

Euroregion Baltic
Executive Board Meeting
Växjö, Sweden
16th June 2014



Title Final Minutes

Submitted by SDD, International Permanent Secretariat

Summary / Note This document provides final minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place on 16th June 2014.

Requested action Signing

ERB Executive Board meeting

13.30 – 17.30

Växjö Municipality, Kronobergsrummet, Västra Esplanaden 18

Participants: ERB Executive Board:

Vytautas Grubliauskas	ERB President, President of Association Klaipėda Region
Roland Gustbée	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Board of Regional Council of södra Småland
Akko Karlsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Deputy Chair of the Board of the Regional Council in Kalmar County
Maria Fromseier Kjaergaard	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of ERB Youth Board, Member of the Board of the Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Christina Mattisson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Board of Region Blekinge
Åke Nilsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board of the Regional Council in Kalmar County

Participants: ERB Youth Board:

Mateusz Ankiwicz	Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Oliver Rosengren	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council of södra Småland

Participants: ERB Secretariats

S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański	ERB International Permanent Secretariat
Johnny Winther Holbech	Job Centre Bornholm
Sebastian Magier	Association of Polish Communes
Therese Magnusson	Regional Council of södra Småland
Anna Martinsson	Regional Council of Kalmar County
Jan Martinsson	Regional Council of Kalmar County
Valdas Pučkorius	Director of the Secretariat of Association Klaipėda Region
Magdalena Skłucka	Office of the Marshal of Pomorskie Region
Johanna Rönn	Region Blekinge
Piotr Zwolak	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region

1. **Opening & Welcome**

Mr Roland Gustbée, member of the ERB Executive Board, welcomed the participants of the meeting in Växjö and the county of Kronoberg.

2. **Opening**

Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas, President of Euroregion Baltic, opened the meeting.

3. **Adoption of the agenda**

President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas presented the agenda. He also gave a short overview of the ERB cooperation.

Decision:

ERB Executive Board members approved the agenda.

4. **Signing the minutes of the previous ERB Board meetings**

ERB IPS submitted the minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place on 20th March 2014, and the online meeting of the ERB Executive Board which took place on 9th May 2014.

Decision:

ERB President, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas and ERB Executive Board member, Mr Roland Gustbée signed the minutes of both meetings.

5. **Transfer of the ERB International Secretariat**

ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Strategic Actions
Internal Action: strengthening ERB internally

Following the decision of the ERB Board taken on 20th March 2014, the Foundation supporting and promoting entrepreneurship in Olsztyn will become the hosting party for IPS as of 1st July 2014.

Following the decision of the ERB Board taken on 9th May 2014, Mr Sebastian Magier will take the position of the IPS head as of 1st July 2014.

To this end, the representatives of the Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region presented the employment contract (with probation period of six months) which had been previously signed with the Chair of the Foundation. Mr Sebastian Magier signed the employment contract and President Vytautas Grubliauskas co-signed it on behalf of Euroregion Baltic.

S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański addressed the ERB Executive Board and the members of the regional secretariats with expression of gratitude for the ten years of cooperation. ERB Executive Board members thanked Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański for his contribution into the collaboration within Euroregion Baltic.

The representatives of the Association of Polish Communes presented some comments related to the scope of the responsibilities of the head of IPS. While the ERB Board members were positive to developing specific guidelines regulating the relation between the IPS and the Foundation, they did not agree that it is for Euroregion Baltic to decide upon its involvement to the official bodies of the South Baltic Programme. Such involvement follows the invitation from the programme's managing authority (Polish Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure). Naturally, Euroregion Baltic will continue its current engagement in the programme work, and the secretariat will play a vital role in this assignment.

S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański presented information concerning the implementation of the ERB budget in 2014, and made a proposal to the budget for the second half of the year allowing the transfer of 1,000.00 EUR from the reserve to the overheads due to increased expenses related to the hosting of IPS in Olsztyn (accounting services, stationery).

S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański also presented information concerning the on-going discussion with the Foundation on the cost of running the secretariat. So far, the cost of the office rental was agreed at 1,000.00 Polish zloty per month. The Foundation proposed that a further 1,200.00 Polish zloty is paid by ERB to cover the costs of accounting services (800.00 per month), as well as cleaning, use of office equipment and internet (400.00 per month). S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański had informed the Foundation that ERB can pay its own expenses related to internet and office equipment (money booked in the current ERB budget), and asked to negotiate the cost of accounting services which is well above the current market price.

Decision:

ERB Executive Board members decided to:

- authorise ERB President, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas to co-sign the employment contract with Mr Sebastian Magier,
- approve the revised plan of IPS expenses between 1st July and 31st December 2014,
- request assistance from the Polish partners so that the negotiations with the Foundation in Olsztyn concerning the cost of the secretariat hosting are closed as soon as possible.

6. Information from ERB Youth Board

ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Strategic Actions

Action: supporting youth cooperation within ERB Youth Board

- 6.a. Ms Maria Fromseier Kjaergaard, Chair of ERB Youth Board, informed that the ERB Youth Board is experiencing inactivity on the part of some members. Nevertheless, in her capacity as its Chair, and assisted by Mr Mateusz Kryżba, Deputy Chair of the ERB Youth Board, she is working on a proposal for Youth Board's activities in 2014 and 2015. This proposal will be sent to the ERB Executive Board and secretariats at the end of June.

