

Euroregion Baltic  
 Council Meeting  
 Stare Jabłonki,  
 Warmia & Mazury, Poland  
 4 - 6 November 2009



**Title** Provisional Minutes  
**Submitted by** International Permanent Secretariat  
**Summary / Note** This document provides provisional minutes of the ERB Council meeting which took place between 4 and 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009.  
**Requested action** Comments / Subsequent adoption

**Participants**

Niels Chresten Andersen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Denmark
Lisa Andersson	YC3 Coordinator, Region Blekinge, Sweden
Cajsa Augustzèn	Chair of ERB Youth Board, Södra Småland, Sweden
Henryk Bach	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Lubawa
Vladimir Balobaev	ERB Youth Board member, Kaliningrad, Russia
Egle Baltranaite	Neringa Municipality Administration, Lithuania
Pavel Bekker	Government of Kaliningrad Region, Russia
Ken Bolmar	ERB Council member, Denmark
Kacper Bork	Association for Local Initiatives, Elbląg, Poland
Marek Brzezina	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Ostróda
Jerzy Bubela	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Górowo Ił.
Krzysztof Caban	Elbląg Foundation, Poland
Erik Ciardi (online)	Regional Council in Kalmar County, Sweden
Anna Czerwień	Elbląg – Europe Association, Poland
Bo Damgaard-Nielsen	ERB Youth Board member, Bornholm, Denmark
Anders Damgaard-Nielsen	ERB Youth Board member, Bornholm, Denmark
Wojciech Demko	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Dzierżoń
Sławek Demkowicz-Dobrzański	ERB International Permanent Secretariat, Poland
Marcin Doroszewski	European Club in Olsztyn, Poland
Adam Drzeżdżon	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Władysławowo
Bogusława Engelbrecht	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Lina
Tomasz Filipiak	Ministry of Interior, Poland
Marie Fridh	Region Blekinge, Sweden
Magdalena Gągól	European Club in Olsztyn, Poland
Karolina Gierszyńska	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Nowe Miasto
Elżbieta Godderis	South Baltic Joint Technical Secretariat
Dorota Górecka	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Sępólno
Michał Grajewski	Elbląg – Europe Association, Poland
Radosław Gucwa	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Pruszcz Gd.
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Bogdan Hardybała	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Zalewo
Agnieszka Hauer	European Club in Olsztyn, Poland
Krzysztof Hećman	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Kętrzyn
Stefan Hrybek	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Płoskinia
Mariana Johannesson	Regional Council in Södra Småland, Sweden
Magdalena Iwanek	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Dobre Miasto
Anna Jabłońska	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Wejherowo
Sławomir Jezierski	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Elbląg
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Rasa Kmitiene	Silute District Municipality Administration, Lithuania
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Victor Koshelev	Administration of Baltijsk Commune, Russia
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Paweł Kraczkowski	European Club in Olsztyn, Poland
Jaroslawa Kral	European Club in Olsztyn, Poland
Marek Labuda	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Reda
Andrzej Lemanowicz	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Tolkmicko
Krystyna Lewańska	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Frombork
Maciej Lisicki	ERB Council member, Poland
Paulina Łopatek	European Club in Olsztyn, Poland
Dariusz Martinkus	Kretinga District Municipality Administration, Lithuania
Krzysztof Nałęcz	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Bartoszyce
Agata Nazar	Association of Polish Communes ERB, Poland
Lova Necksten	YC3 Information Officer, Region Blekinge, Sweden
Agnieszka Niewińska	Environmental Awareness Raising Association, Poland
Beata Nowak	State Vocational School in Elbląg, Poland
Beata Olszewska	European Club in Olsztyn, Poland
Zdzisław Olszewski	Director of Secretariat of Polish Communes, Poland
Jolanta Orzołek	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Rumia
Per Ole Petersen	ERB Board member, Bornholm, Denmark
Hanna Pietrzakiewicz	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Tczew
Mihail Pluhin	ERB Board member, Kaliningrad, Russia
Jacek Protas	ERB President, Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Poland
Włodzimierz Ptasznik	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Iława
Peter Ratcovitch	Region Blekinge, Sweden
Lucyna Rygiel	South Baltic Joint Technical Secretariat
Justyna Salmanowicz	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Iława
Robert Sęk	European Club in Olsztyn, Poland
Włodzimierz Siudek	Member of Board of Polish Association Communes, Poland
Jerzy Skonieczny	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Malbork
Rafał Śledziński	Foundation for Development of Paramedics in Elbląg, Poland
Viktoria Snioliene	Klaipeda County Governor's Office, Lithuania
Mikołaj Sobczak	Association for Local Initiatives, Elbląg, Poland
Kora Stańczyk	Pomorskie Marshal's Office, Poland
Paweł Sudara	ERB Youth Board member, Poland
Suzanne Svensson	ERB Council member, Sweden
Janusz Sypiański	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Świątki
Joanna Szatanik	Centre for Voluntary Work in Elbląg, Poland
Jerzy Szmit	ERB Council member, Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Poland
Mateusz Sztajnje	Elbląg – Europe Association, Poland
Krzysztof Szumała	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Milejewo
Leszek Tabor	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Sztum
Kamila Tkaczuk	Elbląg Scout Troop, Poland
Elise Wåhlin	ERB Youth Board member, Sweden
Małgorzata Wasilenko	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office, Poland
Kamila Wałachowska	Pro Academicus Association, Poland
Cezary Wawrzyński	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Ostróda
Bogumił Wiśniewski	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Kwidzyn
Henryk Wojciechowski	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Starogard Gd
Rafał Wolski	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office, Poland
Joanna Woźniak	Pomorskie Marshal's Office, Poland
Szymon Wojtasik	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland
Eugeniusz Wyrzykowski	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Stegna
Krystyna Zawistowska	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Bisztynek
Joanna Zielińska	ERB Council member, Poland
Kamil Zimnicki	Construction College in Elbląg, Poland
Piotr Zwolak	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office, Poland
Magdalena Zydek	ERB Youth Board, Pomorskie, Poland
Anna Żurawska-Fiałek	Council Member of Association of Polish Communes, Nowy Dwór Gd.

