

**25th Anniversary Session and General Conference of the UBC
Växjö, Sweden, 24–27 October 2017**

“LEADERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE – CITIES AS LEADERS FOR GLO- CAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

INVITATION

Dear Mayors and Member City representatives,

As a valued Member City, you are cordially invited to attend the bi-annual General Conference of the UBC, which will be organised in Växjö, Sweden, between 24–27 October 2017. The main working days will be 25 and 26 October.

The Växjö Conference, which is also the 25th Anniversary session of the UBC, is not an ordinary meeting, but has special importance. We live in challenging and in many ways extraordinary times. Today, Europe is facing fundamental challenges.

The active participation of cities is crucial, both in solving the big challenges to create jobs, innovate, make citizens feel more secure, integrate newcomers, protect the most vulnerable – and to make the water sources and air which everyone breathes cleaner. It is the cities that drive growth for their nations – and not the other way round.

But participation of cities – and bottom-up participatory approaches – is also needed to get Europe on a new track, which enjoys the support of our citizens. We are called upon also to defend the democratic values of Europe, which are being challenged.

Therefore, cities and their leaders have to stand up and show leadership! There is no more natural forum for this than the UBC, the leading city network in Northern Europe.

Accordingly, the main theme of the XIV UBC General Conference is **“Leadership for the Future – Cities as Leaders for Glocal Sustainable Development”**. It is organised in Växjö, “The Greenest City in Europe”.

Special emphasis on Mayors and politicians as well as youth

This year, and taking into account the situation, we stress especially the importance of political representation of cities. A special **Mayors’ lunch** will be organised on Wednesday 25 October to highlight the key role of political decision makers.

Likewise, our special emphasis is on **youth participation**. The UBC Youthful Cities Commission will inform you in the near future about concrete plans, but already now a reminder to Member Cities: Remember to include at least 1–2 youth representatives in your delegation!

Statutory General Assembly on 26 October 2017

The statutory General Assembly of the UBC will take place on 26 October 2017.

The General Assembly shall, inter alia, elect the Presidium, consisting of the President and three Vice-Presidents, and the Executive Board member cities for a two-year period. The agenda for the Assembly will be sent to you later.

Esteemed Mayors, Member City representatives,

We do hope that you and your City will actively participate in the UBC General Conference in Växjö and present your achievements in its sessions. There is so much we can learn from each other!

By cooperating and by learning from each other we can promote sustainable smart development in the Top of Europe. We have invited prominent representatives from the European institutions and regional organizations to share their knowledge. However, the most important experts are the representatives of our Member Cities!

Therefore, we encourage that you:

- **reserve the dates 24–27 October 2017 (and especially 25–26 October) for the UBC General Conference in Växjö;**
- **propose to the UBC Secretariat a speaker/theme in which your city has shown leadership;**
- **decide to include at least 1–2 young people in your delegation.**

Please do not hesitate to contact the UBC Secretariat in Gdańsk for further details. You can also follow the preparations on our renewed website www.ubc.net, which is being regularly updated.

With Baltic Sea greetings, and looking forward to meeting you personally in Växjö!

Kolding, 29 March 2017



Per Bødker Andersen
President, UBC

Attachments:

Outline brochure for the UBC General Conference in Växjö