involving the youth in Euroregion Baltic. A proposal defining this coming workload was presented by Mariana Gómez Johannesson, Head of the Europe Direct in Southern Småland, at the ERB Board meeting on Öland (Sweden) and approved by the Board.

Since its establishment in 1998 Euroregion Baltic has supported and implemented projects and activities which targeted children and youth in a variety of cooperation areas, e.g. education and exchange activities. Drawing competitions such as *We Are from the Sea*, ecological youth camps, sports events like Euroregion Baltic Youth Games, Youth Film project, Green Circle Schools and Ice Hockey tournament are only some of the several projects that can serve as a good example of the activities in question.

Youth issues in relation to cross-border cooperation are of high priority in most of the ERB member regions, and therefore it was agreed to be a special priority in the strategy for 2007 and 2008 which indicated that a youth network should be established. The network would then promote and facilitate cooperation projects intended to actively involve youths from around Euroregion Baltic. This network would as well be involved in the decision-making process. To this end, on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007 the ERB Council approved of the changes proposed to the Statutes enabling the establishment of the Euroregion Baltic Youth Board consisting of girls and boys between 16 and 25 years of age who each represent the eight regions in Euroregion Baltic.

The establishment work also included the presentation of proposals for future tasks, processes, and activities for the new Board, discussions and decisions on such practical issues as a budget, considerations and agreement as to the election procedure of young representatives.

This new development has allowed the promotion of Euroregion Baltic as an example of an interregional cooperation institution incorporating youth in their structures. Two particular occasions included the Europe Direct Annual General meeting in Barcelona between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and the Europe Direct Annual General meeting in Dublin between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2007 organised by the European Commission for more than 600 representatives of different EU information networks, such as Europe Direct and European Documentary Centres.

The BEN project aimed at promoting spatial development and territorial integration in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) by initiating a strong network of Euroregions, actively engaged in the spatial development processes around the BSR, with increased and deepened institutional capacity and strategic planning capabilities.

The background for the project was the realisation that the role of the Euroregions in development and integration processes is not sufficient because often they lack institutional capacities, especially those concerning strategic planning, and because national authorities and international institutions often overlook Euroregions because of the problem of institutional capability, or legal status.

ERB was one of over 30 regions / Euroregions, actively participating in the project. It has also been represented in the BEN Steering Committee by the Head of the International Secretariat, Mr. Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański. The participation in the project has implied an active transfer of knowledge and experiences from ERB to BEN and from BEN to ERB, as well as useful contacts with other Baltic Euroregions, national and regional authorities, Nordic Council of Ministers, etc.

Seminar on Northern Dimension

25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> January 2007

Lappeenranta, Finland

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The Northern Dimension Cross Border City-project and the City of Lappeenranta hosted the seminar on the Northern Dimension Framework Policy (ND). The discussion headlined by the motto: *From Policy Paper to Concrete Actions* focused on the role of Euroregions and other CBC structures in the ND implementation.



Speakers such as Mr. Harri Mäki-Reinikka, Chairman of the Nordic Co-operation Committee at the Nordic Council of Ministers and Mr. Petri Salo, Finish Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed to the debate. Major concerns were voiced as to the impact of the Northern Dimension Policy - policy that is supposed to stimulate external relations of the European Union in Baltic Sea Region which has no direct financial resources.

CBC and regional development

15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Malmö, Sweden

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BEN seminar called *Cross border Cooperation and Regional Development - spatial planning, infrastructure and regional development strategies in a cross-border perspective* was organised by the Öresund Committee. Workshops around spatial planning and presentations on best practice examples took place.

The main focus was placed on the crossborder development programmes, methods of their construction, implementation and financing. Euroregion Baltic was presented as one of the very few CBC structures that had already conceived such a development strategy.

