



Title Meeting Minutes

Submitted by SM, International Permanent Secretariat
This document provides a draft of the meeting

Summary / Note minutes from the ERB
Executive Board meeting in Klaipeda, Lithuania on
13-14th Feb 2019

Participants:

ERB Executive Board:

Ms Anne Thomas	ERB President, Vice Mayor of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas	ERB Vice President, Mayor of Klaipeda, Chairman of Klaipeda Region Association
Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board of Region Kronoberg
Mr Wiesław Byczkowski	Member of ERB Executive Board, Deputy Marshal of Pomorskie Region
Mr Vaclovas Dačkauskas	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Mayor of Klaipeda District Municipality
Mr Lennarth Förberg	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of Regional Development Board, Region Blekinge
Ms Elin Landerdahl	Member of ERB Executive Board, Region Kalmar County
Ms Sabine Lyngberg	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Liana Maximova	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Kaliningrad Region
Mr Kent Mårtensson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of Board of Skåne Association of Local Authorities
Mr Robert Olesen	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board Region Kronoberg
Mr Christer Wallin	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of Board of Skåne Association of Local Authorities
Ms Krystyna Wróblewska	Member of ERB Executive Board, Office of the Marshal of Pomorskie Region

ERB Youth Board:

Mr Christian Van der Weij	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Julia Orluk	Member of of ERB Youth Boar, Pomorskie Region
Ms Mille Riis Sommer	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Johanna Wyckman	Member of ERB Youth Board, Region Kalmar County

ERB Secretariats:

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Evgeniya Russu	Government of Kaliningrad Region
Ms Johanna Haward	Skåne Association of Local Authorities
Ms Klaudija Kionies	Association of Klaipeda Region
Ms Johanna Levin	Kumulus Kalmar
Ms Agata Ludwiczak	Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat
Mr Sebastian Magier	Head of Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat
Mr Jan Martinsson	Region Kalmar County
Ms Zivile Radyte	Association Klaipeda Region
Ms Johanna Rönn	Region Blekinge
Ms Małgorzata Samusjew	Head of Association of Polish Communes ERB
Mr Piotr Zwolak	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Ms Jenny Alftberg	Region Kronoberg
Ms Theodora Chatzipanteli	Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat
Mr Marcin Żuchowski	Association of Polish Communes ERB

Guests

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło	Candidate Head of Euroregion Baltic IPS
Mr Petras Pusinskas	Mayor of Skuodas district Municipality
Ms Kristina Martinkute	Association Klaipeda Region
Ms Reda Mikalauskaite	Association Klaipeda Region
Ms Cathrine H. Bärtel	Regional Municipality of Bornholm

ERB Executive Board meeting
13th February 2019
11.00 – 16.30

RADISSON BLUE HOTEL
Sauliu Street 28, Klaipeda

12.30 1. **Welcome**
12.45

Chairman of Association of Klaipeda Region, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas welcomed the participants of the meeting on behalf of the hosts. There was a video presentation of the city of Klaipeda.

12.45 2. **Opening**
12.50

President of Euroregion Baltic, Ms Anne Thomas opened the meeting and presented its agenda.

ERB Executive Board decided to approve the agenda of the Executive Board meeting without comments.

12.50 3. **Introduction of Skåne Association of Local Authorities**
13.00

The representatives of the Skåne Association of Local Authorities, the new member organization in Euroregion Baltic were asked to present the organization to the members of the Executive Board and share their cooperation ideas.

The representatives were the following: Ms Johanna Haward, EU Policy Officer and the new Members of the ERB Executive Board- Mr Kent Martensson, Chairman of Skåne Association and Mr Christer Wallin, 2nd Vice Chairman.

Ms Johanna Haward presented the organization and shared their expectations and ideas.

The Skåne Association of Local Authorities stands for the 33 southern municipalities in Sweden. Due to the local self government tradition in Sweden, the municipalities have responsibilities in many important areas such as climate issues and water, in which they are interested in cooperation.

The organization also has an office in Brussels which is participating in several working groups of key interest such as Blue Growth, Energy and Climate, Water and Digitalization. Its coordinator is Ms Kristina Jauhiainen Larsson.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented

13.00 4. **Introduction of new Members of ERB Executive Board**
13.10

Ms Anne Thomas, ERB President invited the new members of the ERB Executive Board from the Skåne Association of Local Authorities and the Region Kalmar County to present themselves.

