

## EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

### 7th Meeting under the Swedish Presidency, 2022-2023

**Date:** 11/05/2023  
**Time:** 09:30–11:10 CET  
**Venue:** online

#### MINUTES

##### 1. Opening of the meeting

The Presidency welcomed the participants and declared the meeting open.

##### 2. Approval of the agenda

The following points were added to AOB:

- EUSBSR Annual Forum (European Commission)
- Updates from PAs (BSP)
- ERDF MA Network mission statement (BSP)
- VASAB Ministerial meeting (Swedish Presidency)

The agenda was approved with the above-mentioned amendments.

##### 3. Council Conclusions on the European Commission's 4<sup>th</sup> MRS Report

*For information: SMOR Group meeting on 24 April 2023 on the draft of the Council Conclusions on the European Commission's 4<sup>th</sup> MRS Report; For discussion (tentative): the second draft of the Council Conclusions on the European Commission's 4<sup>th</sup> MRS Report.*

The Presidency updated NCG on the SMOR group meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April, where the first draft of the Council Conclusions was discussed and commented. NCG took note of the process and timeline of the adoption of the Conclusions: the next review and possible adoption of the draft

Council Conclusions will take place at the next SMOR Working Party meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The possible third review date will be on June 13<sup>th</sup>, if needed.

The Presidency informed that as of May 11<sup>th</sup> the second draft of the Council Conclusions on the European Commission's 4<sup>th</sup> MRS Report wasn't available yet, thus will not be discussed in this meeting.

#### **4. MRS Week, 24-28 April 2023**

*For information: HLG meeting, MRS Trio Presidencies meeting.*

The Presidency informed the NCG on the outcomes of the High-Level Group meeting and MRS Trio Presidencies meeting taking place in the framework of the 4<sup>th</sup> MRS Week online and onsite in Brussels. The next meeting of the Trio Presidencies of MRS is to be organised in the second half of 2023 by Croatia.

The European Commission informed the NCG on the outcomes of the MRS Week and asked for feedback regarding the format and ideas for the next years' events planning.

#### **5. BSP Reporting**

*For discussion: the format of the BSP reporting.*

Following the completion of the first reporting period, BSP requested from the NCG the input regarding BSP reporting content and format. The NCG did not object the current format or content of the BSP reports to the NCG.

#### **6. AOB and date for next meeting**

- European Commission informed NCG on the availability of the high-level speakers from the Commission for the upcoming Annual Forum in Riga.
- BSP informed on PA Updates:
  - PA Nutri is going through the process of updating PA Rules of Procedures regarding establishing the SG Presidency rotation.
  - PA Hazards: BSP requests NCG to forward the up-to-date contacts or assist with appointment of SG Members in PA Hazards. The incoming new PAC to start in the middle of June 2023.
  - Several PAs are working on the initiatives to support Ukraine. For instance, PA Safe is exploring funding opportunities and concrete possibilities to support maritime students from Ukraine to finalise their studies in the Baltic Sea Region in cooperation with the Ukrainian and Baltic Sea Region maritime academic institutions and authorities; PA Education cooperates regarding distance education (trauma-aware care, digitalisation) and Civil Protection Faculty (training for paramedics). The application is submitted to Swedish Institute to develop non-formal education in Ukraine; PA Nutri and Bioeconomy work on the joint funding application regarding wastewater facilities in Ukraine.

- BSP informed NCG about the ERDF Managing Authorities Network mission statement review process.
- The Presidency informed about VASAB Ministerial Conference on June 1-2, and the EUSBSR representation there. As the Presidency is not able to participate, other representative or the possibility of participating online will be also explored.
- The Presidency informed that the next meeting would take place in early June in Visby.

## PARTICIPANTS

Denmark	Anders Henriksson (NC)	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Estonia	Marika Post (NC) Raul Mälk	Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland	Helena Tuuri (NC) Anu Kynkäänniemi Kaisa Arkkila	Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Germany	Maurice Gajan (NC) Winfried Maier	Federal Foreign Office Federal Foreign Office
Latvia	Andra Kuzmina Ita Klekere	Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Lithuania	Modesta Vanesa Viskontė	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Poland	Ewa Dębska (NC) Monika Langiewicz	Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Anna Hagström (NC) (Chair) Alicia Nathanson Thulin Frida Bergström	Prime Minister's Office Prime Minister's Office Prime Minister's Office
	Viktoriia Hladii Tom Schumacher Marlene Riedel Kirsi Ahlman	Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point
	Petri Koistinen Elena Kolosova	European Commission, DG Regio Interreg Baltic Sea Region