**4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, DAY ONE:  
ARRIVALS, SECRETARIAT & ERB WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**

11:00 1. **ERB Secretariat meeting**  
15:00

ERB Board meeting in January in Olsztyn to be combined with the meeting or regional directors

ERB Regional Secretariats will consider new dates (as requested by Kalmar since their CEO will not be available on 21) and check with Board members and CEOs if they can participate in the lunch-to-lunch between 20 and 21. Proposed agenda: 20.01, 12.00 – 13.00: lunch; 13.00 – 18.00: meeting of directors; 19.00: dinner; 21.01, 09 – 13.00: ERB Board meeting; 13.00 – 14.00: lunch. ERB Regional Secretariats will send the names of the directors and other key representatives relevant in the discussion to be invited to attend before 6<sup>th</sup> November and consider the discussion topics for the meeting of directors after consultation with CEOs and send first proposals to me before end of November. ERB Regional Secretariats will also attempt to meet face-to-face in December in order to prepare the meeting in January well.

supERB project idea

It became clear that not only will the project need anchoring in ERB member regions, a natural and expected process when it comes to joint projects, but will also have to wait before the regions say they actually want to be part of it. What makes the problem more difficult to handle is that no specific directions are or will soon be available from at least some of the regions as to what they expect to be getting from the project, not before the discussion on the ERB priorities is not concluded. This means the supERB is merely a proposal even though it was supported by ERB Board. ERB Secretariats will continue working with the idea but firstly, only in the background of the meetings in January and February which should give a clearer indication of expectations from the regions, and secondly, with the realization that the project may not have to be submitted during the South Baltic 5<sup>th</sup> call for proposals. ERB Regional Secretariats will form the group to conduct the Logical Framework Analysis before the meeting of the ERB secretariats in December. The group will then be responsible for the proposal of possible project objectives, activities, outputs, etc. So far the group includes Erik Ciardi from Kalmar, Mariana Johannesson from Sodra Smaland, Marie Fridh from Blekinge, Niels Chresten Andersen from Bornholm and S, Demkowicz-Dobrzański from IPS. It seems recommendable that all ERB member regions should have a representative to facilitate proper preparation process.

