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KALININGRAD  
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ROSTOCK  
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ST. PETERSBURG  
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SZCZECIN  
TURKU  
VENTSPILS  
VISBY  
WISMAR  
YSTAD

**NEWSLETTER N°2**

Dear Readers,

Until this issue of the Union's Newsletter reaches you, many interesting events will happen.

Riga has the International Environmental Summercamp for the Youth in the Baltic Sea Region; Kaliningrad arranged International Festival of Folklore Creation; commissions were working despite of summer holidays; businessmen are visiting one another; first regional flights are started linking some of our cities; the process of establishing the Electronic Mail network, first only between Board Members - according to the agreements made by Commission on Telecommunication, has started, and its goal is to improve cooperation between the cities in the Region.

Moreover, first contacts were made between the Union and the representatives of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. In all those endeavors the Union is active and is contributing to "positive and democratic development in the Region", as it was said during the General Conference in Kalmar.

Thanks to the network developed by the Union many important contacts are made like Danish initiative proposed by Denvia to improve environmental situation in selected member cities, namely in Kaliningrad, Klaipeda, Riga and Tallinn. It is our desire that those projects will be pilot projects, and that this kind of the Union's activity will be successfully continued in the coming future.

We welcome very much the cooperation that has been set up between the Union and the Baltic Economic Chamber of Commerce, a new partner in the cooperation.

I wish you all the best,



Anders Engström  
President



## WORK OF THE UNION

### The Second Meeting of the Executive Board

The Second Meeting of the Executive Board of the Union was held on 28 February - 1 March, 1992, in the premises of the City Hall in Riga, on the invitation of Mr Andris Teikmanis, the Chairman of the City Council. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the Baltic Cities as well as other invited persons. The Meeting decided, among other things, that it was of utmost importance for the work of the Union to improve the communication between the Member Cities. That was the idea beyond starting edition of Newsletter, and now, consequently, the Union is working on setting up an Electronic Mail network. This network will require the use of PC computers and the goal is they will be placed in each Member City.

It was also agreed to organize training courses in Secretariat that would allow for better exchange of experience and knowledge between different interested partners.

The Meeting was visited by Mr Andris Gutmanis, the Deputy Minister of Economic Reforms of the Republic of Latvia, who characterized the situation in Latvia in the context of economic transition. Talking about contemporary problems Minister Gutmanis underlined positive fact that the economic reforms in Latvia proceed very rapidly.

### The First Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities

The First Conference was held in Kalmar on 22-24 May, 1992. The Conference was attended by representatives from all countries surrounding the Baltic Sea and from Norway, too.

During the Conference the participants discussed transport, environment protection, telecommunication and culture issues. Subjects mentioned above were also addressed during the work of relevant commissions which produced the following reports:

#### 1. Report from the Commission on Environmental Protection

Chairman: Carl Nielsen, Århus.

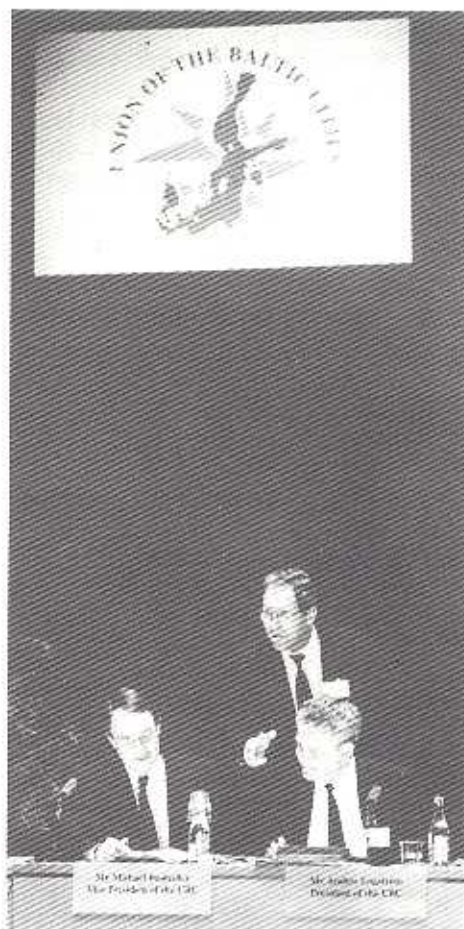
The working group consisted of 36 participants from 17 cities: Århus, Bergen, Elbląg, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Kaliningrad, Kalmar, Karlshamn, Kristiansand, Klaipėda, Riga, Tallinn, Turku, Sundsvall, Stockholm, Sopot, Ystad.

