

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 23 September 2009

Arrival of participants

Registration at Hotel Caledonien

17.00-18.30 Executive Board meeting, Hotel Caledonien, Club21 (closed)

19.30 *Get-together Dinner at Kick*

THURSDAY, 24 September 2009 Hotel Caledonien

8.30 Registration continues

9.30-12.15 Plenary Session – welcome addresses and keynote speeches

- Mayor of Kristiansand, **Per Sigurd Sørensen**, welcome address
- President of UBC, Mayor of Kolding, **Per Bødker Andersen**, opening address
- **Hallgeir Aalbu**, Director General, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Kingdom of Norway
- Ambassador **Kornelija Jurgaitiene**, member of Council of the Baltic Sea States Committee of Senior Officials
- Presidency of the European Council, **Maria Åsenius**, State Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs, Kingdom of Sweden
- Councillor **Kay Twitchen**, member of the Committee of the Regions, rapporteur on Climate Change
- **David Sweet**, European Commission, adviser to Director General DG Regional Policy Dirk Ahner
- Local and regional co-operation in the Mediterranean, **Miquel Rosselló**, member of the Executive Committee of the Consell Insular of Mallorca, Arco Latino
- Baltic Sea Region challenges in the eyes of youth – **Jannike Arnesen**, Kristiansand
- Elkem Solar in Kristiansand contributing to low-cost production of solar cells, **Svein Grandum**, R&D Manager, Product Development
- Mayor **George Heartwell** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Chairman of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Short introductions to the conference workshops

12.15 Press conference

12.30 *Lunch at Hotel Caledonien*

14.00-16.00 Parallel workshops

W.1 To improve the environmental state of the Baltic Sea Region

Organisation: Commission on Environment (Turku) and Commission on Energy (Oskarshamn)

Moderator:

Stella Aaltonen, Commission on Environment

Introduction to workshop

“Intention with the workshop, topics and timetable” Focus on UBC possibilities

Opening of the workshop

“The state of the Baltic Sea and the Baltic Sea Region – the local level aspect”

The poor state of the Baltic Sea has become a challenge for the whole Baltic Sea Region, not only as an ecological problem but more and more also as an economical problem. The Baltic Sea is one of the most polluted seas despite the fact that local authorities have invested much in effective treatment actions. EU has brought up on the agenda the Baltic Sea Region Strategy.

What needs to be done and how can we adapt to an eco-efficient economy where climate smart solutions create new jobs from a political point of view.

Co-Chairman Mikko Jokinen – Commission on Environment

Chairman Stefan Windh – Commission on Energy

“Sustainable Energy Scenarios”

Climate change and energy consumption are challenges that influence almost all aspects of our daily life. Global challenges regarding reduction of greenhouse gases, increase of renewable energies and energy efficiency, need to be tackled on all levels – private households, national, European and global levels. Often energy co-operation on regional or sub-regional levels can indeed provide very positive results that leave each country better off when implementing the EU’s or the UN’s targets on climate change and energy, as well as in ensuring greater security of energy supply. The EA Energy Analyses has delivered the report “Energy Perspectives for the Baltic Sea Region”. Questions to come are: How ambitious targets can we achieve in the region in the long-term if we put all measures into play? The Nordic countries have a potential to become large exporters of green electricity. How can the Nordic countries assist the other countries in the region in meeting their policy targets?

Anders Kofoed-Wiuff, EA Energy Analyses

“Status of the Baltic Sea in 2020 – threats and possibilities”

How current development trends can save the Baltic Sea by 2020. What are they and how can we better use existing technical innovations and possibilities. What are the big ongoing trends and innovations among local authorities? How can we better use the existing financial possibilities? Presentation and discussion.

Björn Grönholm, Commission on Environment

Discussion or questions to the audience.

W.2 To make the Baltic Sea Region a more prosperous place by supporting balanced economic development

Organisation: Commission on Information Society (Tampere/St.Petersburg) and Commission on Business Cooperation (Kaunas/Kiel/Kolding)

Moderators:

Wolfgang Schmidt, Head of International Business Services, KiWi, Business Development Cooperation Kiel

Esa Kokkonen, Director, The Baltic Institute of Finland

Speakers:

"The Impact of the Economic Crisis in the Baltic Sea Region", Stefan Ehrstedt, Senior Research Associate, Pan-European Institute

"The Baltic Sea Region in the Global Economy: Competitiveness Challenges for the Baltic Sea Region Cities", Paweł Warszycki, Hanseatic Institute for Entrepreneurship and Regional Development at the University of Rostock