Seminar on Labour Market and Business in CBC Regions

15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Fredrikstad, Norway

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The seminar held in Fredrikstad titled: *Common labour market and business cooperation in CBC region* involved topics concerning infrastructure, trade and industry, cultural relations in business among others. The seminar hosted by the Gränskommittén Østfold - Bohuslän/Dalsland and ARKO (SE/NO) focused as well on the use of the Interreg crossborder cooperation programmes as a cooperation framework. Specific cases of best practice were presented, e.g. the *Business to Business* case between Psokov and Livonia.

The three-year project Baltic Euroregional Network, BEN had its final conference at Jelgava, Latvia. The Zemgale Planning Region and the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat organised a three day conference where the results of the BEN project were presented.

The conference speeches highlighted main results of different Work Packages; sustainability of BEN project and the follow-up projects were also presented. “The project’s finish will mark the achieved results. The network of Euroregions is established and unites all the Baltic Sea Region countries, the administrative capacity of cross-border structures is improved and recommendations for regional and central governments are prepared. Despite the fact that the project comes to the end, the network will continue its activities and will implement new projects. It becomes even more important now, when the new EU member states prepare to join the Schengen Area”, Mr Šarūnas Radvilavičius, the project coordinator commented the results.



As a result of the enlargements of the European Union in 2004 and 2007 new dimensions of territorial co-operation have appeared along its eastern borders, generating new difficulties but also offering great potentials. The eastern external borderline of the European Union stretches from the Barents Sea to the Mediterranean, and along this 5.500 kilometre border embraces 12 member states of the EU (Cyprus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia) and 63 of their regions.

NEEBOR is the Network of Eastern External Border Regions and aims to increase the awareness of EU institutions, member states, regions and local authorities and the civil organizations on both parts of the borders of the existing weaknesses and strengths of the cross-border region. NEEBOR wants to become a platform of open dialogue and coordination of joint actions and initiatives in order to promote the exchange of best practices, enhance cooperation and synergies in the region.

NEEBOR 2nd Annual Conference called *NEEBOR regions towards better European integration* was attended by Euroregion Baltic representatives and its first day was moderated by the Head of the International Secretariat, Mr. Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański.

### ***South Baltic CBC Programme***

As early as in Spring 2006 the national governments in Denmark, Poland and Sweden agreed to create a new cross-border cooperation programme in the South Baltic area, including the Danish island Bornholm, the Swedish regions Blekinge, Kalmar, Kronoberg and Skaane, and all the three northern Polish regions: Pomerania, Warmia-Mazury and Western Pomerania. During the autumn 2006 Lithuania joined the programme with the regions of Klaipeda, Telsiau and Taurage, and Germany joined with the 10 northern regions in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

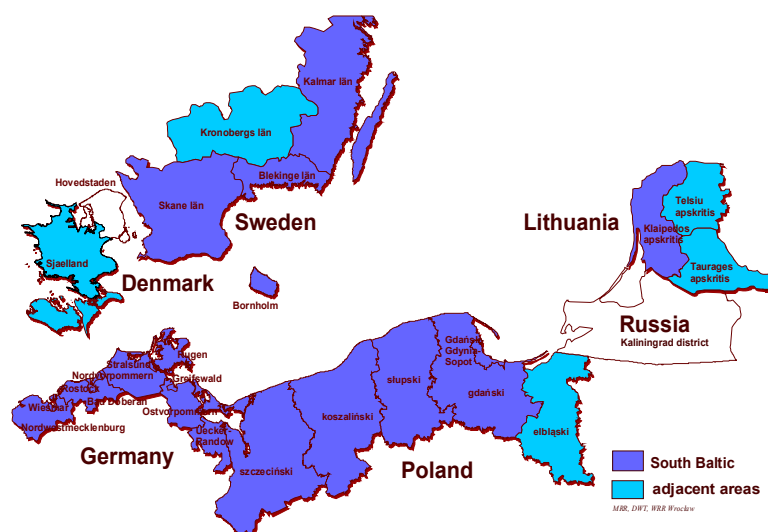
The Polish Ministry for Regional Development was agreed to be the Programme Management Authority and a Joint Programme Secretariat was agreed to be established in the City of Gdansk. At the same time, the Programme Core Group was established writing the draft Operational Programme and including representatives of Euroregion Baltic (Mr

Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański of the International Secretariat, replaced by Mr Tor-Björn Åstrand-Karlsson of the ERB Secretariat in Region Blekinge, replaced by Mr Peter Ratcovitch from Region Blekinge).

