



**Kieler Woche 2013
22nd to 30th of June**

Kiel / June 18th 2013

Press Release

Communal Europe: Reviving the potential of the Baltic Sea Region

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC): Baltic Cities meet during Kiel Week

Kiel Weeks diversity is created by the combination of celebrations, sailing events and culture as well as discussions, planning and networking. It is the biggest summer festival in northern Europe and at the same time the biggest think-tank for social and political topics. This year the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities+(UBC) will meet in the state capital Kiel from June 19th to 23rd. The UBC was founded in 1991. With over 100 member cities from 10 Countries in the Baltic Sea Region it is the biggest city network in northern Europe. The state capital Kiel joined the UBC in 1996 and holds the chair of the commission on business since 2009.

How can cities in the Baltic Sea region position themselves within Europe regarding economic and social questions? How can we tackle the problems created by the Euro-Crisis together to fight youth unemployment? The Executive Board is going to discuss these questions among others during their 67th meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, June 20th, from 9.30 am to noon at the Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (IB.SH). The communal politicians and experts from Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Poland will discuss these and other topics at the meeting. The IB.SH is the main promotion institute of the state Schleswig-Holstein and coordinates the Enterprise Europe Network Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein. The IB.SH supports the meeting.

At the meeting in the state capital the strategic development of the UBC will be negotiated and preparations for the general conference in October in Mariehamn (Finland) will be taken. Furthermore the commissions on business, environment and local safety will present their reports. The UBC commission on business developed a new communication and marketing strategy for the Baltic Cities in cooperation with the department for business of the city of Kiel together with the city of Kristiansand. In addition the UBC delegation will take part in the 37th International City Forum. The agreement on the rights of people with disabilities and its implementation in Kiel and its partner cities+on Saturday, June 22 at the Förde Sparkasse, Lorenzendamm 28-30. Per Bødker Andersen will give a speech on the topic of inclusion at the forum.

The goal of the Union of the Baltic Cities is the sustainable development of culture, democracy, economy and city planning in the Baltic Sea region. The UBC

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has the official observer status in several Baltic Sea boards and at the European Union. As a decentralized network the UBC allows for cross border and communal cooperation. In the commissions common goals and projects are developed on topics such as the economy, the environment and city planning.