



Seagull

Erik Ciardi

Rolf A Karlson

Minutes

from the second SC meeting in Strasbourg 2002-11-09.

Participants:

Mr Håkan Brynielsson, Ms Catharina Blom, Mr Zbigniew Czepulkowski, Mr Wojciech Samulowski, Mr Victor Koshelev, Mr Normunds Niedols, Ms Roma Stubriené, Ms Krystyna Wroblewska, Ms Gunbritt Öhlén, Mr Rolf A Karlson, Mr Ulf Andersson, Mr Per-Olof Löfberg, Mr Erik Ciardi, Ms Carolina Gunnarsson, Ms Erica Månsson.

1. Opening of the meeting. Changes of personnel in the Swedish secretariat

The chairman, Mr Brynielsson opened the meeting. Information about changes in the Swedish secretariat followed: Ms Anna-Carin Andersson quits her appointment and Ms Erica Månsson, from the European Office County of Kronoberg replaces her. Erik Ciardi is a new member of the project secretariat since September 2002. Sofia M Westerberg will leave for six months for maternity and is temporarily replaced by Ms Eva-Lisa Ahnström, Blekinge Technical Institute.

2. Approval of minutes from the first SC meeting

The minutes are published on www.eurobalt.org. Rolf A Karlson made the following comments to the paragraphs:

§ 2 The brochure has not been translated into Russian yet.

§ 5 Division of responsibilities between the ERB Board/Council, the SC and the project management have been approved by the ERB Council at its meeting in Liepaja, November 4 this year. A paper about this is also published on the web site.

3. Learning from the meeting with representatives of Euroregion Alsace in Mönchhausen

The general view of the SC members was that the study visit learnt us a lot, even though the Alsace region works under very different conditions compared with ERB. The most important conclusions were

- a) Euroregion Alsace has to a great extent benefited from the considerable EU funds. Only from the INTERREG programmes the region had got some 100 million euro up till now. ERB board and council must work for making the region be a part of the INTERREG IIIA programme, which would give the region much better opportunities for close and concrete co-operation. Lobbying activities for this should be performed together with other Euroregions and the BSSSC. Important organisations to call on are the CBSS and institutions in Brussels.

- b) Involve as much as possible municipalities, NGO's and networks of youth assemblies in the ERB activities.
- c) Concretise project ideas, some within the Seagull project, others that are eligible for other kinds of economic support from the EU. As good examples in Alsace were mentioned the cross border school book about nature, culture, languages, living and working conditions, etc. in the German and French parts of the Euroregion Alsace, and the transformation of the custom houses into so called Infobest offices.
- d) Broad dissemination activities are crucial for successful co-operation. Work package 5 of the Seagull project is therefore central. Information material, such as good maps over the ERB area, is important to produce and disseminate.
- e) Develop networks between people and organisations in all kinds of society sectors.

These conclusions should be presented to the ERB board and council for further considerations.

4. Information about other important international co-operation activities in the ERB member regions

Mr Rolf Karlson underlined the importance of knowledge about other planned or ongoing projects in the region with connections to the Seagull project.

Three other approved or planned BSR INTERREG III B projects are directly co-operating with Seagull: SEBTrans Link, Baltic Gateway and South Baltic Arc. Brief information about these three projects was given. Many of the ERB member regions are directly and actively involved in these transport corridor projects.

Information was also given about

- a) The Poland Year 2003 in Sweden.
- b) The Polish work with PHARE Twinning, Special Preparatory Programmes for the EU membership and Regional Innovation Strategy.
- c) UBC activities.
- d) Polish-Lithuanian co-operation with the Kaliningrad region, e.g. an inland water system project.
- e) A water management project between Pomeranian and Kaliningrad regions.

The Northern Dimension was also mentioned in this context. The ERB co-operation could be seen as a direct concretising of the ideas behind the Northern Dimension. This fact should be pointed out to CBSS and used for attracting more funds to the ERB co-operation. This is though not a task for the Seagull project, but for the ERB Board and Council. A proposal should be presented to the ERB Board.

5. Produced information material about the Seagull project

A brochure about the Seagull project has been produced and printed in Swedish and English and distributed as well. Also two roll-ups about the project and ERB has been produced. This material was successfully used for the first time in the end of October as main parts of an exhibition about ERB and Seagull at the BSSSC annual conference in Lillehammer, Norway.

Ms Stubriené preferred versions of the brochure in all languages. The INTERREG part of the Seagull project promised to support the costs for printing the brochure into Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish. Each ERB region concerned must cover all other costs. This matter will be further discussed on the WP 5-meeting in Ronneby the 4th of December.

A document for purchasing a draft Information and Communication Strategy for ERB will be developed during the coming months. The strategy is planned to be discussed and approved by the ERB Board and Council in June 2003.