small project under NFM

IPS will go ahead with the preparation of a small project under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism even though it will not be related to the supERB. This small project's objective will be to facilitate the process of the mid-term evaluation of JDP. Its main activities will be: 1. Meeting in January, 2. Conference in February. Its main output will be the elaboration of proposals of sustainable measures that will be included in the JDP, and these proposals could be used as a background for further work on the supERB project idea. The focus of the first meeting will be on an internal debate about future ERB priorities as proposed by the regional directors while the focus of the February meeting will be more on sustainable measures that can be jointly worked out. To this end, a series of workshops accompanying the Council meeting in February should be held and financed through the small project enabling us the joint preparation of such proposals. Finally, within two, three months after the Council a written and agreed document summing up the proposed climate and energy related activities to complement the JDP should be ready. The Lead Partner of the project will be the Municipality of Elbląg with the regional authorities from

Blekinge, Bornholm and Södra Småland as project partners.

15.00 2.1 **ERB Working Group meetings**  
17.00

ERB Working Group on Transport and ERB Working Group on Local Initiatives met. ERB Working Groups will report in separate communications.

15.00 2.2 **ERB Youth Board meeting**  
17.00

Baltic M-Day

The Youth Board discussed the upcoming seminar on Mobility and Intercultural dialogue going through the presentations. A need was expressed to get better at sending youth presentations to the project secretariat in time so that they can put them together and the Board can go through them before the seminar. It was stressed that everyone attends preparatory meetings before the seminars.

The YC3 project secretariat will put together all the information that will be gathered at the seminar and send it to the participants. The project secretariat will also collect the input regarding the green paper on Youth mobility and send to the Commission. The consultation closes on 15 December.

How to work with information received during meetings (youth influence concept, youth vision and action plan)

A decision was made to create a working group on this matter to make work more efficient. The group consists of Cajsa Augustzén, Elise Wåhlin and Joanna Woźniak. They will give further information during the upcoming online meetings.

E-magazine no 2

The editor Joanna Woźniak made some proposals on the coming E-magazine, which the meeting agreed on. She will include a small text with the facts about the project in each issue and also make an interview with someone from the Youth Board. Elise will pen a text about what the EU green paper on youth mobility is and send it to Joanna. The next issue will be ready on 30<sup>th</sup> November and will be sent out together with Christmas greetings on 7<sup>th</sup> December. One proposal is also to put all the E-magazines together at the end of the project to get a good output with some additional information about the project as well.

Next meeting in Klaipeda – Democracy & equality

After discussions with both Klaipeda and South Småland the Board decided to change the schedule of meetings. The next seminar will be held in South Småland and concern environment and energy. The project secretariat will meet with the contact person and Youth Board representatives from South Småland soon. These changes are a result of the administration reform in Lithuania.

Online meetings

ERB Youth Board and YC3 project secretariat stressed the importance in participating in the online meetings. New proposals for online meetings are: 25 November at 19:30 (20:30), 16 December at 19:30 (20:30), and 13 January at 19:30 (20:30).

**5 NOVEMBER, DAY TWO: STUDY VISIT**

- 10.00 1.1 **Visit to Iława**  
14.00
- The study visit included the meeting with Iława authorities, sightseeing trip around the most significant investments co-financed from the EU funds and a walk along the newly renovated embankment on Lake Jeziorak.

## **5 NOVEMBER, DAY TWO: ERB YOUTH BOARD EVENT**

(ERB Youth Board will report in a separate communication)

- 08.30 1.2 **Baltic M - Day**  
14.00

## **5 NOVEMBER, DAY TWO: ERB COUNCIL MEETING**

- 15.00 2. **Welcome & Opening**  
15.10
- ERB President, Mr Jacek Protas, welcomed the participants to the second ERB Council meeting in the region of Warmińsko-Mazurskie, extending special welcome to the youth representatives gathering to discuss youth mobility issues at their YC3 project event. He then briefly presented the outcome of the recent EU Council summit which opened up the final adoption of the Lisbon Treaty and agreed on the joint position before the COP15 Conference in Copenhagen. When it came to the Baltic affairs, the EU Council adopted the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, which lays solid cooperative framework to meet the future challenges related to environment of the Baltic Sea and safety on its waters, competitiveness and prosperity of the region and its attractiveness. President Jacek Protas went on to open the ERB Council meeting.

