



CONFERENCE
OF ATLANTIC
ARC CITIES
CONFERENCE
DES VILLES DE
L'ARC ATLANTIQUE
CONFERENCIA
DE LAS CIUDADES
DEL ARCO ATLANTICO
CONFERENCIA
DAS CIDADES DO
ARCO ATLANTICO

Gdańsk, Rennes, 28 April 2004

To:

Mr Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission
Mr Jacques Barrot, Commissioner for Regional Policy
Mr Peter Balazs, European Commissioner
Mr Paolo Ponzano, Director General
Mr Graham Meadows, Director General, DG Regional Policy
Mr Theo Saramandis, DG Regional Policy

Re: Reaction to the European Commission's Communication "Dialogue with associations of regional and local authorities on the formulation of European Union policy"

Dear Sir,

Last year the Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities (CAAC) and Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) made efforts to encourage the European Commission to hold regular consultations with local authorities associations, on EC policies which affect local authorities. CAAC represents the interests of 39 cities from 5 countries situated along the European Atlantic coast. UBC represents the interests of 102 cities from 10 countries located around the Baltic Sea.

In January 2004 Commissioner Michel Barnier sent us a letter informing that on 19 December 2003 the Commission adopted a communication on "Dialogue with associations of regional and local authorities on the formulation of European Union policy". In this communication the EC proposes to give the regional and local representatives an opportunity of expressing their views – via their associations – during annual hearings which will concentrate on the Commission's annual work programme and the major policy initiatives that have a significant regional and local impact.

The Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities and the Union of the Baltic Cities welcome the publication by the European Commission of the Communication on Dialogue with associations of regional and local authorities on the formulation of EU policy, which marks the continuation of the work begun with the publication in 2001 of the White Paper on Governance. CAAC and UBC are of the opinion that consultations between the EC and local authorities associations should take a form of a dialogue; it can not be only one-way

communication. Attached please find a joint CAAC-UBC statement expressing our views on proposed consultation procedures.

Even if our member cities are situated on the opposite ends of the European Union we think that we should act together especially on influencing these EU sector policies which have direct or indirect impact on the local authorities – regional policy, transport, environment, social, business development etc.

With our best wishes to the enlarged Europe,



Paz Fernandez Felgueroso
President of CAAC



Per Boedker Andersen
President of UBC

