



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Social Affairs
The Director

Brussels, *Ares (2016) 2133849*
4/5/2016

Mr Paweł Żaboklicki
Waly Jagiellonskie 1
80-853 Gdansk, Poland
peba@kolding.dk

Subject: UBC Conference on the Impact of the European Refugees Crisis

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you for sharing with the European Commission the resolution on refugees, adopted on the UBC Conference 14-16 March 2016. UBC's call for a life in dignity, access to employment and essential services are very much aligned with the efforts of the Commission, and I fully agree that integration will be a lasting challenge.

A comprehensive challenge requires comprehensive answers, and the Commission has been active in proposing and implementing various measures to improve the situation in countries of origin and transit – including Turkey, to restore effective border control, to alleviate the humanitarian crisis related to reception of migrants.¹ The EU also stepped up funding support for asylum seekers and refugees through its various funds, including the European Social Fund (ESF), the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the European Fund for the most deprived (FEAD). A Commission Action Plan to promote the integration of third country nationals will be proposed soon.

The recommendations for UBC to its member cities, suggesting to invest in language teaching, develop mentorships, involve enterprises and public administration to organise internships, to provide education, to combat radicalisation all point to a better management of the current challenge. Integration being a local challenge, a local answer is unavoidable - and as actions follow the words the situation will improve.

Good continuation in your work.

Yours sincerely,



pp · Manuela Geleng

Cc: Chiara Monti
Marie-Anne Paraskevas

¹ Related proposals are available at http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/index_en.htm



The President

Per Bødker Andersen
President of the Union of the Baltic
Cities
Denmark
Email: info@ubc.net
cc peba@kolding.dk

Roland Methling
Mayor of Rostock
Germany

Ref. ► 2016-340

Strasbourg, 19 May 2016

Dear President, Dear Mayor,

On behalf of President Frécon, I wish to thank you for your letter of 5 April informing the Congress of the outcome of the conference on the Impact of the European Refugees Crisis in the Cities of the Baltic Sea Region, held on 14-16 March 2016 in Rostock.

I took note of the resolution adopted at the end of the conference which calls for solidarity between countries and invites cities to take immigration not only as a challenge but also as a chance for further development. This approach coincides with the outlook that the Council of Europe and the Congress promotes.

I would like to inform you that the Congress will diffuse information on the conference as well as the resolution to the members of the Current Affairs Committee at their meeting on 15 June.

I look forward to continuing our cooperation on matters of common interest to local and regional authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Claude Frécon



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24 мая 2016г. № 5682/deg

На № _____ от _____

Moscow, "24" May 2016

Dear Mr Methling,

It is my pleasure to write to you to acknowledge the receipt of and to thank you for your letter of the 5th of April 2016 addressed to the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr Dmitry Medvedev.

We value the active and positive role that the Union of the Baltic Cities plays in the system of the multilateral relations in the region, noting, in particular, that the Union is a long standing strategic partner of the Council of the Baltic Sea States – the key structure of the intergovernmental cooperation in the region. We also welcome Russian participation in the Union and its activities.

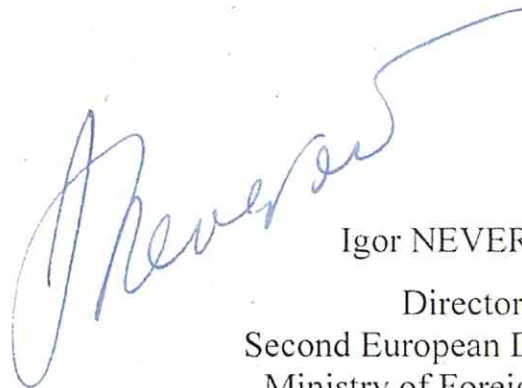
We recognise that it is at your level that many specific challenges and opportunities emerging in the changing international environment are getting particularly visible. We believe, therefore, that it is the Union that is particularly well placed as a platform for identifying common issues and their possible solutions for the urban communities in the Baltic Sea region.

That is why we particularly appreciate your commitment to make sure that the decisions of the Union of the Baltic Cities are being brought to the attention of the heads of governments of the states concerned, including the Prime Minister of Russia. This is particularly the case in regard to the resolution

Mr ROLAND METHLING
MAYOR OF ROSTOCK
Rostock

“Refugees – a challenge and a chance for the Cities of the Baltic Sea Region” adopted at the conference co-organised and hosted by the City of Rostock, since the challenges that you raise in the document are known in Russia and are treated with utmost attention.

Yours sincerely,



Igor NEVEROV

Director
Second European Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation