



**Association of European  
Border Regions (AEBR)**



**Task Force of External Borders**

## **AEBR TASK FORCE OF EXTERNAL BORDERS (TFEB) MEETING**

**Place:** Lucy Hotel, restaurant

<http://www.lucyhotel.gr/home/>

Malaya Morskaya Ulitsa 14, Saint-Petersburg, 190000, Russia

Admiralteyskaya” metro station is situated 150 metres from the meeting place

**Date:** Wednesday 26. March 2014 Time: 18:00 – 20.00

### **Participants:**

MOISIO Johannes, Chairman, Regional Council of South Karelia

AALTO Heikki, Bothnian Arc

BACKGREN Ann-Sofi, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia

BERG Ari, Regional Council of South Karelia

GABBE Jens, AEBR

PAPADEMETRIOU Alkis, Euregio Nestos-Mesta

VARIS Eura, Euregio Karelia

### **Notes**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

Chairman Moisio opened the meeting at 18.10.

It was noted, that the secretary general of AEBR will arrive later and that the members of Ukraine and Russia are not to be expected to participate the TFEB meeting, seminar of cross-border cooperation on Thursday and the executive committee in Drama on Friday 28. March.

#### **2. European Union Programming period 2014-2020**

The group discussed on the stage of European Union programming. For example the CBC programmes between EU and Russia are in an active programming process. The group expressed their wish, that despite of the conflict in Ukraine, the cross-border cooperation between the border regions should be facilitated.

#### **3. Situation with AEBR Info Centres**

Kharkiv National University of Economics has operating AEBR information centre, which works together with EU information centre. Mr. Eduard Siromolot in Kharkiv has investigated the possibility to enlarge the network of AEBR centres in Ukraine. There is interest for it in the western areas as well as in Lugansk. Though, the unstable situation among the Ukrainian-Russian members of AEBR will make this challenging.



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#### **4. Development of Russian 72h visa free legislation**

The visa issue was discussed in the previous Ukrainian-Russian meeting in St. Petersburg. The meeting summarized the findings of the previous meeting. Visa free traveling to Russia will be taken into agenda if the overall situation with Ukraine and Russia allow it.

#### **5. Situation with AEBR Youth Summer Forum**

Youth Summer Forum doesn't have a host while first St. Petersburg and then Lugansk withdraw their initiatives for hosting the event and no other region has expressed concrete actions for hosting. The AEBR executive committee meeting in Drama is the last point to get a host, otherwise the VI Youth Summer Forum is considered postponed.

#### **6. Presentation of ComUnYouth - project**

ComUnYouth project managed and funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers was shortly introduced to the members of the TFEB: This project is tackling youth unemployment in the Baltic Sea area.

#### **7. Information on the next meeting in June**

Program of the next task force meeting was delivered in the meeting. The meeting was foreseen to be a small scale working seminar. Mr. Jens Gabbe urged the organisers to involved experts from Defco.

#### **8. Discussion**

Due to the schedule and long travel to the meeting earlier the same day, it was agreed, that the discussion will occur while having dinner.

