



CITY OF KARLSTAD

KOMMUNLEDNINGSKONTORET

Tillväxtcentrum

Karlstad 2013-05-23

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COMMENTS ON TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT FEBRUARY 25, 2013 REGARDING UBC DEVELOPMENT

The Tasks Force work has resulted in nearly 100 proposals on changes to the statutes and rules. The proposals take up large and small, and most of it is in line with what Swedish municipalities suggested in the UBC Board meetings. There are many actions and these require a lot of dedication and a realistic timetable. UBCs work is based on member cities' commitment and if the member municipalities are not prepared to make its contribution to the development of the organization you should adjust the level of ambition. In the following, Karlstad gives its comments from decision on the International board 2013-05-22 §3

1. UBC working methods

Board

- UBC Board shall continuously and clearly justify its existence and to what benefit cities shall have to be and become members. This should be given priority before building up relations with other international organizations
- The presidium has responsibility for ensuring that Board meetings are well prepared. To reduce meeting times should meetings primarily affect corporate affairs. Open thematic workshops should be subordinate.
- Commissions work should be on the agenda of the board meetings.
- National Board representatives should report current issues and events from the board meetings and also reports back running to their local colleagues in each country about the decision of the Board.

Presidium

- The presidium must be more cohesive and take greater shared responsibility for the work of the Board. A clear division of labour has to be developed between the president and vice Presidents.

General Secretariat

- We support the Working Group's proposals in eight points but would like to point out that it is important to maintain a reasonable level of ambition when resources are limited and it is hosted by the municipality that is responsible for this cost.

Commissions

The Working Group's proposals in seven points is in line with the municipality's earlier comments. However, we would like to further point out that the number of commissions must be reduced and that cooperation between them must be increased. They must also have requirements to better use EU funds in its business

General Conference

In order to get politicians involved, the Organization's work must be developed and made more interesting and valuable to the municipalities. For the Conference's best, this is more important than to engage external partners. There should be a sufficient number of qualified people and interesting local subjects amongst all the current member cities to fill the agenda of the general conference. English is the language of the organization and resources for interpreters at meetings should not be necessary.

Parliamentary Procedure

- Parliamentary procedure and nomination of candidates for the presidium needs to be formalized and a special Nomination Committee preparing elections should be set up.
- Member cities in each country should have a well-functioning and democratically system to appoint a member of the Board.
- Increased rotation of the Board through a limitation of eligibility to three consecutive terms, i.e. a maximum of six years.

The Vision

The city would like to highlight the importance of UBC having clear tasks and targets as reflected in the long-term strategy. Because a new strategy shall be decided by the general conference 2015 this year's general conference in Mariehamn must give a mission and appoint a working group to prepare the UBC Strategy 2016-2020.

Communication and marketing

Good contact lists is important to disseminate essential information and reach politicians and officials in member cities. All information should be given in English to keep down costs. The ability to implement the strategy for communication and marketing requires redistribution of budget or new opportunities for funding.

2. Recommendations for change to the UBC Statutes

Article 1 The city has no comments on the proposed changes.

Article 2 The city has no comments on the proposed changes, but believes that the UBC must first consolidate their own organization before we engage too much in cooperation with different networks.

Article 3 The city has no comments on the proposal for varying degrees of membership in the organization. The Board's rules for when any city should be excluded must be clarified and applied stricter

Article 4 The city is proposing that the article adds a new paragraph on nomination, *o. The Nominating Committee*. It can consist of three persons and shall have the General Secretariat as the administrative support.

Article 5 The city is recommending a time limit so that the president and vice-Presidents can be elected at a maximum of three consecutive terms in Office. Even the Board representative should like vice hold office for a maximum of three periods

Article 6-9A The city has no comments on the proposed changes.

New article 10 The city is proposing that the statutes are added to a new article about the Nominating Committee and nomination of candidates. The General Conference shall appoint a group of three people to prepare for elections to the Presidium, Board and Audit. The General Secretariat shall be the administrative support.

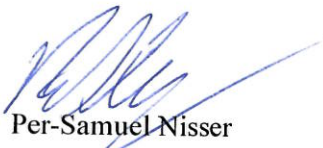
3. Recommendations concerning the UBCs internal rules

The city is favorable to the proposed changes in the internal rules with some comments.

Point 2.1 A Board representatives from cities are supposed to be held by politicians. However, it has been shown that it is often represented by a civil servant. It is unclear to what right they can make proposals to the Board as well as to participate in the decisions. Because there's never been any clarified call for attendance at meetings it has also never made clear what right they currently represent their city. It is necessary to clarify whether and how a civil servant can represent their city at the meetings of the Board and, if they can be included in order to constitute a quorum.

Point 2.3 Certain decisions of the general conference require approval from specific number of member cities. It is then important that the Conference clearly clarifies who represents each city and it also becomes clear that enough cities are present to enable a decision to be taken. It should be the Secretary-General's task to ensure that this supervision is carried out. The Nominating Committee's mandate shall be included in the internal rules and the Board shall not give any recommendations on candidates.

Karlstad, Sweden May 23 2013


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