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VENTSPILS
VISBY
WISMAR
YSTAD

NEWSLETTER N° 3

Dear Members and Friends,

The first year of activity of our Union has passed! Much work has been done meanwhile and many meetings as well as the First General Conference of the Union let us get to know one another and solve many of our common problems. On the other hand, working together at these meetings we were able to realize how much work has to be done yet. As we all know, one of the overriding aims of the Union is to contribute to a positive democratic and economic development for the benefit of people living in the Baltic cities as well as of the entire Region. It is a very noble, but also very hard task, and here I see a big role for the Union which can much facilitate our common work.

Furthermore, the Union has been actively working to establish contacts and cooperation with other organizations and institutions in Europe. Also, new cities decided to join the Union and to work with us. It is my hope, all together we will be even more active and more successful next year.

Now, after the first year of a joint work, and near the close of another, 1992, year, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our Members and our Friends for their continued contribution to the work of the Union.

I send you and your families my best wishes for a very successful New Year 1993.



Anders Engström
President

Kalmar, December 1992

I. WORK OF THE UNION

President Anders Engström and Vice-President Michael Bouteiller met with Minister Gerd Walter (Schleswig-Holstein)

The Meeting took place in Lübeck on October 22. Among subjects discussed during the Meeting, the most important, from the Union's point of view, were questions concerning projects proposed to be run with the assistance of the Union, namely: "Steps and Aims" (project described in this Newsletter), "Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme" proposed by Denvia, Danish Environmental Association as well as fax and memosystem.

Moreover, the idea of establishing the Baltic Information Office has been discussed as well as possibilities of increasing the publicity of the UBC.

The Union has five permanent working commissions, now

In accordance with the decision made at the Fourth Meeting of the Executive Board of the Union there will be five permanent working commissions within the Union, these are:

- * Commission on Transportation;
- * Commission on Telecommunication;
- * Commission on Environment Protection;
- * Commission on Social Affairs;
- * Commission on Culture;

The Secretariat has sent out questionnaires to all Member Cities of the Union with request to declare which commission they wish to join with names of contact persons. The information should be sent back to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

The Union has new Members

Two Cities more decided to join the Union, these are namely Mörbylanga (Sweden) and Liepāja (Latvia). We would like to warmly welcome these two cities and wish them fruitful cooperation with the remaining 33 Member Cities of the Union.

Info-Doc about Member Cities

The Secretariat has also sent out questionnaires to all Member Cities of the Union with request to provide it with up-to-date information that is often requested by interested cities, organizations, institutions and people contacting the Secretariat.

Collected data will also facilitate the work of the Secretariat.

Member Cities are kindly asked to send this information as soon as possible.

Environmental Youth Summer Camp in Latvia

This summer 53 young citizens of the Baltic Sea Region from Member Cities of the Union had an opportunity to meet, get to know each other, learn about environmental problems of the Region, and do some practical work for the environment.

Also, they had a chance to learn more about Latvia, particularly about Janmuiza locality in the Cesis Region north-east of Riga since that was a place of Environmental Youth Summer Camp. The idea of organizing such a camp came from Schleswig-Holstein and was put in practice thanks to cooperation of North European Club, Union of the Baltic Cities, Confederation of Northern Associations and Baltic Youth Office.



The participants enjoyed not only R&R but also the work. This first included excursions in Latvia as well as cultural and spare-time activities (music, dance, games, "national evenings"); the latter – cutting down trees and bushes and removing roots, and education (both environmental and practical) since the practical aim of the camp was to clear the 10 hectares large Skangali area of bushes and trees in order to restore it for ecologically sound agriculture.

According to the report from the camp: "the camp was a success, both in accordance with to the aim of participants learning to know each other and the result of the practical work" and "if the financial situation is solved, [the Camp] continue to be one of the most important projects to increase the contacts between young people in the area."

Member Cities, eventual future sponsors and those who are interested are kindly welcome to contact the Secretariat of the Union for more information.

II. INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Kaliningrad

Festival in Kaliningrad, June 1993

Following the decision of the General Conference in accordance with decision of the General Conference of the Union that was held in Kalmar, The City of Kaliningrad would like to invite all Member Cities of the Union of the Baltic Cities to the Cultural Festival in Kaliningrad. This Festival will be a consequent extending of the International Festival of Folklore Creation that was organized in Kaliningrad on August 21–24, 1992. More information can be found in Newsletter No. 2.

According to the information provided by organizers of the Festival, more specific information will be available at the beginning of this year.

Our readers will be successively informed on all matters in question.

"Women of the Baltic Sea"

"The Women and the Labour Market" in Kaliningrad

The City of Kaliningrad put forward the idea of organizing within the Union a number of conferences having a common name "Women of the Baltic Sea".

Now, together with the City of Sundsvall, it would like to invite all women from the Member Cities of the Union of the Baltic Cities to the first Conference entitled "The Women and the Labour Market". The Conference is planned to be held in Kaliningrad on April 23–25, 1993. It will deal with the following subjects:

- Women and business; successes and fails; what can help in life;
- executive problems;
- family; men; children;
- keeping fit; sport; food; fashion.

According to the information already obtained by the Secretariat of the Union, more specific information will be available soon.

Musical Laboratory "Designs"

There are a few general trends of our experimental club activities.

Firstly, we aim at uniting the attempts of all the people of creative mind – painters, writers, musicians. Musical Laboratory is also going to arrange for creative work such as: financial help, show organizations etc.

