

Dear Mr Paweł Żaboklicki,

we are concerned about decision of UBC executive board in Växjö on the future of the gender equality commission.

A discussion opened up about maybe forming a committee connected to the executive board, and the suggestions on keeping it as a Gender commission or pointing out a special rapporteur are also still on the table.

Gender equality is a fundamental link to build safe, democratic and prosperous cities, and an essential part of sustainable development.

The gender equality commission has in the last couple of years had a number of joint seminars, exchanges and produced reports that are useful for all cities in the network.

We find, that it is crucial that the Gender equality Commission continues to have the status and full strength of a UBC commission.

There will be final decision on the future of the Gender equality commission at the next board meeting in Kemi, Finland in the end of February.

We ask you to support Gender Commission and continue our important work to the future.

Sincerely,
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Dear Asta,

I have received Paweł Żaboklicki's answer to our letter. Our letter will be placed in the documentation for the Board meeting in Kemi.

Paweł says that there is no need to worry as all the Commissions are being restructured. The last General Conference in Marienhamn obliged the Board to consolidate the Commissions starting from January 2015. The Board created a Working Group that developed a proposal to create 7 Commissions instead of 13.

The proposal was accepted at the last meeting in Vaxjo (see minutes from the Vaxjo Board meeting p. 11 - <http://www.ubc.net/documentation,76,3036.html>)

The Board has decided that the issue of gender equality is so important that it should be implemented not only in one, but in all Commissions. It was decided that a new UBC structure is needed that would take care of ensuring this. The Vaxjo Board delegated to Umea a task to present at the Board meeting in Kemi (26.02.2015) a proposal of the new structure. Obviously the financing of the new structure is ensured. Paweł hopes that the Board in Kemi will find the best solution.

With best greetings,
Gosia