

**MINUTES FROM THE 29<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE  
BOARD OF THE UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES  
Kolding, Denmark, 4 November 2000**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2000 in the City of Kolding, Denmark, upon the invitation of Mr Per Bodker Andersen, Mayor of Kolding.

The meeting was attended by the Members of the Executive Board. The list of participants is included as annex 1 to this report.

### **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.**

The 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UBC Executive Board was opened by Mr Anders Engstrom, the President of the Union. Mr Engstrom greeted all participants and wished them a successful meeting.

Mr Per Bodker Andersen, Mayor of Kolding, welcomed all delegates and wished them the fruitful discussions and a pleasant stay in Kolding. Mr Andersen made a short presentation introducing the city of Kolding.

The meeting adopted the agenda attached as annex 2 to this report.

### **2. Election of two persons who, together with the President, will check the minutes.**

Ms Lis Lykke Skov, Chairman of International Committee, Kolding and Mr Peeter Tulviste, Chairman of the City Council, Tartu, were elected to check the minutes.

### **3. New Member Cities.**

Mr Pawel Zaboklicki, Secretary General, informed the Executive Board about the applications for Union membership submitted by the cities of Tukums (Latvia), Voru (Estonia) and Marijampole (Lithuania).

#### Decision:

The Board decided to accept mentioned cities as Members of the Union of the Baltic Cities and wished them fruitful cooperation with other UBC member cities. The number of Union members reached the figure 99. The list of Member Cities is enclosed as annex 3.

### **4. UBC Commission on Transportation.**

President Anders Engstrom reminded that at the last meeting, the Board authorised Mr Maciej Lisicki, Gdansk, to contact the chairman of the Commission on Transportation from Pruszcz and

discuss to move the leadership of the Commission to another UBC member city, due to lack of Commission activities. Mr Engstrom informed that the City of Goteborg expressed an interest to take the leadership of the Commission. Goteborg is interested mostly in public transport; other aspects of transportation could be delegated to other interested cities.

Mr Lisicki informed that due to lack of resources the city of Pruszcz decided to terminate its leading role in the Commission on Transportation.

Decision:

The Board decided to nominate the City of Goteborg as the leading city in the UBC Commission on Transportation.

## **5. Financial matters.**

### **5.1 Membership fees 2000.**

Mr Pawel Zaboklicki informed that the financial situation of the UBC is secure. Most of the member cities paid the membership fee in the time scheduled. The table with membership fees is enclosed as annex 4.

So far the fee was not paid by the city of Kaliningrad and the satellite cities of St.Petersburg ie. Kronshtadt, Lomonosov, Peterhof, Sestroreck. Kaliningrad promised in written to pay the fee in November, due to difficult financial situation in the city.

Ms Natalia Vasilyeva informed that St.Petersburg would pay the fee for the satellite cities in two weeks time.

Decision:

The Board commissioned mentioned cities to pay their fees by 30 November 2000.

### **5.2 UBC EU-Coordinator.**

President Engstrom informed the Board, that UBC has not yet received the decision of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the continuation of financing Mr Juhan Janusson, UBC EU-Coordinator. Mr Engstrom reminded that so far Mr Janusson's remuneration and business travels have been financed from three sources ie. Swedish MFA, UBC and the city of Kalmar.

Decision:

The Board decided to wait with the decision on prolonging the engagement of Mr Janusson until the answer from the Swedish Government is known. In case of negative answer, the Board authorised the Presidium to search for other financial sources.

### **5.3 Application from the Youth Network.**

President Engstrom stressed that it is very important task for the UBC to encourage the young generation to get involved into the local politics. UBC supports the creation of a network uniting young people from our member cities. In September the President sent out a questionnaire to all member cities to check how the youth questions are handled in the cities. He also asked cities to appoint contact persons responsible for youth matters in the city.

Mr Engstrom informed about the application from the Youth Network for 5000 Euro for the network activities and 5000 Euro for the secretariat in 2001 and 2002. He suggested to postpone the decision on financing until the details on proposed activities are given.

#### Decision:

The Board decided to postpone the decision on financing the Youth Network until the programme of activities has been prepared by the network.

### **6. Information on Baltic University Programme.**

Professor Lars Ryden, Director of Baltic University Programme, Uppsala, made a presentation introducing BUP's background, aims and activities. BUP is a network of universities, initiated by Uppsala University in Sweden in 1991. Today some 170 universities in the 14 countries within the Baltic Sea Basin take part in the programme. BUP have developed courses on environmental science, democracy, security, social change and sustainable development. Courses are produced in English language but are being translated into Polish, Russian and Latvian. Brief information on BUP is enclosed as annex 5.

Mr Ryden agreed that there is a need to enhance cooperation between the cities and universities in order to advance the development of the Baltic Sea region.

The Board warmly thanked Professor Ryden for his presentation and expressed hope for further close and mutually beneficial cooperation between the UBC and BUP.

