



ERB COUNCIL SESSION

Draft Minutes

Elbląg, 27th February 2004

Meeting Place:

Euroregion Baltic Secretariat, 3/4 Św. Duchy Street, Elbląg

Participants:

Members of ERB Council

Ms Annelise Molin, Denmark
Mr Knud Andersen, Denmark
Mr Bo Frank, Sweden
Mr Ragnar Lindberg, Sweden
Mr Sigurdh R. Petersson, Sweden
Mr Gerth Wollinger, Sweden
Ms Lillebill Grähs, Sweden
Mr Vytautas Rinkievicius, Lithuania (on behalf of Klaipeda District
Governor, Ms Virginii Lukosiene)
Mr Oleg V. Shlyk, Russia
Mr Victor M. Romanowski, Russia
Mr Alexander N. Kuzniecov, Russia
Mr Victor N. Koshelev, Russia
Mr Jan Kozlowski, Poland
Mr Zbigniew Karpowicz, Poland
Ms Jadwiga Semmerling, Poland
Mr Piotr Zuchowski, Poland (on behalf of Warmia & Mazury
Marshall, Mr Andrzej Rynski)
Ms Sylwia Klimeczak, Poland (on behalf of Pommerania Governor, Mr
Ryszarda Kurylczyka)
Ms Bożena Sitnik-Pietrzykowska (on behalf of Warmia & Mazury
Governor, Mr Stanislaw Szatkowski)
Latvian party was not represented.

Secretariats:

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen, ERB Main Secretariat, Denmark
Ms Karen Lynn Jacobsen, ERB Main Secretariat, Denmark
Mr Ulf Andersson, Sweden
Ms Giedre Butkute, Lithuania
Ms Sonata Dumbliauskiene, Lithuania
Ms Elena V. Butorova, Russia
Ms Yevgienija N. Czerniavska, Russia
Mr Zdzislaw Olszewski, Poland
Ms Malgorzata Samusjew, Poland
Ms Adrianna Gniado, Poland
Ms Malgorzata Szymanska, Poland
Ms Magdalena Szymanowska, Poland

ERB Young Representatives:

Ms Josephine Bladh, Sweden
Ms Ewelina Bonar, Poland

Mr Andriej Nikolajevicz Moshkov, Russia

Projects:

Mr Rolf A. Karlson, Sweden, Seagull
Mr Erik Ciardi, Sweden, Seagull
Ms Ylva Guntsch-Malmhav, Sweden, Environmental Working Group
Ms Marianne Eckerbom, Sweden, Green Circle Schools
Ms Ewa Ankiewicz, Poland, Green Circle Schools
Mr Bo Löfgren, Sweden, Maritime Safety Conference

Invited Guests:

Mr Wladyslaw Mankut, Senator of the Republic of Poland
Mr Nikolaj I. Bielovol, General Consul for the Russian Federation in Gdansk, Poland
Mr Zbigniew Kruzynski, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union Department, Poland
Ms Magdalena Kurczewska-Svensson, Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland in Jämjö, Sweden
Mr Andrzej Janicki-Rola, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Representative, Poland
Mr Vladimir A. Nikitin, Chairman of Regional Duma, Russia
Mr Zbigniew Ciechomski, Association of Polish Communes, Poland
Mr Zbigniew Kozlowski, Association of Polish Communes, Poland
Ms Krystyna Wroblewska, Pommerania Marshall's Office, Poland
Ms Natalia Malicka, Association of Polish Communes, Poland

Interpreters:

Ms Wanda Stec, (Russian / Polish)
Mr Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski, (English / Polish)

Due to the cancellation of the flight, the Danish delegation arrived at the Council meeting in the evening. A telephone and internet contact was maintained throughout the meeting. The President sent her decision to begin the Council meeting to be chaired by Mr Z. Karpowicz, following the agenda with the exception of points 1c, 1d, 4 and 6. The President's speech and the Head Secretariat's proposal regarding establishing procedures of the Permanent Secretariat were e-mailed, too.

Before the agenda was initiated, Senator of the Republic of Poland, Mr Wladyslaw Mankut delivered a short speech. He wished the Council members a fruitful session and said that the Council makes the seventh election of its President, sending a clear signal to the communities of ERB of efforts to further develop crossborder cooperation. After the speech, the Council began the session.

