



ZWIĄZEK MIAST BAŁTYCKICH

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Secretary general

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Strasbourg, 17 June 2010

RE : European Local Democracy week

To the Mayors of the Union of Baltic Cities

Dear Mayor,

I am writing to you as Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to inform you of the European Local Democracy Week (ELDW), a pan-European initiative to increase knowledge of local democratic institutions and processes amongst citizens.

Launched by the Council of Europe in 2007, the ELDW aims at strengthening links between populations and their local representatives. Every year around 15 October – the date when the European Charter of Local Self-Government was opened for signature in 1985 – municipalities, towns and cities are invited to engage in different awareness raising initiatives - campaigns, exhibitions, exchanges and events for different target groups. Also every year, a common theme is chosen to respond to topical questions of our society.

Union of Baltic Cities Secretariat
Wały Jagiellońskie 1
80-853 Gdańsk
Poland

This year's general theme of the ELDW is dedicated to "the impact of sustainable communities in fighting climate change". This theme will be an opportunity for cities and towns to demonstrate their capacities in solving environmental problems and gradually be transformed into sustainable communities. I am convinced that this argument holds true, in particular, for the Baltic region.

Therefore, I would be very pleased if your municipality could join the growing family of ELDW partners. The European Local Democracy Week needs the support and participation of territorial authorities from all Council of Europe member states, to make the ELDW a regular and popular occurrence.

I am grateful to the Union of Baltic Cities, in particular to Secretary General Pawel Zaboklicki, for this co-operation in the interest of boosting territorial democracy and citizens' involvement in local processes.

For any further information, the ELDW team of the Congress - Maria Baroni, project manager maria.baroni@coe.int; Olivia Stasi, assistant olivia.stasi@coe.int – is at your disposal. The ELDW website www.coe.int/demoweek includes practical details as well as a list of suggested activities for the 2010 edition.

Kind regards



Andreas Kiefer