



Mayor Aleksi Randell  
City of Turku

Turku, 27.8.2013

Mr Pawel Zaboklicki  
Secretary General  
Union of the Baltic Cities

Mr Secretary General,

The City of Turku has the pleasure to nominate Mr Jarkko Virtanen, Deputy Mayor of Turku, as a candidate to the post of a UBC Vice President for the period of 2013-2015.

Deputy Mayor Virtanen has served as the Deputy Mayor of Turku since 2007. He has extensive experience from both domestic and international dimensions of local authority work. Virtanen has been and is serving in a number of important functions, has impressive network of relevant contacts and is fully committed to the values and goals of the UBC. He has been serving as a Vice-President of the UBC during the current period.

Virtanen's personal competence is complemented by our City's strong commitment to the work of UBC. Turku, one of the founding members of the organization, has throughout years been actively participating in the UBC activities, both in the Executive Committee. It is also hosting the Secretariat of the UBC Environment Commission since many years.

Turku is also known as a key stakeholder in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, serving as a Horizontal Action Leader, as well as a close cooperation partner the City of St. Petersburg, our longstanding twin city. This creates possibilities to promote cooperation "across the border" to achieve our common goals.

As a recognition of these activities, Turku, the European Capital of Culture in 2011, will be serving as the host city of major Baltic Sea events in June 2014. These "Turku Baltic Sea Days" have the potential to become one of the biggest BSR-related events in recent history, as the meeting of 11 Prime Ministers CBSS-member states, the Baltic Development Forum Summit, the Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Baltic Sea NGO Forum all take place in Turku, exemplifying in practice the importance of multi-level governance in the BSR cooperation.

When submitting Deputy Mayor Virtanen's candidature for the post of a UBC Vice-President 2013-2015, we express the hope that it will gain wide support among the UBC Member Cities.

Aleksis Randell