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Guidelines for a partnership and co-operation agreement between Eurocities and the Union of Baltic Cities

Eurocities is an association of about 100 major European cities. The network aims to improve the quality of life in cities and urban areas by influencing the European agenda, and promoting the exchange of experience and good practice between city governments.

The Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is an association of currently 101 member cities of different size from all 10 Baltic countries. Its goal is to promote and strengthen co-operation and exchange of experience among the cities in the Baltic Sea Region and develop the common interest of local authorities in the region.

UBC and Eurocities are complementary associations with similar aims and activities and partly overlapping membership. To make full use of the political synergies, while preserving their mutually independent status, a close co-operation between the associations will be developed. Both associations will seek to share their expertise on a regular basis and involve each other in relevant activities. The two will also explore on an ongoing basis the common development of projects and the possible project participation of members of each other's association.

The two associations agree to focus in particular on the following measures and topics:

- ❖ Eurocities and UBC will exchange on a regular basis documentation of their activities following the work of the respective Commissions and Committees, Working Groups and Networks.
- ❖ To facilitate the dialogue between the sectoral Commissions or Committees of the two associations, the Chairs and Co-ordinators will establish relations with their respective counterparts, giving this way their member cities possibilities for horizontal cooperation.

- ❖ Eurocities and UBC will send a representative of their respective associations to participate in each other's Annual General Meetings. Regular meetings between representatives of the Secretariats and/or the presidencies of the associations are considered.
- ❖ Eurocities and UBC will coordinate project development and political initiatives in order to avoid competing project submissions and conflicting political statements.
- ❖ The associations will be invited to contribute topical articles to each other's regular publications on ad hoc basis. It is envisaged to interlink the respective websites.
- ❖ The two associations envisage co-operation in particular on the following issues:
 - Act politically on issues of common interest for the benefit of the members of both associations.
 - EU enlargement and the role of cities (e.g. exchange of experiences, joint actions, seminars and training)
 - Sustainable Urban Development (e.g. investigate impact on sustainable development and develop activities like training, exchange of experiences)
 - Strengthening of the local authority level and of bottom-up initiatives.
 - Issues defined on the basis of the respective Work Programmes

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President



Mrs. Eva-Riitta Siitonen

Mayor of Helsinki

Union of the Baltic Cities

President



Mr Per Bøedker Andersen

Mayor of Kolding