



- Title** Final Minutes
- Submitted by** Sebastian Magier, ERB International Permanent Secretariat
- Summary / Note** This document provides final minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place on 12th February 2015 in Elbląg, Poland.
- Requested action** Implementation

ERB Executive Board meeting
12th February 2015, 13.00 – 17.00
Elbląg, Św. Duchy 3-4

Participants

ERB Executive Board:

Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas	ERB President, President of Association Klaipėda Region
Mr Wiesław Byczkowski	ERB Vice-President, Vice-Chair of the Board of Pomorskie Region
Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board of Region Kronoberg
Ms Anna Fransson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Board of Region Kronoberg
Ms Akko Karlsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board of the Regional Council in Kalmar County
Ms Christina Mattisson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Board of Region Blekinge
Mr Åke Nilsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board of the Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Per Ole Petersen	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Jerzy Wilk	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic

ERB Youth Board:

Mr Mateusz Kryzba	Deputy Chair of ERB Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Mr Maksymilian Lewandowski	Member of ERB Youth Board, Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Mr Mateusz Ankiewicz	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region

ERB Secretariats:

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Łukasz Bielewski	Director of International Cooperation Department, Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Mr Simonas Gentvilas	Association Klaipėda Region
Ms Elena Lebedeva	Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region
Mr Sebastian Magier	ERB International Permanent Secretariat
Ms Therese Magnusson	Region Kronoberg
Mr Jan Martinsson	Regional Council of Kalmar County
Ms Romualda Naruszewicz	Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Mr Zdzisław Olszewski	Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Ms Johanna Rönn	Region Blekinge
Ms Magdalena Skłucka	Office of the Marshal of Pomorskie Region
Mr Piotr Zwolak	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region

Guests:

Mr Alexandr Musevich	Chairman of the Committee on International and Inter-regional Relations of the Kaliningrad Regional Duma
Ms Regina Czymbor	Regional Office in Elbląg, Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Ms Adrianna Gniado-Turkowska	Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Mr Ivan Kesoretskikh	Institute of Spatial Planning, Development and Foreign Relations in Kaliningrad

Ms Yulia Konstantinova	Kaliningrad Regional Duma
Mr Victor Koshelev	Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University in Kaliningrad
Ms Karolina Matusiak	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Ms Małgorzata Samusjew	Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Ms Veronika Solobai	EVS Volunteer, Pionier Association in Olsztyn
Mr Artur Szadurski	Chair of Board, Amber ICT Cluster Association in Elbląg
Ms Joanna Urbaniak	Chief Spokesperson for Mayor of Elbląg

1. **Welcome**

Chair of the Board of the Association of Polish Communes and Chair of the Elbląg City Council, Mr Jerzy Wilk welcomed the participants on behalf of the Association and the City of Elbląg. Taking this opportunity, Mr Wilk invited the participants to take part in the study visits to the Elbląg Museum, Elbląg Europa Association and Elbląg Technology Park, which would present a very good opportunity to learn more about the city's economic potential as well as its history and cultural values.

2. **Opening and adoption of the agenda**

President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas opened the meeting of the ERB Executive Board and presented the agenda.

Decision:

ERB Executive Board approved the agenda without comments.

3. **Signing the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meetings**

ERB IPS has submitted the minutes of the previous ERB Executive board meetings held in Gdańsk on 29th October 2014 and online on 10th December 2014 (see attachments: 20141210_ERB_Board_final_minutes.pdf and ERBBoard_20141029_final_minutes.pdf).

Decision:

ERB President, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas and ERB Vice President, Mr Wiesław Byczkowski signed the minutes of ERB Executive Board meeting of 29th October 2014. ERB President, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas and ERB Executive Board Member, Ms Akko Karlsson signed the minutes of the online meeting of the ERB Executive Board of 10th December 2014.

