

# Joint proposal of UBC Commission on Energy, Environment, Info Society and Culture to the UBC 58<sup>th</sup> Executive Board 4 -5 June 2010 in Trelleborg

## Establishing a common UBC platform for Net meetings and Web seminars

The UBC Commissions on Energy, Environment, Info Society and Culture are jointly proposing to the Executive board, that UBC as a network would start to use and favour technologies which allow participation via internet to different meetings and seminars organized by the UBC.

We suggest, that UBC Executive Board will take a decision in principle in this issue at the next meeting in Trelleborg and request the above mentioned commissions to prepare a detailed terms of reference and plan for UBC how this initiative should be started to implement from the beginning of 2011.

### Background and motivation.

Communication technology has developed strongly during the last few years. Today it is easy to organize video conferences and meetings everywhere in the world where internet network exists. People do not need to have any special and expensive equipment or software in order to communicate with each others via internet. Existing systems can be used for multiple purposes like on-line meetings in small groups (like boards) or webinars with hundreds of participants. Since modern systems are interactive many kind of information can be transferred visually to both directions (word documents, power point presentations, video clips etc), even hands can be raised (electronically) questions can be asked and voting can take place. When ordinary face to face meeting is equipped with web access, it allows almost full participation for those, who can't physically travel to meeting.

Taking in use and promoting net meeting technologies in UBC activities would be an important step from the sustainability point of view. It would save a lot need to travel and thus decrease ecological footprint without compromising peoples possibilities for effective communication.

A professional system could be easily configured with the UBC logo and layout and be a common connections point for all our UBC member cities, UBC Executive Board and UBC commissions. This infrastructure could be a vital part in the dissemination process for many ongoing and future EU-projects where UBC and our cities take part.

There are different technical options available. One of the most popular product, which UBC as an organization could consider to adapt, is *Adobe Connect Pro web conferencing system*. It is frequently used by companies, universities and cities in the BSR region as well as globally.

- Realistic option would be a branded UBC system setup for maximum 100 simultaneous users during each session and with unlimited number of sessions per year.
- Today's costs for such a system is moderate and UBC could consider covering the initial entry fee and annual costs for the system from UBC common financial resources.

On behalf of chairpersons in,

UBC Commission on Energy,

UBC Commission on Environment

UBC Commission on Info Society,

UBC Commission on Culture