

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

3rd Meeting under the Swedish Presidency, 2022-2023

Date: 19/12/2022
Time: 09:30–13:00 CET
Venue: online

MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

The Presidency welcomed the participants and declared the meeting open.

2. Approval of the agenda

The following points were added to AOB: 1) BSP on communicating the work of the NCG; 2) European Commission's fourth report on the implementation of the macro-regional strategies.

The agenda was approved with the proposed amendments.

3. Outcomes of the Support for Ukraine event in Stockholm

The NCG took note of the key outcomes of the Support for Ukraine event. The event was organised by the Swedish EUSBSR Presidency together with the Swedish Institute and gathered over 260 participants online and on site. The event was met with appreciation from the Ukrainian side and the EUSDR expressed their interest for more intense cross-sectoral cooperation in support of Ukraine.

The outcomes of the 4 workshop sessions organised by EUSBSR PACs in the second part of the conference are to be circulated to the NCG.

4. Lead PAC list update

- a. The NCG appointed the Lead PACs of PA Transport (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia) and PA Bioeconomy (Nordic Council of Ministers Secretariat).

- b. The NCG approved the revised PAC list.

5. Baltic Sea Strategy Point

- a. The NCG took note of and discussed the BSP's preliminary ideas for the BSP Work Programme for the year 2023. The Work Programme will be based on the Action Plan, NCG Priorities and the interview discussions with the PACs conducted by the BSP during November 2022 - January 2023. A draft Work Programme will be presented in the next NCG meeting for NCG approval.
- b. The NCG approved the revised NCG Priorities Document for the Baltic Sea Strategy Point with following correction: 31 March 2023 instead of 31 March 2022 in the first bullet point of the document.

6. EUSBSR communications and BSP Communication Plan

The NCG discussed the input paper on EUSBSR communications provided by the BSP. The paper suggested creation of a long-term guiding document regarding the EUSBSR communications following the input and guidance of the NCG and other relevant stakeholders and proposed integrating the BSP Communication Plan into the BSP Work Programme. The NCG gave the BSP further guidance on the content. The NCG agreed that in the next meeting the BSP shall provide further input on the long-term guiding document on the EUSBSR communications, as well as on the BSP Communication Plan as part of the BSP Work Programme.

7. Rotation of the EUSBSR Annual Fora

The NCG discussed the feasibility of aligning the Annual Fora rotation with the EUSBSR Presidency. The NCG noted the potential added value of aligning the EUSBSR Presidency and Annual Fora rotations, but also noted potential issues it may create. The NCG shall continue the discussion in upcoming meetings.

8. AOB and date for next meeting

- The BSP will publish short news pieces on the NCG meetings that will be based on the approved meeting minutes to increase the visibility of the Strategy, its governance and implementation.
- The European Commission's fourth report on the implementation of the macro-regional strategies was published on December 9th. Swedish Presidency will handle the Council Conclusions in accordance with Sweden's Presidency in the Council of the European Union.
- The next NCG meeting will take place in the beginning of February 2023.

PARTICIPANTS

Sweden, Anna Hagström (Chair), NC, Prime Minister's Office

Sweden, Anna Tofftén, The Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Sweden, Alicia Nathanson Thulin, Prime Minister's Office

Sweden, Louise Jannerling, Prime Minister's Office

Lithuania, Robertas Bružilas, NC, MFA

Lithuania, Modesta Viskontė, MFA

Germany, Maurice Gajan, NC, Federal Foreign Office

Germany, Winfried Maier, Federal Foreign Office

Estonia, Marika Post, NC, MFA

Estonia, Raul Mälk, MFA

Denmark, Anders Henriksson, NC, MFA

Finland, Helena Tuuri, NC, MFA

Latvia, Iveta Stanislavska, NC, MFA

Poland, Ewa Dębska, NC, MFA

Poland, Monika Langiewicz, MFA

European Commission, DG Regio, Petri Koistinen

European Commission, DG Regio, Blagovestka Riiser

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Kirsi Ahlman (Centrum Balticum)

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Juhani Ailio (Centrum Balticum)

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Viktoriia Hladii (Centrum Balticum)

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Anja Karppinen (Centrum Balticum)

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Tom Schumacher (Senate Chancellery of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg)

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Stefanie Wodrig (Senate Chancellery of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg)

Interreg Baltic Sea Region, Elena Kolosova

Swedish Insitute, Camilla Wristel (Agenda Point 3)