



UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES
65TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
Koszalin, 4 October 2012

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of two persons who, together with the President, will check the minutes.
3. Presentation of the city of Koszalin.
4. Activity reports from the UBC Commissions.
 - 4.1 Commission on Energy
 - 4.2 Commission on Gender Equality
 - 4.3 Commission on Tourism
 - 4.4 Commission on Urban Planning
5. Presentation of Mariehamn, the host city of the XII UBC General Conference, 1-4 October 2013.
6. XII UBC General Conference – proposals of themes.

Day one will be an open conference devoted to current challenges the Baltic Sea region is facing. Apart from the cities also international institutions and governments participate in open conference.

The second conference day – the General Assembly – will be devoted to internal UBC matters such as reports, elections, finances etc.

Potential themes to be discussed at the GC:

Smart development - new solutions and technologies for cities. (BDF and BaltMet could be involved)

How to prevent youth unemployment. (possible joining forces with parallel youth conference)

Environmental challenges in the BSR

Potential keynote speakers:

Council of the Baltic Sea States

European Commission, Commissioner Johannes Hahn or General Director Walter Deffaa, DG Regio or new President of the Committee of the Regions Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso

Franz Thönnies, Member of the German Bundestag, Baltic Sea Labour Forum (measures to combat youth unemployment in the BSR)



Mayors of UBC member cities

Baltic Development Forum

Baltic Metropolises

Sauli Niinistö, President of Finland

Mona Sahlin, MEP, Sweden

Kåre Willoch, former PM of Norway

7. UBC Strategy

7.1 Communication and Marketing Strategy

The Executive Board adopted UBC Communication and Marketing Strategy. The Secretariat distributed the strategy to the member cities and published it on the UBC website. A task force on implementing the strategy was formed.

14 participants from member cities, commissions, board of audit, secretariat took part in the first meeting of the task force held in Gdańsk on 17 April 2012 and discussed the ways of strategy implementation.

City of Turku proposed to engage consultant Mr Lasse Rintakumpu, digital media professional, to aid with strategy implementation. Mr Rintakumpu visited UBC Secretariat in Gdańsk on 7 August 2012 to discuss the steps of strategy implementation. First suggestions of Mr Rintakumpu concerning the website have been implemented.

The strategy recommended to make digital versions of some UBC publications eg events calendar in order to reduce costs of printing and posting. Events calendar provides highlights from the variety of events held in our region. It promotes the main business, cultural, sporting, recreational activities in UBC member cities. The calendar allows the readers to be up-to-date on what is going on in our cities and helps to plan the travels.

Following the recommendation of the communication strategy the secretariat has made an interactive digital version of the calendar at the UBC homepage. Now the member cities are able themselves to edit and add new events to the calendar, including photos.

The calendar can be seen at <http://www.ubc.net/calendar>

Proposal on strategy implementation worked out by Mr Rintakumpu at:
www.ubc.net/documentation,76,1116.html

7.2 Evaluation of the Commissions.

The Executive Board decided to adopt commissions' evaluation criteria at the meeting in Rakvere 24 May 2012. Proposal on further steps at:
www.ubc.net/documentation,76,1116.html

7.3 Meeting of UBC task force in Rostock, 4 September 2012.



8. Cooperation within Conference of European Cross-border and Interregional city Networks (CECICN)

8.1 Congress in A Coruña, 25-26.06.2012

Nearly 400 participants discussed the ideas of Conference of European Cross-Border and Interregional City Networks (CECICN) during the 1st Congress on Smart Cooperation on 25/26 June in A Coruña. The UBC is founding member of CECICN and UBC president is also the president of this network of networks. CECICN represents more than 500 cities across Europe. Its objective is to boost territorial cooperation among cities and border regions in Europe and to reinforce the importance of territorial cooperation.

UBC was clearly visible at this large European conference. We were not only the main organizers, but were also responsible for carrying out a workshop. The topic was “Cooperation contributing to Smart Growth. The workshop chairman was Per Boedker Andersen, President of UBC. The workshop was moderated by Wolfgang Schmidt, Chairman of the Business Commission. My special thanks go to Marie-Louise Rönnmark, Mayor of Umeå, Sweden, First Vice-President of the UBC and Andres Jaadla, Mayor of Rakvere, Estonia, Vice-President of the UBC. Marie-Louise and Andres have demonstrated in specific examples of how we work in Northern Europe in order to achieve a profit for all. Ms Tarja Hautamaeki, Cultural Manager Regional Council of Ostrobothnia was one of the speakers. Secretary General Pawel Zaboklicki was the rapporteur.