As decided in Roenne, the web site will be the main source of information about the Seagull project. The site is now continuously developed in line with this decision.

Kommentar:

6. Reports

Information about the Seagull project has been requested by the programme secretariat in Rostock and sent to them.

Mr P-O Löfberg informed the SC about exchange seminars between different INTERREG III projects in the Baltic Sea Region.

Mr Löfberg stressed that for the upcoming audit it is very important to save all boarding cards and tags. They should be sent to Erik Ciardi or delivered at the next SC meeting. The first progress report to Rostock must be finished latest in the end of February 2003. It will include all project activities carried out during the period August to December 2002.

Information was given about the ERB Council meeting in Liepaja the 4th of November. Mr Normunds Niedols was very content with this meeting. A report was given to the Council about the Seagull project.

Mr Rolf Karlson informed the SC about the BSSSC conference in Lillehammer 24-25th of October. A lot of good speakers at the conference, in which 370 politicians and officials took part. One of them, Ms Helle Degn is coming to Ronneby 2-3rd of December. The conference resolution can be found on the web site of BSSSC: www.bsssc.com. Next BSSSC conference will be held in St Petersburg 23-25th of October 2003.

7. The current work situation of the five work packages

WP1, Strategy and JTDP, Mr Rolf A Karlson

The work is following the milestone activities according to the INTERREG application. The Good Governance activities are soon implemented. They will be summarised during the conference in Ronneby in December. The expert studies and analyses concerning (1) existing regional strategies and programmes, (2) governance, democracy and (3) equal opportunity situation in the member regions, and (4) the study about a joint set up of statistical indicators and a GIS-base for ERB are all under preparations.

WP2 Water management, Ms Carolina Gunnarsson

Due to problems with the ferry to Gdynia 10th of October, the first WP meeting in Gdansk was not carried through as planned. The meeting in Ronneby will therefore be even more important. Ms Gunnarsson informed that the WP still misses experts from Lithuania and Latvia. A Swedish water working group has been established with local and regional participation of water engineers and physical planners. A pilot area in Sweden has been chosen: Lyckeby small river. The WP is in need of contact persons and working groups in each country. Pilot areas have to be found in each member country.

WP3 Innovative environments, report by Mr Rolf Karlson

The first international meeting in Gdansk was cancelled as for WP2. Two Swedish workshops have been held. Three experts are engaged in three different studies, two Swedes and one Lithuanian.

WP4 Rural Development, Ms Erica Månsson

Ms Erica Månsson replaces Ms Anna-Carin Andersson the 1st of December. WP4 will use the Leader model (Local Action Groups) and pilot areas in the different regions. One of the main problems of WP4 is lack of language skills locally. This problem will hopefully be solved through coming funding from PHARE and Tacis.

WP5 Information and dissemination, Mr Ulf Andersson

Mr Ulf Andersson informed about the ongoing work in WP5 (*see paragraph 5 above*). The project evaluation is planned to be divided into two parts: A) process B) economic auditing. The evaluation of the process will be purchased from a university or equivalent institution. A paper will be presented at the next SC meeting.

8. Sub-contracts between the lead partner and the other project partners

Information was given about the procedures with the subsidy contract and the sub-contracts.

9. Preparation of PHARE and Tacis applications – current situation and plans

PHARE applications are planned for the next application round during spring 2003. The Polish partners are going for one application for all three partners.

A Tacis application is under preparation. Mr Karlson and Mr Löfberg are going to Kaliningrad later this month to support the preparations.

Mr Karlson and Mr Andersson are planning for similar preparation meetings in Latvia and Lithuania in December.

10. List of Project officials

A list of project officials had been sent out together with the agenda to the meeting. The SC members were asked to go through it and make relevant amendments, and – especially – completions of experts to the work packages. The amendments and completions should be reported to the Swedish project secretariat as soon as possible.

11. The Seagull-Good Governance conference in Ronneby, December 2-3. WP-meetings December 4

The Ronneby Conference 2-3 of December will gather about 200 people from the Good Governance and ERB/Seagull projects. The conference will be a kick-off for the Seagull project.

Mr Karlson commented the programme and the planned invitations of participants.

Ms Öhlén requested female participation in the programme. It was decided that Ms Wroblewska is going to be the moderator of day two.

12. The role and tasks of the Steering Committee

Mr Karlson referred to the decision by the ERB council in Liepaja November 4 – see paragraph 2 above. The role and tasks of the SC according to this decision were accepted.

13. Next SC meeting

The next SC meeting was decided to be held in Liepaja the 27th of January in connection to the ERB Board meeting.

14. A.o.b. and closing of meeting

The chairman reminded the SC members that the ERB presidency changes from Latvia to Denmark in February/March 2003.

The chairman thereafter thanked all participants and closed the meeting.