Introductory reports were made on the following topics:

- cooperation between Baltic Cities within the Healthy Cities Programme (WHO) by Mr Mikko Jokinen, Turku, Finland;
- proposal for a "Redistribution of (Swedish) Municipal investments in waste-water treatment among the Baltic Cities" by Mr Anders Engström, Kalmar, Sweden;
- proposal for "Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme" by Mr Jørgen Ringgaard, Denby, Denmark;
- the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme by Mr Peter Laurson, Nordic Investment Bank, Finland.

On the basis of the discussion the following conclusions can be drawn:

- a general interest for the project "Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme" was expressed with an emphasize on the financial problems. The Board of the Union should undertake the necessary steps regarding commitment from interested cities and the possibilities for economical support;
- the comments on the proposal for a "Redistribution of Municipal Investments..." (topic 2) pointed out some of the complex technical and political problems connected with the suggestion. It was the general opinion that the proposal should be submitted for further consideration to the Board of the Union;
- the importance of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Programme for the improvement of the quality of the Baltic Sea was underlined during the discussion.





The importance of solving financial problems and of including local specialist in the implementation of the programme plays a key role.

The Board of the Union should take initiatives to inform the Member Cities about financial possibilities, etc. and thereby initiate the contact between cities and relevant international financial institutions.

Besides, the Board and Commission on the Environment protection will follow up on conclusions from the September 1991 meeting concerning:

- the Secretariat of the Union shall ask the Member Cities to indicate already existing areas of cooperation.
- the Secretariat of the Union shall ask the Member Cities to indicate a few priority items where they want cooperation to solve actual problems. At the same time each city should be asked to indicate a few priority fields in which they have special expertise.

The Secretariat shall then distribute the list of indications to all member cities. The list will be updated at least 1 time every year.

## **2. Report from the Commission on Social and Culture Affairs**

Chairman: Michael Boutellier, Lübeck.

1. The foundation for the further work of the Union of the Baltic Cities is the understanding of the common next steps and goals. This understanding is shown in the project "BCU - Steps and Aims". The project should be implemented immediately.
2. The project "Prospects of the labour market in the three seaports of the Baltic" was greeted with

great interest and should, as proposed, be implemented.

3. The cultural project, launched by two cities, Lbeck and Rostock, could be an example of cultural activities. The Board should here make a choice.

## **3. Report from the Commission on Transportation**

Chairman: Andrzej Januszajtis, Gdańsk.

The Commission reported on topics considered to be of importance for the Union to work on in order to improve certain transport issues of common or domestic interest.

1. Statement: the members of the Union of the Baltic Cities support the starting of the work for strategic plans in cooperation with all states around the Baltic Sea.  
To elaborate and coordinate local plans based on actual information in order to achieve the strategic plans in the fields of transportation.
2. Direct connections between member cities. Motor and express ways along the southern coast of the Baltic Sea. In particular the motorway from Szczecin via Gdańsk - Elbląg - Kaliningrad to the planned Via Baltica is of international importance.
3. Promote developing of direct ferry connections.

4. Stress the necessity of facilitating the boarder and custom formalities between our countries.
5. Establishment of cooperation between institutions involved in research on transport in the Baltic Region.
6. Improvement of linkage between land and sea transport systems based on demands and needs of each city.
7. Regular issues of newsletter of the Union is very important, as is information from the members to the secretariat on transport matters to be issued.
8. Necessary to list the investment and priorities in each city.
9. Seek better support from the governments for example between Kalmar and Gdańsk.
10. As regards the points 1, 2, 3 and 4 an address should be made to the governments by the Union.

## **4. Report from the Commission on Telecommunication**

Chairman: Lars Malmberg, Kalmar.

A paper was submitted by Mr Lasota, Gdańsk, concerning "Communication System between the Cities".

After discussions in the Working Group the following statement has been proposed.

1. A reliable infrastructure is needed to support the development of cooperation between the Member Cities. Such a system should be established as soon as possible. An investigation should be made by the Secretariat together with the experts of the Working Group for an information-

system that would satisfy the most urgent needs. The first step should make possible point to point solutions but the next would involve all cities in a network.

2. A survey should be done as quickly as possible where all Member Cities take part.
3. An exchange of ideas and experiences should be encouraged through seminars. An education program on information technology should be launched as the first one for technical and management people in the cities. Money should be found from national and international funds.



