

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

5th Meeting under the Polish Presidency, 2024-2025

Date: 28/5/2025
Time: 10:00-14:00 CET
Location: Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda

The meeting was opened by the Presidency at 10:03. By consensus of the NCG, there was one amendment to the meeting agenda, to change the agenda point no. 4 from NC-only format to the general format.

2. Procedure and communicating the PA changes

The Presidency introduced the agenda point by recalling that the series of meetings between the NCs and the PAs have now taken place. The Presidency thanked the NCs and the BSP for conducting them in such a short time. The meetings gave a deeper view on the PAs past activities and plans for the future and received good feedback from various PACs and NCs. Such meetings between the NCs and the PACs could be a useful tool also in the future work, should the future Presidencies decide to employ them.

The BSP presented an overview of the procedural aspects for the PA composition discussion. Procedures need to be agreed among the NCG in case of potential PAs closure, merger or restructuring of the PA. The NCG took note of the information presented by the BSP and the aspects that need to be taken into consideration in connection with the current PA composition review and in the future. DG REGIO representative noted that the process taking place currently within the EUSBSR is innovative and a useful example for the other Macro-Regional Strategies to refer to. The Presidency concluded that the supported materials presented will be circulated within the group for future reference.

3. PA Bioeconomy Lead PAC

The BSP presented the agenda point by recapping situation at the moment. There is currently no certainty whether the current Lead PAC is to step down from the PAC position or to only step down from the Lead PAC role, neither if any of the remaining PAC organisations in the PA will assume the Lead PAC position instead.

The NCG took note of the information. The NCG agreed that it is of importance to ensure the continuation of Policy Area's operation, and the availability of the Lead PAC is essential for

that. In order to proceed, and to decide on the next steps, the NCs from the PA Bioeconomy PAC countries are to form a temporary task force together with the PAC organisations of the PA.

The Presidency concluded that the discussion is to continue during the next NCG meeting once more information and details on the possible solution are available.

4. Action Plan update - PA composition

The Presidency and the BSP presented the agenda point. The NCG discussed the possible changes to the PA composition Policy Area by Policy Area individually. As a conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed that all Policy Areas will continue operating in the next Action Plan. Furthermore, the NCs agreed on submitting a general and Policy Area specific feedback to each Policy Area based on the outcomes of the discussion and the conclusions from the NC-PAC dialogues in April-May. The feedback is to be finalised and sent out to the Policy Area Coordinators during the month of June.

5. AOB and date for next meeting

AOB:

- Sweden informed about the meeting in Visby on 16-18 June on the follow up from the discussions that took place at the Annual Forum in Visby in October 2024.
- DG REGIO representative informed that the MRS report has been published and the Council Conclusions on the report are coming up, possibly with the next Presidency.
- The Presidency informed that distribution of the invitations to the high-level speakers for the Annual Forum has started. Some invitations will be issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Marshall of Pomorskie. The Presidency will inform NCs on who from the respective countries are to receive invitations. The invitations will be issued for participation in the panel discussions and keynote speeches.

The agenda for the next meeting on 10/6 is to be issued shortly.

The meeting was concluded at 12:12.



PARTICIPANTS

Denmark	Peter Wilhelm Linde (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Estonia	Andreas Sepp (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Finland	Helena Tuuri (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Germany	Sven Freitag (NC)	Federal Foreign Office
Latvia	Andra Kuzmina (NC) Kristine Cukure (NC team)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Lithuania	Albinas Zananavičius (NC) Modesta Vanesa Viskontė (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Poland	Katarzyna Barcikowska (NC, Chair) Monika Langiewicz (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Anna Hagström (NC) Anna Tofftén (Deputy NC) (agenda point 4)	Prime Minister's Office
	Juhani Ailio Viktoriiia Hladii Kirsi Ahlman	Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point
	Petri Koistinen	European Commission, DG Regio
	Elena Kolosova	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Secretariat