4. Introduction of new members of the Executive Board

President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas welcomed new members of the ERB Executive Board: Ms Anna Fransson and Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson both representing Region Kronoberg, as well as Mr Gustaw Marek Brzezina, Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship. Following his welcome words, ERB President New ERB requested new ERB Executive Board members to briefly introduce themselves to the Executive Board.

In her introductory speech Ms Anna Fransson, Chair of the Board of Region Kronoberg stated that she was looking forward to joint cooperation within the ERB. She expressed hope that the ERB would be a platform to share knowledge and find solutions to common problems of all ERB member organisations.

Also representing Region Kronoberg as the Member of the Board, Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson said she was looking forward to work together with other ERB Board members on common issues. Being a member of the Centre Party, Ms Berndtsson is also a member of the Region's Health Care Board as well as the member of the Municipal Council of Tingsryd.

Speaking on behalf of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Mr Łukasz Bielewski stated that Mr Gustaw Marek Brzezina, Marshal of the Region, would become the new member of the ERB Executive Board. Apologising for Mr Brzezina's absence caused by matter of extraordinary importance and urgency, Mr Bielewski reaffirmed Region's commitment towards joint cooperation within the ERB.

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information presented.

5. Report on activities in 2014

- 5.a. An activity report presenting the outcomes of the ERB cooperation in 2014 was delivered by ERB President, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas and Head of IPS, Mr Sebastian Magier (see attachment).

- 5.b. An activity report presenting the outcomes of activities undertaken within the ERB Youth Board was delivered by Vice Chair of the Youth Board, Mr Mateusz Kryżba (see attachment).

Decision:

ERB Executive Board members adopted the reports.

6. Transfer of Chairmanship

- 6.a. ERB Presidency was to be transferred from Lithuania to Poland, and Mr Wiesław Byczkowski, Deputy Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship was elected the new President of ERB. At the same time, Ms Alla Ivanova, Minister – Head of Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region will be appointed the ERB Vice-President.

Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas thanked the ERB Executive Board for the opportunity to serve as the President of Euroregion Baltic during 2014 which had been a year of significant changes and challenges for the ERB and its stakeholders. While wishing all the best to the new ERB President, Mr Grubliauskas said he remained hopeful that Mr Wiesław Byczkowski would be even more successful leader of ERB cooperation in the year to come, making the organisation more effective and visible in the Baltic Sea Region.

Speaking on behalf of Ms Alla Ivanova, Ms Elena Lebedeva stated that Ms Ivanova was looking forward to take over the ERB Vice Presidency as the first step towards the ERB Presidency next year and remained hopeful that cooperation with the new Presidency would allow her to be ready for the next year.

Mr Wiesław Byczkowski, the new ERB President said it had been a pleasure to work with Mr Grubliauskas and that he was thankful to the outgoing ERB President and his secretariat for hard and efficient work during 2014. Mr Byczkowski stated that he was looking forward to support from all ERB Executive Board members and the International Permanent Secretariat. He also expressed hope for a good cooperation with Ms Alla Ivanova, so that next year the Kaliningrad Region would smoothly take over the ERB Presidency. He also remained confident that in his work he would continue receive professional and valuable support from the Pomorskie ERB Regional Secretariat.

- 6.b. ERB Youth Board Chairpersonship was transferred from Denmark to Poland and Mr Mateusz Kryżba of Warmińsko-Mazurskie was elected the new Youth Board Chair. At the same time, Mr Tautrimas Rupulevičius representing the Association Klaipeda Region was appointed the new ERB Youth Board Vice Chair.

Introducing the information about the transfer of chairmanship, the new ERB President, Mr Wiesław Byczkowski said that the entire ERB Executive Board remained hopeful that the ERB Youth Board would continue its work as a working body within ERB allowing the youth to learn more about the EU and Baltic Sea Region policies, participate in joint projects and meetings around specific topics. He also confirmed that the Pomorskie region would participate in the work of the Youth Board through the newly established Pomorskie Regional Youth Council representing the youth from all parts of the region.

Decision:

ERB Executive Board approved the new ERB President and Vice-President, as well as the new ERB Youth Board Chair and his Deputy.