- 15.10 3. **Adoption of 25.02.09 ERB Council meeting minutes and of the**  
15.15 **present agenda**
- ERB Council approved the 25.02.09 Council meeting minutes and adopted the agenda for this present meeting.

- 15.15 4. **Adoption of the Changes in the ERB Statutes**  
15.20
- Following the earlier discussion and recommendation by the ERB Executive Board, the ERB Council approved the proposed change in the ERB Statutes, making it possible for the Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic to have a full member in the ERB Executive Board. The seat in the Board requires that the Association pays annual membership fee in the amount equivalent to the amount of the other Polish partners within ERB.

The proposed change makes the following phrasing of Paragraph 8.1 of the ERB Statutes: *The ERB Executive Board is elected from the members of the ERB Council and consists of one representative from each member region within Euroregion Baltic, one representative of the Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic and the Chairperson of the Youth Board.*

Afterwards, Ms Joanna Zielińska, the Chair of the Association thanked the Council members and hoped the increased Polish contribution will enhance ERB cooperation.

- 15.20 5. **Information Round**  
15.40

15.20 5.1 **Meeting the Lithuanian Minister of Interior**  
15.30

ERB President, Mr Jacek Protas informed the Council of the meeting in Lithuania related the administration reform which will affect the rotation of presidencies in ERB. On 21st October 2009, Mr Protas and ERB Vice-President, Mr Arunas Burksas met in Vilnius with the Lithuanian Minister of Interior, Mr Raimundas Palaitis. During the meeting, the Lithuanian Minister of Interior was informed about the difficulty that the Klaipeda County will have in holding the ERB Presidency next year due to the planned termination of the Klaipeda County Governor's Administration in July 2010. He was glad to hear that this problem can be solved with the alteration of the ERB presidency rotation sequence. He also stressed that Lithuanian partners should have to continue their cooperation within Euroregion Baltic and said that Klaipeda County as an administrative unit will remain until new, bigger and stronger regions are established in 2014. Until the time it will be the Regional Development Council of Klaipeda County acting as a partner within Euroregion Baltic. He mentioned the possibility that the Council will have an office to support their work since July 2010. Mr Palaitis also suggested that Lithuania will be ready to appoint their candidate for the ERB President in 2012. The candidate will be put forward by the Regional Development Council of Klaipeda County. The meeting was held in a very positive atmosphere and more communication is expected after details of the reform are disclosed in the future.

15.30 5.2 **South Baltic Capacity Building Project**  
15.35

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański informed of a South Baltic Capacity Building project idea that is being constructed within a wide partnership of partners in the region, including Danish Region of Zealand, Swedish Local Association of Small Municipalities, Marshal Offices from Pomerania and Western Pomerania in Poland Euroregion Pomerania and Euroregion Baltic, Blekinge Institute of Technology, University of Gdańsk, Klaipeda University, and others.

The general objective of the project will be to strengthen regional capacity to submit and implement good projects within South Baltic Cross-border Cooperation Programme. The specific objectives will include:

- Analysis of the barriers that hamper the smooth development of the project;
- Dissemination of information about the Programme to wider range of potential beneficiaries;
- Emphasis on the cross-border character of the Programme;
- Training for potential partners and/or facilitators;
- Facilitation of the development of joint project proposals.

Some of the planned results include the organisation of a kick-off conference, workshops and trainings, as well as the preparation of training tools, questionnaires, website, database, etc.

A possible role for Euroregion Baltic will be to help disseminate the information about the project and the Programme using ERB network of regional secretariats and contacts. Its participation will have to be facilitated through the legal personality of the Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic.

