

EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION
NATIONAL COORDINATORS GROUP
4th MEETING UNDER THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY

16 March 2022

Minutes

§1 Adoption of the agenda

The Presidency suggested to include an additional item to the draft agenda on *Change of PAC of PA Energy*. The agenda was adopted as amended.

§2 PAC of PA Transport

Lithuanian delegation reminded that as of 15 February 2022 Lithuanian Policy Area Coordinator (PAC) of PA Transport was moved from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University to the Association of Transport Innovations (TIA).

Estonia expressed its interest to take over the role of co-PAC from Sweden. The Steering Group of PA Transport discussed Estonia's application in the SG meeting of 9 March 2022 and approved the application.

Given the application of Estonia and decision of the Steering Group of PA Transport of 9 March 2022, the NCG appointed Estonia (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications) as a co-PAC of PA Transport.

§ 3 PAC of PA Tourism

Poland and Finland expressed their interest to take over the role of PACs of PA Tourism. Poland was appointed as a lead PAC and Finland as a co-PAC by the SG of PA Tourism in the form of silence procedure which ended on 11 March 2022.

Given the applications of Poland and Finland and decision of the Steering Group of PA Tourism of 11 March 2022, the NCG appointed Poland (Pomorskie Tourist Board) as a lead PAC and Finland (the Council of Oulu Region) as a co-PAC of PA Tourism.

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§ 4 Change of PAC of PA Hazards

Swedish delegation informed that as of 11 March the Swedish Policy Area Coordinator of PA Hazards was moved from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.

§ 5 Change of PAC of PA Energy

Lithuanian delegation informed that as of 16 March 2022, the PAC of PA Energy was moved from the Ministry of Energy of Lithuania to the Public institution Lithuanian Energy Agency.

§ 6 The revised official list of the EUSBSR PACs as of January 2022

Given the changes of PACs, the respective parts of the list of the EUSBSR PACs as of January 2022, confirmed by the NCG on 27 January 2022, have been updated.

The NCG confirmed the revised list of PACs as of January 2022. It will be published on the EUSBSR website.

§ 7 RoP of PA Safe

The NCG discussed the revised version of the RoP of the PA Safe Steering Group and emphasized that all concerns and recommendations, indicated in the Communication from the National Coordinators Group to the Policy Area Safe (15 February 2022) have been taken into account.

The NCG endorsed the RoP of PA Safe Steering Group, dated on 17 February 2022. A respective Communication will be sent to the PA Safe SG on behalf of the NCG.

§ 8 RoP of PA Ship

The NCG discussed the revised version of the RoP of the PA Ship Steering Group and emphasized that all concerns and recommendations, indicated in the Communication from the National Coordinators Group to the Policy Area Ship (25 November 2021) have been taken into account.

The NCG endorsed the RoP of PA Ship Steering Group, dated on 2 March 2022. A respective Communication with additional recommendations on amendments in the future will be sent to the PA Ship SG on behalf of the NCG.

§ 9 AOB

- **Suspension of cooperation with Russia and Belarus: practical implementation**

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The representatives of the European Commission briefed the NCG on the ongoing work concerning practical aspects of the decision to suspend cooperation with Russia and Belarus within the EUSBSR structure. Discussions on the possible additional support to Ukraine are ongoing.

It was agreed to contact PACs in order to identify challenges they might face due to the suspension of cooperation with Russia and Belarus. The follow-up information from the European Commission on the practical aspects will be provided during the forthcoming Coffee with the Presidency meetings.

- **Interim report of Let's Communicate! July-December 2021**

Representative of "Let's Communicate!" project presented the activities carried out during the period of July-December 2021.

- **Capacity building programme for capacity builders in the EU macro-regional strategies. Debrief**

Representative of the "Let's Communicate!" debriefed the NCG on their participation in the INTERACT Capacity Building training programme for MRS Support Structures.

- **Trio Presidencies meeting of 11 March. Debrief**

The Presidency informed the NCG about the 5th Trio Presidencies meeting, which was held on 11 March 2022 as part of the 3rd ES macro-regional strategies week. The Trio Presidencies meeting was organized by the EUSBSR (Lithuanian Presidency).

The representatives of the Trio Presidencies expressed their support and solidarity with Ukraine.

The Trio Presidencies discussed practical elements that would allow ensuring even more efficient implementation of the macro-regional strategies, namely establishment and functioning of the support structures and organization of the Annual Forums.

Lithuanian Presidency also suggested increasing cross-MRS cooperation at the PAC level by inviting other MRS to explore their possibilities to participate in Coffee with the Presidency meetings.

The Trio Presidencies meetings are being organized on a rotating principle. The 6th meeting will be held by EUSALP (Italy) in November 2022, the 7th - by EUSDR (Slovenia) in spring 2023, in the margins of the 4th MRS week.

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Format: NCs only

Bilateral consultations on BSP application. Debrief

The Lithuanian Presidency informed about the bilateral consultations with potential applicants of the Baltic Sea Strategy Point, organised by Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme Joint Secretariat. Lithuanian Presidency represented the NCG.

Participants:

Lithuania, Robertas Bružilas (Chair), NC, MFA

Lithuania, Laura Čeponytė, MFA

Germany, Winfried Maier, Federal Foreign Office

Sweden, Anna Hagström, NC, Prime Minister's Office

Sweden, Anna Tofftén, Prime Minister's Office

Estonia, Kadri Lepp, NC, MFA

Estonia, Raul Mälk, MFA

Estonia, Kaisa Hanna Parel, MFA

Denmark, Anders Henriksson, NC, MFA

Finland, Helena Tuuri, NC, MFA

Finland, Henrik Veikanmaa, MFA

Latvia, Ita Klekere, NC, MFA

Poland, Ewa Dębska, NC, MFA

Poland, Kamila Wojsznis, MFA

European Commission, DG Regio, Johan Magnusson

European Commission, DG Regio, Petri Koistinen

European Commission, DG Regio, Blagovestka Riiser

Let's Communicate, Kirsi Ahlman (Centrum Balticum)

Let's Communicate, Juhani Ailio (Centrum Balticum)

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