The new members are Mr Kent Mårtensson, Chairman of Skåne Association of Local Authorities, Mr Christer Wallin, 2nd Vice Chairman of Skåne Association and Ms Elin Landerdahl representing Region Kalmar County.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented

13.10 5. **Signing the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board**
13.10 **meeting**

Mr Sebastian Magier, Head of ERB IPS submitted the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meetings held in Bornholm on 26th September 2018.

Relevant ERB Executive Board members signed the minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting.

13.10 6. **Approval of the ERB Annual Report 2018**
13.40

Ms Anne Thomas, ERB President and Mr Sebastian Magier, Head of ERB International Secretariat delivered a report detailing the activities implemented within ERB cooperation in 2018.

The ERB Executive Board members approved the Annual Report.

13.40 7. **Transfer of ERB Presidency**
13.50

In accordance with the decision of the ERB Executive Board of 21st February 2011 approving the sequence of ERB Presidency transfers, the ERB Presidency was transferred from Denmark to Lithuania.

Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas, Chairman of Klaipeda Region Association assumed the position of ERB President.

At the same time, the position of ERB Vice President was assumed by Mr Witold Wroblewski, Chairman of the Association of Polish Communes.

The Lithuanian ERB Presidency will focus on: blue and green growth (through smart specialization tool-kit), EU Cohesion policy (by effective lobbying and focusing on the South Baltic Programme after 2020) and accessibility / transport (through the implementation of the Interconnect Project).

14.10 9. **ERB Action Plan 2019**
14.40

President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas outlined the new Action Plan for the ERB cooperation for 2019.

The funds, projects connected to the ERB, initiatives and success criteria were presented.

The new strategy involves events like the participation day for the Baltic Sea Region Agenda which will take place on 11th June 2019 in Gdansk after the Baltic Sea Youth Camp, the Baltic Sea Youth Camp which will be attended by 100 young people and horizontal actions like capacity building.

The Board asked the secretariats to prepare a more detailed overview of the proposed 15 concrete actions, including time schedule, key responsible persons, participants and required financing/resources, to be forwarded to the Board for information.

ERB Executive Board approved the ERB Action Plan 2019.

14.40 10. **Future of youth cooperation in ERB**
15.10

Ms Agata Ludwiczak presented the ERB Youth Strategy which is being finalized within the CaSYPoT project.

Mr Marcin Żuchowski briefly presented the concept of Youth Core Groups that is being utilised in the YCGN project.

While the organization is heavily involved in developing youth cooperation on the project level via such projects as CaSYPoT, SIA4Y, YCGN etc., the ERB's Youth Board struggles to keep its effective performance over recent time.

Therefore the ERB Executive Board discussed the better alignment of youth political dimension with the ERB projects, investigating whether to keep the Youth Board in its current shape or change it into a more effective working structure dedicated to youth issues eg. a youth core group similar to the ERB Water Core Group.

It was mentioned that the Regions of Klaipeda and Kronoberg do not have active youth board structure.

Ms Krystyna Wroblewska suggested that the youth should be allowed a more active role and have suggestions of their own.

ERB Executive Board offered their views on the matter presented.

15.10 11. **Updating ERB Statutes**
15.20

Mr Sebastian Magier proposed to change the preamble of the ERB Statutes to make necessary changes to the composition of the Swedish delegation to the ERB.

The new wording is therefore proposed to the Statutes preamble:

Swedish delegation, consisting of the representatives of the Region Kalmar County (successor to the Regional Council in Kalmar County who were the original signatories of the Agreement), Region Blekinge (successors to the Blekinge Association of Local Authorities, Blekinge County Council and County Administrative Board of Blekinge who were the original signatories of the Agreement), Region Kronoberg (successors to the Kronoberg Association of Local Authorities and Kronoberg County Council who were the original signatories of the Agreement) and Skåne Association of Local Authorities.

The Statutes also refer to the ERB member organisation which should be understood as any of the ten following bodies: the Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic, Government of the Kaliningrad Region, Pomorskie Region, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Region Kalmar County, Association Klaipeda Region, Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Region Blekinge, Region Kronoberg and Skåne Association of Local Authorities.

ERB Executive Board decided to approve the changes to the ERB Statutes.

15.20 12. **Sequence of ERB Presidencies after 2020**
15.40

Mr Sebastian Magier introduced the discussion on the need to update the sequence of ERB Presidencies.