## Oslo Declaration

At the IULA's World Congress in Oslo in 1991, a declaration was adopted on the issue of environment, health and life-style. The basis for the declaration is the report of the Brundtland Commission - "Our common future". The document points out the importance of energy-saving and energy-efficiency measures to be taken. Also, significance of development of energy sources that are not harmful for health and the environment was underlined. Negative influence of climate must be diminished and measures be taken to save the cultural and biological manifoldness. Finally, it is emphasized

that all people concerned in the society should have their right to take part in the decision-making of questions affecting the environment and social justice in connection with land exploitation and building of society. The Oslo Declaration is considered to be a far-sighted document that may stimulate communities and urban regions to maintain and give continuity to their environment protecting work. General Conference encouraged the Member Cities to consider the contents of the Declaration and adopt it by the City Councils.

## The Third Meeting of the Executive Board

The Meeting was held during the General Conference in Kalmar, therefore it dealt mainly with practical matters concerning the Conference. It was decided, among other matters, that in order to improve information flow in the Union, contact persons and members of the Executive Board would take care of matters of communication and contacts as well as collecting materials for the Newsletter. The Meeting authorized the Secretary to send invoices to the members which have not paid fees.

## News

Meetings, visits, events ...

1. On March 30 new premises for the Secretariat of the Union was opened in so-called the "Green Gate". The opening ceremony was attended by the President of the Union, delegates from Kaliningrad, Polish cities, diplomatic corps and special guests representing many science and culture.



2. Secretariat was visited by the General Secretary of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions Ms Elizabeth Gateau. After the presentation, by the Secretary of the Union, of the aims and forms of the Union activities including results from General Conference in Kalmar, a discussion started about possible forms of mutual cooperation between those two networks uniting societies in Europe. Ms Gateau invited President Anders Engström to take part in annual Conference of the Union which will be held in Prague on October 1-2, 1992.
3. In the follow up of the discussion by the Commission on the Telecommunication an attempt was made to establish direct connection between the Secretariat and Kaliningrad by so-called Electronic Mail with the use of modems and PC computers. According to the experts they will succeed during the next meeting at the end of August. At the end of September it is planned to establish a connection with Riga and Klaipeda; in October - with Tallinn. As a result, it will be the implementation of decision by the Executive Board in Riga encouraging quick improvement of the communication between the Member Cities.
4. Please note, the Union of the Baltic Cities has a new bank account that is given on the last page of the Newsletter.



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## II. INFORMATION FROM THE MEMBERS

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### Elbląg



#### Holidays of the Sea

The annual observations of "Days of the Sea" in Poland have been held in Elbląg on 20-27 June, 1992. The idea of the Days was the return of sailing tradition of the old hanseatic harbor, Elbląg was in the Middle Ages, and the increase of the importance of maritime industry (including tourism) in economic life of the city. The special goal was opening for Poland the Baltijsk (Pillau) Strait, the sole way from Vistula Lagoon to open sea. First steps were made when five Polish coastal-guard patrol ships crossed the Strait and reached Elbląg. The Strait was also opened for yachts taking part in the International Regatta on Vistula Lagoon.

From Polish point of view, Vistula Lagoon belongs to international maritime internal areas and therefore the Straits of Baltijsk should be free for all ships. The negotiations with the Russian Government are being continued and the perspectives of the successful conclusion are good - it was the opinion of Polish Secretary of Transport, Mr Waligórski, during the Days.

Due to "Days of the Sea" the Industry Merchant Fair and the Conference: "Economic Activation of Elbląg Harbor and Vistula Lagoon Region" were organized. At the Conference the lecturers from Universities of Gdańsk and Szczecin, the Maritime Institute of Gdańsk and Port of Hamburg concluded that Elbląg had a chance as a small coast harbor, auxiliary for the ports of Gdańsk and Kaliningrad and as an inland-navigation harbor (for Vistula Region and the interesting inland waterway from Hamburg through Elba - Odra - Vistula - Vistula Lagoon).

The yachting tourism has a good future in this region too. Local authorities should have the great part in the activation of the harbor in Elbląg.

During Holidays of the Sea many popular shows and plays advancing the maritime affairs were organized in Elbląg.

We received many delegations from befriended cities, for instance, from the Baltic Sea Region: Liepaja, Ronneby and Kaliningrad.