"The Economic Objectives and Actions of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region: The Role of Baltic Sea Region Cities", David Sweet, Adviser to Director General DG Regional Policy Dirk Ahner, European Commission

"Case Sophia Antipolis", Søren Kofoed

W.3 To make the Baltic Sea Region more accessible and attractive

Organisation: Commission on Tourism (Koszalin/Szczecin). Support: Commission on Transportation (Gdynia), Commission on Urban Planning (Helsinki), Commission on Youth Issues (Kalmar), Commission on Culture (Vaasa), Commission on Sport (Gdynia)

Moderator:

Ewa Kurjata, Commission on Tourism

Goal:

- To contribute to betterment of the BSR and UBC action plans
- To practically contribute to the EU Strategy for the BSR development and implementation

Objectives:

- To assist participants in finding the answer to the key questions
- To provide feedback on how to make the BSR more accessible and attractive

Expected output:

- To work out consensus on the key questions by UBC member cities

Agenda

1. Opening and welcome
2. Presentations by working groups
 - Commission on Transportation – Alicja Pawłowska
 - Commission on Sport - Joanna Leman
 - Commission on Tourism – Ewa Kurjata
3. Discussion
 - Participants may wish to raise other relevant questions
4. Draft conclusion to be presented on the conference forum
5. Conclusion and closing remarks

W.4 To make the Baltic Sea Region a safer and more secure place

Organisation - Commission on Health and Social Affairs (Kristiansand). Support: Commission on Gender Equality (Umeå), Commission on Education (Kärdla/Norrtälje).

Moderator:

Børge Røssaak Nilsen, Commission on Health and Social Affairs

- Welcome, by representatives of the Commissions on Health and Social Affairs, Gender Equality and Education.
- "Safety and security in the Baltic Sea Strategy", by Sabine Meyer, Senior Adviser in European Affairs, North Sweden Office, Umeå

- “The economic crisis: A threat against health, social welfare and including societies. How to secure better opportunities for groups at risk?”, by Vladimir Sókman, Deputy Mayor, the city of Tartu, Estonia
- “How to prevent unemployment among young people” by Mare Aasma, Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Education
- “A survey on the situation of gender equality in the UBC area”, by Helene Brewer, gender equality officer, Umeå, Sweden
- “A case study of human trafficking in Kristiansand”, by Leif Vagle, Superintendent, Head of Organised Crime Unit, Agder Police District, Kristiansand
- Dialogue
- Thank you, from organising commissions

16.20 Closing Plenary – summary of the workshops

19.30 *Dinner at Festningen (Kristiansand Fortress)*

FRIDAY, 25 September 2009

09.00-10.00 Meetings of the UBC Commissions

Commission on Business Cooperation / Commission on Information Society
Commission on Culture
Commission on Education / Commission on Youth Issues
Commission on Energy / Commission on Environment
Commission on Health & Social Affairs / Commission on Gender Equality
Commission on Transportation
Commission on Sport
Commission on Tourism
Commission on Urban Planning

10.30-10.45 Opening of the General Assembly

Report on UBC Activities October 2007 - September 2009
Per Bødker Andersen, President of UBC

10.45-12.30 Reports from the Commissions (*8 min each*)

Commission on Business Cooperation
Commission on Culture
Commission on Education
Commission on Energy
Commission on Environment
Commission on Gender Equality
Commission on Health & Social Affairs
Commission on Information Society
Commission on Sport
Commission on Tourism
Commission on Transportation
Commission on Urban Planning

Commission on Youth Issues

12.30-14.00 *Lunch at Hotel Caledonien*

14.00-15.45 General Assembly continues

Alteration in the Statute

Alteration in the internal regulations

Auditor's Report

Board of Audit Report

Absolving the Presidium, Board, Secretary

Membership Fees 2010-2011

Executive Board in the next period

President and Vice-Presidents in the next period

Board of Audit in the next period

Auditor in the next period

Conference resolution

Updated Strategy

Updated Social Charter

Sustainable Development Action Plan

Venue of the XI UBC General Conference in autumn 2011 (Liepaja)

Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 2009

UBC Cultural Prize 2009

19.30 *Dinner at Hotel Caledonien*

SATURDAY, 26 September 2009

09.30-10.45 Boat trip in the fjords around Kristiansand

12.00-14.00 Guided sightseeing in the city

Departure in the afternoon or on Sunday