

**STARTING CONFERENCE OF THE PROJECT "BALTIC EUROREGIONAL NETWORK"**

26-27 September 2005

"Reval Hotel Lietuva", Vilnius, Lithuania

**26 September, Monday**

**BEN Steering Committee meeting (BEN partners only)**

"Reval Hotel Lietuva", room Zeta

12.00-13.30 Lunch for SC members (restaurant of "Reval Hotel Lietuva")

13.30-18.00 SC meeting.

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

20.00-22.00 Reception at the restaurant "Belmontas" (for all participants of Starting conference).

**27 September, Tuesday**

**BEN Starting Conference**

"Reval Hotel Lietuva", room Zeta

8.30-9.00 Registration

First session. Chairman Mr. Teppo Heiskanen, Director of the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania

9.00-9.50 Welcome speeches:

- **Mr. Per Unckel**, Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers;
- **Mr. Algirdas Astrauskas**, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania;
- **Ms. Heidrun Palsdottir**, Icelandic Member of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, Icelandic CBSS Presidency 2005-2006.

9.50-10.30 Presentation of BEN project. **Mr. Šarūnas Radvilavičius**, project coordinator of the NCM Office in Lithuania;

10.30-11.0 Coffee break.

Press conference.

11.00-11.20 Presentation by one of Nordic partners in the BEN. **Mr. Torben Aaberg**, Deputy Director of the Øresund Committee;

11.20-11.40 Presentation by one of the Baltic partners in the BEN. **Ms. Gulnara Roll**, Director of the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation;

11.40-12.00 Questions

12.00-13.30 Lunch

Second session. Chairman Mr. Bo Lindroos, Head of Department for Environment and Resources, the Nordic Council of Ministers.

13.30-14.00 "BSR INTERREG III B program as a catalyst for transnational cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region". **Mr. Arve Skjerpen**, Chairman of the BSR INTERREG III B programs Steering Committee.

14.00-14.30 "Cross-border cooperation and the role of euroregions in the Kaliningrad region". **Mr. Dmitrij Ofitserov**, Head of international organizations and EU program unit, Department of International Affairs, Kaliningrad Regional Administration.

14.30-15.00 "Reconfiguring Cross-Border Cooperation at the External Border of the EU", **Mr. Juha Kotilainen**. The Karelian Institute, University of Joensuu, Finland.

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-15.50 "INTERREG III A Lithuania, Poland and Kaliningrad Neighbourhood Programme – new possibility for CBC ". **Mr. Giedrius Surplys**, Information Officer, INTERREG Joint Technical Secretariat.

15.50-16.10 Presentation of BSR INTERREG III B project "SEAGULL". **Mr. Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski**, Euroregion Baltic International Permanent Secretariat.

16.10-16.40 Questions

16.40-17.00 Closing of the conference.

17.30-19.00 Excursion in Vilnius.