



**SAVE THE DATE: UBC GENERAL CONFERENCE MARIEHAMN 1-4 OCTOBER 2013**

Kolding, 15. February 2013

Dear Mayor, esteemed colleague!

The bi-annual General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities UBC – among whose members we are pleased to count your city – will be organised in Mariehamn, Capital of the Åland Islands, Finland, between 1 –4 October 2013. *The main working days will be 2 and 3 October.*

On Wednesday 2 October, we will organise an open Forum titled “Investing in Young People”. Our focus is to seek practical measures about how to promote employment and well-being of young people and counter marginalisation, to move from words into action. This is undoubtedly one of the most acute issues in our cities. We have invited prominent speakers to share their views on the subject. However, the most important experts are you, the Mayors of our Member Cities.

Similarly, it is of great importance that representatives of the young people from our cities will themselves be part of this discussion. Therefore, we ask your City to include 1-2 youth representatives in your delegation to the Mariehamn Conference.

Some of the other themes to be discussed in Mariehamn will include Green Growth, economic and social development and implementation the EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region.

The statutory General Conference of the UBC will take place on 3 October. We will evaluate our intensive work since the Liepaja 2011 Conference, define new priorities for the coming period and elect the members of leadership – Presidium, Executive Board and Board of Audit. Details about these issues and practical arrangements (for example, possible interpretation in some additional languages besides English) will be sent in near future after the Executive Board meeting in Umeå 7-9 March.

Dear Mayor,

Participation of leading politicians and decision makers from our member Cities in Mariehamn is of greatest importance. Therefore, may I propose that you

- *reserve the dates 2 and 3 October 2013 for the open Forum “Investing in Young People” and the UBC General Conference,*
- *decide to include at least 1-2 young people in your delegation, and*
- *ask your experts to prepare a report about concrete things what your City is doing to promote the well-being of young people and to further regional cooperation.*

Please do not hesitate to contact our Secretariat in Gdansk for further details.

With Baltic Sea greetings, and looking forward to meeting you personally in Mariehamn

Per Bødker Andersen  
President of UBC