



EUSBSR POLICY AREA SECURE

Stockholm, 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2023

**European Commission  
DG ECHO – Disaster Preparedness and Prevention**

Knowledge Network and Evidence based Policy

**Ref. Request to approach Exchange of Experts (EoE) programme as a macro-regional network**

Dear Mr Felix Bloch,

We are writing to you on behalf of EUSBSR Policy Area Secure regarding the potential inclusion of a Macro-Regional dimension into the Exchange of Experts (EoE) programme.

Many of our Member States utilized the EoE programme successfully, allowing hundreds of experts to build their capacity while creating long-lasting contacts with their international counterparts.

However, it came to the attention of the coordinators of the EUSBSR network, working with disaster management/civil protection, that our members would like to have a possibility to approach EoE as a macro-regional network. It will allow for:

- determining a need for certain capacity building more precisely and flexibly (at the level of Policy Area/Priority Area, which will collect inputs from the Member States thus covering the entire Macro-Region)
- reducing the bureaucracy of the process and administrative burden for Member States. It can be done by handling the preparatory process of choosing the topic, nominating experts and drafting motivation for applications centrally at the network level and applying as an international organisation (in the case of EUSBSR PA Secure it could be the coordinators – the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat with the assistance of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency)
- Contributing to the capacity building and networking on the macro-regional level, tackling common issues jointly thus saving resources and time.

Please let us know if DG Echo would consider including the following opportunity for MRS in the EoE design:

- Ability to apply on behalf of a group of experts from different countries (the process can be handled only on individual basis at the moment). Organisations, representing the Policy Area/Priority Area coordinators of a Macro-Regional Strategy will handle the application process.

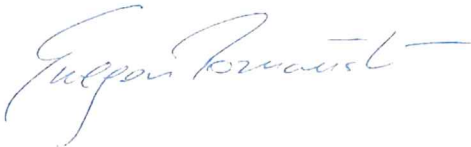
Minutes of the EUSBSR PA Secure Steering Group meeting, during which a decision to pursue EoE as a Macro-Region is attached as support materials.

We are available for further discussions should the need for clarifications arise.

Best regards,

Coordinators of Policy Area Secure

On behalf of the CBSS Secretariat, Director General Grzegorz Poznanski



On behalf of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Head of International Cooperation Department, Sara Myrdal



Swedish Civil  
Contingencies  
Agency