

## EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

# 4th Meeting under the Swedish Presidency, 2022-2023

**Date:** 14/02/2023  
**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) Updates regarding the preparations of the Annual Forum 2023 in Riga.

The agenda was approved with the proposed amendments.

### 3. European Commission Report on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies

The Presidency informed on the timeline for the adoption of the Council Conclusions concerning the European Commission's fourth Report on the implementation of the EU macro-regional strategies. The report will be presented by the European Commission in the Council working group SMOR on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The rounds of reviews will thereafter be on April 24<sup>th</sup> and on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Council Conclusions of the report is thereafter expected to be adopted at the General Affairs Council in June 2023.

### 4. Annual Forum rotation

The BSP presented the proposal on alignment of the Annual Forum with the EUSBSR Presidency, prepared based on the previous discussions of the NCG and in cooperation with the Presidency. The NCG provisionally agreed:

- to align the Annual Forum starting from the year 2025, pending confirmation by the Member States;
- to organize the Annual Forum always towards the end of the Presidency;
- to leave flexibility for the Presidency to organize the Annual Forum in autumn after the end of the Member State's Presidency (within the boundaries of the same calendar year, especially applicable for 2029/2030).
- The final decision is to be made by means of silent procedure.

## 5. PAC Interview results

The NCG took note of the results of the interview discussions conducted by the BSP with the Policy Area Coordinators during November 2022 - January 2023 to support the formulation of the BSP Work Programme. The NCG recognised the timeliness and importance of the results and the strengthened need for establishing monitoring and evaluation as well as the communication framework for the Strategy.

## 6. BSP Work Programme

- a. Presentation of a EUSBSR key stakeholder meetings concept and integrating the Coffee with the Presidency into the new concept.

The NCG took note of and discussed the EUSBSR key stakeholder meetings concept and the potential integration of the Coffee with the Presidency into the new concept. The concept foresees regular monthly meetings (excluding summer holiday season) primarily targeted at the policy area coordinators and including national coordinators, BSP and invited experts, both online and offsite. The aim is to facilitate network building among PACs (across countries and PAs), to support the development of a community spirit among PACs and improve flow of information between PACs and NCs.

The NCG supported the concept and the incorporation of the Coffee with the Presidency with the future PAC meetings.

- b. The BSP Work Programme, including the EUSBSR communications

The BSP informed that the communication plan for the BSP activities towards the EUSBSR is integrated into the BSP Work Programme and that the separate EUSBSR communication guidelines shall be developed by the BSP in cooperation with the core stakeholders by the end of the Swedish Presidency.

Furthermore, the BSP presented draft of the Work Programme, including the timeline of the activities and tasks of the BSP for 2022-2023. The NCG took note of the plan and emphasised on the need for prioritization of tasks as well as adding the flexibility for ad-hoc urgent matters.

- c. Approval of the BSP Work Programme

Based on the input from the NCG, the BSP will submit the reviewed text of the Work Programme to the NCG for comments. The NCG will return to the item during the next meeting.

#### **7. AOB and date for next meeting**

- The NCG took note of the status of the Annual Forum 2023 preparations to be held in Riga on 4-5 October 2023. The call for stakeholder sessions taking place on the day before the core programme (October 4<sup>th</sup>) is to be launched in March 2023.
- The BSP invited NCs to follow up on the validity and possible updates to the lists of the PA Steering Group members.
- The Presidency informed about the EUSBSR Swedish Presidency closing meeting taking place in Visby on 4-6 June 2023. The Presidency also reminded about the upcoming Coffee with the presidency on Friday February 17th.
- The next NCG meeting will take place in the mid- or second half of April 2023 online.

## **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, Frida Bergström, 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

Finland, Anu Kynkäänniemi, MFA

Latvia, Iveta Stanislavska, NC, MFA

Latvia, Ita Klekere, 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