

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

Ad-hoc meeting under the Latvian Presidency, 2023-2024

Date: 08/11/2023
Time: 11:00-13:00 EEST
Location: online

MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Presidency at 11:05.

The Presidency called the extra NCG meeting for the NCG to discuss the content and procedural mechanism of approving the BSP progress report and the Feedback Form from NCG to Interreg BSR Secretariat. The documents were to be approved over Silence Procedures, during which it was noted, among other reasons, that a meeting is needed for discussing the process of approving these documents for the future. The Presidency also invited NCs to take this as an opportunity ask for additional information from BSP.

2. BSP Progress Report and the Feedback Form from NCG to Interreg BSR

NCG discussed the procedural mechanism of making decisions on the BSP Reports and Work Programmes and the very constrained timeline it requires. NCG takes progress reports and the Work Programmes of BSP seriously and wishes to have more time to consider the documents in question without having to make a rushed decision. Therefore, NCG agreed that there is a need to elaborate and establish procedures for receiving and approving reports of the BSP, as BSP has not existed before, and this has been a pilot year of its operation. Establishing these procedures now will serve as the basis of work with the BSP for every consequent Presidency and NCG.

BSP informed that as the report to the NCG is essentially also the report to Interreg BSR Secretariat, BSP has one month to formulate the progress report for the previous 6 months, submit it to the NCG and receive approved Feedback Form from the NCG to Interreg BSR on BSP's performance before the reporting closes. NCG requested BSP to explore how other Strategy Points in the other macro-regional Strategies, deal with this process and also suggested that BSP report to the NCG would not need to be so extensive and focused on the details, but focusing on the essence and the most important aspects and overall progress of

the year. The Presidency called on the NCG to deliberate a proposal on the BSP reporting format to the NCG.

BSP elaborated on the successes and challenges of work done during the previous year, addressed the questions of the NCs and noted the suggestions from the NCs. The NCG highlighted that this has been the first and pilot phase of the BSP. The NCG took note of the challenges the BSP faced during the past year and commended on its success and the support provided to the Presidencies.

NCG noted the need in the EUSBSR for improved communication, success stories and common messages. A dialogue is needed in the NCG on the role of all stakeholders concerning the communication and concerning engagement of the new stakeholders in order to avoid unrealistic expectations from the BSP.

3. BSP Work Programme 2023-2024

The discussion and clarifications on BSP Work Programme were postponed due to time constraints.

4. Next steps

The Presidency invited NCs to forward their comments and input on the Feedback Form to Interreg BSR Secretariat by November 8th end of the day.

The BSP Work Programme discussion will be postponed until the next NCG meeting on November 29th.

The Presidency has adjourned the meeting at 13:05.

PARTICIPANTS

Denmark	Anders Henriksson (NC)	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Estonia	Tõnis Nirk (NC)	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland	Helena Tuuri (NC)	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Germany	Maurice Gajan (NC)	Federal Foreign Office
Latvia	Andra Kuzmina (NC, Chair) Skaidrite Zarane (Deputy NC)	Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Lithuania	Robertas Bružilas (NC) Modesta Vanesa Viskontė (Deputy NC)	Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Poland	Ewa Dębska (NC) Monika Langiewicz (Deputy NC)	Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Anna Hagström (NC) Anna Tofftén (Deputy NC)	Prime Minister's Office Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation
	Juhani Ailio Kirsi Ahlman Viktorii Hladii	Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point