UBC | UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

95th Executive Board Meeting, Słupsk/Dolina Charlotty, 4 November 2025, in conjunction with the XVIII UBC General Conference

MEMO

1. Opening of the meeting
President Mantas Jurgutis opened the meeting.
2. XVIII UBC General Conference – final check.
The Board went through the programme of the General Conference.
2.1 Plenary sessions (5.11.2025)
Opening Plenary Session – welcome speeches, keynote addresses
Mantas Jurgutis, President of UBC
Krystyna Danilecka-Wojewódzka, Mayor of Słupsk
Henryka Mościcka-Dendys, Undersecretary of State in Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Magdalena Adamowicz, Member of the European Parliament
Marcin Skwierawski, Deputy Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship
Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, Mayor of Gdańsk, Member of the European Committee of the Regions
Gustav Lindström, Director General, Council of the Baltic Sea States
Themis Christophidou, Director General, DG Regio (video address)
André Sobczak, Secretary General of Eurocities (video address)
Plenary session 2 - 'EU Funding and Advocacy: The Role of Cities in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2028-2034)'
Marko Paunovic, Head of UBC Antenna in Brussels, Introduction to the session
Kieran McCarthy, Councillor, Cork City, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (Alternate)
Claire Roumet, Strategic Partnerships and coordination, Energy Cities
Laura Omucińska, External Funds Projects Inspector, City of Słupsk
Linda Ozola, Councillor, City of Riga
Henrik Johansson, Environmental and project financial coordinator, Municipality of Växjö
2.2 Interactive parallel workshops
4.11.2025
• Shaping Future Support: UBC Task Force on Ukraine – Impact review and goal setting / UBC Brussels Antenna
• Urban sustainability arena for sharing success strategies and solutions / UBC Sustainable Cities Commission
• Climate-Neutral & Regenerative Tourism – a strategic priority for cities / EUSBSR PA Tourism
• Network of Liveable Cities - a journey towards future city making / Liveability Interreg BSR project
5.11.2025
• Urban Risks today and in the future. Urban Priorities in EU Policies / Nordic Urban Resilience Institute (NURI)
• Facing the biggest challenges of education systems / Learning Cities Commission & Youthful Cities Commission
• Minecrafting resilient Cities: innovative YOUth-led policy process for sustainable Europe / UBC, MC-YOU Erasmus+ project
• Transforming Urban Mobility Across Europe - insights from the Decarbomile / Out of the box, UBC, Horizon project
• Pathways of transforming smaller harbours into inclusive Maritime Experience Points / UBC, MariEx Interreg project
2.3 Mayors' lunch, opportunity for city leaders to discuss common challenges.

2.4 Statutory General Conference (6.11.2025)

• Opening by the President

• Auditor's report

• Board of Audit report

• Absolving the Presidium, Executive Board, Secretary

• Membership fees 2026-2027

The Executive Board recommended no change in the membership fees 2026-2027.

• Proposal of Statute amendments

The Board recommended the GC to accept changes in the Statute, proposal is attached.

The Board took note of the following candidatures to the UBC organs:

• Executive Board in the next two-year period

Denmark – Guldborgsund

Estonia - Elva, Rakvere

Finland - Vaasa

Germany - Greifswald, Rostock

Latvia - Liepāja, Riga

Lithuania - Klaipėda

Norway - Kristiansand

Poland - Gdynia

Sweden - Umeå

• President and Vice-Presidents in the next two-year period

Mantas Jurgutis, City of Kaunas – President

Elina Rantanen, City of Turku – Vice-President

Piotr Grzelak, City of Gdańsk – Vice-President

Malin Lauber, City of Växjö – Vice-President

• Board of Audit in the next two-year period

Marta Chełkowska, Director of Tourism Department, Marshal Office of Pomorskie, Poland

Dzenita Abaza, Deputy Mayor, Kalmar, Sweden

Hans Birger Nilsen, Former International contact person, Arendal, Norway

• Adoption of position paper on MFF 2028–2035

The draft position paper on Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034 was prepared by Brussels Antenna. In the document UBC urges the EU to give cities direct access to funds, simplify procedures, and involve them in shaping the MFF 2028–2034.

The Board recommended the GC to adopt the paper.

• Venue of the XIX UBC General Conference in autumn 2027

To be determined.

2.5 Study tours

6.11 Visit to the Museum of Middle Pomerania, White & Red Granary, including Witkacy paintings exhibition and the Witches' Tower, https://muzeum.slupsk.pl/en/home-en/

Study visit to Viscon - innovative solutions in food production automation, https://www.viscongroup.pl/

7.11 Study tour to ethnographic open-air museum in Swołowo, www.muzeum.swolowo.pl

3. Applications for membership from Ivano-Frankivsk (Ukraine) and Ystad (Sweden).

Ivano-Frankivsk from Ukraine sent application to become an associated city of UBC and Ystad from Sweden sent application to become a member city of UBC.

Ivano-Frankivsk is a city in western Ukraine with a population of around 280.000. The city focuses on developing the new economy, urban planning, contemporary art, informal education, and follows the impact investment model. There are five universities in the city. In May 2025 Ivano-Frankivsk signed a partnership agreement with the city of Luleå.

Ystad is a city located in southern Sweden. The population is around 30.000. Main industries of the city are trade, handicraft and tourism. The ferry port has services to Bornholm in Denmark, Sassnitz in Germany and Świnoujście in Poland.

The Board accepted Ivano-Frankivsk as UBC associated city and Ystad as a member city, and wished them fruitful cooperation with other Union members.

Documents listed in the memo are available here:
https://ubc.net/documents/general-conference-documents/xviii-general-conference-slupsk-4-7-november-2025/