

Euroregion Baltic
Executive Board Meeting
21 January 2010

Gdańsk: Governor's Office
21- 27 Okopowa Street



Title	Final Minutes
Submitted by	SDD, International Permanent Secretariat
Summary / Note	This document provides the final minutes of the Board meeting held on 21 st January 2010.
Requested action	Signing

ERB Executive Board and Council

Mr Per Ole Petersen	ERB Board member, Bornholm. Chair
Mr Bernth Johnson	ERB Board member, Blekinge
Ms Marie-Louise Hilmersson	ERB Board member, Södra Småland
Mr Roger Kaliff	On behalf of ERB Board member, Kalmar
Mr Jan Kozłowski	ERB Board member, Pomorskie
Mr Rafał Wolski	On behalf of ERB President

ERB Secretariats / Working Groups

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen	ERB Secretariat, Bornholm
Mr Erik Ciardi	ERB Secretariat, Kalmar
Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański	International Permanent Secretariat
Ms Marie Fridh	ERB Secretariat, Region Blekinge
Ms Mariana Johannesson	ERB Secretariat, Södra Småland
Mr Victor Koshelev	ERB Secretariat, Kaliningrad Region
Mr PG Lindencrona	ERB Secretariat, Blekinge
Ms Victoria Snioliene	ERB Secretariat, Klaipeda County
Ms Kora Stańczyk	Pomorskie Marshal Office
Ms Krystyna Wróblewska	Pomorskie Marshal Office
Mr Piotr Zwolak	Wamińsko-Mazurskie Marshal Office

1. **Welcome**

by Jan Kozłowski, Marshal of Pomorskie Region and ERB Board member.

Dear Friends, Chair,

I would like to welcome you really warmly in Gdańsk on this not very warm winter day. It is really a pleasure for me to be able to host again our Board meeting, even if – in a way – it was "stolen" from our neighboring region of Warmia and Mazury.

Today, we have several important issues to discuss, but I would leave that to the Chair of this meeting, Per Ole Petersen.

Last time we met, was in Brussels, where we were discussing our possible role in the implementation of the Baltic Sea Strategy Action Plan. And this discussion will continue as we are still at the very beginning of this important process. What is extremely important, I think, is that this new macroregional approach is a kind of an exercise before introducing the new shape of future EU politics and financial instruments. This, coupled with the other discussions within the EU, like on the EU Strategy 2020, marks a period of changes and we have to be actively involved in all the decision making processes as much as it is possible.

You have also decided that it is necessary to think over our Euroregional cooperation, its shape and involvement of all the partners. I am very sorry that I will not be able to participate in the whole meeting. But I would like to say, that to Pomorskie, Euroregion is still an important structure of cooperation, even though our involvement might seem not sufficient. At this point I would like to say once again that we are really sorry for not finalizing our work on the social project. The financial situation has forced us to decide so at this point.

I would also like to stress before the discussion starts, that, when evaluating involvement of each of the partners, it is necessary to remember that structures, tasks, financial situation, relation between executive and legislative parts of our regional authorities differ a lot. And this seriously influences our work within Euroregion.

I hope that today's meeting, the planned meeting of directors, stakeholders and the coming Council meeting will end in a consensus which will allow us to continue working efficiently.

Ladies and gentlemen, Friends,

All the signs show that it is the last time when I am meeting with you as Marshal. Within a month or so I should become a member of the European Parliament, if things go well. So, first of all, I would like to thank you for this very good period till now. I consider it not only very important but also lots of fun. Please be assured, too, that in my new role, Baltic Sea cooperation, structures like Euroregion Baltic, cohesion policy, and related subjects will stay within my sphere of interest. I will do my best to follow your work and provide possible support.

Thank you

2. **Opening**

Mr Per Ole Petersen, Chair of the meeting, thanked Marshal Kozłowski for his speech and work for Euroregion Baltic. He asked Mr Kozłowski to remember he will continue to work for ERB even when he is at the European Parliament in Brussels. Mr Petersen wished Mr Kozłowski all the best luck in his new position.

3. **Adoption of the agenda**

Mr Per Ole Petersen introduced the agenda of the meeting and asked the Board for comments and its adoption. Mr Rafał Wolski asked that an extra point is included at the end of the agenda. The Board approved the extended agenda.

4. **Adoption of 11.09.08 ERB Board Meeting minutes**

ERB Executive Board members approved of the minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place in Gdansk on 7th October 2009). The minutes were handed to the Lithuanian delegation to be taken home and signed by Governor Burksas. Afterwards, they will be transferred to Olsztyn for the signature by President Jacek Protas.

5. **EU 2020 consultation process**

ERB has agreed on the text of the position paper in response to the consultation process by the European Commission on the EU 2020 Strategy.

6. **Information on the application to the Norwegian Financial Mechanism**

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański informed on the application submitted to the Small Cross-Border and Inter-regional Grant Fund, co-financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and managed by the Association of Polish Communes.

This is a small project entitled Restart and based on some ideas already elaborated upon when considering the joint ERB project called supERB. The lead beneficiary will be the Municipality of Elblag but the project will be coordinated by the ERB International Secretariat. The projects partners will be: the Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Region Blekinge and the Regional Council in southern Smaland.

ERB Board members took note of the information presented. The chairman, Mr Per Ole Petersen thanked the ERB International Secretariat for the work put into the preparation of the application.

