

Euroregion Baltic
Executive Board Meeting
26th September 2023
Brussels, Belgium



Title Minutes, final
Submitted by Regional Municipality of Bornholm

Participants:

Executive Board Mikael Benzon, Bornholm - President
Peter Löfström, Kronoberg – Vice President
Robert Olesen, Kronoberg
Witold Wróblewski, Association of Polish Communes
Vytautas Grubliauskas, Klaipeda
Lisa Österblad
Anna Ekberg, Blekinge
Maria Ixcott-Nilsson, Kalmar

Youth Board André Nord, Blekinge – acting chairperson
Estelle Nerö, Blekinge
Sofie Christiansen, Bornholm
Amar Dlakic, Bornholm
Emma Falkbacken, Kronoberg
Gabriela Mierzejewska, Warmia and Masuria
Artur Frajny, Association of Polish Communes
Dawid Jędrzejewski, Association of Polish Communes
Inés Ixcott-Nilsson, Kalmar
Jakub Hamanowicz, Pomerania
Amelia Laszewska, Pomerania
Arnas Murauskas, Klaipeda

Secretariats Niels Chresten Andersen, Bornholm
Emil-Sebastian Juul-Pedersen, Bornholm
Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski, Kronoberg
Johanna Rönn, Blekinge
Antje Schreyer, Kalmar
Marcin Zuchowski, Association of Polish Communes
Eglé Stonké, Klaipeda
Greta Tautaviciūte, Klaipeda
Lukasz Bielewski, Warmia and Masuria
Piotr Zwolak, Warmia and Masuria
Monika Pochron-Frankowska, Pomerania
Magdalena Morzy, Pomerania
Anna Dudziak, Communication officer

Tuesday 26th September 2023

Greater Copenhagen EU Office, Rue du Luxembourg 3, B-1000 Brussels

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| 12.00 – 13.00 | Lunch |
| 13.00 – 15.00 | ERB Executive Board meeting |
| 15.00 – 15.30 | Coffee break |
| 15.30 – 17.00 | EU Cohesion Policy / Structural Funds, by Sven Kastö from South Sweden EU Office |
| 19.00 | Dinner: La Quincaillerie, Rue du Page 45, 1050 Brussels |

Wednesday 27th September 2023

Greater Copenhagen EU Office, Rue du Luxembourg 3, B-1000 Brussels

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| 09.00 – 11.00 | Climate Change and Green Transition, DG Energy |
| 11.00 – 12.00 | Brussels offices – presentation and discussion on cooperation |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | Lunch |

ERB Executive Board meeting

AGENDA

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| 13.00 | <p>1. Welcome and opening</p> <p>Mikael Benzon, ERB President, welcomed the participants and thanked the Greater Copenhagen EU Office for the hospitality and help in planning the meeting.</p> <p>He underlined that the meeting was held against a background of geopolitical tensions and environmental and climatic changes. Economic downturns put a strain on our social and democratic stability and cohesion.</p> <p>“Our region faces the common challenges that the EU president, Ms Ursula Von der Leyen, pointed out at her recent state of the European union address: high inflation, economic stagnation and a shrinking pool of skilled workers and specialists – coupled with high proportion of youth unemployment.</p> <p>In this context, our cross-border collaboration and development is more important than ever. And it is our responsibility to rapidly achieve measurable goals that support the economic, social, democratic and environmental cohesion of our region. And which must be communicated to our voters in ways that</p> |
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promote trust in our institutions and democratic processes.

Therefore, I look forward to discussing the final details of the establishment of our EGTC-status, and to finally resolve the outstanding questions, so that we may complete the legal groundwork for the working group.

In view of the important work ahead, it is necessary to avoid further delay. Again, on behalf of the ERB Board, I want to express a special gratitude to the Warmia and Masuria Region, for their efforts in preparing the legal groundwork for the EGTC and for supporting the ongoing work of Euroregion Baltic in this period of transition.

I also would like to thank the Association of Polish Communes for their important support with our joint accounts, and keeping the Board updated on our financial situation.

So, without further ado, I herewith open the Board meeting of Euroregion Baltic!"