In addition, the national implementation group formed consisting of the representatives of all the national structures from the five countries involved in the work on the Programme, as well as the Joint Programming Committee which in July 2007 forwarded the draft programme to the European Commission for approval.

The programme with around 63 MEUR co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, was approved in December 2007, with the first application round expected in the beginning of 2008. The programme will support cross border entrepreneurship, labour market and educational cooperation, transport infrastructures, environment, energy saving and renewable energy, natural and cultural heritage for regional development and local community initiatives.

In December 2007 the ERB Executive Board appointed Mr Bernth Johnson as the ERB representative to the Programme Monitoring Committee, and Ms Raisa Mincinauskiene as his deputy. Similarly, the ERB Executive Board appointed Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański as the ERB representative to the Programme Steering Committee, and Mr Peter Ratcovich as his deputy.



# EUROREGION BALTIC

## INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT SECRETARIAT



**Resolution of the Council of Euroregion Baltic**  
supporting facilitation of the conditions for  
crossborder cooperation between its members

We, the participants in the conference:

**"Perspectives for future border crossings of people and cargo within Euroregion Baltic"**

have with great interest discussed the current border crossing situation between the Kaliningrad Region and its neighbouring regions within Euroregion Baltic.

**We confirm:**

the aims of Euroregion Baltic (ERB) remain, as agreed in February 1998, to

- improve the life conditions of the people inhabiting the area of Euroregion Baltic,
- promote mutual contacts,
- tighten bonds among local communities,
- eliminate historical prejudices,
- plan activities aimed at providing sustainable development,
- promote actions aiming at co-operation between regional and local authorities.

We also confirm the ERB Joint Development Strategy, adopted 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005, in which the Kaliningrad Region should be given special attention in the joint development efforts to be implemented. Furthermore, concrete goals and measures of ERB activities should relate to the Kaliningrad Region's status as a potential gateway to the Russian market and markets further eastwards.

**We fully support:**

- the Joint Statement agreed on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2003 on the occasion of the St. Petersburg Summit, stating that the Russian Federation and the European Union agree to examine the conditions for visa-free travel as a long term perspective;
- the aims of the four common spaces, agreed on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at the Moscow Summit, including in particular the Common Economic Space, whose aim is to create an open and integrated market between the European Union and the Russian Federation;
- the Agreement on the facilitation of the issuance of visas at the EU-Russia Summit in Sochi on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2006, reaffirming the intention to establish a visa-free travel regime between the European Union and the Russian Federation;
- the report by the European Parliament from 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006 on a Baltic Sea Strategy for the Northern Dimension, urging the Russian Federation and the European Union to examine the possibility of developing the Kaliningrad Region into a pilot region with improved access to the EU's internal market;
- the new Northern Dimension Policy Framework Document agreed on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006 in Helsinki, aiming to help to ensure that no dividing lines are established in the North of Europe, and including the Kaliningrad Region as a priority area, with its opportunities for development given its particular geographical situation;




- the readiness of the European Union, the Lithuanian and Russian Governments to coordinate the complex of measures aimed at the reduction of time for crossing the boarder by trains included in the scheme of the Kaliningrad passenger transit.

**We strongly recommend:**

that the Heads of States and Governments in the European Union and the Russian Federation

