



EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

10th Meeting under the Estonian Presidency, 2025-2026

Date: 11/05/2026

Time: 19:00–21:00 EET

Location: Town Hall Square 17, Tallinn (*in the format of working dinner*)

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda

The meeting was opened by the Presidency at 19:05.

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

2. PA Safe PAC selection process

The Presidency and the BSP presented the agenda point and informed the NCG about the current situation in PA Safe. The BSP recalled that the current PAC organisations Swedish Maritime Administration and the Finnish Transport and Communication Agency Traficom informed earlier this year about their withdrawal from the coordinating role in the Policy Area. Furthermore, Sweden informed the Presidency as of 1 April 2026 that it will not be able to continue as PAC in PA Safe. The BSP presented the proposed process for selection of a new PAC and the parties involved. It was noted that the launch of the process is pending the formal completion of Norway's accession process to the EUSBSR. The selection procedure will be opened to all EUSBSR Member States regardless of their representation in the Steering Group.

The Presidency concluded that the process for identifying a new PA Safe PAC shall be launched according to the outlined process once Norway's accession to the EUSBSR is formally completed.

3. Advocacy process towards post-2027 MFF

The Presidency and the BSP presented the agenda point and informed the NCG about the status of preparations for the 4 MRS Trio Presidencies meeting to be held in Brussels on 7 July 2026. The BSP informed about the ongoing work on consolidating common advocacy messages across the macro-regional strategies for the post-2027 MFF process and ongoing

preparations for thematic discussions. The BSP also informed about continuing presentations of the updated Action Plan to Interreg programmes.

Furthermore, the BSP presented the concept note on further improving ongoing advocacy efforts through national channels. The NCG exchanged views on national-level advocacy activities and national stakeholder meetings. It was highlighted that many stakeholders are still not sufficiently aware of the Strategy and its activities. The importance of utilising BSP support for such meetings was emphasised. The NCG discussed different approaches to organising national stakeholder meetings. Experiences from previously organised stakeholder meetings were shared and appreciation was expressed for the independent and flexible support provided by the BSP. It was also highlighted that organisation of such meetings in national languages remains important.

The BSP clarified that organisation of such meetings remains fully voluntary and under the general responsibility of the NCs, while the BSP support would mainly concern preparation of materials and content support where requested. The BSP informed that bilateral consultations with the NCs regarding possible national meetings will continue.

The Presidency concluded the agenda point and invited the NCG to benefit from the support of the BSP where applicable.

4. PA reporting feedback process

The Presidency and the BSP presented the agenda point and the proposed process for delivering feedback to the Policy Areas regarding the 2025 reporting period. The BSP presented the proposed general feedback messages, including observations and areas for further improvement. The BSP informed that additional individual feedback would be provided upon request as per the Strategy's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. The BSP informed that the feedback would be delivered through the EUSBSR Monthly. The importance of presenting feedback in a supportive manner, including identification and sharing of good practices between the Policy Areas, was highlighted.

The Presidency concluded that any further comments on the proposed feedback should be submitted before 19 May 2026 and highlighted the importance of ensuring sensitive and constructive communication towards the Policy Areas.

5. AOB and date for next meeting

- The Presidency informed about the invitation from the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) and highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation between the EUSBSR and the BSPC.
- DG REGIO representative informed that the draft Council Conclusions regarding Norway's accession to the EUSBSR were approved at the ECOFIN level and that the final formal approval is expected on 18 May 2026.
- DG REGIO representative informed about the ongoing finalisation process of the updated Action Plan and the ongoing inter-service consultation.



- Norway informed about plans to organise a kick-off meeting in September to Norwegian stakeholders and introducing them to the Strategy implementation and governance structures.
- DG REGIO representative informed about the drafting of the European Commission Communication on the Arctic.

The date of the next meeting will be communicated in due time.

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) Kristine Gockel (Deputy NC)	Federal Foreign Office Federal Foreign Office
Latvia	Kristine Cukure (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Lithuania	Albinas Zananavičius (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Norway	Jens Erik Grøndahl (Norway Representative)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Poland	Anna Korolec-Monko (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Anna Hagström (NC)	Prime Minister's Office
	Juhani Ailio Viktorii 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)
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