



Seagull

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Minutes

from the third SC meeting in Malbork, Poland 2003-02-25

Participants:

SC members: Mr Håkan Brynielsson, Mr Niels Chresten Andersen, Mr Zbigniew Czepulkowski, Mr Victor Koshelev, Mr Normunds Niedols, Ms Roma Stubriené, Ms Krystyna Wroblewska.

Secretariat: Mr Rolf A Karlson, Mr Ulf Andersson, Mr Erik Ciardi, Mr Lars Öhrman.

Others: Ms Gunta Ceplevica, Office of the Kurzeme Planning Region, Ms Ewa Dargiewicz, Warmia-Masurian Region and Ms Evgenia Tchernyavskaya, Kaliningrad Region.

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

The chairman, Mr Brynielsson opened the meeting. Due to some new persons participating at the meeting, a presentation followed.

Mr Lars Öhrman is the new project leader of WP1.

Ms Gunta Ceplevica participated in the activities in Malbork. She is a new officer in the office of the *Kurzeme Planning Region*, responsible for ERB and Seagull issues, and was therefore allowed to participate in this SC meeting.

Ms Ewa Dargiewicz was allowed to participate on behalf of the new SC member Ms Bozena Wrzeszcz-Zwada.

Ms Evgenia Tchernyavskaya interpreted for Mr Victor Koshelev.

2. The agenda was approved without any changes.

3. Information about changes in the organisational structure of some of the project partners

The Association of Municipalities of Kalmar County is from 2003-01-01 amalgamated with the Regional Council of Kalmar County. A new Swedish law of Regional co-operation bodies governs the new body – still called The Regional Council in Kalmar County. This change has no impact on the implementation of the Seagull project.

The five municipalities of Bornholm County are from 2003-01-01 amalgamated with the Bornholm County Council into a new “Regional municipality” for the whole Bornholm. Also this change has no impact on the implementation of the Seagull project.

One of the Danish partners – Agricultural Development and Innovation Centre – does not any longer have any personnel of its own, but it still exists as a legislative body. The new Regional Municipality of Bornholm now manages the responsibilities of this partner in the Seagull project.

Baltic Sea Coastal Planning Region has changed name to Kurzeme Planning Region and is now taking over all duties regarding both ERB (as national secretariat for Latvia) and Seagull activities. Though, Liepaja municipality will still be involved in the work with the Seagull project.

In Lithuania a special NGO will handle the functions as secretariat for ERB and as coordinator for the Seagull activities. This change is made of practical and economic reasons. The NGO works directly on behalf of the Governor and has its office space in the premises of the Governor.

4. Approval of report from the Alsace study tour

The SC approved the report from the study visit in the Alsace region.

5. Approval of minutes from the SC meeting in Strasbourg 2002-11-09

The SC approved the minutes from the meeting in Strasbourg.

6. Good Governance report. How to meet conclusions from the GG activities – discussion

Mr Lars Öhrman informed the SC about results of the Good Governance project, carried out during 2002. Some important conclusions:

- One of the main further priorities should be to involve the municipalities in the ERB co-operation. This requires massive information towards the municipalities as well as communication activities.
- Another key measure is to give more resources to the national ERB secretariats so that they can support the ERB representatives and the municipalities with information and other kind of support.

Political bodies must be informed about different ERB activities. The Swedish part will meet all municipalities in the three Swedish regions during this year in order to inform about ongoing work with the Seagull project and the future co-operation within the ERB.

One important dissemination matter is to be able to show concrete results and to involve initiated persons, e.g. members of the ERB Board and Council.

Essential to remember is that each Board and Council member has responsibilities when it comes to information about the ERB cooperation in his or her home region. The interpretation of this responsibility should be discussed during the next ERB Board meeting.

Ms Stubriené informed that conferences will be held this year in Klaipeda about ERB and Seagull.

Mr Andersen reminded about the plans of the new Danish chairman to visit all ERB member regions during the coming summer, and that this will be a good opportunity to discuss key issues for the future ERB cooperation. To make the municipalities more interested in the Baltic Sea co-operation, the ERB must have something to offer. This matter is of importance for the creation of an information and communication strategy in WP 5 of the Seagull project.

Mr Andersen promised to put together a list of concrete ideas and indicators so that cooperation results can be measured. Mr Brynielsson underlined that the results of the Good Governance project should be used in this process.

Mr Koshelev showed the SC a scheme of how the Russian party intends to be structured for the coming ERB and Seagull work.

It was decided that a working group with Niels-Chresten Andersen, Ulf Andersson and Lars Öhrman should propose concrete actions about the matters discussed. This should be done to the next Seagull SC and ERB board meetings.