15.40 6. **ERB Council Debate:**  
18.15

**Climate & energy policies in the future ERB cooperation**

- 15.35 6.1 **Opening**  
15.45
- ERB President, Mr Jacek Protas opened the debate making reference to some of the facts related to the issue of climate changes. He pointed out that there are a number of different scenarios as to the way how the climate will change in the coming years but no doubts about how serious these changes have been in the last decades. He stressed the role that the European Union has decided to take in the world in leading the actions aiming at mitigating and adapting to the climate changes. He highlighted that the EU Climate and Energy Package will also affect European businesses redirecting their economic activities to the low CO2 emission-based technologies. There is a potential, the President continued, that Euroregion Baltic becomes an important actor in initiatives that will need to mobilise all levels of authority and communities, making a good use of, among others, the already adopted EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.
- 15.45 6.2 **Introduction into climate & energy policies**  
16.00
- Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański presented the main objectives of the EU Climate and Energy Package as well as of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (see the attached presentation: ERBCouncil\_energy\_supERB.ppt)
- 16.00 6.3 **Contributions from the ERB member regions**  
17.00
- Firstly, the representative of the Regional Council in Kalmar County, Ms Carolina Gunnarsson made a presentation of Kalmar's experience and achievements in the implementation of sustainable policies (see the attached presentation: ERBCouncil\_energy\_Kalmar.ppt).
- Secondly, the representative of the Marshal's Office of Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Mr Rafał Wolski made a presentation of the efforts made in his region in relation to the climate challenges (see the attached presentation: ERBCouncil\_energy\_WarmiaMasuria.ppt).
- Thirdly, the representatives of the Regional Council in Södra Småland, Ms Mariana Johannesson made a presentation of the initiatives taken in her region to introduce environmentally friendly solutions (see the attached presentation: ERBCouncil\_energy\_SodraSmaland.ppt).
- Fourthly, the representatives of the Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Mr Niels Chresten Andersen presented the experience of his island in the implementation of sustainable policies (see the attached presentation: ERBCouncil\_energy\_Bornholm.ppt).
- 17.15 6.6 **supERB**  
17.25
- Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański made a brief presentation of a joint project idea that could constitute ERB contribution into the EU climate change initiatives (see the attached presentation: ERBCouncil\_energy\_supERB.ppt)
- 17.25 6.7 **Views from the floor**  
18.15
- Mr Mihail Pluhin said there is no doubt climate change should be combated but certain considerations should be borne in mind. For example, the facts of the USA having not signed the Kyoto agreement and of wind energy having negative impact on the environment. He said we should all remember it is a global question. Mr Pluhin expressed his respect to the Swedish regions producing a major proportion of their energy from renewable sources but reminded that 60% of GDP in the western countries is generated by services. Manufacturing like e.g. aluminium plants require conventional energy production systems.

ERB President, Mr Jacek Protas noted different regions start their climate change combat at different levels. Those more advanced should have some responsibility for the poorer regions. He also said these different regions have a varying level of awareness when it comes to the climate change and thus proposed that the continued debate on energy and climate within ERB should invite relevant experts.

In support of the idea to involve experts Mr Niels Chresten Andersen pointed out that the planned ERB meetings in January and February will be a good opportunity to do so. While the meeting in January will involve the regional directors and make it possible to hear how the individual regions want to benefit from the joint ERB project (on the one hand the less advanced regions can learn from the more advanced ones, but it is important that the more advanced regions also win in this case), the meeting in February will involve operators and practitioners who implement sustainable policies locally and regionally.

Ms Cajsa Augustzèn said environment should be an important aspect in the ERB cooperation and offered that the ERB Youth Board would contribute with their input into the project idea.

ERB President, Mr Jacek Protas thanked for the offer that he said will be gladly accepted. He thought the contribution from the young will be necessary in the joint project that Euroregion Baltic would submit in the future.

Mr Victor Koshelev said the participation of the Russian partners in the South Baltic Programme is complicated and thus the hopes are high for the prompt start of the ENPI Programme Poland – Lithuania – Kaliningrad which could serve as a financial instrument for the Russian components of the ERB projects (as was the case during Seagull devERB and Seagull II projects). He also informed about some legal steps taken into the facilitation of the navigation in the Vistula Lagoon, i.e. the Polish – Russian agreement signed on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 allowing the navigation of Polish and Russian ships, Russian regulation specifying the conditions for the navigation of the third country ships, and another Russian regulation allowing passengers of ferry boats to stay in the Russian territory for 72 hours without visas.