- endeavour to ensure that residents of the Kaliningrad Region and the neighbouring regions in Lithuania and Poland have conditions to cross the border which will be similar to the current border crossing regime, after Poland and Lithuania have become fully integrated into the Schengen Area;
- continue to work for a local border traffic regime within the framework of the new regulation adopted on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006, with amendments on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007, by the European Parliament and European Council, specifically applicable to local border traffic through bilateral agreements offering advantages to border residents crossing the external borders of the Member States;
- extend the limit of 30 kilometres from the border allowing residents in the Kaliningrad Region and neighbouring regions of Lithuania and Poland to take advantage of the special local border regime;
- allocate specific resources in the new programmes financed within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument to more intensively prepare a visa-free regime between the Kaliningrad Region and neighbouring EU regions in a short term perspective, to be extended to all the regions within Euroregion Baltic in a medium term perspective;
- enable navigation in the Vistula Lagoon and Kaliningradzkij Zaliv, based on intergovernmental agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Poland and the Russian Federation, and in the Curonian Lagoon, based on intergovernmental agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation, with the aim of inducing humanitarian and economic relations and making a good use of to the existing infrastructure on border area inland waters.

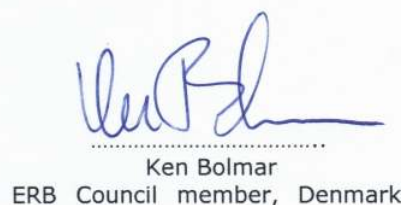
**Karlskrona, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

  
Bernth Johnson  
ERB President, Sweden

  
Mikhail Pluhin  
ERB Board member, Russia

  
Raisa Mincinausiene  
ERB Board member, Lithuania

  
Jan Kozłowski  
ERB Board member, Poland

  
Ken Bolmar  
ERB Council member, Denmark





### **Euroregion Baltic Position Paper on Maritime Policy Green Paper**

#### **1. Overall position**

Euroregion Baltic (ERB) welcomes the initiative to form a European Maritime Policy and is willing to undertake an active role in further discussions and work towards its full implementation. Hereby, ERB expresses its full support to the integrated approach presented in the introduction to the Green Paper.

Euroregion Baltic is a partner and one of the initiators of the Interreg III B project "Baltic Master", gathering a wide range of the Baltic Sea Region actors, including regional authorities of the Euroregion Baltic member regions. The knowledge attained in the project implementation process has generated valuable contribution to this position paper adopted by the ERB Executive Board at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2007.

In line with lessons already learned from other EU integrated policies, especially the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agenda, ERB strongly underlines the necessity for broad and well anchored ownership, including local and regional authorities, at all stages of the integrated policy, such as formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

With regards to the implementation of the EU Growth and Jobs strategy, ERB would also highlight the importance of having the existing EU programmes to financially aid the implementation of the integrated European Maritime Policy if there is not going to be a specific support instrument. European Regional Development Fund could be made available for the improvement of port infrastructure and increasing accessibility to ports while European Social Fund should have the capacity of providing training possibilities or crews and other personnel involved in maritime issues.

It is our strong belief that the status of the Baltic Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Area (PSA) should be seen as a good opportunity of its further protection. Developing the PSA should take into account, e.g. numerous sensitive spots in the Baltic, maritime traffic monitoring schemes, waste handling, etc. Therefore, ERB stresses the need for transnational and crossborder cooperation in this field, and has welcomed the fact that several EU programmes already include aspects related to the future integrated European Maritime Policy.

#### **2. Retaining Europe's Leadership in Sustainable Maritime Development**

The European maritime sectors can retain or even increase their competitiveness if they are of high quality standards within the fields of products, services and education. These standards should be developed collectively and implemented in all EU maritime areas. By doing so, the availability of highly skilled personnel, solid knowledge infrastructure, which both consolidates knowledge and raises the level of innovation, will be strengthened.

Attention must be paid to the development of practical regulations on sustainability in line with the Gothenburg strategy and together with stakeholders. Developing and stimulating new investments should be focussed on long term strategies which governments will concentrate on while evaluating specific plans in the next 25 years. To be recommended are also making sustainable development knowledge and experience available, as well as tuning financial incentives to sustainable development since innovative business proposals that contribute to economic and ecological sustainability seem to receive more money than other applications.

Risk assessment is equally important in the process of improving safety at sea. Incidents can be of serious consequences for both people and environment. Risk assessment could help to encourage joint initiatives across sectors and member states to mitigate consequences of and to prepare for accidents at sea. Updated contingency plans may give a better chance to act quickly and reduce oil spills.