### **7. Cooperation between cities and universities.**

At the last Board meeting in St.Petersburg, Mr Eugenijus Gentvilas, UBC Vice-President, put forward the idea to discuss the question how to stimulate better cooperation between the cities and universities. The Board authorised Mr Gentvilas to prepare a background paper on existing cooperation between cities and universities. Having in mind above Mr Gentvilas sent out a questionnaire to all member cities. 15 cities replied to the questionnaire. On the basis of the questionnaire Mr Gentvilas compiled and presented an overview of the cooperation between cities and universities in the UBC. The overview is enclosed as annex 6.

The presentation was followed by the discussion.

Mr Juhan Janusson put forward the proposal to create a network of UBC cities that have universities.

Mr Peeter Tulviste, Tartu, proposed to organise a UBC conference on the great scale where cities, universities and business would discuss how to improve cooperation between these three important actors in order to advance the development of the Baltic Sea region.

Ms Cay Sevon, Turku, agreed on importance of organising such conference and stressed that all member cities should be invited, not only the ones which have universities.

Ms Anne-Grete Strom-Erichsen, Bergen, presented the cooperation between the city of Bergen, the university and the chamber of commerce.

Mr Anders Engstrom informed about conference on Cities and Universities in Partnership, to be held on 8 November in Helsinki.

Mr Lars Ryden informed the Board about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baltic Meeting Point conference to be held in Uppsala in May 2001. The conference will gather representatives of cities, universities and business. Mr Ryden proposed UBC to take active part in the conference eg. through running one of the workshops. Mr Risto Veivo, Turku, informed that the Commission on Environment will be involved in one of the conference workshops. Mr Pawel Zaboklicki informed that information about the conference will be published in the next issue of Baltic Cities Bulletin.

#### Decision:

The Board appointed a working group consisting of Bergen, Klaipeda and Tartu, aimed at initiating the UBC network of cities with universities. The group should also cooperate with the Baltic University Programme. It was also decided that UBC would take part in the Baltic Meeting Point conference.

## **8. Report from the UBC EU-Coordinator.**

### **8.1 UBC Interreg III initiative – update.**

Mr Juhan Janusson reported from the meeting of UBC-BSSSC-CPMR Working Group which task was to create a program for cooperation between local and regional authorities in the BSR and submit the application for funding to Interreg III B. Mr Janusson sent out a questionnaire to all member cities asking cities to list the potential projects that could be funded within the programme. He received about 60 project proposals.

UBC has struggled for a new facility for small and medium sized projects between the local authorities, since the last programs disappeared in 1998. The UBC President has taken up the matter in many CBSS meetings as well as in Brussels. Mr Janusson stressed that “the voices from the BSR” have been heard in Brussels. On 27 October the European Commission adopted a

document named "Phare 2000 review - Strengthening Preparations For Membership" prepared Mr Gunther Verheugen, EU Commissioner on Enlargement.

Mr Verheugen introduces two new possibilities for small and medium sized cooperation projects between local and regional authorities. The first is connected to Interreg III, and the second is a new twinning scheme. In the BSR, Phare will finance accession country participation in the Interreg III B projects. Also - what is crucial for our region - the maritime borders in the BSR will be eligible for funding.

Mr Janusson concluded that there will be a program for small and medium sized cooperation projects in the framework of Interreg III B and the financing of the eastern partners looks secured. The call for projects is to be published in September 2001.

President Engstrom asked the Board members from Phare countries to influence their Ministries responsible Phare CBC to secure appropriate funds within Phare to enable cities to participate in the Interreg III B.

Vice-President Gentvilas suggested Mr Janusson to inform cities about the new funding facility during the next meeting of UBC EU-Coordination Network.

## **8.2 Cooperation with LVRLAC – update.**

Mr Juhan Janusson informed that cooperation project between UBC and LVRLAC will consist of several activities directed to Lake Victoria cities such as: study tour for LVRLAC officials in the BSR; Internet installation and training; environment pedagogical centres; strengthening of LVRLAC secretariat; creation of LVRLAC women's network etc. Different actions will be coordinated by specialists from UBC member cities. The project proposal is attached as annex 7.

The project is financed by the Swedish International Development Agency SIDA. The agreement between UBC and SIDA is being finalised. The project duration is 3 years and the budget is 1.000.000 SEK per year. UBC acts as consultant in the project. The consultancy fee will be transferred to the UBC budget. UBC has no costs in relation with the project.

## **8.3 3<sup>rd</sup> Seminar of the UBC EU-Coordination Network.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> seminar of the UBC EU-Coordination Network was held in Jekabpils on 29-30 September 2000. The seminar was devoted to the EU projects, particularly fund raising and project implementation. The seminar was run by experienced EU consultant Mr Jan Blomstrand.

Mr Janusson informed that Ms Karin Wessman, Kalmar, has terminated her work as a leader of UBC EU-Coordination Network. Ms Charlotte Pedersen from Aalborg will be the new leader of the network.

Mr Janusson also informed that presently the Technical University of Tallinn, Computer Technology Department for Handicapped, is working on the UBC EU-Coordination network website.

Mr Janusson reminded that the Network had three - related to each other - seminars so far. He indicated that most of the cities from Poland and Baltic States sent different person to each seminar. Mr Janusson recommended the cities to delegate one person (city EU-Coordinator) to all seminars.