Contact person: Mr Andrzej J. Wiśniewski  
Maritime Commission of the Elbląg City Council  
2 Łączności Str.  
82-300 Elbląg  
Phone: + 48 50 25839  
Fax: + 48 50 26769

### Kaliningrad

On August 21-24, 1992 International Festival of Folklore Creation was held in Kaliningrad, supervised by the Union of the Baltic Cities. Many participants and delegates from Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden gathered at the Festival to present their folk music, art and customs. Additionally, Organizational Committee under the leadership of Ms Tamara Schourenko made it possible for the craftsmen and folk artists to exhibit their works. Warm and friendly atmosphere added charm to the meeting. All in all, the Festival was a very successful cultural event of the year. Moreover, it was a superb opportunity to gain some experience for people responsible for preparing the Cultural Festival which will be organized next year, according to the decision of the General Conference.

Contact person: Ms Tamara Schourenko  
98 Prospect Mira  
Kaliningrad  
Phone: +07 0112 218632, 215830  
Fax: +07 0112 215658





## Baltic Conference of Local Authorities

The Stefan Batory Foundation has asked Nykøbing F. and Vordingborg Municipalities to organize and carry out the Baltic Conference of Local Authorities, 2nd part, as a follow-up to the 1st part, which was held in Gdask in June 1991.

The 2nd part of the Conference was held on May 11-13, 1992 in Vordingborg and Nykøbing F. municipalities. The Conference succeeded in gathering 65 participants from cities and institutions in the following countries: Czecho-Slovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The objectives of the conference was the exchange of experiences on creating and functioning of self-government, identifying possible business partners and establishing local contacts between developed and Central Eastern European countries of the Baltic Region. Several Danish politicians e.g. the Danish Minister of Housing, the Danish Minister of Cultural Affairs and other local politicians took part in the conference as well as several representatives of local authorities, schools etc. The participants described the Conference and its discussions as fruitful.

The Stefan Batory Foundation has already started to consider in which country the 3rd part of the conference will take place in 1993. The organizing municipalities have got some important impressions on life in the participating municipalities but have also managed to establish good and lasting personal relations with different participants.

From our point of view this kind of conference should be seen as a natural supplement to our activities within the framework of the Union of the Baltic Cities and the result of our sincere wish to participate actively in building up new democracies in the Eastern part of Europe.

Contact person: Mr Peter Rygaard Anderson  
Chief Executive  
Nykøbing F. kommune  
Phone: + 45 54 85 48 00  
Fax: + 45 54 85 08 16



The City of Riga, Latvia, has a number of proposals following the common projects to the UBC. One of them is establishing a training centre in Gdańsk, Poland, which could deal with such problems as: municipal public transport, management of the local authorities' property, privatization and land issues.

Riga would also like to start Culture and Folk Art Promotion Centre organizing Folk Song and Dance Festivals, Handicraft Studios Exchange as well as seminars on Baltic Culture traditions.

Besides, the City of Riga is thinking about organizing Riga Concert Ship to the Baltic Cities in September 5-25, 1993, presenting exhibitions of art, books and videos on Riga's culture, architecture and economy.

Another proposition concerns organizing Photo Exhibitions about the Baltic Cities prepared by Photo Clubs from different cities around the Baltic Sea.

Other propositions are specially directed to young people: organizing youth camps and sport games with the participation of official representatives.

There are some common projects of Riga that can be prepared in cooperation with other Baltic Cities. These are as follows:

- exchange of experience of local politicians and civil servants together with local authorities;
- cultural exchange (concerts, exhibitions, etc.) with the main event of 1992 - Folk Dance and Song Festival "Sudmalinias";
- school cooperation and sport exchange.

Riga also reports about some projects on its municipal economy based on cooperation. Here are some of them: construction and application of "Statoil" Co. petrol tanks, Hotel "Metropole", "Finnish-Expo 92" exhibition and Riga/Aalborg Transport and Infrastructure Project.

Riga has managed to make contacts with three Baltic Cities - Norrköping/Sweden, Bremen/Germany, Aalborg/Denmark - in order to convey some projects connected with environment protection. One of them is the formation of an air monitoring system in Riga as well as the cooperation in designing and constructing a water-tower of major capacity in the centre of Riga with the help of Swedish companies: INDIC, OPSIS, METATA.



With the assistance of Bremen, the City of Riga has managed to organize the Environmental Centre in Riga. Moreover, the City of Aalborg offered its assistance with the production of hot water circulation pumps in Riga and worked out the conception and programme of practical activities in collecting, sorting, separating, transporting and utilizing the household waste for the City of Riga.

