



EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

11th Meeting under the Estonian Presidency, 2025-2026

Date: 12/06/2026

Time: 10:00–12:00 EET / (9:00-11:00 CET)

Location: Microsoft Teams

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda

The meeting was opened at 10:02.

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

2. Annual Forum 2027

The BSP presented the agenda point and informed that at the moment the search for organiser of the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2027 still continues. The BSP outlined possible options for proceeding, including continuing the search through a targeted approach involving National Coordinators and their networks, opening a broader public call, or considering an alternative format in case no organiser can be found. The NCG discussed the options and noted the importance of the Annual Forum for the visibility and functioning of the Strategy, while also acknowledging the time constraints. The discussion also touched upon the possibility of an extended live meeting as an alternative should the Annual Forum not be organised in the usual format.

The Presidency concluded that it would consult further with the BSP on how to proceed based on the feedback provided and inform the NCG of the next steps.

3. Update of the Rules of Procedure

The Presidency presented the compromise version of the updated NCG Rules of Procedure, prepared on the basis of previous discussions, consultations and written comments. The Presidency highlighted that the most substantial amendments concerned Articles 6, 8 and 11, in particular provisions related to the organisation of the Annual Forum.

No further comments were raised during the meeting. The NCG approved the new version of the updated NCG Rules of Procedure.

4. MRS Trio Presidencies meeting

The Presidency and the BSP presented the draft papers on common messaging and advocacy for four EU macro-regional strategies towards the MFF 2028-2034, consolidated by the Bulgarian Presidency of the EUSDR and the Danube Strategy Point in preparation for the upcoming MRS Trio Presidencies meeting on the 7 July 2026 in Brussels. The proposed drafts are based on the materials submitted by the four MRS secretariats. The NCG discussed the content, format and intended target audience of the papers. It was underlined that the messages should be framed as voluntary guidance and a set of common arguments for the governance actors of the four Strategies.

The Presidency concluded that the BSP would prepare a consolidated commented version of the documents on the basis of the discussion and circulate it to the NCG for written comments, upon which it the paper will submitted to the Danube Strategy Point for final consolidation.

5. High-Level Group meeting

The BSP presented the draft input and guiding questions for the upcoming High-Level Group meeting, taking place back-to-back with the EU MRS and SBS Days in Brussels on 7 July 2026. The NCG discussed the themes to be highlighted on behalf of the Strategy. It was agreed that the outgoing and incoming Presidencies, together with the BSP, would coordinate the further preparation of the input for the meeting.

6. Information note on cooperation with Ukraine

The BSP presented the information note on cooperation with Ukraine. The note was compiled on the basis of available reporting and communication materials from the Policy Areas and verified with the Policy Area Coordinators. The BSP highlighted several positive examples of cooperation with Ukrainian stakeholders and informed that it would continue working on making this information more visible via the EUSBSR communication channels. The NCG took note of the information note and welcomed the overview.

7. Danish EUSBSR Presidency 2026-2027

The incoming Presidency informed the NCG that its priorities would include implementation of the newly updated Action Plan, including support to the relevant actors in their ongoing work with attention to long term outcomes and sustainability of coordination mechanisms, as well as and continued Strategy support to Ukraine. Denmark also informed about upcoming events, including participation in the High-Level Group meeting, the MRS Trio Presidencies meeting and the EU MRS and SBS Days on 7-9 July 2026, as well as the official opening of the incoming Presidency in Copenhagen on 28-29 September 2026. The NCG took note of the information provided.

8. AOB

- Norway informed that a kick-off event for Norwegian Strategy stakeholders is planned to take place in Oslo on 16 October 2026, tentatively as a half-day event. Policy Area Coordinators, the BSP and the Presidency are invited.



- The BSP informed that it had been selected to organise a session at the EU Week of Regions and Cities, with the aim of further promoting the visibility of the macro-regional approach. The BSP also informed about a planned session by the EEAS and DG MARE on the lessons learned in maritime safety and security in the Baltic and Black Sea regions during the upcoming MRS & SBS Days in Brussels, and about the EUSBSR Monthly on 16 June.
- The Presidency noted that this was the final NCG meeting under the Estonian Presidency. The Presidency thanked the NCG, the European Commission, the BSP and Interreg Baltic Sea Region for their constructive cooperation during the Presidency.

The meeting was concluded by the Presidency at 11:03.

PARTICIPANTS

Denmark	Bjarke Brix Olsen (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Estonia (Presidency)	Tõnis Nirk (NC) Andreas Sepp (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Finland	Helena Tuuri (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Germany	Sven Freitag (NC)	Federal Foreign Office
Latvia	Kristine Cukure (NC) Santa Karina Norvele (NC)	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
Norway	Blagovestka Riiser (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
Poland	Anna Korolec-Monko (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Anna Hagström (NC) Anna Tofftén (Deputy NC)	Prime Minister's Office Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure
	Juhani Ailio Viktorii Hladii Kirsi Ahlman	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