

**Title** Minutes, final  
**Submitted by** Regional Municipality of Bornholm

**Participants:**

Executive Board Mikael Benzon, Bornholm - President  
Peter Löfström, Kronoberg – Vice President  
Robert Olesen, Kronoberg  
Suzanne Svensson, Blekinge  
Lisa Österblad, Blekinge  
Maria Ixcott-Nilsson, Kalmar  
Elinor Troli, Kalmar  
Heidi Burgedahl, Bornholm (online)

Youth Board André Nord, Blekinge – chairperson  
Estelle Nerö, Blekinge  
Gabriela Mierzejewska, Warmia-Mazury  
Inés Ixcott-Nilsson, Kalmar

Secretariats Niels Chresten Andersen, Bornholm  
Emil-Sebastian Juul-Pedersen, Bornholm (online)  
Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski, Kronoberg  
Johanna Rönn, Blekinge  
Marcin Zuchowski, Ass. of Polish Communes (online)  
Greta Tautaviciúte, Klaipeda  
Piotr Zwolak, Warmia-Mazury  
Antje Schreyer, Kalmar  
Magdalena Morzy, Pomerania

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**ERB Executive Board meeting**  
**AGENDA**

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- 13.00      1.    **Welcome and opening**
- Mikael Benzon, ERB President, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting.
- He highlighted the importance of work on integrating energy infrastructure, encouraging the democratic participation and public stakeholdership in the green transition, as well as fostering a new generation of young participants in the political dialogue.
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He welcomed Mr Peter Löffström from Kronoberg Region, nominated to become the new Vice President.

*Attachment: Opening speech*

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- 13.10            2.    **Adoption of the meeting agenda**  
ERB Executive Board will be asked to adopt agenda of the meeting.

Decision: Approved

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- 13.15            3.    **Appointment of new ERB vice-president**  
Peter Löffström nominated by Region Kronoberg, to replace Roland Gustbee

Decision: Approved

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- 13.20            4.    **Signing the minutes from previous ERB Board Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 on Bornholm**  
Mikael Benzon, ERB President, signed the minutes.

- 13.25            5.    **Interreg South Baltic programme, information**  
Niels Chresten Andersen, member of the South Baltic programme Monitoring Committee, informed about the outcome of the MC online meeting 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
It was the 'old' MC for the programme 2014-2020. Only small savings from finalised projects, so no more calls in the 'old' programme. The Annual Implementation Report for 2022 was approved.  
Financial support to the regional contact points will continue from the 'old' programme until the end of 2023. Future support will come from the new programme 2021-2027.

- 13.35            6.    **ERB Youth Board, information**  
Mr André Nord, newly elected and acting chairperson of Youth Board, informed about the situation and work of YB, including several new members.  
He expressed hope that all members of the Youth Board will be able to meet in Brussels late September, where a chairperson will be elected.  
He and other members of the ERB Youth Board has been appointed to the Youth Workgroup under the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS). A CBSS youth meeting will take place in Berlin 21-25<sup>th</sup> May.
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13.45            7.    **ERB Water Core Group, information**

Ms Antje Schreyer from Kalmar Region informed about the situation and work of the Water Core Group, based on a presentation made by the WCG expert, Mr Tobias Facchini.

The WaterMan project was introduced, supported under the Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme, highlighting the drought problems, giving some facts about the 3-years project and partners, work packages, budget and coming events.

*Attachment: Update ERB WCG/WaterMan*

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13.55            8.    **EGTC, information**

Mr Piotr Zwolak from Warmia-Mazury region informed about the recently received response from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in relation to the informal EGTC consultation.

MoFA has consulted also the other Polish ministries, including the Ministry of Finance with a response of 6 pages. It is mainly horizontal issues, financial effects and some other comments.

Warmia-Mazury region will translate the response into English and distribute to the ERB secretariats, who will go through the remarks and discuss them at their next online meeting 30<sup>th</sup> May.

Decision:

The secretariats will forward the response from the Polish ministries to the Executive Board, including revised draft EGTC convention and status.

The Board will have a two-weeks written procedure to decide on a recommendation from the secretariats for the further process.

If the Board approves to continue the process with a formal EGTC application, there will be a parallel process:

- 1) Preparing and sending the formal application to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
  - 2) Regional and national approval of the revised application.
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14.10            9.    **Financial status**

Mr Marcin Zuchowski, Association of Polish Communes, informed about the ERB joint account and recent spending.

The state of 15.05.2023 is EUR 47 746,80 in the ERB accounts.

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Mr Piotr Zwolak, Warmia-Mazury Region presented a proposal for changes of the ERB website – [www.eurobalt.org](http://www.eurobalt.org):

1. To delete the section “Learn with us”
2. To delete a presentation from Kaliningrad Region
3. To keep the section “Mobility Core Group, to be later used for the Climate Change Task Force
4. To discuss if the ERB Executive Board minutes should be kept at the website

Decision:

The ERB financial status will be forwarded to the Board together with the draft minutes, and with a possibility to comment within 14 days.

The proposed changes of the website were approved, and Board minutes should be kept on website.

The Board also agreed to ask Ms Anna Dudziak to assist in a revision of the ERB brochure. The secretariats will follow up.

*Attachment: ERB financial status 15.05.2023*

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14.20      10. **Task Force – Climate change and green transition**

Follow up first discussion on Bornholm 2<sup>nd</sup> March, based on a revised draft commissorium and inputs from the ERB member regions.

Decision:

The Board approved the commissorium for the Task Force, with the amendment to add election of a chairperson.

The secretariats will follow up, inviting each ERB member organisation to appoint up to three experts to the Task Force, before summer break and to announce the date and time for the Task Force first online meeting, before end of August 2023.

*Attachment: Task Force – Climate change and green transition*

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14.50      11. **Programme for the next Board meeting**

Input to the next Executive Board meeting, to take place in Brussels 26-27<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

- European Year of Skills
- Youth policies
- Energy and green transition
- Ten-T – Motorways of the Sea
- Cohesion Policy

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- Brussels offices, contacts and cooperation

The meetings will start around lunch time 26/9 and last until late afternoon 27/9.

Meeting venue: Greater Copenhagen EU Office, Rue du Luxembourg 3, B-1000 Bruxelles

Decision:

The secretariats will prepare further and consider the need to divide into groups.

List of recommended hotels will be forwarded before summer break. All delegations are recommended to have the delegation in place also before summer break, and to book travel and hotels in good time.

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14.55      12. **Any other business**

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen informed about the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy (EUSBSR) Annual Forum to take place in Riga, Latvia, 4-5<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Registration has just opened.

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15.00      13. **Conclusion and closing**

Mikael Benzon, ERB President, closed the ERB Executive Board meeting, and especially thanked the Blekinge Region as the host.

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