Marine related strategies should be developed by three sectors together: education research, entrepreneurs, governments at regional, national and EU levels. In developing and executing an EU research strategy a bottom-up approach should be applied since a lot of knowledge is available both at local and regional levels, as well as within businesses. Developing such networks may only be of value when connected to databases where unambiguous EU research data can be translated into information that can generate synergy.

A Maritime Policy must also meet the Kyoto protocols. Further measures must be taken at the European level in the fields of transport, energy, agriculture and fisheries. The development of alternative fuels should be actively encouraged and supported. With regards to shipping fuels a directive on the quality of marine fuels could ensure that minimum environmental standards be kept, which is a particular problem for ports. In the long term perspective, alternatives to fossil fuels must be developed.

### **3. Maximising Quality of Life in Coastal Regions**

Nature, landscape and spatial quality can strengthen the standard of living, especially in settlements but also in tourism destinations. Differentiation in coastal areas is important with an emphasis on nature and landscape, as well as in coastal areas where possibilities for leisure and sports already exist or can be developed. Cultural historic values also need to be integrated in spatial planning. Therefore, a map containing all cultural historic values (archaeology, nature, monuments etc.) should be available. Furthermore, a geographical information system on land (and sea) use could be of benefit.

The planned Motorways of the Sea (MoS) will facilitate the increase in marine transportation and thus create higher density and traffic congestions at sea. The Motorways of the Sea are mainly oriented towards growth, commerce and integration, but far too often put safety and the environment on the side. It is important that a safety perspective is integrated in these planning themes. MoS, as an example, should be developed as a true system for safe transportation and include: information on places of refuge along their routes; clear and mandatory routes not interfering with sensitive areas and marine protected areas; contingency plans for at-sea and on-land response, systems for monitoring vessel traffic, functioning systems for sludge and waste handling, as well as ballast water management in the MoS-ports, pilotage, restrictions on emissions from ships and demands on environmentally friendly transports

#### **Developing Coastal Tourism**

Innovation in services and products related to coastal tourism can be effectively supported by premiums for investment, programmes on knowledge exchange, and international education programs for management and staff.

Furthermore, specific measures, promoting the sustainable tourism development of coastal regions and islands should integrate knowledge on sustainable enterprising in all sectors involved in coastal management, stimulate and co-finance initiatives on sustainable entrepreneurship in the field of coastal management and island development, collect unambiguous data, and enthuse exemplary projects.

### **4. Providing the tools to manage our relations with the oceans**

A common Environmental Atlas would better link different sectors working within the coastal and marine areas, as well as serve as a common interface between organisations in different countries. Therefore, the atlas should map sensitive areas, explore the linkages between contingency planning and ICZM/MASP, and provide professionals and practitioners with the

same tool for both cross sectoral and cross border use. A complete and updated Baltic Sea Atlas should be available on-line. This digital version could be a part of a European Atlas.

ERB strongly recommends vessel tracking systems in the Baltic. Each vessel operating in the Baltic Sea Area should be fitted with a tracking device which provides information on the owner of the vessel, its flag state, crew and cargo.

## **5. Maritime Governance**

Experience from ERB shows the importance of establishing good cooperation between sectors and different governmental actors, but also of forming strategic cooperation between countries and regions. Cross-sectoral as well as cross-border contingency planning is a key issue for creating and sustaining a strong state of preparedness.

Best practices in maritime governance are recommended for inclusion in the agenda of annual EU summits. From the ERB perspective, it will be of great significance that the EU recognises that its regions are each unique in history, economy, environment and culture. Thus, the regional dimension should be built into each aspect of the maritime policy. The involvement of local and regional actors in the development and delivery of maritime policies is to be encouraged.