A discussion followed during which Mr Roland Gustbée expressed his concern over the inactivity of the Youth Board. Ms Christina Mattisson asked that the ERB member organisations should be informed if their representatives to the Youth Board do not participate in the work so that they can solve the problem internally. Mr Jan Martinsson said that Kalmar will have an internal discussion on how to integrate the youth cooperation.

President Grubliauskas said the ERB Executive Board will welcome proposals of concrete activities from the Youth Board and will eagerly discuss how to support them. He also encouraged the Youth Board to hold separate meetings to those of the ERB Executive Board so that the young people can follow their own agenda.

- 6.b. Ms Akko Karlsson presented a request regarding the continuation of the SYPERB project. She said the project can continue but needs Polish municipalities who are currently missing. Mr Jan Martinsson added that the SYPERB project is now proposed to become a flagship within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region with good prospects and it would be a shame if it was dropped at this moment.

Mr Piotr Zwolak informed that Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region will no longer be able to participate. They had earlier put a lot of effort in finding a partner (Municipality of Elbląg). Ms Magdalena Skłucka said Pomorskie will continue to support the partner search in their region. Mr Sebastian Magier informed that the Municipality of Słupsk is currently discussing their possible involvement in the SYPERB project and their decision is expected in two weeks' time.

Decision:

ERB Executive Board members:

- took note of the information presented by Chair of ERB Youth Board,
- express willingness to discuss the concrete proposals of activities to be presented by the Chair of the Youth Board by the end of June,
- gave further support to the SYPERB project.

7. **Coffee break**

8. **ERB Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**

ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Lobbying

External Action: participating in the implementation of EUSBSR

- 8.a. Mr Jan Martinsson informed the ERB Executive Board of 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR, jointly organised with 16th Baltic Development Forum Summit, themed "Growing together". The Forum explored how cooperation can help strengthen economic growth, contribute to sustainable development, and create a strong and integrated Baltic Sea Region. The 16th Baltic Development Forum Summit and 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR will be part of the Turku Baltic Sea Days 1-5 June 2014.

Bringing together decision-makers from business, politics, international organisations and academia from across the Baltic Sea Region, the event provided a platform to exchange opinions and experiences, discuss key issues and chart the way forward. Key areas addressed included outlooks on governance, the digital economy, regional cooperation, smart urban solutions, blue growth, innovation and competitiveness.

- 8.b. Ms Christina Mattisson invited the ERB stakeholders to the Baltic Sea Tourism Forum which will be held in Karlskrona on 1st and 2nd October 2014. This is 7th Tourism Forum held in the framework of the EUSBSR and will convene tourism experts from around the Baltic Sea. It will be hosted by Region Blekinge, accompanied by an international group of like-minded partners and in close cooperation with the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Tourist Board and the State Chancellery Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in its role as the coordinator of Priority Area Tourism.

The main topics to be addressed during the Forum 2014 will focus on the areas of "Business, Innovation & Partnership". Important components are a business talk with forward-looking aspects from the private sector perspective as well as workshops with innovative approaches and best practices to better link and market tourism offers between countries. A concentration on topics like rural and active tourism, boat and cruise tourism and cultural tourism is planned.

Decision:

ERB Executive Board members:

- took note of the information presented on the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR,
- accepted the invitation to 7th Tourism Forum in Karlskrona.

9. **Information from Task Force on Cohesion Policy**

ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Lobbying

External Action: participating in the implementation of ETC and ENI programmes in the Baltic Sea Region

- 9.a. S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański presented to the ERB Executive Board the latest update on the progress in the South Baltic programme, focusing on the last discussions held during the meeting of national coordinators in Malmö, and specifically on the definition of beneficiaries (private actors), programme manual and technical assistance.

- 9.b. S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański also presented the closing report from the Cohesion Task Force, prepared earlier by its leader, Mr Niels Chresten Andersen.

Decision:

ERB Executive Board members:

- took note of the information on the South Baltic CBC Programme,
- closed the ERB Task Force on Cohesion Policy.

10. **Next ERB Executive Board meeting**

Following the ERB Action Plan for 2014 – 2015 the representative of Pomorskie, Ms Magdalena Skłucka invited the ERB Executive Board to Gdańsk. The motto of this year's, fourth edition is: „Know your energy”. The event focuses mainly on bringing energy topics in an approachable way, such as possible use of energy sources – from the phase of obtaining conventional and unconventional minerals, through their technological processing, management, research, development of innovative technologies (including renewable energy sources), energy systems and their management – with their clarification and explanation of their influence on people's life, all the advantages and disadvantages.

Pomorskie Energy Days will consist of two basic elements: fairs and seminars held in Exhibition Centre Amber Expo in Gdańsk or Gdynia Sports & Show Arena, addressing mainly professionals with displays of technologies and innovative solutions, seminars and public lectures, as well as street party held in an open urban space (Targ Węglowy in Gdańsk or Kościuszki Square in Gdynia, addressing primarily inhabitants and tourists with displays, exhibitions, games and interactive presentations, involving both adults and children.

Decision:

ERB Executive Board members decide to:

- accepted the invitation to Pomorskie Energy Days,
- decided that the next ERB Executive Board meeting will be held together with 5th Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders in Gdańsk during or around Pomorskie Energy Days in October 2014,
- asked the partners in Pomorskie to come forward with the date of Pomorskie Energy Days as soon as possible.

11. **Conclusion and Closing**

ERB President, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas concluded and closed the ERB Executive Board meeting.