

**ERB BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Gdansk, 16 June 2004**

LOCATION

Governor's Office, Gdansk, Okopowa St. 21 – 27

PARTICIPANTS

ERB President	Mr Jan Kozlowski, Poland
Board members	Ms Annalise Molin, Denmark Ms Giedre Butkute, (substitute for Ms Virginia Lukosiene) Lithuania Ms Lillebill Grahs, (substitute for Anders Akesson) Sweden Mr Victor Koshelev (substitute for Alexander Kuzniecov), Russia
Secretariats	Mr Niels Chresten Andersen, Denmark Mr Erik Ciardi, Sweden Ms Kristina Repsaite, Lithuania Mr Zdzislaw Olszewski, Poland
Invited guests	Mr Ulf Andersson, Seagull, Sweden Mr Boris Sergejevitch Batalin, Kaliningrad Regional Duma Ms Krystyna Wroblewska, Marshal's Office, Poland Ms Anna Golec, Marshal's Office, Poland Mr Marcin Lyjak, Marshal's Office, Poland Mr Ludwik Szakiel, Starogard Gdanski's City Office, Polska Sinead Neylon, observer, Ireland
Interpreters	Wanda Stec, Russian interpreter Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański, English interpreter

1. ERB Board's internal matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

ERB President, J. Kozlowski opened the meeting, suggesting approving of the agenda, which was previously sent out to the participants. Ms L. Grahs proposed to extend the agenda with the issue of ERB youth council, and also asked the Head Secretariat to explain why the Latvian party was not participating in the meeting. ERB President suggested including the youth council in point 8 of the agenda, and requested that the Head Secretariat give information on contacts it had held with the Latvian Secretariat prior to the meeting.

The Head Secretariat made a few contacts with the Latvian Secretariat and Mr Normunds Niedols, ERB Board member. The minutes from ERB Council meeting on 4 – 5 May 2004 were sent, so was the invitation to take part in the web-meeting on 7 June 2004, to which the Latvian party responded initially confirming its participation, although finally, for unknown reasons, it did not participate. Another invitation was forwarded to Latvia to this Board meeting with a request to appoint a person to work in the Interreg External Financing Task Force, as well as to the euroregional conference on 1 – 2 July 2004 in Vilnius. The Latvian party informed it would not be able to take part in the Board meeting, nor in the conference in Vilnius, but made an initial promise to come to the next Board meeting on 3 September 2004. The Latvian Secretariat offered no comments to ERB Council meeting on 4 – 5 May 2004.

Following a short discussion ERB President made a proposal to pay a visit to the Latvian Secretariat in Riga or Liepaja, in order to clarify possibilities of Latvian participation in the current ERB activities. The Board accepted the proposal.

Afterwards, the Board approved the agenda of the meeting.

1.2 Signing the Supplement to the Agreement to establish ERB by the Russian party, extending its participation by the representatives of the Regional Duma.

Mr Boris S. Batalin read out the text of the Supplement, signed by the Regional Duma Chairman, Mr V. Nikitin. ERB President and the other participants expressed their satisfaction with the fact that the Regional Duma's representatives signed the document and will be taking part in ERB activities.

1.3 Signing the Minutes from ERB Council meeting 4 - 5 May 2004.

ERB President signed the minutes in the English, Russian, and Polish languages, pronouncing the formula that no comments had been submitted within 30 days by any party in reference to the minutes or the decisions taken, thus the decisions to approve the ERB Statutes (appendix to the minutes from 4 – 5 May 2004), and to establish ERB International Permanent Secretariat in Elblag on 1 July 2004 are rendered valid.

1.4 Appointing people to co-sign the minutes from ERB Board meeting

The minutes from ERB Board meeting will be co-signed by ERB President, J. Kozlowski, and Ms Giedre Butkute. ERB President read out a written authorization signed by ERB Vicepresident, Ms Virginia Lukosiene, delegating Ms Giedre Butkute to represent ERB Vicepresident at the Board meeting. The Board took note of the authorization.

2. ERB President's information on Trelleborg Conference on 13 – 14 May 2004 and the declaration signed.

ERB President J. Kozlowski and Ms K. Wroblewska presented the course of the conference, and the circumstances in which the declaration was signed, as well as how the information the Russian party of ERB had prepared was included in the declaration. It was explained there was not enough time to change individual points of the declaration which the Russian party commented on in the

email dated 7 May 2004. The information was consulted with a Russian representative at Trelleborg, and it was agreed such a phrasing was acceptable. Mr V. Koshelev responded that the Russian position concerned mainly the possibilities of replacing single-hull ships with double-hull ships, which requires a lot of time on the Russian side. It was decided at Trelleborg conference to continue holding meetings on maritime safety. Another such meeting was scheduled to take place in Gdansk in 2005. ERB President, J. Kozlowski presented the proposal he had received from Prime Minister of Meklemburg to hold a joint conference on maritime safety in Brussels. A discussion followed in which ERB parties emphasised that location of the conference in Brussels may put more pressure on the national governments of ERB. On the other hand it was not clear how this location may influence its results. The question was put forward if the intentions of the German co-organizer of the conference are not about their willingness to benefit from the conference so that they can decide on the Baltic Sea safety issues. After the discussion, ERB President was authorized to inform other co-signatories of Trelleborg Conference, i.e. B7 and Sydsam about the German proposal. Further action is dependent on the possibilities of reaching a common position with them. The participants of the meeting were presented with the German draft of such a conference.

They also received a letter from Mr P.G. Lindencrona and Bo Lofgren requesting to support a proposal of submitting an Interreg project on maritime safety. ERB President agreed to support the proposal.