At the latest conference of the "Healthy Cities" project group of the European Division of WHO, Riga cooperates with, two projects important for Riga were proposed: "Influence of the Polluted Environment on the Health of its Inhabitants" and "The Level of Pollution of the Daugava River water and Evaluation of Using it in the Supply of Drinking Water for Riga"

Since 2 January, 1992 LMT Company (Latvian-Swedish-Finnish joint venture) has been operating NMT system in Latvia. The NMT system enables connections between ordinary telephone network and mobile telephones as well as radio connections between mobile telephone exchange and mobile telephones. Moreover, the Company is going to construct the NMT system and public cellular radio telecommunication network of a high quality.

The last thing dealt with in the report is the presentation of a series of ten television sessions via satellite titled "The Baltic Sea Environment", proposed by the Baltic University combining over 50 universities in the Baltic Region. It aims at spreading out the basic knowledge about the Baltic Sea and dangers threatening its environment. Environmental scientists from each university are going to contribute to the programme as well. Likewise, students taking part in the course will have a chance to participate in the discussions, including two live ones. The language spoken will be English. The project is organized by Uppsala University in cooperation with Swedish Telecom Radio and Swedish Space Corporation with the support of Finnish and Danish Universities.

## Sundsvall



### **A selection of social services available for children and the Senior Citizens in the Municipality of Sundsvall**

In Sundsvall all children and Senior Citizens come in contact with social services offered by Sundsvall Municipality, sooner or later. When dealing with children aged 1.5 to 6, the care is provided by the Day Care Centers. The activities are highly concentrated on giving the children possibilities for developing their inherent resources.

School children from grades one to four have a possibility of attending an After-School Recreational Center. The Center provides care and activities which keep the children occupied by the time they are picked up by their parents or guardians.

Another type of social services is an Open Playschool. The Open Playschool is a group activity for both parents and children. It provides many stimulating activities as well as gives parents an opportunity of getting to know one another and creates a pleasant social environment.

Pedagogically aimed child care is very important for children, but in order to develop them intellectually and emotionally the skill of art is important. In Sundsvall there is an activity which was specially designed to fulfill this need. We call it the Children's Gallery. It is a yearly Art Exhibition. Children are put into groups and then asked to look at a painting which is placed on their eye level. Next, the picture is broken into pieces, and then the children start to mobilize their senses. The impressions they get are talked about and put on the paper in the form of a painting or drawing which can be later seen at the gallery.

Social services for the Senior Citizens in Sundsvall take a special priority. In the 1980's extensive expansions took place to provide utmost in service and health care. In Sundsvall alone there are sixteen Daily Centers for the Senior Citizens which are strategically spread over the Municipality. These Daily Centers are attended by over 1,500 Senior Citizens who can get a meal there.

But these Daily Centers not only provide meals but give an opportunity to socialize and give them a dignified existence within the society. Another kind of services provides the Home Meal Service. This service provides more than 1,100 pensioners with meals at their homes.

There is also another kind of services which is available for the Senior Citizens. That is the one that provides them with transportation. This is so-called Conveyance Service which enables them to get to shops, hospitals, service centers, friends and relatives. Over 200 pensioners employ this service everyday.

Footcare is another service which we are proud of. We have a well - established footcare service which serves more than 5,000 pensioners every year.

This is just a small selection of social services available in the Municipality of Sundsvall.

Contact person: Ms Marie Louise Henriksson  
Sundsvall Commune  
851-85 Sundsvall  
Phone: + 46 60 191398  
Fax: + 46 60 128191



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### III. VIEWS

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#### Information from Daugavpils

According to the letter that the Secretariat of the Union has got from Daugavpils, the following is information for whom it may concern.

We address you in hope of getting your assistance in finding a partner for cooperation in the spheres of employment, culture, education and research.

Daugavpils is a city of 130,000 inhabitants, the second largest city in the Latvian Republic. It is an industrial center, home for a large chemical plant, a locomotive repair plant, and an international bicycle factory. We are located on the River Daugava, a mayor waterway. Our city houses many educational institutions. Daugavpils Pedagogical Institute is a major regional teacher training institution. We also have a musical conservatory, and a branch campus of Latvian Technical Academy. Daugavpils has 18 Public schools.

We are located in a beautiful place, called The Land of Blue Lakes. The region is known for its cultural traditions.

We would be very grateful if you posted our letter to the City Council that is interested in such contacts. We invite you to visit our city for establishing closer contacts.

