



## **65<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Koszalin, Poland, 4 October 2012**

### **Latest conferences attended by UBC representatives.**

- **14th Baltic Development Forum Summit and European Commission's 3rd Annual Forum on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Copenhagen, 17-19 June 2012 (Per Bødker Andersen, President of UBC)**

The 14th Baltic Development Forum Summit and the European Commission's 3rd Annual Forum on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, took place in Copenhagen on 17-19 June under the headline "Connecting Europe – Smart and Green Partnerships in the Baltic Sea Region". Over 800 participants - leaders from government, political parties, business, academia and civil society took part in this event.

The agenda focused on growth and competitiveness in the Baltic Sea Region, with the spotlight on infrastructure development and investment projects, also public-private co-operation. To become smarter and greener, public-private partnerships are essential. By improving framework conditions, these partnerships' can for instance help to focus and optimize sustainable infrastructure investment, which is key to kick-starting wider economic growth in the Region, benefitting the European economy at large.

During the two days of the conference there were the plenary sessions:

1. Mastering Future Partnerships
2. Together for Better Connections
3. Regional Perspectives on Private-Public Partnerships
4. Integrating Europe through Macro-Regions
5. Plenary Session: Streamlining Joint Efforts. Reviewing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

There were also the parallel sessions:

- The Baltic Sea Region: A Shortcut to the Digital Single Market?
- Private-Public Partnerships: How to Finance Infrastructure
- Building Science Links in the Baltic Sea Region – the Role of Clusters
- Sustainable Water Management and Public-Private Partnerships: Scenarios and Benchmarks for Reducing Pollution in the Baltic Sea
- Making Success Stories with Russian Partners
- Convergence or Competition: Energy Agenda for the Baltic Sea Region?
- Deep Water-Think-Tank: Political State of the Region Report



- Innovation by Bridging White Spaces
- The Future Financial Framework
- Review of the Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

The important part of the Summit and the Annual Forum was the Networking and Project Village. The Companies, Flagship Projects of the EUSBSR, NGOs and many others displayed their work on improving the Baltic Sea Region.

- **1st CECICN Congress on Smart Cooperation, A Coruna, 25-26 June 2012 (Per Bødker Andersen, President of UBC)**

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. Already two years after its foundation, CECICN is the leading city network in Europe. It 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.

Our 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 Rönmark, 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 Negreria, 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, AEBC 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 Morch, 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 Euros. It will be debated by the Member States in the autumn.

- **Kaliningrad City Days Celebrations, Kaliningrad, 7-8 July 2012 (Andres Jaadla, UBC Vice-President, Mayor of Rakvere)**

Kaliningrad continues to be an active member of UBC

UBC Vice-President and Rakvere Mayor Andres Jaadla participated in the Kaliningrad City Days Celebrations on July 7-8.

During the visit Jaadla met with Kaliningrad Mayor Alexander Yaroshuk and representatives of the city who assured Jaadla that Kaliningrad is as committed as ever to take part in the activities of UBC. Mayor Alexander Yaroshuk said that Kaliningrad considers itself to be a developing Russian city and wishes to be the bridge that links Russia with Europe.

As the Vice-President of UBC, Jaadla invited the representatives of Kaliningrad to the next Executive Board meeting which will take place in Koszalin, Poland (October 4, 2012).

This year's Kaliningrad city days were a joint event along with the Fisherman's Day and the national Family Day. On the whole it was a grand event and the entire visit can be considered a success.

During the visit mayors Yaroshuk and Jaadla as well as Kaliningrad Region governor Nikolay Tsukanov also took part in the inauguration ceremony of Kaliningrad's newly completed school complex No. 56. It is a modern educational establishment with two standard-sized sports halls, a swimming-pool, a football field with artificial grass and an athletics stadium. The school is meant for around a thousand children and is furnished with up-to-date learning facilities. Jaadla noted that it is undoubtedly one of the most modern schools in the Baltic Sea region.

- **96th Plenary Session of the Committee of the Regions, 18-19 July 2012, Brussels (Per Bødker Andersen, President of UBC)**

At this session, Mr Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso was elected the President of the Committee of the Regions for the two-and-a-half-year term. There were also elections of the Vice-Presidents and other Bureau members.

During the plenary session on 18 July, CoR held a debate with the President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Werner Hoyer. The debate was an opportunity to prepare a new phase of enforced cooperation between the two institutions, starting from the current involvement of the EIB in co-financing structural funds projects throughout the EU. A role



that could be further developed in order to grant the needed continuity in the programmes implementation and to raise the quality of funded projects. To this aim, the cooperation with local and regional authorities should start at an early stage before the programming period 2014-2020.

The EIB can also provide expert support in developing new projects and funding instruments at local and regional level, while taking advantage of the full commitment of local public and financial actors for a successful project implementation.

Among other topics on the Agenda of the plenary session there were:

- The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility
- Future cities: Environmentally and social sustainable cities
- A mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions
- Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
- European Territorial Cooperation
- Connecting Europe Facility
- Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Decision
- Horizon 2020 – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation
- Creative Europe
- A Union Civil Protection Mechanism
- Responsible businesses package

- **The 21st Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference 2012, 26-28 August 2012, St. Petersburg (Andres Jaadla, UBC Vice-President, Mayor of Rakvere, Mikko Lohikoski, Strategy Coordinator, Turku)**

UBC is tightening relations with Russia

Andres Jaadla, the Vice- President of UBC and Mayor of Rakvere, who is taking part of the 21. Parliamentary Conference, met with Russia's head of delegation, Ivan I. Menikov, who is also the first vice speaker for the State Duma.

Russia is the chair for the 21. Parliamentary Conference. The head of Russia's delegation, I. Melnikov said that cooperation between the Baltic Sea countries is very important and it is vital to have good cooperation on the level of cities and regions. I. Melnikov also acknowledged UBC for the good cooperation with Russia's cities of St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad.

On a meeting with the elected member of the Russian State Duma Andrei Kolesnik, Andres Jaadla emphasized the important role of Kaliningrad in the Baltic Sea Region.



According to Andres Jaadla, the tightening of relations can be based on economical relations, keeping in mind the sustainable development of the Baltic Sea region and focusing on energy, environment and social welfare.

Andres Jaadla