ERB President, Mr Jacek Protas said the information on the regulations facilitating the navigation in the Vistula Lagoon made everyone in ERB happy. He also thought that submitting ENPI components for the joint ERB projects was a good idea. He mentioned one idea which had been recently proposed within the framework of the cooperation around the Vistula Lagoon, i.e. joint Polish – Russian regatta in 2010.

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański pointed out that the Russian participation in projects co-financed by the South Baltic Programme is possible although somewhat limited. ERB cooperation should be used to make this Programme more accessible to the Russian partners.

## 18.15 7. **Closing of the ERB Council meeting**

ERB President, Mr Jacek Protas informed the next ERB Council meeting will be held on 25-26 February 2010 in Elbląg, Poland). It will be preceded by the ERB Executive Board meeting which will take place in Olsztyn between 20 and 21 January 2010.

Ms Cajsa Augustzèn informed that the next ERB Youth Board meeting was planned to take place in Lithuania together with the Council meeting but since it was now changed the youth representatives will not have financial backing from the YC3 project. She thus asked whether the ERB member regions will be able to cover the participation of their members in the ERB Youth Board from their budgets.

ERB President, Mr Jacek Protas said that on behalf of his region he can



promise to cover the cost of the participation of Warmińsko-Mazurskie member in the Youth Board in the next ERB Council meeting. He also said he will formally ask the regions to do the same when it comes to their youth representatives.

At this point the agenda of the ERB Council meeting was completed and ERB President, Mr Jacek Protas closed the meeting.

## **6 NOVEMBER, DAY THREE: JOINT MEETING OF ERB COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF DELAGATES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH COMMUNES EUROREGION BALTIC**

The goal of the meeting was to proceed with first discussions on the EU legislation allowing the establishment of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation and its possible consequences for Euroregion Baltic. This first discussion aimed at hearing views from the ERB partners on whether such a legal facility can be of benefit for Euroregion Baltic, considering advantages resulting from a possible establishment of a formal international structure on the one hand, and disadvantages resulting from limited participation of the non-EU member states. Other important aspects were also brought up, including the scope of EGTC activities, whether these could be formed around some general objectives for the ERB cooperation or more specific tasks undertaken in Euroregion Baltic.

11.00 1. **Opening**  
11.20

The debate was opened by two members of the ERB Council: Ms Joanna Zielińska, Chair of the Association of Polish Communes, and Mr Mihail Pluhin, ERB Executive Board member.

11.20 2. **Presentation of the Polish legislation**  
11.40

Mr Zdzisław Olszewski, Director of the Secretariat of the Association of Polish Communes made a presentation of the general EU legislation and the Polish national legislation enabling the establishment of the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (see the attached presentation: EGTC\_legal.ppt).

11.40 3. **Some examples of EGTCs already established**  
12.00

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański, Head of the ERB International Secretariat, made a presentation of four such groupings that are at a very advanced stage of organization, just before its official registration. Each of them seemed to be interesting due to somewhat different characteristics, varying genesis and objectives of their work (see the attached presentation: EGTC\_examples.ppt).

12.00 4. **Debate**  
12.45

During the debate ERB Council members and the members of the Association General Assembly offered their views which could be summed up by the following:

- National legislation is in place in Denmark, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden although specific articles may differ, e.g. as to the possibility of registration of EGTCs with limited liability,
- EGTCs do not either replace Euroregions or make them redundant,
- EGTCs allow institutional cooperation involving several levels of beneficiaries such as state, regional, local, local government units and Euroregions,
- EGTCs are provided with legal personality and therefore have specific rights this legislation entails, and most importantly the possibility to

- manage European funds,
- EGTCs are able to create structures such as joint technical secretariats,
- EGTCs can implement major infrastructural projects.

12.45 5. **Conclusions**  
12.55

The participants of the debate concluded with the comment that at this stage it was too early to make final recommendations as to an EGTC within Euroregion Baltic. Therefore, they proposed that a roadmap should be developed for further discussion with particular emphasis on procedures enabling the inclusion of the Russian partner in the future grouping.

12.55 6. **Closing**  
13.00

The debate was closed by Ms Joanna Zielińska, Chair of the Association of Polish Communes, and Mr Mihail Pluhin, ERB Executive Board member.