7. **Reviewing ERB cooperation**

As discussed by the Board at its meeting on 7th October 2009, the debate should start within ERB in order to review priorities of the ERB cooperation.

Mr Roger Kaliff began the discussion by recalling the beginnings of the Euroregion Baltic. In his experience, ERB has been a successful example of cross-border cooperation. One of its most important roles, he continued, is working together on specific issues related to the Baltic Sea Region. Without ERB, he noted, it would not have been possible to start the South Baltic CBC Programme. ERB can now be equally significant in the work on the future cohesion policy. And for that, a truly democratic process is necessary within ERB. The Swedish regions, he declared, propose that a task force is established to effectively manage the process of reviewing the ERB cooperation. The task force will consist of representatives of the member regions responsible for a.o. territorial cooperation and regional

development issues. The task force will also be open to other key stakeholders of the ERB cooperation (business sector, knowledge institutions, social partners). The review process should start with a meeting proposed to take place on 11th February in Copenhagen and will be finalised by the Council in November 2010. In their work, the task force should pay special attention to the following:

- assessment of the implementation of the ERB Joint Development Programme,
- practices of good governance, transparency and subsidiarity;
- future challenges and regional development strategies in all member regions;
- involvement of member regions in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;
- accumulated experience from and relevance of the ERB cooperation to the member regions' regular work, as well as ways of maximising added value of the ERB cooperation;
- thematic priorities and foci of the ERB cooperation in the future;
- review of institutional and financial capacities of Euroregion Baltic.

The chairman, Mr Per Ole Petersen thought the proposal was very good and suggested that it is also included in the ERB Action Plan for 2010 – 2011. He said he would like to see, as part of the review discussion, where ERB can be in 2015 and 2020. He also stressed the relevance of the continuation of the development that ERB has been implementing so far.

The member of the Executive Board, Mr Bernth Johnson thought we need to remember and highlight that Euroregion Baltic has been a successful organisation.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen observed that there is no need to directly involve the COE of the Regional Municipality of Bornholm in the process since in this case it will be the head of regional development unit who will usually report directly to the Mayor about his agenda. It will be important throughout the process, he noted, to be aware of regional differences in this matter and to always know which people to address. He also recommended that the key personnel to discuss the ERB priorities should also include business and knowledge sectors. The political anchorage of ERB cooperation, he argued, must be of benefit for sustainable development and therefore such actors also need to be involved.

Mr Rafał Wolski noted that too many actors in the task force will limit the effectiveness of its work. He proposed to think how to identify relevant actors and then ask the regions to be responsible for the consultations with different actors on specific issues.

The ERB Board decided to accept the Swedish proposal and establish the ERB cooperation review task force whose first task will be to organise a meeting on 11th February. The task force will also prepare a road map of the process which shall be adopted by the Council on 5th March. The Board also decided that the process will be included in the 2010 – 2011 Action Plan.

8. Preparation for ERB Council meeting

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański informed the Board of some preliminary preparations for the ERB Council meeting on 4 – 5th March. ERB Board members took note of the information presented.

9. Discussion on ERB actions towards the revised TEN-T policy

Mr PG Lindencrona presented a request from the ERB Transport Working Group for mandate to develop a resolution to the ongoing TEN-T review.

After a discussion ERB Board members decided to give the ERB Transport Working Group mandate to develop a resolution to the ongoing TEN-T review. After drafting this resolution will be submitted to the ERB Council for adoption.

10. Information on the South Baltic Capacity Building Project

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański will inform the Board of the SB Capacity Building Project which should start on 1st March 2010. He presented the role of Euroregion Baltic in the project, planned activities and the benefits of our participation in it. ERB Board members took note.

11. Information on the Moment Project

Mr Roger Kaliff presented a brief report on the activities within the Moment Project and implications on the ERB cooperation. ERB Board members took note.

12. IPS Financial Report

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański presented the financial results of the International Secretariat for 2009. ERB Board members took note and approved the report for submission to the ERB Council. ERB Board also agreed to discuss inflation correction mechanism to be introduced in the future during the cooperation review process.

13. Any Other Business

Proposal from Waminsko-Mazurskie

Mr Rafał Wolski informed the Board that the Waminsko-Mazurskie region intends to set up a conglomerate during OPEN DAYS 2010. The motto of this year event is Objective 2020: Competitiveness, co-operation and cohesion for all regions. The main theme of the conglomerate will be: Competitiveness: innovation, regional development and green economic growth. Mr Wolski invited the ERB partners to join in the initiative. The representatives of Bornholm and Pomorskie asked for more detailed description of activities and seminars to be held during the event.

Information from Russian Secretariat

Mr Victor Koshelev informed the Board of the important developments in transport issues in the past year. Navigation was brought back to the Vistula Lagoon thanks to the agreement signed between Poland and Russia, and foreign cruise passengers will be able to come and stay in the Russian

territory for 72 hours. ERB Board members took note.

Invitation

On behalf of the Regional Council of southern Smaland, Ms Marie-Louise Hilmersson offered to host the autumn Council meeting. ERB Board members said were glad to accept the offer and thanked Ms Hilmersson.

South Baltic CBC Programme

Niels Chresten Andresen presented to the Board the most recent information related to the South Baltic CBC Programme. ERB Board members took note.

14. **Closing**

Chair of the Board meeting, Mr Per Ole Petersen thanked everyone for participation and closed the meeting.

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Per Ole Petersen
Member of ERB Board

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Roger Kaliff
Member of ERB Council