Mr Anders Engstrom stressed that it is extremely important for cities in applicant countries to have the EU Coordinator and give all possible support to his/her work.

Next meeting of the UBC EU-Coordination Network is planned to be held in Kotka, Finland, in spring 2001.

#### **8.4 Information on ISPA.**

Mr Janusson informed the Board about the new EU program ISPA – Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-accession. ISPA is one of the EU's three financial assistance programmes set up to assist the 10 candidate countries in CEE to prepare for accession. Program supports infrastructure projects in the fields of transport and environment. ISPA's budget in the period 2000-2006 is 1.040 million Euro. The proposed projects must fit into a national strategy of each candidate country. It is up to the national coordinator (appointed by the government) to prioritise the projects. However the cities have also a possibility to turn directly to ISPA with the project proposals.

Mr Janusson informed that he met the director of ISPA at DG REGIO Mr Marc Franco. Mr Franco expressed the readiness to attend the UBC Board meeting and give direct information on the program.

#### Decision:

The Board decided to invite a representative of ISPA directorate to the next Board meeting.

#### **9. Reports from the conferences attended by Union representatives.**

The following delegates submitted reports from the conferences where they represented the Union of the Baltic Cities:

- 9th Ministerial Session of CBSS, Bergen, 21-22 June 2000 – reported by Anders Engstrom
- 24th INTA Annual Congress, Bergen, 19-23 June 2000 – reported by Armas Lahoniitty and Cay Sevon
- Conference on Northern Dimension, Schwerin, 1 September 2000 – reported by Anders Engstrom

- Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the BSR, Malmo, 4-5 September 2000 – reported by Juhan Janusson
- Eurocities Seminar ‘Cities meeting challenges of EU membership’, Brussels, 26 September 2000 – reported by Juhan Janusson
- Conference on Decentralised Cooperation, Stockholm, 17-18 October 2000 – reported by Eugenijus Gentvilas and Anders Engstrom
- Eurocities Conference "Cities as driving forces for change", Leipzig, 25-27 October 2000 - reported by Armas Lahoniitty
- BSSSC Conference, Parnu, 27-28 October 2000 – reported by Juhan Janusson

The Board took note of the reports. Reports and presentations are enclosed as annex 8.

Mrs Karin Wohlgemuth, Rostock, proposed that all member cities should be informed in advance about the conferences to be attended by UBC representatives. She also stressed that it would be very useful for the Board members to receive the written reports from the conferences before the Board meetings. The Board supported the proposals.

#### **10. Information on UBC website.**

Ms Anna Sosnicka, UBC Secretariat, made on-line presentation introducing the UBC internet homepage [www.ubc.net](http://www.ubc.net). She presented the structure of the website ie. the links and gave information on statistics concerning the number of visits on respective links. Ms Sosnicka recommended the newest link on the homepage named “Documentation Centre” that includes all major UBC documents. The summary of the statistics is enclosed as annex 9.

The Board expressed its satisfaction to the UBC Secretariat in Gdansk and to the Webmaster in Szczecin for maintaining the high level of the UBC internet homepage.

#### **11. Questions raised at the meeting.**

Mr Anders Engstrom informed about the cooperation with other organisations. CBSS proposed to discuss working methods, information routines and “common voice” towards Brussels. President Engstrom met Mr Heimsoeth, Chairman of CSO CBSS, to discuss above questions. UBC has also often working contacts with BSSSC, Eurocities and CPMR BSC.

Mrs Lillian Westerberg informed about the “Guidelines for Cooperation between UBC and Eurocities East West Committee” prepared by Claus Schultze, Juhan Janusson and herself. The guidelines have been adopted by the Eurocities East West Committee. Mrs Westerberg suggested that UBC should also adopt this document. The Board decided to adopt the guidelines if there is no comments from the Board members within two weeks time. The document is attached as annex 10.

Mr Engstrom informed the Board about the question from CPMR BSC, whether CPMR could permanently participate in the UBC Executive Board meetings. The Board underlined that Board meetings deal with internal UBC matters and stressed that representatives of other organisations are welcome to participate in these meetings in case there is concrete issue to be discussed.

Mr Risto Veivo, UBC Environmental Coordinator, informed the Board about the EU's Community Framework for cooperation to promote sustainable urban development. The framework is a four-year program to support European networks' work on sustainable urban development. The information is enclosed as annex 11.

### **12. Next Meeting of the Executive Board.**

President Engstrom presented the invitation of the Mayor of Cesis, Mr Janis Beikmanis, to host the next meeting of the Executive Board.

#### Decision:

The Board decided to hold its 30<sup>th</sup> meeting in the City of Cesis, Latvia, on 16-18 March 2001.

### **13. Closing of the Meeting.**

Mr Anders Engstrom expressed his thanks to all participants for the fruitful meeting and to the City of Kolding for its warm hospitality and closed the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities.

Mr Anders Engstrom  
Chairman

Mr Pawel Zaboklicki  
Secretary

Ms Lis Lykke Skov  
Adjuster

Mr Peeter Tulviste  
Adjuster