7-8 Follow up of decisions taken by the SC in Strasbourg and by the Ronneby conference

The SC decided at its meeting in Strasbourg to lobby for making INTERREG III A rules eligible for the whole ERB region during the next structural funds period after 2006. The Northern Dimension policies of EU ought to be interpreted as working in the same direction.

It was decided that Mr Niels-Chresten Andersen, supported by Mr Lars Öhrman, will asap produce a paper about these demands, anchor it by the new ERB chairman, and send it to the responsible EU commissioners, the CBSS and the Governments of the ERB member regions. Mr Öhrman should also contact Ambassador Thomas Palme at the CBSS office in Stockholm.

The ERB Board and Council should naturally be properly informed about the paper to be able to lobby about the matters in each home region.

Other decisions made by the SC or proposed by the Ronneby conference participants should be prepared until the next Board meeting in May this year.

Mr Andersen added that there should be a general discussion during the next ERB Board meeting about future structural funds and good governance, since the structural funds are so central for the future local and regional development.

9. Progress report to Rostock – presentation and comments

The first Seagull progress report to the Programme Secretariat in Rostock was presented and commented by Mr Karlson.

The Ronneby conference was very expensive, and the INTERREG budget cannot cover any more travel or accommodation costs for non INTERREG partners.

So far the Swedish partners dominate the Seagull activities quite too much. It is therefore very important with successful PHARE and Tacis applications.

10. PHARE and Tacis applications – current situation, need of time co-ordination

Poland: waits for national decision of opening the next application round.

Latvia: Next application deadline is April 29.

Mr Karlson proposed the Latvian part to initiate a discussion within the Kurzeme Region council about an application. Mr Karlson will visit Latvia and discuss the matter asap.

Russia: The staff at the secretariat works hard with the Tacis application. It will be sent to Brussels the 19th of March.

11. The project implementation so far

- Brief information about the different work packages

WP1: JTDP

The surveys in Poland about gender issues and local democracy have been successful. Further surveys are planned about all proposed WP 1 studies.

WP2: Water management

Pilot areas have been chosen in Sweden, Kaliningrad and Poland. Areas for other regions will be picked out soon.

WP3: Innovative environments

Reports about the current situation are at the moment compiled by Swedish and Lithuanian experts. The results are going to be spread to all member regions. Seminars are planned to take place this autumn and next year.

WP4: Rural development

The language problem is h mmar the on going process in international working group. Discussions on how to implement the Leader model in the pilot areas in the non EU countries.

- Report from the WP5 meeting February 23 in Malbork

There have been some changes in the international working group. Ms Malgorsata Wasilenko is new and represents the Warmia-Masuria region. Ms Gunta Ceplevica from the Kurzeme Planning Region in Riga replaces Ms Gunta Strele.

A version of the Seagull information brochure in all languages is in some cases translated and will soon be distributed. The website has an internal area where material and documents can be found for project participants.

- Communication and information strategy

At the meeting in Malbork, February 23 it was decided that no ERB strategy document is going to be purchased. Due to the complex situation and structure with 6 countries, the group is going to produce one of its own, with expert input in different parts. A workshop with experts will be held in Gdansk later this spring. A draft is planned to be presented to the ERB Board in the 26th of May.

- Evaluation of the whole Seagull project

The procurement shall be carried through as planned and in form of a tender procurement. The evaluation should be process-oriented. Each ERB member country can propose an institution or university to compete in the procurement. Terms for

participation is that the institution has experience from evaluations of projects within the EU programmes. Evaluation activities should start during milestone 2.

- **Connections to other INTERREG IIIB projects**

A seminar together with three infrastructure corridor projects will be carried through this year. Those projects are Baltic Gateway, South Baltic Arc and SEBTrans Link. Totally three such seminars will be held during the whole period of the Seagull project.

There are some other INTERREG IIIB projects that we must interact with to avoid double work.

An INTERREG IIIB forum in Gdansk is planned to take part in June.

- **Difficulties due to lack of PHARE and Tacis funding**

- **Experts to the work packages:**
Latvia still doesn't have appointed experts or contact persons to the different work packages. This problem must be solved as soon as possible.
- **Videoconferences:**
The project should start to use videoconferences when and if possible. All members must inform the project secretariat whether such features are available or not.
- **The language question at work package meetings:**
each party must solve this question
- **How to act until PHARE and Tacis funding is available?**
Each party must decide on priorities. There are opportunities for Latvia and Lithuania of smaller funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers during autumn 2003.

12. Planned activities during milestone 2

Mr Karlson commented and distributed a paper about the planned activities according to the approved project proposal.

13. Next SC meeting

The next SC meeting will be held the 7-8th of August in Klaipeda. The main agenda issue will be to present and discuss draft reports concerning WP 1 and 3 before printing. Place of meeting will be decided later.