

**Recommendations
for the representatives of federal and regional authorities of the Russian Federation
and Euroregions,**

worked out accordingly to the results of
the first Russian national roundtable organized in the framework of the project
«Baltic Euroregional Network» (BEN)
22nd of November 2005, «Astoria» hotel,
St. Petersburg

1. It's necessary to take into account, that the creation of new and the development of already existing Euroregions should be implemented with the participation not just regional and local authorities, but also institutions of civil society, business structures, representatives of mass media and other stakeholders.
2. When working out the Program of cross-border cooperation, the following should be taken into consideration:
 - Cooperation with EU
 - Cooperation with CIS countries.

The Program should include the separate section devoted to the matters of Euroregions' creation, in particular to trans-local forms of cooperation of the RF and EU countries, as well as European CIS countries – the Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. It's necessary to list the number and location of Euroregions, aims of their creation, types of the participants, as well as the criteria of efficiency of their functioning. Taking into account those criteria, the estimation of further support to existing Euroregions, as well as the participation of Russia in the creation of new euroregions, should be done. It should be underlined that international cooperation will be considered as the most efficient if it assists to the modernization of Russian border territories, the development of their export potential and forming of up-to-date technological mode.

3. When preparing the Federal Law (FL) "About cross-border cooperation in the Russian Federation" it's of the high necessity to divide administrative and financial powers among federal authorities, federal subject's state authorities and local authorities. Also the vocabulary of cross-border cooperation should be defined and used as: «euroregion», «priorities of cross-border cooperation, its aims and methods», «project activity», «partnership in cross-border cooperation», «analysis of the possibilities».
4. It's necessary to aspire to the delegation of decisions, regarding cancellation of taxes and customs for freights of humanitarian and technical assistance, intended to the RF organizations, to the level of regional authorities.
5. Propose the plenipotentiary of the RF President in the Northwest federal region to consider the forming of a working commission on coordination and development of cross-border cooperation in the Northwest Russia.
6. Propose the RF subjects' administrations, located in the federal region, to define concrete officials, dealing with cross-border cooperation matters, to plan human resources for this particular work.

7. Propose the Ministry of foreign affairs of the RF to faster the ratification of the additional protocols of Madrid framework convention on the development of cross-border cooperation.
8. Propose the EC to work out recommendations on the procedure of creation, aims of creation and functioning efficiency of Euroregions.
9. To include into the FL "About cross-border cooperation in the RF" the declaration of cross-border cooperation principles, including "good neighborhood", "interaction of the authorities and civil society institutions", "transparency of cooperation", "informing of the society about the events and the results of project activity".
10. Propose the Government of the RF to create the fund for support of cross-border cooperation projects, which could be used on the basis of competition for co-financing of international and national projects, presented by the regions and local authorities.