3. Head Secretariat and Social Working Group's information on:

3.1 Recently completed "From the Sea We Are" competition.

ERB Head Secretariat informed about the recently finished competition, whose 20th edition was officially closed on May 15. 2000 works had been sent in, and the jury rewarded 200 with the first prize. 150 participants from Russia, Lithuania and Poland arrived at the meeting opening display of the rewarded works. The Head Secretariat presented the participants of ERB Board meeting with a bulletin and a CD-ROM illustrating these works. With utmost pleasure ERB President handed in paintings to the delegations to ERB Board meeting, expressing hope that 21st edition will also attract young artists from Denmark, Latvia and Sweden.

3.2 Youth Olympic Games

Mr L. Szakiel presented a draft schedule of preparatory work for the games which are to take place in 2005 in four sports: football, basketball, volleyball, and boxing, for young people at the age of 13 - 15. The Olympic Games were scheduled for 2004, but due to some delay caused by the European Commission postponing the games till 2005 proved necessary. The Board expressed their satisfaction at the project and hoped for its successful implementation.

4. Matters relating to the establishment of ERB International Permanent Secretariat in Elblag.

4.1 Financial declaration.

ERB Head Secretariat had prepared the text of the declaration to co-finance ERB IPS. The text was approved by the parties, and at the meeting signed by Sweden, Denmark, and Poland (Pomerania). The declarations for the Lithuanian and Russian parties were collected by, respectively G. Butkute and V. Koshelev, and will be sent to Elblag after being signed. Co-financing by the Latvian party will be discussed at ERB President's visit to Latvia. Upon signing, ERB parties agreed to the following co-financing amount yearly.

Sweden	18,000 EUR
Denmark	6,000 EUR
Pomerania	3,000 EUR

The declarations collected to be signed amount to:

Lithuania	2,000 EUR
Russia	2,000 EUR

During his visit to Latvia ERB President will deliver the declaration of 2,000 EUR. The Region of Warmia and Mazury will sign its declaration at the next Board meeting, scheduled for 3 September in Olsztyn.

4.2 Presenting a candidate to run ERB IPS.

Mr Z Olszewski presented S.Demkowicz-Dobrzanski as a candidate to run ERB IPS, giving a brief outline of his education and professional experience. ERB Board approved the candidate and authorized ERB President to co-sign the relevant documents.

4.3 IPS External Financing Task Force.

The Russian will soon present a name of a person to take part in the Task Force. It was decided that the Task Force will pay a visit to the Interreg Secretariat in Karlskrona in July after arrangements with the Secretariat have been made on the phone. The group will include: Malgorzata Samusjew, Niels Chresten Andersen, Erik Ciardi and Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski.

5. Program framework for Good Neighbourhood Conference on 23-24 September 2004 in Elblag.

ERB Head Secretariat informed of the difficulties it had suffered in receiving financial support from EU within Phare CBC programme for DevERB Seagull project. The Board decide to postpone the move the conference to an earlier date, i.e. 16-17 September 2004, where the first day will be on Good Neighbourhood Programme, and the other day on the Seagull project. The Board authorized Ms K. Wroblewska to hold discussions in Brussels in order to secure a high-ranking official who could present the guidelines of Good Neighbourhood Programme and discuss the role of ERB in the cooperation with Russia (Kaliningrad Region). Preparatory work should be speeded up so that invitations can be sent out before 1 July 2004.

6. Vilnius Conference: “Euroregions: Challenges and Opportunities” 1 - 2 July 2004.

ERB Head Secretariat sent all its parties invitations to the conference together with its programme framework and agenda. Due to the fact that ERB President and Vicepresident will not be able to participate in the conference, the Board decided to ask Ms Annalise Molin to deliver a speech on the second day of the conference. Ms A. Molin agreed to do so. It was also agreed that ERB will be represented by 2 people from Denmark, 1 person from Lithuania, 2 from Sweden, and 1 from Poland. The Russian Secretariat will make a decision to appoint its representative at a later time. The Head Secretariat was obliged to forward registration forms to the conference on 17 June for 2 people from Denmark, 1 person from Lithuania, 2 from Sweden, and 1 from Poland.

7. Seagull project – brief presentation on its current status.

Mr Ulf Andersson discussed the activities which had been implemented within the project, and those under implementation. Talking about the project’s current status, he proposed to hold seminars in the member regions, where local and regional politicians could meet and contribute to JTDP. He also presented a draft agenda for such a seminar. These are planned to take place between late autumn 2004 and late spring 2005, in 50-people groups.

8. ERB Youth Council

Ms Lillebill Grahs referred to the initiative of young people's participation in ERB cooperation, pointing out to the fact that it is only the Polish party that assures such participation of their young representatives. Ms Grahs suggested that ERB Board approved the following proposals:

- ERB Head Secretariat will organize workshops for young representatives to be held at the next Board meeting,
- these workshops will aim at discussing priorities for such cooperation of young representatives,
- the member regions will appoint their representatives to the Youth Council and inform ERB Head Secretariat.

A discussion followed, whose outcome was to approve the Swedish proposals and to define the age of Youth Council members (18 – 25 years of age). It was also said that some of the regions have difficulty appointing such representatives, still they will do their best to do so. The Board laid the Head Secretariat under the obligation of organizing a Youth Council meeting together with the Board meeting on 3 September 2004, securing suitable working conditions in a separate room.

9. Exchange of information and any other business.

The dates for the forthcoming ERB Board and Council meetings were confirmed:

- 3 September 2004, ERB Board, Olsztyn
- 16 November 2004, ERB Board, Brussels
- 25 January 2005, ERB Board, Gdansk
- 25 February 2005, ERB Council, location to be agreed

At this point, the Board meeting was concluded. ERB President thanked the participants for their contribution to the meeting.

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Jan Kozłowski

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Giedre Butkute