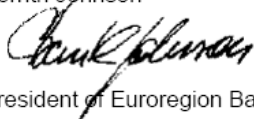
## **6. Reaffirming Europe's maritime identity**

To support maritime education and heritage and to foster a stronger sense of maritime identity the following must be taken into consideration:

- relation of maritime heritage to spatial, social and economic development,
- stimulation of public-private co-operation,
- preservation of cultural historic elements, e.g. old fisheries, harbours, ponds, bird areas, wrecks a.s.o.,
- conservation and development of sailing heritage (old wooden and steel ships),
- maintenance of historic harbours and buildings,
- preservation and of extension of professional skills and education,
- increase in accessibility of heritage, both physical and educational,
- enhancement of water-land relations,
- conservation by development: new heritage destinations,
- relation of cultural and historic heritage to spatial development,
- preservation of, research and education in immaterial heritage, e.g. language and skills.

We need a more specific description of the contribution of culture and heritage to the maritime legacy and traditions of Europe in order to see how these can benefit the stated objectives of maintained coastal settlements, sustainable growth and better quality of life. The Maritime Policy needs to clearly identify and value the aspects of maritime and coastal heritage that still play a decisive role in defining identity among coastal dwellers, as much as it needs to beware of a unique, place-bound character that will attract and interest visitors.

Bernth Johnson



President of Euroregion Baltic





### **Resolution of Euroregion Baltic supporting the initiatives of the Amber Road Cities Association**

At the Euroregion Baltic Council meeting in Gdańsk on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007 its members agreed to pass the following resolution:

*Euroregion Baltic reiterates its continuous support towards initiatives taken by the Amber Road Cities Association.*

*This expression of support follows our commitment to back up activities promoting and strengthening prerequisites for economic growth in the South East Baltic Sea Area, including these corroborating future development of sea links which are of vital importance for the cohesion, integration and progress in the Euroregion Baltic.*

*Euroregion Baltic has previously adopted the Joint Statement regarding upgrading of the TEN transport corridors in Europe (on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006) and the resolution supporting establishment of "The Motorways of the Sea" in the Baltic Sea Region (on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007), i.e. "Baltic - Link Motorways of the Sea Karlskrona – Gdynia" and "Motorways of the Sea Klaipeda - Karlshamn".*

*Today we express our support towards efforts building up the potential of the VI transport corridor, along the so-called Amber Route, through among others the northern part of Poland and Lithuania, taken within the framework of the Interreg III B CadSES "A-B Landbridge" project.*

*We also express our support towards an initiative submitted by the Amber Road Cities Association that the Amber Route be awarded the status of the Major Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.*



## FUTURE EU COHESION POLICY

This paper is a contribution by EUROREGION BALTIC to the debate on the future of EU Cohesion Policy.

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Taking active part in the consultation process on the future European Union's cohesion policy launched by Regional Policy Commissioner Danuta Hübner the representatives of Euroregion Baltic have adopted the following resolution:

### **Euroregion Baltic strongly believes**

**that the principle of solidarity and confidence between Member States should continue to be exercised within the European Union Cohesion Policy.**

The principle of solidarity lies at the foundations of the integrated Europe. EU Member States subscribe to it and therefore should translate it into practical reality by such operational activities as structural programmes;

**that the principle of subsidiarity should remain a fundamental rule in the future EU Cohesion Policy.**

While the principle of solidarity defines a relationship between the Community Member States and the regions, Euroregion Baltic representatives recommend an improvement of the scope for the local and regional levels to influence the preparation and implementation of programmes within the future EU Cohesion Policy;

**that the scope of the EU Cohesion Policy should focus on the renewed Lisbon agenda.**

The objectives of the renewed Lisbon agenda respond to the most fundamental economic challenges for European regions. Thus, economic development in parallel with creating more jobs should be given focus in the future programmes. These, we believe, can be achieved with more support offered to entrepreneurship and innovation, accessibility, demographic changes, labour mobility and social inclusion;

**that it is appropriate to earmark part of EU funds to the Gothenburg priorities.**

EU Cohesion Policy should focus on the renewed Lisbon agenda but not exclusively. Cohesion is also reflected in environment and creating a harmonised European environment makes the Gothenburg priorities necessary elements for a sustainable economic growth. Thus, climate changes, development and testing of renewable energy resources should be given focus in the future programmes, as well as maritime safety;