A number of European decision-makers have accepted our invitation and participated very actively in the discussions: Michel Delebarre, President of COTER, Committee of the Regions and president of the MOT, Carlos Negreira, Mayor of A Coruña, Alberto Núñez Feijóo, Regional President of Galicia, Marta Fernández Currás, Spanish Secretary of State for budget and expenditure, Ann-Sofi Backgren, AEBR Vice-President, Ana Miranda, MEP, Representative of the Parliamentary Committee on Regional Development, José Palma Andrés, Director of European Territorial Cooperation, DG REGIO and Henrik Mørch, Head of Unit, DG MARKT. José Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission, confirmed in a video message the increase in the budget for the cohesion policy for the next programming period, a sum of 12 billion Euro. It will be debated by the Member States in the autumn.

8.2 Forthcoming CECICN meetings in Brussels, 15 and 16 November.

Requests for meetings have been sent to:

DG REGIO

- Normunds POPENS, Deputy Director General (we have met him in May)
- Jose PALMA ANDRES (Director of European Territorial Cooperation)
- José Antonio RUIZ DE CASAS, EC Expert

DG MARKT

Ms Emer DALY, Director, Governance of the single market
Pierre DELSAUX, Deputy Director General (we have also met him in May)
Henrik MORCH, Head of Unit

Committee of the Regions

Ramon Luis VALCARCEL SISO, President, started his mandate only on 13/8/2012



9. Latest conferences attended by UBC representatives.

10. Any other business.

10.1 Centre for cultural initiatives in Chojnice - culture in harmony with nature

The City of Chojnice is situated in the southern part of Pomeranian region, close to the National Park and Biosphere Reserve of UNESCO.

The planned Centre for Cultural Initiatives would be an attractive place for education and presentation of cultural heritage, as well as a place for organizing cultural activities (workshops, exhibitions, cinema, theatre etc). The relations between nature and culture - how nature influences culture and how nature can be influenced by culture – are in the focus of the project. The centre would serve the Pomerania and the whole BSR.

The city of Chojnice looks for partners for projects in the field of theatre, dance, painting, pottery etc. The city would also like to start cooperation with cultural and research institutions and organizations, as well as universities.

The centre will offer the UBC Commission on Culture a venue for meetings, conferences, festivals, concerts, exhibitions and other cultural events.

Chojnice being a member of UBC is kindly asking UBC to support the project of creation of Centre for Cultural Initiatives in Chojnice.

Deputy Mayor of Chojnice Mr Edward Pietrzyk presented the project idea to the Executive Board in Rakvere, 24 May 2012. In Rakvere the Board decided to ask the Commission on Culture to express an opinion on the project. The Commission on Culture supports the project.

10.2 Congress „Metropolis management in the 21st century”, Gdańsk, 26-27 November 2012, Amber Expo

The City of Gdańsk and Gdańsk International Fair Co. will host an economic Congress, concerning the socio-economic aspects of life in the big city, 26-27 November, Amber Expo Exhibition Centre.

The Congress will provide a dynamic forum for the exchange of intelligent and innovative solutions to improve city's economy and urban management processes affecting the standards and quality of life in Polish towns and cities. Numerous solutions for a so called SMART idea will be presented at the event. These include: innovative solutions for residents, tourists, institutions, etc.

Among various conferences that constitute the program, one of the topics will be devoted to the development of marine tourism in coastal regions. The aim of this thematic conference is to discuss the impact of tourism, especially nautical tourism development in coastal regions. Participants of the discussion will endeavour answers to questions such as: is maritime tourism the kind of tourism that has a major impact on the economy, or is too small to play a significant role? The conference will also focus on the idea of tourism clusters. Are they a new way to consolidate the industry? Chosen study cases of already functioning Clusters will be introduced.

The City of Gdańsk is asking UBC to become a partner of the event.



10.3 5th Nordic Council of Ministers conference for Sustainable Development in Umeå, September 17-19, 2013.

Nordic Council of Ministers organise a biennial conference on sustainable development. On September 17-19, 2013 the conference will be held in Umeå during the Swedish presidency of NCM. Co-organisers are the city of Umeå, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions and the Swedish Government office. The conference focuses on sustainable development from local, Nordic and international perspectives. The conference will reinforce and develop local and regional efforts towards sustainable development in the Nordic countries and BSR. The programme will include plenary sessions and workshops. Previous conference was organized in Turku in 2011. At the Turku conference the Commission on Environment secretariat was in charge of coordinating the conference.

The English name of the conference will be “The art of co-creation”, alluding to the theme of Umeå as European Capital of Culture in 2012, and the importance and challenge of involving society as a whole to develop a more sustainable BSR. Commissions on Environment and Gender Equality will be involved in the conference.

Commission on Environment, Commission on Gender Equality, Umeå, ask UBC to be a co-organiser of the conference and contribute with 10.000 EUR.

10.4 Proposal to internal regulations.

The secretariat has been contacted by the Commission on Environment which expressed an opinion that commissions should coordinate with each other the dates of their meetings so they are not held on the same days.

Proposed text drafted by UBC secretariat:

4.11 Commissions are advised to consult the dates of seminars and meetings with each other to avoid the situation when the meetings are held on the same days.

11. Next 66th UBC Executive Board meeting, Kaliningrad, 7 March 2013.