Contact person: Mr Peter Sadovich  
Chairman of Daugavpils City Council  
Youth Department  
1 Kr. Valdemara Street  
Daugavpils  
Republic of Latvia 228400  
Phone: (8-0254) 22022

#### Information on Baltic Tourism Cooperation (BTC)

The Assistance Programme for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for Tourism Development Know-How Transfer has been prepared on the request of the three Baltic Republics in order to maximize the benefit of foreign economic support, and to secure an optimum level of coordination within the theme: Tourism Development.

BTC is, by virtue of historical circumstances in Eastern Europe, an "old" and well established organization in the Baltic Region. According to the wishes expressed by the Baltic Republics, BTC decided to cooperate and act as a programme coordinator for the advantage of both - the three Baltic Republics and different Nordic and European governments, who want to stimulate the economic growth and stability in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The programme was planned to be carried out in 1992-1996, and it was decided that the first step would be to apply for cooperative, financial assistance from the Nordic countries.

The basic ideas of the Tourism Development Know-How Transfer Programme are:

- coordinate the economic support;
- start needed project actions;
- maximize economic resources on a high tourism expert know-how transfer level.

BTC and the Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, ask for economic support from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Nordic Council of Ministers of the order of 3-15 Mill. SEK distributed on these five potential donors.

BTC has built up an operational organization to secure a successful and efficient implementation of the programme where all donors and the assistance recipients are tied together in an operational way. This programme confirms the willingness of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to solve their problems in a short, medium and long term. BTC hopes that a potential donor will treat this programme in the spirit of openness and willingness as the problems of the Baltic Republics are deep and therefore need deep solutions.

Contact person: Mr Arne Ellefors  
Director Baltic Tourism Center  
S-601 81 Norrköping, Sweden  
Phone: + 46 11 123503  
Fax: + 46 11 102033  
Telex: 64060 telen s BALTIC



### **Information on the Swedish Road Administration**

The international secretariat of the Swedish Road Administration has introduced itself for the UBC with information on their ability within its field of activities. It is worked out through their daughter company SWE ROAD, having ten years of experience in know-how transfer to other countries on road construction and traffic safety matters. On the state cooperation level the firm is right now carrying out training courses programs in the eastern shore Baltic Republics Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and assists the road administrations on projects in e.g. Poland and in St Petersburg, within the National (Swedish) assisting program, financed mainly by BITS.

Should there be of interest for the cities it is announced by the company that similar programs could be discussed within the municipalities technical sector.

Contact: SWE ROAD  
BOX 4202, S-1710 4 SOLNA  
Phone: +46 8 757 6985  
Fax: +46 8 29468

### **SECRETARIAT OF THE UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES**

24 Długi Targ Str.  
80-828 Gdańsk  
Phone: +48 58 317637  
Phone: +48 58 319123  
Fax: +48 58 317637  
Telex: 512844 ubc pl

### **BANK ACCOUNT OF THE UNION**

BANK GDAŃSKI SA  
IV Oddział w Gdańsku  
301817-661416-132

*please notice there is a new bank account*



## **CITIES - MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

### **Århus**

City Hall  
DK-8100 Århus C, Denmark  
Phone: + 45 89 402352  
Fax: + 45 89 402508

### **Gdańsk**

City Hall  
Nowe Ogrody Str. 8/12  
80-803 Gdańsk, Poland  
Phone: + 48 58 323853  
Fax: + 48 58 323941

### **Kaliningrad**

City Council  
Pobeda sq. 1  
USSR, 236000 Kaliningrad  
Phone: + 7 0112 214478  
Fax: + 7 0112 215658

### **Klaipeda**

City Baord  
Liepu 11  
235800 Klaipeda, Lithuania  
Phone: + 7 0126 116856  
Fax: + 7 0126 113641

### **Kristiansand**

Voieasan 99, Norway  
Phone: + 47 42 75000  
Fax: + 47 42 24042

### **Riga**

K.Valdemara Str. 3  
226162 Riga, Latvia  
Phone: + 7 0132 229616  
Fax: + 7 0132 325377

### **Rostock**

Neuer Markt 1  
0-2500 Rostock, Germany  
Phone: + 49 381 3811421  
Fax: + 49 381 3811902

### **Sundsvall**

Sundsvalls Kommun  
85185 Sundsvall, Sweden  
Phone: + 45 60 191379  
Fax: + 45 60 128191

### **Tallinn**

Vabaduse Sq. 7  
200001 Tallinn, Estonia  
Phone: + 7 0142 691432  
Fax: + 7 0142 441230

### **Turku**

Kristiinank. 1,  
SF-20100 Turku, Finland  
Phone: + 358 21 627221  
Fax: + 358 21 627229