

**MINUTES**  
**BALTECH Board meeting**  
*October 28, 2005*  
*Vilnius University of Technology*  
*VGTU Video Conference Studio, Traku 1/26, Vilnius*

**Participants**

Mauri Airila, Helsinki  
Alfonsas Daniunas, Vilnius  
Per Hagander, Lund  
Jakob Kübarsepp, Tallinn  
Toomas Käbin, Tallinn, Secretary  
Lennart Nilsson, Stockholm  
Ulf Nilsson, Linköping  
Vytautas Ostasevicius  
Ausra Pelediene, Vilnius

**1. Opening of the meeting**

Jacob Kübarsepp opened the meeting.

**2. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**3. Election of chairman and secretary**

Jacob Kübarsepp was elected chairman,  
Toomas Käbin was elected secretary.

**4. Words of welcome and introduction**

Jacob Kübarsepp stressed the importance of networking between the Baltic Sea universities and asked the BALTECH members to present the specifics and priorities of each member and to single out joint activities and cooperation possibilities for 2006-2007.

**5. The Role of Universities of technology for economic and social development**

Mr Valentinas Pranas Milaknis, Chairman of the Higher Education Board of Lithuania gave his view on the role of universities of technology for economic and social development in today's world. Mr Milaknis had been asked to present his views in order to have a good start-up for the meeting and to contribute with ideas from business representative. Below a summary:

*Goals*

Science: money is spent to enhance knowledge  
Innovation: Knowledge brings money  
The question is, if there is a common goal?

*Momentum*

Science is too high, too deep and too slow  
Business is too simple and too fast

*Success factors:*

to reach global markets

To obtain common goals from knowledge to products

Financing

The conclusion is to look for common goals and motivators

There is a need for better communication between university and business. Based on this there is a need for continued education and dialogue between business and university and it is a fact that there are too few scientists in industry.

## **6. Mission, vision and priorities of member universities 2006 – 2010**

### ***Kaunas***

Centres of Excellence within biotech, laser/optitronics, IT, mechatronics, electronics/nanotechnologies.

Necessity to develop CEE with FP5 money related to Lithuanian priorities.

Prof Airila expressed an interest for cooperation within mechatronics between Helsinki and Kaunas.

Kaunas is conducting interesting cooperation with Snaige (refrigerators) within IT development for smart refrigerators.

### ***KTH***

IT, an IT university was created in 1997-98, is it's cooperating with industry, also cooperation with Stockholm Univesrity and Stockholm School of Economics,

Environmental & industrial sciences: especially looking into problems connected to contaminated areas.

Industrial economics; material sciences, such as polymers and paper industry.

Biotech; strong cooperation with Stockholm University and the Karolinska Institute. Priority areas are protein mapping with Karolinska and research within fibre, pulp& paper industry as well as miniaturizaion.

Energy related questions and topics.

All in all KTH is KTH is very much focusing to identify strong areas

### ***Linköping***

A vision to be a leading university within selected fields of engineering education.

These are:

Computer sciences/engingeering/media technology,

Life sciences: biology/tchemistry,

Electrical engineering/applied physics,

Logistics/industrial management

mechanical engineering

All the above disciplines are i line with the Bologna process

Linköping has applied for CE within:

System neuro biology  
Material sciences  
Modelling of industrial systems

### ***Helsinki***

Centres of Excellences, see Airilias presentation  
Junior research groups

### ***Tallinn***

See presentation  
Student's thesis and collaboration with industry

### ***Vilnius***

Participation within FP6 projects  
Information technology  
Environmental protection  
Transport  
Energy  
Life sciences

### ***Lund***

Participation in many FP programs  
Strong national competition in Sweden for CE status

#### ***CEs in Lund:***

Electrical engineering (with Ericsson)  
Nanotechnology  
Laser centre  
Medical engineering/electronics  
Ethanol  
Food industry (functional foods, dairy industry)  
Water  
Automatic control

#### ***New international policy if Lund:***

20 percent of graduates should have international experience, the aim is to reach 50 percent.

#### ***Decision:***

To sum up the priorities of the universities  
It is important to make a mapping of CEs among BALTECH universities and nail it down on a professional level and to publish it on the home page.

### **7. Vision of Baltech**

Baltech should:

- engage the international departments to a larger extent
- increase the mobility of research students .
- look for funds available

*Decision*

The issue on financial support for mobility of research students should be raised at the next rector's meeting. If possible, each university should provide money for such funds. KTH has promised 20.000 Euro to be used *non-bureaucratically*, such a fund could be used to promote BALTECH.. The aim would be to get a balanced mix of fresh university money and BALTECH money.

Airila: Consider instruments that could encourage activities.

### **8. Task force overview**

In spite of numerous request by Lennart Nilsson to get a feed-back of the work from the task forces and to get the task forces off the ground, this has failed. There has been no response from any of the task forces in spite of numerous appeals from Lennart Nilsson.

*What to do next?*

- go on or not?
- try another round?
- reduce the number of task forces?

*Decision*

Lennart Nilsson will approach the chairmen and ask them for comments. If they are not interested the task forces will be dissolved. If an interest prevails, a start-up should be made on a grass-root level and a workshop on FP7 could be arranged for the task forces with people from the EU office in Brussels.

*Some comments on the continued work of the task forces:*

Hagander: If task forces have not produced anything, close them down, give them seed money to write FP7 proposals.

Nilsson: The task forces are lacking motivation.

Kübarsepp: Task forces were nominated, because of common interest around the Baltic Sea, give them another chance.

Vilnius: Invite the task forces to the next board meeting.

### **9. International projects**

The on-going international projects are connected to Erasmus Mundus. Lennart Nilsson was given the task to coordinate these.

*Environmental management and cleaner production*

*Industrial Engineering and Management program*

### **10. Budget issues**

See actual outcome was presented.

*Decision*

Baltech will cover part of the costs connected to the Erasmus Mundus projects.

### **11. Cooperation with Nordtek**

Toomas Käbin is in contact with the secretariat of Nordtek. And there is an exchange of information on a regular basis. The next formalized contact will be in connection with the rector's conference in June 2007 in Helsinki. The aim should be to integrate the activities within a five year period.

## **12. The Baltech conference „University Centres of Excellence and Technology Platforms from a European Perspective**

The next Baltech conference will take place on March 30-31, 2006 in Vilnius.

The target group being administrative staff of the universities, dealing with R&D development.

Käbin asked all the board members to make announcements on the conference already now.

Aimed number of participants is five from each university.

## **13. Web site**

Hedvi Valgemäe presented the web-site.

Kübarsepp asked for addresses to persons who will automatically be updated on BALTECH issues via the web-site.

### *Decision*

As from now on, all information from BALTECH will be available via the web-page and no protocols, will be sent.

## **14. Other issues:**

The next board meeting will take place in Vilnius, March 30, 2006.

Jakob Kübarsepp

Toomas Käbin