

25 May 2013

To

The Executive Board,
Union of Baltic Cities

Comments relating to the Final Report of the UBC Task Force on Development of the Organization.

On behalf of the City of Linköping, I would like to submit the following comments relating to the Final Report of the UBC Task Force on Development of the Organization.

First of all I would like to express gratitude to the UBC Executive Board and to the Working Group of the Development of the Organization for their committed work to improve the organization of UBC.

UBC is the mouthpiece for its member cities in the Baltic Sea Region. This organization promotes the Region in Europe and is a platform where the Baltic Sea Region can meet and work together. In order to fulfill these demands, it is urgent and necessary for UBC to define its role in the Baltic Sea region and implement clearer objectives and goals. In addition it is important that the member cities be more aware of and have more knowledge about the benefits of being a member.

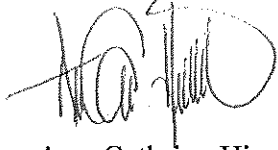
We approve of most of the proposals in the Final Report from the Working Group. There are, however, some important areas we would like to point out that the Board should consider.

One key factor for improving the effectiveness of UBC is to reorganize the Commissions. We would emphasize that the number of Commissions be reduced; the situation today is that the Commissions cover too many areas. More focus is needed on the mission of the Commissions in relation to the overall strategy of UBC. What are the core areas? An additional area of importance is to develop a much closer relationship with the Board. And finally, it is fundamental that the Commissions seek funding from EU in order to meet the demands and needs of the member cities.

English is used in the organization. In order to reduce the costs, UBC should limit the possibilities of interpretation at conferences and meetings.

We would recommend the UBC Executive Board establish a Nominating Committee for elections to the Board as well as draw up procedures for the nomination of candidates. This will better ensure that candidates with different backgrounds, who have diverse knowledge and experience are chosen. A further priority is for there to be a better gender balance.

Yours faithfully,
City of Linköping

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann-Cathrine Hjerdt', written over a horizontal line.

Ann-Cathrine Hjerdt
The Mayor of Linköping