

To UBC

President and Executive Board
Mayors and contact persons of Member Cities
Commissions

Turku, 27.9.2016

Esteemed Colleagues,

My first international travel – after assuming work in the City of Turku – was to the UBC General Conference in Rostock 2001. Since that, this organization and the “UBC family” has been an integral part of my work – and often free-time, too.

Now, fifteen years and hundreds of meetings and experiences later, I am resigning at the end of this September from my post as a Director and Senior adviser to the Mayor of Turku. The reason is simple: having reached the uppermost age limit of a civil servant (68 years), it is time to retire.

During these years, we have jointly travelled a long and fruitful journey. UBC has grown, become more mature and appreciated partner in regional cooperation. Through cooperation, we have been able to promote well-being of our citizens and improve the environment – on land and sea.

After the renewal process carried out during last years, our UBC is in stronger position to meet new challenges and work for the benefit of our citizens and the region. The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region offers an excellent framework for this, bearing at the same time in mind that this work must involve all partners from Kemi to Szczecin, Bergen and Kristiansand to St. Petersburg.

At this moment, I want to thank you all most warmly for wonderful cooperation and great moments.

However, retiring from my work as civil servant in Turku does not mean that I will stop working, for example in different functions related to the EUSBSR. I will most likely also continue to work for Turku and our region in a new role to be specified.

Concerning UBC, my future engagement will depend on what the needs of our organization are and on discussions with the President and the Executive Board.

At this moment, I wish to thank you from my heart for the joint journey we have travelled and wish you all the best – both in your professional and private life.

Yours sincerely,



Mikko LOHIKOSKI

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