In accordance with the decision of the Board of 21st February 2011 the following sequence of rotating ERB Presidencies was approved:

*2011: Russian presidency, Swedish vice-presidency
2012: Swedish presidency, and Danish vice-presidency
2013: Danish presidency, and Lithuanian vice-presidency
2014: Lithuanian presidency, and Polish vice-presidency
2015: Polish presidency, and Russian vice-presidency
2016: Russian presidency, Swedish vice-presidency
2017: Swedish presidency, and Danish vice-presidency
2018: Danish presidency, and Lithuanian vice-presidency
2019: Lithuanian presidency, and Polish vice-presidency
2020: Polish presidency, and Russian vice-presidency*

As 2020 draws near and the ERB has expanded to now include 4 member organisations from Sweden, it is advised to consider a new sequence of ERB Presidencies after 2020.

There was a request from the region of Blekinge to receive the written proposition in May.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen suggested a new form of rotating Presidency based on the 10 ERB regions.

Another proposal was to have double two regions to share the Presidency. The Secretariats were asked to prepare a proposal to be discussed by the Board in May 2019.

15.40
16.00

13. **Selection of new Head of ERB International Secretariat**

Mr Sebastian Magier reported the results of the recruitment for the new Head of ERB International Permanent Secretariat and introduced the candidate selected in the process, Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło.

The ERB Selection Committee having undergone thorough assessment of all four short-listed candidates recommended Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło as the next Head of ERB International Permanent Secretariat. The candidate proved to be the most experienced and prepared for the interview, scoring the total of 58 out of 63 points. The Committee remains confident that Ms Leszczyna-Rzucidło will be able to fulfil her duties effectively and contribute well to the development of the organization in the nearest future.

Ms Leszczyna-Rzucidło presented herself to the Board and then temporarily left the room in order for an unbiased decision to be taken. Her candidacy was supported and the Board proceeded to confirm her employment.

Ms Leszczyna-Rzucidło will be employed for 3 months of initial trial period. Upon discharging her duties during the trial period diligently and effectively, she will be then employed for an indefinite period of time.

Since the Head of the IPS is also appointed as the Member of the South Baltic Monitoring Committee and the Head of Delegation of Euroregion, the Board also decided on giving Ms Leszczyna-Rzucidło this task on behalf of the ERB.

16.00
16.10

14. **Information from the South Baltic Programme**

Mr Sebastian Magier informed the Board about the recent developments in the South Baltic Programme including the Programme's mid term evaluation, information from the meeting of Heads of Delegations to the MC and the recruitment for the new Head of South Baltic Joint Secretariat. Further steps with the ERB position paper on the future of South Baltic Programme were also discussed.

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło as the new Head of ERB International Secretariat was requested to be present in the work group for the new Programme.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

16.10
16.40

15. **Information on implementation of ERB projects**

The ERB International Secretariat presented information on the developments in the most important ERB projects and introduced two new projects with ERB participation.

The information included the following projects:

UMBRELLA - information presented by Ms Leszczyna-Rzucidło

INTERCONNECT - information by Ms Agata Ludwiczak

Strengthening civil society rights by information access for European youth (SIA4Y) – information presented by Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło

Baltic Sea Biogas Alliance - information by Mr Sebastian Magier
Connect Europe - information by Mr Sebastian Magier
Baltic Sea Youth Camp - information by Mr Sebastian Magier

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

16.40 16. **Baltic Sea City Accelerator Programme**
17.00

Ms Emma Gabrielsson, Programme Manager at the Race for the Baltic Foundation presented information about the current call for proposals in the [Baltic Sea City Accelerator Programme](#).

The focus of the Programme is to provide a comprehensive business framework and tools to help cities accelerate and advance their water projects. During the programme and activities, Race For The Baltic and partners will support a core group of participating municipalities by providing tools and workshops. At the same time, there is potential for new areas of cooperation to encourage peer knowledge sharing, innovations, solutions, collaboration and new types of finance.

Ms Johanna Ronn from Blekinge Region stated that at least 2 municipalities in Blekinge are interested.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented and information about the call was decided to be disseminated among the municipalities in their regions or associations.

17.00 16. **Invitation to the next Executive Board meeting and Annual**
17.05 **Forum of ERB Stakeholders in Kalmar on 13-14.05.2019**

Mr Jan Martinsson from the Region Kalmar County invited the participants to attend the next meeting of the ERB Executive Board and the Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders which will be held in Kalmar on 13-14.05.2019.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

17.05 17. **Conclusion and closing**

President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas closed the meeting of the ERB Executive Board.