7. ERB Action Plan 2015 – 2016

- 7.a. President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Wiesław Byczkowski and Head of ERB International Secretariat, Mr Sebastian Magier outlined the new Action Plan for the ERB cooperation in 2015 and 2016 (see attached ERB Action Plan 2015-2016).

Introducing the ERB Action Plan 2015-2015, Mr Byczkowski stated that it was important to make ERB even more visible both inside and outside member regions and improve the lobbying potential. He reiterated that the Pomorskie ERB Presidency would do its best to promote the organisation, also during the upcoming Polish presidency in CBSS starting July 2015. To achieve this more concrete initiatives strengthening ERB cooperation as well as more ideas for new projects and involvement of more partners from ERB regions would be needed. In his view the ERB Task Force for Project Facilitation should also be used to achieve this goal.

Commenting on the point of the ERB Action Plan concerning the development of water cooperation in ERB, Ms Akko Karlsson, ERB Board member, stated that the ERB Water Core Group would like to have more active participants from all member organisations. To this end, she requested to try to identify WCG representatives from all ERB regions.

- 7.b. Mr Mateusz Kryżba, ERB Youth Board Chair outlined main activities planned within the ERB Youth Board (see attached ERB Action Plan 2015-2016).

Commenting on the presentation of the ERB Youth Board Chair, Mr Niels Chresten Andersen thanked Mateusz for his hard work during the preparation for the ERB Executive Board meeting. He also remained the three keyword that should guide youth cooperation within ERB:

- Communication - both within the Youth Board and outside
- Support - from EVS volunteers and ERB secretariats

- Representation – in the member organisations allowing the YB members to be more effective in their work

Decision:

Following the discussion, ERB Executive Board approved the ERB Action Plan 2015-2016.

8. Information on the status of the Task Force Project Facilitation

Mr Nielsen Chresten Andersen will presented an overview of the activities undertaken by the Task Force to date, with special focus on project ideas to be submitted for the Executive Board’s approval. Mr Andersen also gave a short overview of the current status of two most important ETC programmes – South Baltic CBC Programme 2014-2020 and Interreg Baltic Sea Region

The following project ideas were presented to the Board:

- WaterNets – project was presented by Mr Jan Martinsson, Regional Council in Kalmar County. The project is a continuation of the Moment project. The concept note was delivered to Interreg BSR during the first call for proposals.
- SYPERB Strategic youth policy in EuroRegion Baltic - the project was presented by Mr Jan Martinsson, Regional Council in Kalmar County. The project is based on the LUPP concept of surveys for young people allowing decision makers to include youth perspective in regional policy planning therefore creating knowledge based development strategies. Another meeting of the SYPERB project is scheduled for 11-12th March 2015 in Kaliningrad and will be followed by another meeting scheduled for May 2015 in Gdańsk.
- Baltic Sea Cluster Development Centre – project presented by Mr Niels Chresten Andersen, Regional Municipality of Bornholm. The project focuses on cluster-to-cluster and business-to-business cooperation as well as business development and internationalisation of SMEs. BSCDC currently includes a network of 20 organisations. The goal of the project is to develop a set of knowledge and business development services, and identify areas of cluster and business development excellence, to cross-fertilize cluster development efforts among partners. This will be achieved by conference and seminar activities, cluster development and management training, cluster research and intelligence as well as internationalisation and trade (see presentation attached).
- Common cultural heritage – maritime battles of the South Baltic area – project presented by Ms Regina Czymbor, Warmińsko-

Mazurskie Marshal's Office, Regional Office in Elbląg. The objective of the project is to create cross-border tourism products in the South Baltic area based on joint events related to historical sea battles from different era. The concept is based on a previously implemented project that recreated the battle of the Vistula Lagoon from 1463. The project was co-financed by the Polish Ministry of Sport and Tourism. The idea of the cross-border project would be to recreate sea battles in different parts of the region, and thus create new tourism products around these events (see presentation attached).

