

18.03.2024

To the President of the European Committee of Regions

Dear Mr Vasco Alves Cordeiro,

The Union of the Baltic Cities has been established in 1991 after the fall of the Iron Curtain to assist the municipal communities across the region in joint effort of strengthening cooperation and better understanding of each other.

As of today the organization gathers 70 cities from the Baltic Sea Region, including 7 associated cities from Ukraine - Kherson, Khmelnytskyi, Kramatorsk, Pokrovsk, Vilnyansk, Vyshhorod, Zaporizhzhia. Three new candidates for associated partners - Rivne Oblast, Rubizhne, Chernihivka are expected to join the organization at the Executive Board Meeting in Riga, 25 April 2024.

The main aim of the UBC is to foster and promote close cooperation between its members and ensure balanced and sustainable development throughout the Baltic Sea region and Ukraine.

Since the very beginning of brutal and unprovoked Russian aggression on Ukraine the UBC member cities have not only condemned that atrocity, but also organized immediate financial and material support. Provided help consisted of, but was not limited to: technical equipment, water pumps, generators, buses and other vehicles, clothing, cleaning supplies etc. Moreover, the UBC member cities provided safe shelter, education and employment opportunities to tens of thousands of Ukrainian refugees. Examples of this support can be found here: <https://ubc.net/help-for-ukrainian-refugees-and-cities/> Also, last edition of the Baltic Cities Bulletin <https://ubc.net/publications/bulletins/> was entirely devoted to Ukraine.

In the light of the above the UBC expresses interest in joining the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine and is willing to abide by the principles of the Alliance.

With kind regards,

UBC President

Mantas Jurgutis,