**that territorial cooperation should be further considered a specific objective of the EU Cohesion Policy.**

Territorial cohesion with the objectives of a polycentric development, cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation including transfer of knowledge and exchange of best practices give concrete value to the networking of the European regions, and thus generate high added value to the process of the European integration. This effective form of cooperation should be continued and extended with the future EU Cohesion Policy;

**that the South Baltic CBC Programme should be continued and extended in the future EU Cohesion Policy.**

Within the framework of crossborder cooperation, the newly established South Baltic CBC Programme is one Euroregion Baltic has actively participated in, both in its programming period and now when its implementation begins. Cohesion Policy instruments, and in particular South Baltic CBC Programme provide significant assistance to such cooperative organisations as Euroregion Baltic in their efforts to benefit territorial cohesion and implement joint development strategies. We therefore urge the Commission and the Member States to continue and extend the South Baltic CBC Programme with the future EU structural funds.

Euroregion Baltic consists of one region of the Russian Federation and finds the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument support crucial in its activities aimed at promoting prosperity and deepening political cooperation on the basis of shared values and common interests. We therefore urge the Commission and the Member States to continue and extend the scope of ENPI programmes with the future EU structural funds. Specifically, Euroregion Baltic recommends extending the South Baltic CBC programme with the ENPI component comprising the Kaliningrad Region and its neighbours in Lithuania and Poland, and making the whole Euroregion Baltic area eligible for cross-border cooperation within a single EU programme;

**that European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation should be rewarded more prominent status in the implementation system of the future EU programmes.**

Euroregion Baltic recognises the strategic impact that progress of territorial cooperation and EGTCs may produce on territorial cohesion, particularly but not exclusively while developing and implementing crossborder strategies in relation to economic and social infrastructure investments and to the protection of the environment.



# FINANCIAL RESULT IN 2007

## INCOME:

No	Item	2007 Planned: I-XII	2007 Actual: I-XII
<u>1</u>	<u>Result as of 01.01.2007</u>	<u>36 976,16 €</u>	<u>36 976,16 €</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Region Blekinge</u>	<u>31 985,78 €</u>	<u>29 945,19 €</u>
-	<i>membership fee</i>	<i>6 000,00 €</i>	<i>6 000,00 €</i>
-	<i>contribution to projects (internal hours)</i>	<i>25 985,78 €</i>	<i>23 945,19 €</i>
<u>3</u>	<u>Regionförbundet Södra Småland</u>	<u>19 310,58 €</u>	<u>30 875,22 €</u>
	<i>membership fee</i>	<i>6 000,00 €</i>	<i>6 000,00 €</i>
	<i>contribution to projects (cash)</i>	<i>0,00 €</i>	<i>1 000,00 €</i>
	<i>contribution to projects (internal hours)</i>	<i>13 310,58 €</i>	<i>23 875,22 €</i>
<u>4</u>	<u>Regionförbundet i Kalmar Län</u>	<u>32 287,51 €</u>	<u>29 489,04 €</u>
	<i>membership fee</i>	<i>6 000,00 €</i>	<i>6 000,00 €</i>
	<i>contribution to projects (internal hours)</i>	<i>26 287,51 €</i>	<i>23 489,04 €</i>
<u>5</u>	<u>Bornholm</u>	<u>17 324,32 €</u>	<u>19 729,11 €</u>
-	<i>membership fee</i>	<i>6 000,00 €</i>	<i>6 000,00 €</i>
	<i>contribution to projects (internal hours)</i>	<i>11 324,32 €</i>	<i>13 729,11 €</i>
<u>6</u>	<u>Pomorski Urząd Marszałkowski</u>	<u>6 531,24 €</u>	<u>11 486,53 €</u>
	<i>membership fee</i>	<i>3 000,00 €</i>	<i>3 000,00 €</i>
	<i>contribution to projects (cash)</i>	<i>0,00 €</i>	<i>4 761,84 €</i>
	<i>contribution to projects (internal hours)</i>	<i>3 531,24 €</i>	<i>3 724,69 €</i>
<u>7</u>	<u>Warmińsko-Mazurski Urząd Marszałkowski</u>	<u>8 150,00 €</u>	<u>7 503,91 €</u>
	<i>membership fee</i>	<i>3 000,00 €</i>	<i>3 000,00 €</i>
	<i>contribution to projects (internal hours)</i>	<i>5 150,00 €</i>	<i>4 503,91 €</i>
<u>8</u>	<u>Lithuania</u>	<u>6 486,90 €</u>	<u>8 567,89 €</u>
-	<i>membership fee</i>	<i>2 000,00 €</i>	<i>2 000,00 €</i>
-	<i>contribution to projects (cash)</i>	<i>0,00 €</i>	<i>1 026,56 €</i>
-	<i>contribution to projects (internal hours)</i>	<i>4 486,90 €</i>	<i>5 541,33 €</i>
<u>9</u>	<u>Russia</u>	<u>7 760,00 €</u>	<u>4 625,82 €</u>
-	<i>membership fee</i>	<i>2 000,00 €</i>	<i>0,00 €</i>
-	<i>contribution to projects (internal hours)</i>	<i>5 760,00 €</i>	<i>4 625,82 €</i>
<u>10</u>	<u>Seagull II MS 3 Milestone Refund</u>	<u>46 629,46 €</u>	<u>46 629,46 €</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Seagull II MS 4 Milestone Refund</u>	<u>114 455,24 €</u>	<u>114 428,57 €</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>BEN MS 4 Refund</u>	<u>3 567,59 €</u>	<u>3 567,59 €</u>

