

**UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES**  
**92<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**Riga, 25 April 2024, 11.00**

**AGENDA as of 22.04.2024**

1. Opening of the meeting by UBC President and adoption of the agenda. Election of two persons who, together with the President, will check the minutes.
2. Welcome by Linda Ozola, Deputy Chair of Riga City Council, presentation of the city.
3. Invitation to 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Ocean Conference 2025 in Nice, France, 9-13 June 2025, Madam Ambassador Aurélie Royet-Gounin.

The third edition of the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) will be hosted by France and Costa Rica, as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly in the resolution adopted by consensus on December 20, 2022. Both countries wish to raise the level of ambition compared to the two previous editions of UNOC, by associating with the political declaration an action program made up of voluntary commitments, carried by coalitions.

The event will serve as a forum for discussion on the following issues:

- advocate for the success of multilateral processes directly or indirectly related to the ocean and consolidate and reinforce our common objectives for ocean protection,
- mobilize and increase funding, including through the development of new financial mechanisms relevant to achieve Sustainable development goal N°14 (SDG14) and support a sustainable blue economy,
- strengthen and better diffuse knowledge related to ocean sciences for science-based, comprehensive decision-making

4. Applications from Rubizhne, Chernihivka, Rivne Oblast, to join UBC.

UBC has received applications from, Rubizhne, Chernihivka and Rivne Oblast, Ukraine, to join UBC. The applications are attached.

#### Rubizhne

Rubizhne is a city in Luhansk Oblast, in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine. The area is 35 km<sup>2</sup>, and before the war the population was 59.000.

Rubizhne is an industrial city, with leading chemical, pulp and paper branches. The city is famous for its reach natural resources, oil and gas. There are numerous educational, cultural, sports and healthcare institutions.

#### Chernihivka

Chernihivka is an urban-type settlement in Berdiansk Raion, Zaporizhzhia Oblast. In Chernihivka there are large deposits of granites and apatite, also uranium ores. The community is agricultural, the agrarian sector specializes in crop and livestock production. There is also wide tourism offer, including 245 historical and cultural monuments, e.g. archaeological ones. Over 15.000 residents live in the city. Chernihivka is currently under Russian occupation.

## Rivne Oblast

Rivne is an oblast (province) in north-western Ukraine. Its administrative center is Rivne. The surface area of the region is 20.100 km<sup>2</sup>, the population was ca. 1.141.000 in 2022. The major cities are: Rivne, Dubno, Varash, Ostroh, Zdolbuniv, Korets. The region has a wide cultural offer with two theatres, several museums, several festivals. In the region there are also several touristic objects, like cultural and historical reserves, an ethnic park, monastery – fortresses and the zoo.

### Proposal:

The Board to accept Rubizhne and Chernihivka as UBC Associated Cities and Rivne Oblast as Partner.

### 5. Task Force to discuss Ukrainian cities membership and participation in UBC.

UBC joining the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine.

The Task Force was established at the 91<sup>st</sup> Executive Board meeting in Palanga on 24.10.23, in order to follow the resolution on aggression on Ukraine, adopted at the XVII General Conference in Palanga on 26.10.23. The Task Force is facilitated by Brussels Antenna.

The Task Force to discuss Ukrainian cities membership and participation in UBC.

UBC has been accepted as an associate partner of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine. The official acceptance letter on behalf of the Committee of the Regions President Vasco Alves Cordeiro will be sent soon.

The European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine was launched by the CoR and its partners, including EU and Ukrainian associations of local and regional authorities, to coordinate their joint efforts directed towards helping the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine.

The aims of the Alliance are:

- to coordinate joint efforts, with European Union cities and regions ready to deploy resources to support an effective and sustainable reconstruction of Ukraine;
- to further facilitate the contacts and cooperation of its core partners with the EU institutions and within the “Ukraine reconstruction platform”, as well as between EU and Ukrainian local and regional authorities and associations;
- to provide information and feedback to EU institutions and the “Ukraine reconstruction platform”, and foster the political dialogue with the local and regional level accompanying the reconstruction efforts;
- to facilitate providing expertise in capacity building, good governance, and technical assistance to cities and regions in Ukraine.

In the framework of Alliance, 15 partners including Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Association of Ukrainian Cities, Eurocities, Energy cities, Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and over 40 associated partners – cities, municipalities, regions and organizations, will join forces to help Ukraine in recovery and reconstruction.

### 6. Proposal to establish the UBC Youth Board. (Youthful Cities Commission)

The proposal is attached.

The idea to set up a permanent youth representation structure - a Youth Board within UBC governance system - was expressed by YCC at the XVII UBC General Conference in Palanga,

October 2023. Establishing a youth representation structures within public bodies, intergovernmental and international organizations is a developing trend, and it is corresponding to the goal of the European Youth Strategy – to foster youth participation in democratic life.

Two other Baltic organizations: CBSS and BSSSC already have developed their own format for youth participation.

YCC during its meeting in Gdańsk in March had a dedicated session on the development of UBC Youth Board concept. Civil servants, youth workers and young people from municipal youth councils were part of the meeting.

YCC asks the Board to authorise YCC to develop concrete proposal for establishment and operations of UBC Youth Board.

7. Information from the Commissions on current and planned activities. (6 min each)

Cultural Cities Commission, Espoo

Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission

Learning Cities Commission, Turku

Planning Cities Commission, Gdynia

Safe Cities Commission, Liepaja

Smart and Prospering Cities Commission, Kiel (online)

Sustainable Cities Commission, Turku

Youthful Cities Commission, Riga

8. Next meeting of the Executive Board, Brussels, autumn 2024.

The documents (attachments) are available at:

<https://ubc.net/documents/executive-board-meeting-documents/92nd-executive-board-meeting-riga-25-april-2024/>