



5 July 2017

Prime Minister's Office
EU Coordination Secretariat

Report from the EUSBSR National Coordinators (NC) Meeting, Berlin, 15 June 2017

The National Coordinators (NC-group) met on the 15th of June at the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, back to back with the Annual Forum of the EUSBSR 13-14 June in Berlin.

This was the fifth and final NC-meeting of the Swedish Chair. Estonia will take over role as Chair from 1 July and one year forward.

A joint meeting was held earlier the same morning at the same venue with the NC-group and the Monitoring Committee (MC-group) of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region. The aim of this joint meeting was to exchange ideas on how to create added value for the EUSBSR and the Programme by increasing synergies and utilising the resources of both the Strategy and the Programme. This was the first meeting of its kind, inviting to discuss and exchange views on closer cooperation between the Interreg Baltic Sea Region and the EUSBSR governance actors. The NC-group will continue this discussion under the Estonian Chair.

De-briefing from the 8th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR, Guido Kemmerling DE NC

The German NC briefed the group on the Annual Forum that was concluded the day before. The official number of registered participants was 914; this includes no-shows and excludes some high-level participants that did not register. Altogether 26 nationalities were represented, with a vast majority from the EU member states in the Baltic Sea Region.¹ The impression was that plenaries and seminars

¹ DE: 241, SE: 175, FI: 94, PL: 90, DK: 60, LV: 40, EE: 39, LT: 32, RU: 29, NO: 22, BY: 4.

were well frequented. Like in Stockholm previous year, the organisers had used an open call for seminar organisers. Out of 38 received seminar proposals 30 were accepted. The Clean Shipping Award 2017 of the Baltic Sea Forum Ceremony was mentioned as something useful to consider also for future Forum organisers. Organisers for future forums should also look into how to make the networking spaces more vivid and make sure that the lounge areas are better connected to the rest of the forum programme.

Formal adoption of Rules of Procedure including rotation order for chairing NC-group and for EUSBSR Annual Forums, *Chair*

The NC-group formally adopted the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the NC-group, together with an order of rotation for Chair of the NC-group and rotation of EUSBSR Annual Forums. The RoP will be published at the [EUSBSR website](#) with an accompanying news item.

Information regarding EUSBSR Annual Forum 2019, *Joanna Wojtkowska, PL NC*

The Polish NC informed the NC-group of the plans for the Annual Forum in 2019 which will probably be held in Gdansk. June is the most probable month although no dates are set yet. It needs to be clarified with Interreg Baltic Sea Region Managing Authorities/ Joint Secretariat regarding when a call for application for the forum will be launched - at the end of this year or in early 2018; as a decision is expected in May of 2018. A letter of support by the NC-group needs to be prepared and signed in due time.

Information regarding incoming NC Estonian Chair and next EUSBSR Annual Forum in Tallinn, 4-5 June 2018, *Raul Mälik, EE NC*

The 9th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR will take place in Tallinn, Estonia on June 4th and 5th 2018. An overall theme of the forum will be “After 2020”. The aim is to have around 700 participants, and like earlier forums arrange it in conjunction with Baltic Development Forum (BDF). Some 20 parallel seminars are planned to be arranged, some of these will be preceded by an open-call, albeit not to the same extent as earlier forums. A study will be commissioned in close cooperation with the BDF to frame the discussions. The NC-group will be invited to comment on preliminary ideas and an outline of terms of reference later this summer.

The Estonian NC gave a presentation on the planning of the upcoming chairmanship of the NC-group as well as the organisation of Annual Forum in Tallinn 2018. Meeting dates for NC-group during autumn: September 26th, 24th October and/or 28th of November. Two, or three additional meetings in spring, including a traditional back-to-back meeting on June 6th, just after the Annual Forum 2018. The incoming Estonian Chair of the NC-group will continue the work already started by previous Chairs, as well as discussions that are already on the table. Principal issues of interest are the future of the EUSBSR and preparations for the next financial period.

2018 HELCOM Ministerial meeting – state of play and possible links to the EUSBSR, *Peter Schenk EC*

The NC-group was briefly informed of the state of play of the EU Chairmanship of HELCOM. A ministerial meeting will be held on the 6th of March next year. The NC-group will be kept updated on preparations and discuss possible links to the EUSBSR.

AOB:

- **De-briefing of seminar Safe/Clean shipping – *Odd Godal EC***

The European Commission gave a de-briefing from the seminar on safe and clean shipping that was held on the 30th of May in Brussels, with strong representation from EU institutions. The seminar showed that the potential for maritime cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region is good.

- **Concluding remarks of SE Chair – *Sofia Wennerstrand SE NC***

As this was the last meeting, the Swedish Chair made a few concluding remarks and reflections on activities taking place under the Swedish Chairmanship of the NC-group (1st of July 2016 - 1st of July 2017). A completion report after the concluded chairmanship will be finalised in autumn.

- **Next meeting**

September 26th, in Tallinn, Estonia.

List of participants

Erja Tikka, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

Guido Kemmerling, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany

Joanna Wojtkowska, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

Nijolė Žambaitė, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

Raul Mälk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia

Renāte Bula, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Latvia

Sofia Wennerstrand, Prime Minister's Office, Sweden (Chair)

Vincent Becker, Prime Minister's Office, Sweden

Peter Schenk, European Commission

Odd Godal, European Commission

Kirsi Ahlman, Centrum Balticum/Let's Communicate project

Miitta Eronen, Centrum Balticum/Let's Communicate project

Baiba Liepa, Interact Programme