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

Decision: Adopted

13.15 3. **Signing the minutes from previous ERB Board Meeting on 15th May 2023 in Karlskrona**
Mikael Benzon, ERB President, signed the minutes.

13.20 4. **EGTC status**
Mr Lukasz Bielewski from Warmia and Masuria informed about the status of work on the draft Convention and draft Statutes.

There are still some minor remarks from Kalmar to be clarified, and Mr Bielewski urged the delegations to as soon as possible to send in eventually further remarks.

Mr Witold Wroblewski informed that the Association of Polish Communes for now do not have further remarks, but will more time to have the documents approved by the Association Board.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen informed that Bornholm does not have further remarks, and the local Council is expected to formally approve the documents 12th October.

Mr Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski informed that Kronoberg region does not have further remarks, and will need to have eventually further changes

informed not later than 19th October, in order to prepare for the official approval of the documents.

The rest of the delegations informed that they had no further remarks.

Decision:

The delegations are recommended to as soon as possible and not later than 19th October 2023 to send eventually further remarks to the two documents.

With eventually further changes related to the remarks from Kalmar Region, Warmia and Masuria Region was authorized to informally consult the two draft documents with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

If the Polish MFA gives new amendments, the regional secretariats are authorized to work with them until the final versions are ready.

If the MFA says the drafts are ok, each funding member begins their formal internal/national procedure aiming at establishing an EGTC.

2 files attached

13.40 5. **Financial status**

Mr Marcin Zuchowski from the Association of Polish Communes informed about the ERB financial situation.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen asked the Board to accept that payment of lunches and dinner in Brussels will be paid by the ERB joint budget.

Decision:

Information taken into consideration and approved to finance the meals in Brussels via the joint ERB budget.

File attached.

13.50 6. **South Baltic programme**

Mr Lukasz Bielewski, ERB's member of the South Baltic programme Monitoring Committee, informed about the current state of the programme.

The Monitoring Committee met in June in Köge, Denmark, where the first projects were selected – unfortunately none approved under the tourism priority.

The programme will be enlarged with the Olsztyn subregion, and the programme budget will be increased.

As an EGTC Euroregion Baltic will have direct access to apply for funding in the South Baltic programme.

Ms Johanna Rönn informed about the SB Annual Event in Sweden 25th October, location still to be informed. The second call will be from 5th October – 30th November 2023.

In February 2024 a call for Small projects is expected, with a simplified procedure.

File attached.

14.00 7. **ERB Youth Board, information**

Mr André Nord, acting chairperson of Youth Board, informed about the situation and work of YB. All ERB delegations now includes youth representatives. During lunch 27/9 the YB will elect chairperson.

14.10 8. **EDU Offshore youth event 5-6/3 2024**

Ms Monika Pochron-Frankowska from Pomerania informed about the event taking place in Gdansk.

File attached.

14.20 9. **ERB Water Core Group, information**

Mr Tobias Facchini, leader of WCG, online informed about the situation and work of the Core Group.

File attached.

14.30 10. **ERB Task Force for Climate Change and Green Transition**

Mr Robert Hedman, TF spokesperson, informed about the situation and work of the Task Force.

File attached.

14.50 11. **Future Board meetings**

Mr Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski from Kronoberg proposed three possible dates for the Board meeting in February 2024, to be held in Kronoberg and he asked the regional secretariats to inform back the best suitable dates: 14-15/2, 15-16/2 or 26-27/2.

At the same time Kronoberg Region to have the autumn meeting again in Brussels, preferably during September.

A second Board meeting could take place in May 2024 and here the ERB regions are asked to inform Kronoberg Region if they would like to host the meeting.

Decision:

The regional secretariats will as soon as possible inform to Kronoberg Region the best suitable dates for a Board meeting in February 2024 and if they want to host a Board meeting in May 2024.

14.55 12. **Any other business**
Mr Lukasz Bielewski informed about the BSSSC Annual Forum 12-13th September 2023 in Szczecin, Poland, where he represented ERB.

15.00 13. **Conclusion and closing**
Mikael Benzon, ERB President, closed ERB Executive Board meeting.