1) Internal Council Matters

a. Approval of Final Agenda

The Chair of the meeting presented the agenda for the Council to approve, including the Danish proposal to move points 1c, 1d, 4 i 6 till the end of the session. The Council accepted the motion unanimously.

b. Changes of Partners and Members in the ERB Member Regions

An appendix was signed accepting Kaliningrad Oblast Administration as a full member of Euroregion Baltic. The number of partners of the Russian party was thus extended. The appendix, drawn up in seven copies and in English and Russian

languages, was signed by Kaliningrad Oblast Vice-Governor Mr Oleg V. Shlyk on behalf of the Oblast Administration. Each ERB party received one copy, and the Secretariat in Elblag received an additional copy. After the signatures had been put down, Mr Oleg V. Shlyk informed that the Oblast Administration had decided to play an active part in all ERB activities. Afterwards, the Chairman of Kaliningrad Oblast Duma, Mr Vladimir A. Nikitin made a short speech, wishing the Council members a successful session and expressing interest in ERB activities.

The Swedish party informed the Council members that it had extended the number of its representatives in the Council from six to seven, by Mr Anders Åkesson, Chairman of the Regional Council in Kalmar. In 2004 Mr Anders Åkesson will replace Mr Bo Frank as the Swedish member of the Executive Board.

2) Reports, status and activities

a. ERB Cooperation in general, by President Ms Annelise Molin

Ms Krystyna Wroblewska read out the President's report (Attachment No1). The participants received the Annual Report drawn up and released by the Danish party. The Head Secretariat distributed copies of the Report accordingly among the ERB parties.

b. Seagull DevERB relating Phare-Tacis projects, by Project Manager, Mr Rolf Karlson

Mr Rolf Karlson, discussed the project, presenting two implementation reports: "Lyckeby River" and "Democracy in ERB". He said the problem of financing Phare programmes still exists on the Lithuanian and Polish part.

Mr Erik Ciardi presented a newly designed ERB website. It will include reports, multi-language documentation, organizational information, update on projects, events, etc.

Mr Viktor Koshelev brought the Council members up to date with the current status of the Seagull project on the Russian part. He informed a conference and seminar are being organized in connection with the Seagull, strategic management and business, and invitations will be sent to the Polish party, hoping for their active participation.

c. The Green Circle Project

Ms Ylva Guntzsch, the Project Coordinator made a presentation informing the Council members of intended activities within the project (Attachment No 2). She passed a request from the partner schools to appoint a person in each ERB party to maintain a working contact with the "Green Circle" schools. Ms Ewa Ankiwicz, the Polish Coordinator of the Project discussed one of the projects aiming at the preparation of an energy saving scheme in cooperation with a Swedish partner. She also asked for financial support from ERB.

d. The Environmental Working Group, by Chairwoman, Ms Marianne Eckerbom

Ms Marianne Eckerbom, presented a status report (Attachment No 3). She also informed the participants on some long-term undertakings already initiated by the Group, e.g. "Green Circle" Project, Exchange of Local and Regional Officers, Seagull, Maritime Safety Conference. Ms Eckerbom suggested that each ERB region appoint a person to become a member of the Environmental Working Group.

e. The Maritime Safety Working Group, by Mr Bo Löfgren

Mr Bo Löfgren outlined the Working Group's activities aimed at organizing the Maritime Safety Conference, especially in the aspect of disasters at sea, which are particularly harmful to human lives, communities and the environment (Attachement No 4). He pointed out to the existing gaps in legal regulations, maritime industry and transport, and management system that have a negative impact on maritime safety in the Baltic Sea. Mr Löfgren identified target areas for activities aimed at improving the safety system on the Baltic as Particularly Sensitive Sea Area. He emphasized the importance of efforts made by local and regional authorities within crossborder cooperation.

3) Thematic Discussions

a. Maritime Safety

Baltic Seven Islands (B7) together with SydSam and ERB initiated a common project, which will result in a big conference in Trelleborg, Sweden between 13 and 14 May 2004. The main purpose of the conference is to promote the Baltic Sea as Particularly Sensitive Sea Area.

Ms Adrianna Gniado informed the Council members of preparations for the Maritime Safety Conference made by the Polish party. The 7 person Polish delegation will be headed by ERB President and Pomerania Region Marshall, Mr Jan Kozlowski. Mr Marek Reszko, Chief of the Sea Pollution Department at Maritime Search & Rescue Service, was appointed expert and the Polish party requested to include him in the Working Group dealing with the issue of "During Shipwreck".

b. A Long-term Development Strategy for ERB

Seagull Project Manager, Mr Rolf Karlson outlined the strategy key elements, and discussed its working methods and strategic areas (Attachement No 5). The presented draft resulted from the Seagull project and laid foundations for further work on the Long-term Development Strategy and Joint Transnational Development Plan (JTDP), which is Seagull's major output. Attempts to anchor the strategy politically will be continued this summer.

Promoting business environments is another key element of the strategy, as well as defining tasks in line with the EU objectives, in order to prove ERB is able to make a good use of the European funds available. Other essentials include activities and cooperation on the labour market, e.g. health care employess, good governance, and rural development.

