



To the
Union of the Baltic Cities UBC

President Per Boedker Andersen
Secretary General Pawel Zaboklicki

The Executive Board of UBC discussed in its recent Kiel meeting (June 2013) future of the UBC Commissions (point 8, UBC development) with a view of merging a number of commissions and thus make them stronger and more operative.

The Board decided to include this issue on the agenda of the General Conference in Mariehamn and make a proposal on this issue in the spirit of the UBC Strategy adopted in Kristiansand 2009.

This UBC Strategy states that the Board should energize UBC Commission work and thus improve their effectiveness and relevance to Member Cities, through closer cooperation and merger of structures.

The Finnish UBC Member Cities strongly support streamlining of the UBC Commission structures without further delay. In our opinion, the number of UBC Commissions should be reduced to between five and seven Commissions through fusion and merger.

As the open and active participation of all levels of the UBC is of great importance in this central issue, and taking into account the response by several members of the Board, Member Cities and Commissions which indicate that more time for discussion and consultations is needed to reach conclusions, the Finnish UBC Member Cities propose that the General Conference in Mariehamn adopts the following resolution:

The General Conference of the UBC,

Taking into consideration the recent developments in the external environment of the UBC and enhanced regional cooperation at various levels;

noting that the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region as well as other regional development strategies have opened new possibilities for the UBC to further assert itself as the leading local authority network in the Baltic Sea Region;

further noting, that full utilization of these possibilities will depend on streamlining and energizing the work of UBC at all levels, and notably in regard to the Commissions in which much of the organisations concrete work is carried out;

taking into account the obligation to fulfill the UBC Strategy adopted in Kristiansand in 2009, and the results of extensive discussions and consultations within the UBC in recent years, which call for change;

as well as the need to fully engage all members and structures of UBC in reaching the best solution concerning the merger of various Commissions,

The General Conference

mandates the new Executive Board of UBC to actively continue dialogue on the structure and content of the UBC Commissions and

obliges the Executive Board to reach a decision on the issue during the year 2014, so that starting from 1.1. 2015 the UBC shall have between five to seven Commissions which start to be operative from that date. The old Commission structure ceases to be in force on the same date.

On behalf of the Finnish Member Cities meeting in Jyväskylä 6.9.2013

City of Turku, Deputy Mayor Jarkko Virtanen
City of Jyväskylä, Mayor Markku Andersson