- Promoting cultural heritage of South Baltic region by creating catalogue of the ancient Curonian houses – project presented by Mr Simonas Gentvilas, Association Klaipėda Region. The project is connected to the UNESCO Natural Heritage site – the Curonian Spit. The project intends to collect and catalogue information about around 100 traditional houses located on the Curonian Spit. This activity would be executed in cooperation with German diaspora association. The project is currently looking for partners from Kaliningrad and Poland that have similar challenges (see presentation attached).
- The Baltic House – project presented by Ms Magdalena Skłucka, Pomorskie Marshal's Office. The Baltic House is one of the flagship projects included under PA Culture in the Action Plan of EUSBSR. In 2014 it received funding for concept development from EUSBSR Seed-Money Facility. The aim of Baltic House is to create an opportunity to experience the diversity of the contemporary art in the BSR countries and to make it more accessible to a wider public. The core of the project is a continuous display of contemporary art from BSR countries in a mobile art pavilion. One of the main long-term effects will be to promote BSR culture outside the region and to develop cultural skills within the region (see project concept note attached).

The discussion followed after which Mr Niels Chresten Andersen asked the ERB Executive Board to confirm its support for three ongoing projects (WaterNets, SYPERB and BSCDC) and give support to three new project ideas (Martime Battles, Ancient Curonian Houses and the Baltic House)

Decision:

The ERB Executive Board approve the presented project ideas for further support by the Task Force.

9. **Information on the priorities and measures of cooperation of the Kaliningrad Region and the Strategy of Social and Economic Development of the North-West Federal District of Russian Federation**

Ms Elena Lebedeva, Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region delivered a presentation on priorities and measures of cooperation of the Kaliningrad Region and the Strategy of Social and Economic Development of the North-West Federal District of Russia (see presentation attached).

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

10. **Election of the ERB representatives to the current and new Monitoring Committee of the South Baltic Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020**

Mr Sebastian Magier, ERB International Permanent Secretariat, informed the ERB Executive Board about the procedure regulating the appointment of members of the Monitoring Committee of the South Baltic Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 and also outlined main responsibilities of the Committee specified in the final draft of the Operational Programme sent to the European Commission.

Also, due to the changes in the representation of Region Kronoberg in the ERB Executive Board, Ms Carina Bengtsson was no longer serving as the Member of the ERB Board. Taking into account the fact that Ms Bengtsson had been representing ERB in the current Monitoring Committee of the South Baltic Programme, it was also necessary for the ERB to decide on the new representatives to the current Monitoring Committee of the South Baltic Programme 2007-2013.

Following a short discussion within the ERB Executive Board, Mr Wiesław Byczkowski proposed that two new representatives be elected to the current as well as the future Monitoring Committee of the South Baltic Programme:

- Mr Sebastian Magier – as the Member of the MC
- Mr Simonas Gentvilas – as the Deputy Member of the MC

Decision:

ERB Executive Board decided to approve both candidates to serve as ERB's representation to the joint delegation of Euroregions in the current and future Monitoring Committee of the South Baltic Programme.

11. **Change in ERB Statutes**

ERB Executive member and Chair of the Board of Region Kronoberg, Ms Anna Fransson, proposed a change in the ERB Statutes in its introductory part where the explanation is provided of the Swedish delegation. Following the establishment of a new body representing the region of Kronoberg, i.e. the Region Kronoberg, Ms Fransson proposed

that the Region Kronoberg replace the Regional Council in Södra Småland which was named in the current version of the Statutes.

Decision:

ERB Executive Board approve the changes in the ERB Statutes as requested (see attachment).

12. Date of the next ERB Executive Board meeting

The ERB Executive Board decided that the next meeting of the Board will take place in Brussels on 15-16th June 2015.

13. Conclusion and closing

ERB President, Mr Wiesław Byczkowski concluded and closed the ERB Executive Board meeting.