



EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

8th Meeting under the Estonian Presidency, 2025-2026

Date: 18/02/2026
Time: 10:00–12:00 EET / (9:00-11:00 CET)
Location: Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda

The Presidency opened the meeting at 10:05.
The Presidency welcomed new DG REGIO representative in the group.
The agenda was approved without amendments.

2. Advocacy for the macro-regional strategy approach post-2027

The BSP presented to the NCG a new concise version of the internal non-binding paper related to the EUSBSR and the post-2027 funding architecture. The paper presents in more general terms and on a higher level the consequences of weakening the Strategy role in the next funding period, outlines the current funding situation related to the Strategy and the prerequisites for the successful continuation of the macro-regional approach post-2027. The NCG discussed the content of the paper and provided input on strengthening the argumentation and highlighting the Strategy impact. The paper will be amended by the BSP according to the comments provided during the meeting and in the subsequent commenting round.

3. The EUSBSR and Interreg Baltic Sea Region post-2027

The NCG discussed the participation of the BSP and the Presidency in the upcoming Monitoring Committee meeting of Interreg BSR programme, particularly in the context of cooperation regarding the post-2027 MFF programming and the EUSBSR Action Plan update.

4. Update of the Rules of Procedure

The NCG discussed the feasibility of further defining of the roles concerning the Annual Forum organisation and ensuring effective Steering Group participation. Based on the outcomes of

the discussion and the input provided by the NCs, the Presidency and the BSP will formulate the proposal for changes to the Rules of Procedure and other governance supporting documents.

5. AOB and date for next meeting

The next NCG meeting is planned to take place back-to-back with the Live NC-PAC meeting in Denmark on 14-15 April 2026.

The Presidency concluded the meeting at 11:47.

PARTICIPANTS

Denmark	Bjarke Brix Olsen	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Estonia	Tõnis Nirk (NC, Presidency) Andreas Sepp (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Finland	Helena Tuuri (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Germany	Sven Freitag (NC) Christine Gockel (Deputy NC)	Federal Foreign Office Federal Foreign Office
Latvia	Kristine Cukure (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Lithuania	Albinas Zananavičius (NC) Modesta Vanesa Viskontė (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Norway	Jens Erik Grøndahl (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Poland	Katarzyna Barcikowska (NC) Anna Korolec-Monko (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Anna Hagström (NC) Anna Tofften (Deputy NC)	Prime Minister's Office Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure
	Juhani Ailio Viktoriiia Hladii Kirsi Ahlman Tom Schumacher	Baltic Sea Strategy Point (BSP) Baltic Sea Strategy Point (BSP) Baltic Sea Strategy Point (BSP) Baltic Sea Strategy Point (BSP)
	Petri Koistinen Nina Kvello	European Commission, DG Regio European Commission, DG Regio
	Elena Kolosova	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Secretariat