

I General Conference, Kalmar, 22-24 May 1992

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Conference Report

The Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities was held on 22-24 May 1992 in Kalmar, in premises of Kalmarsalen, upon the invitation of Mr Anders Engström, the President of the Union of the Baltic Cities.

The Conference was attended by the delegations of 33 City Councils as well as several institutions and international organizations.

The participants in the Conference adopted the Agenda.

Prior to, as well as during the Conference of the Union the Executive Board of the Union had two preparing meetings. Since they are treated under a separate report from the meeting of the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities, they are not included in this Report.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

SPEECH OF WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mr Nils Fredrik Aurelius, the Chairman of the City Council, began the Conference giving a speech of welcome to all participants.

The Conference was opened by Mr Anders Engström, the President of the Union of the Baltic Cities.

INAUGURATION OF THE CONFERENCE

During the first session of the Conference the following participants gave address:

* Ms Inger Davidson, Minister of Public Administration of Sweden, who addressed issues concerning local government autonomy and regional cooperation;

* Mr Anker Jörgensen, Member of the Presidium of the Nordic Council, who touched in his address problems of former and prevalent crises in Europe to be solved peacefully as well as develop the city cooperation on defined projects;

* Mr Viatcheslav Nalivayko, Vice-Chairman of the City Council in Kaliningrad, who reported on some activity of nowadays' Russia.

SATURDAY, 23 MAY

CONTINUATION OF CONFERENCE, SPEECHES

Succeeding speeches of the previous day the following persons gave address (addresses are attached in Annex 4 to this Report):

* Mr Per Egon Johansson, Under-Secretary of State, Swedish Ministry of Transport and Communications, who touched problems of transport and infrastructure demand in the Baltic region;

* Mr Gunnel Färm, Director General of Swedish Road and Traffic Research Institute, who dealt in his speech with matters concerning infrastructure, environment and road safety in the Baltic Area;

* Professor Lars-Olof Rask from Institute for Transport Economics and Business Logistics who drew the attention of the meeting to question of need of efficient transport markets and logistic competence for developing the Baltic region;

* Professor Jerzy Tarkowski and Dr. Bogusław Liberadzki who pictured current transport problems in Central Europe looked at from a Nordic viewpoint;

* Mr Arne Ellefors reported on the existence of Baltic Tourism Cooperation developed rapidly since 1987 cruising ship business in the Baltic;

* Mr Sture Nachtweij who, speaking on behalf of Baltic Ports Organization, described its primary objectives and among them organizing sea-ports as efficient service centers;

WORKING GROUPS ON TRANSPORTATION, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

During the Conference four working groups were discussing on various problems concerning activity of the Union within diverse fields. The following part of the Report deals with this question.

The Working Group on Transportation

The session of the Working Group on Transportation was chaired by Mr Andrzej Januszajtis from Gdańsk. The participants taking part in the work of this group came to agreement on several items and underlined the importance of the work of the Union towards improvement of certain transport issues.

The Working Group on Telecommunications

The session of the Working Group on Telecommunications was chaired by Mr Lars Malmberg from Kalmar. Having discussion on a paper "Communication system between the Cities" that was submitted by Mr Henryk Lasota from Gdańsk, the Working Group came to conclusion that a reliable communication infrastructure is needed to support the development of cooperation between the member cities. Hence it is of utmost importance that the appropriate steps be taken by the Union aiming at establishing an information system that would satisfy the most urgent needs.

The Working Group on Environment

The session of the Working Group on Environment was chaired by Mr Carl Nielsen from Aarhus. The Group had a discussion that was based on the submitted papers, those were namely:

- Cooperation between Baltic Cities within the Healthy Cities Programme by Mr Mikko Jokinen from Turku;
- Redistribution of (Swedish) municipal investments in waste-water treatment among the Baltic Cities by Mr Anders Engström from Kalmar;
- The effect of the Town of Elbląg on the pollution level of the Elbląg river by Mr Andrzej Wisniewski from Elbląg;
- Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme by Mr Jorgen Ringgaard from Denvia, Danish Environmental Association from Aarhus
- papers concerning Environmental Education Projects and the Baltic Sea Campaign in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Kaliningrad delivered by Mr Marek Maciejowski, representative of the Coalition Clean Baltic.

The Working Group on Social and Cultural Affairs

The session of the Working Group on Social and Cultural Affairs was chaired by Mr M. Bouteiller from Lübeck. The following papers were submitted and subsequently discussed during the meeting:

- The Baltic Innovation Network by representatives of Kaliningrad;
- Preliminary invitation to the International Seminar "Preservation of the Industrial Heritage - Gdańsk Outlook" by Mr Waldemar Affelt from Gdańsk;
- Invitation to the festival "Baltic ecology. Surviving. XXth century" by representatives of Kaliningrad;

SUNDAY, 24 MAY

CONCLUSIONS AND TERMINATION OF THE CONFERENCE

The General Meeting accepted reports from the relevant working groups, and made final conclusions from the Conference.

Mr Anders Engström expressed his gratitude to all who take part in the Conference for their arrival, active participation in debates and fruitful contribution to the work of the Union.

Mr Per Bergman, Confederation of Norden Associations provided the meeting with information on Environmental Summercamp for Youth in the Baltic Sea Area which is currently being prepared with contribution of the Union.