

RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Union of the Baltic Cities realizes the need for cooperation to playing a pro-active and concrete role in facing the challenges of Climate Change and the effects it will have for the member cities.

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) recognises the importance of cities and local authorities as key players in the Baltic Sea Region when planning and implementing relevant actions to reduce harm and unwished effects of Climate Change. It is our firm position that it is possible to combine increased welfare for our citizens and economic progress for our local companies with better energy efficiency and reduced emissions. Progress and welfare are not in contradiction to sustainable development. Actions taken by the cities are based on international agreements as well as prioritised goals for the local society, such as welfare of inhabitants and cultural heritage, security of supply, attraction of businesses, sustainable development, healthy environment etc. All these are important elements for cities to account for in an increasingly globalised world.

It is predicted that several cities in the Baltic Sea Region are likely to be severely affected by Climate Change effects like flooding, storms, problems in infrastructure and water supply, etc.

Thus, we can not wait any more! We must rely on our knowledge and abilities to solve existing and upcoming challenges and problems. We must utilise our combined potential - the technology, experiences and solutions already existing in our city network! By this resolution our mutual political message is expressed.

Union of the Baltic Cities organisation will support its member cities to play active role in taking necessary steps to reduce their contribution to the effects of climate change and to make plans for adaptation to effects that already are foreseen in the member cities. This can be done through improved and strengthened strategies, development projects and by supporting each other. This work is needed and must be done together with national governments, intergovernmental bodies and the European Commission, and other relevant actors in the Baltic Sea Region.

Union of the Baltic Cities and its member cities must perform and maintain their own responsibilities and duties like public organisations and its duties as a forerunner for enterprises, organisations and citizens. The member cities must inform and educate their citizens about their own responsibilities and how they can act to reduce the impacts on future climate. UBC and its member cities must foresee effects, make plans for adaptation and provide citizens and stakeholders with necessary local plans, strategies and information measurements. UBC will support its members and help them to share experiences and knowledge among each other.

This is a call for Action! The Union of the Baltic Cities need to implement and take concrete action, including all sectors of our local societies, politicians, NGOs and other stakeholders.