Mr Karlson stated the strategy should be given special priority during the new presidency and adjusted to the local level of communities and municipalities. The presented draft recommends that all the activities in this respect focus on developing ERB as a whole region. At the end of his speech, Mr Karlson presented a methodological approach to the strategy.

Mr Bo Frank suggested discussing the issues at home and preparing for the next meeting. Mr Rolph Karlson asked to continue the current works. Mr Alexander Kuznieciov said the Russian party would be ready with their contribution to the strategy within one month. Mr Zdzislaw Olszewski emphasized that Seagull will remain the Polish priority within the next eighteen months, which will require that the following conditions should be met:

- 1) Acquisition of Phare CBC Baltic Sea financial support. An application has been prepared by the Polish Secretariat, which received the declaration of support from the Swedish and Russian partners, the declaration of participation

from Pommerania Marshall's Office, expecting such a declaration from Warmia & Mazury Marshall's Office. Following its reception, the application will be submitted with the Implementation Authority in Warsaw.

- 2) The next Council meeting should decide on working methods for the Working Groups, and whether they should be made compatible with the Seagull Work Packages. In the Polish point of view the working groups seem to be the weakest link in the implementation of Seagull so in the preparation process for the next Council session the Polish party will request a definite solution to this issue.

The presented strategy draft – items for discussion – particularly in the context of added value, demands involvement of experts, as it seems an essential element while designing an ERB strategy. Once the Polish party is granted funds, it will employ such experts and aim at developing the idea further. It also suggested extending the time for placing proposals, which will guarantee appropriate standards.

5) Celebration of EU Enlargement

The Polish party forwarded the proposal of holding the next Council meeting marking EU Enlargement by Lithuania, Latvia and Poland in Elblag. This meeting should deal with two important issues: establishing ERB International Permanent Secretariat and defining working methods for ERB Working Groups. To mark the specific character of this meeting a special two-day session was suggested, when the second day could be spent sightseeing and meeting informally. Following a short discussion the Council decided to sit the session between 4th and 5th May 2004 in Elblag. The Polish Secretariat – Head Secretariat – will organize two preparatory Internet meetings prior to the session.

6) ERB International Permanent Secretariat

The Danish party prepared another position on the possible procedure of establishing ERB International Permanent Secretariat. Its text was emailed and then read out by Ms Krystyna Wroblewska (Attachment No 6). During the discussion Mr Vytautas Rinkievicius from Lithuania suggested that the Russian party also contribute to the budget of the Secretariat. Mr Bo Frank seconded the motion. On behalf of the Russian partners Mr Viktor Koshelev accepted the motion, so the future membership fees should be broken down accordingly. The Council approved the procedure presented by the Danish party in writing, including the motion put forward by the Lithuanian party. The Council recommended strict adherence to the proposed schedule of establishing ERB International Permanent Secretariat.

Mr Olszewski suggested holding at least two Internet meetings on the necessary changes to the ERB Statutes. The Polish party promised to send the other national Secretariats its proposal on ERB IPS within 12 days, with the outline of responsibilities and tasks, maintaining its previous declaration to host such a secretariat in Poland at the budget of EUR 36,000. One of the first tasks that ERB IPS could perform would be to explore the possibilities of acquiring funds from INTERREG III B in its Technical Office in Karlskrona, as well as from INTERREG III A in its Technical Office in Vilnius.

After the discussion on the above-mentioned points on the Agenda, the Chair adjourned the meeting while waiting for the Danish delegation. When the Danish participants had arrived, the meeting was resumed, and Ms Annelise Molin took over chairing of the session, having been briefly filled up on the proceedings so far.

4) Change of ERB Presidency

After the break the ceremony of changing presidency took place. On behalf of the Danish party, Ms Annelise Molin noted that the Polish party, initiator of ERB establishment six years before, is beginning a new cycle of presidency terms. Ms Molin thanked to all the national secretariats for a very fruitful cooperation and wished Mr Jan Kozlowski, new ERB President, a term full of good decisions and beneficial developments that could continue what has been achieved so far. Gifts were exchanged and the individual national secretariats thanked the Danish Secretariat for the very successful presidency. Finally, Mr Jan Kozlowski delivered his programme speech (Attachment 7).

1) Internal Council Matters

- c) Signatures were placed in approval of the minutes from the last ERB Council session on 29th August 2003.
- d) No person was appointed to co-sign the minutes from the Council session on 27th February 2004. It was decided that after the Danish party receives the draft minutes, it would ask the authorized Council members to sign.

7) Exchange of information and other matters

No comments or any other business were put forward.

The Council session was thus closed.

In absence of Mr Niels Chresten Andersen, the minutes were taken by Magdalena Szymanowska, from the Polish Secretariat.