TOTAL INCOME

331 464,78 €

343 824,49 €

## EXPENDITURE

No	Item	2007 Planned: I-XII	2007 Actual: I-XII
<u>1</u>	Overheads	<u>9 900,00 €</u>	<u>10 910,88 €</u>
	office rental	4 700,00 €	4 756,23 €
	land line	1 750,00 €	1 776,46 €
	mobile phone	1 200,00 €	2 206,02 €
	internet connection	950,00 €	970,57 €
	IT	700,00 €	629,87 €
	office equipment	500,00 €	459,20 €
	stationary	100,00 €	112,53 €
<u>2</u>	ERB Publishing / Marketing	<u>3 000,00 €</u>	<u>3 297,79 €</u>
<u>3</u>	Travel	<u>3 000,00 €</u>	<u>6 057,63 €</u>
<u>4</u>	Personnel costs	<u>16 000,00 €</u>	<u>15 547,52 €</u>
-	IPS Head	16 000,00 €	15 547,52 €
<u>5</u>	Other expenditure	<u>3 200,00 €</u>	<u>2 852,85 €</u>
-	Marratech subscription	1 150,00 €	1 149,44 €
-	Bahnhof rental	1 900,00 €	1 553,41 €
-	website domain and server	150,00 €	150,00 €
<u>6</u>	Expertise not included in Seagull II	<u>5 600,00 €</u>	<u>6 308,68 €</u>
<u>7</u>	Reserve (incl. Banking charges)	<u>1 000,00 €</u>	<u>1 423,44 €</u>
<u>8</u>	Seagull II expenses (not included elsewhere)	<u>296 814,41 €</u>	<u>322 908,17 €</u>
<u>9</u>	BEN expenses (not included elsewhere)	<u>4 400,00 €</u>	<u>4 579,30 €</u>
<u>10</u>	Seagull II Tacis expenses (not included elsewhere)	<u>41 000,00 €</u>	<u>27 825,78 €</u>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

**383 914,41 €**

**401 712,04 €**

**RESULT (Income - Expenditure)**

**-52 449,63 €**

**-57 887,55 €**



**EUROREGION BALTIC  
INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT  
SECRETARIAT**

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*New term: Vice-President Per Ole Petersen and President Bernth Johnson*



*Seagull II study visit to Euroregion Šešupė in Lithuania*



*ERB flags waving proudly outside Vämö Centre in Karlskrona*



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