Secondly, we do some theoretical research in the field of contemporary music which is one of the most important elements of both cultural and spiritual life.

Moreover, we arrange shows, festivals and other cultural events. We also try to engage in our work active young men. In this respect we are looking for contacts with other cities, music studios, clubs, etc. Hereby we turn to you for assistance in obtaining addresses of such music clubs which are interested in exchange of information on music, bands and their activity. We think that such contacts are necessary and advantageous for everyone. Many contemporary independent artists are deprived of the opportunity to meet their friends from other countries. Some people here do not know of interesting trends not only in music but in theatre, cinema and art because of state cultural monopoly which dying out has a negative impact on today's men and children who are responsible for the future.

For further information please contact:

Mr Andrej Vorontsov, Mr Sergej Lavrenov
Musical Laboratory "Designs"
Rossija 236000, Kaliningrad p. Kaluzskij 3A–6

Klaipėda



Klaipėda and its surroundings – Port and Palanga resort, places of interest

The Port.

The Lithuanian City of Klaipėda is known for its port which is localized on the eastern coast of the Curonian Bay. The port is well connected with all Lithuanian towns and its total loading operations reaches 20 mln tons annually while operating some 1,000 ships annually. Among them there are five international ferries carrying railway wagons and also, recently, trucks and trailers. Also, it has facilities for oil pumping.

Serving i.a. Byelorussia and Russia, the port is seeking new possibilities and partners for cooperation in the spheres of commercial navigation, industrial fishing, passengers transportation, ship building and repair all the more since it is "meant for the development of commercial and economical activities and it is open for international civil navigation".

Palanga.

This well known in Lithuania health-resort is located 25 km north of Klaipėda. With sanatoriums and rest-houses open all the year and offering its visitors the most significant curing factors like tonic climate, intensive solar radiation, cool marine bathing and water of various concentrations of minerals Palanga became a climatic, balneological and mud-therapeutics resort. Additionally, "Palanga is rich with historic places, moments and relics of the past".

Places of interest.

"Klaipėda is represented by the historical museum of the region, picture gallery, museum of ancient clocks and watches, ethnocultural center, the old town, a park of sculptures." Artists of various patterns of art give their exhibits, concerts, etc. that are arranged in various cultural establishments of the City.

Another attraction is the Curonian Spit which is a national park of Lithuania. It offers a broad spectrum of fine woods and clean sandy beaches, but also an old fortress with a unique Maritime museum – aquarium, ethnographical farm which is a place of weekend concerts of folk music and many other unique places practically untouched by human activities.



"Union of the Baltic Cities – Steps and Aims" **Project by the Consulting Bureau Lübeck – BBL**

Information about the Consulting Bureau Lübeck – BBL was presented in Newsletter No. 1. Now, the BBL on behalf of the City of Lübeck has developed a series of projects out of which one is entitled "Union of the Baltic Cities – Steps and Aims". The project was discussed at the Fourth Meeting of the Executive Board of the Union and accepted as a valuable proposal.

The overriding goal of the project is to strengthen the Union through a short-dated study to "find out the limits and structures of appropriate fields of activities". Special stress will be put on issues being dealt with by Union's commissions. Authors of the project intend i.a.:

- to compile a catalogue with information on Member Cities;
- to conduct a workshop dealing with issues of the project;
- to make "a written consultation of the Member Cities accompanied by expert talks";
- to present and report on results of the project.

Information on realization of the project will be given in newsletters as soon as is available.

III. VIEWS

Council of Europe **Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe**

The Secretariat of the Union has received Newsletter No. 4/1992 of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) which is a division of the Council of Europe. The following text is a summary of selected articles of this Newsletter.

Cities which are interested in receiving a copy of the CLRAE Newsletter are kindly requested to contact the Secretariat.

7th European Symposium of Historic Towns

The Symposium was organized in Istanbul on 16–18 September 1992 by CLRAE. Main topics of the Symposium were:

- impact of economic and demographic change and pressure on historic preservation;
- financial mechanisms for restoration;
- information, publicity and the role of the media.

In the final Declaration the participants underlined the need for developing training workshops for the crafts necessary for restoration, reconstruction and examination of the possibility of launching a special European fund for the rehabilitation of the architectural heritage.

In relation to the themes of the Symposium, it was stressed that conservation policies could only be effective if they formed part of a comprehensive urban management with its contained various features: adequate pollution control; coherent traffic management schemes with emphasis on public transportation; the channeling of tourism in historic communities; control of land and property speculation; facade and public advertisement restrictions and improvement of design standards; provisions for a mix of functions in historic communities (housing, small-scale commercial activities) in order to maintain life; co-operation between public and private sectors; generation of resources through the reuse of former industrial buildings as part of programme for economic regeneration.

In addition, national reports were made on situation of the architectural heritage in a number of countries and towns.

Network of training centres for local and regional authorities staff

The Standing Committee of the CLRAE, acting on behalf of the latter, adopted Resolution 240 on the development of the activities of the network of training centres for local and regional authorities staff. In this respect the CLRAE is aiming at:

- increasing the participation and respecting the role of local, regional and national training centres, in accordance with the subsidiary principle;
- developing co-operation with associations of local and regional authorities, other institutions and network active in this field and with representative European trade unions of local and regional authority staff;
- avoiding the creation of a heavy infrastructure which could rapidly lose efficiency.

The Council of Europe's Social Development Fund

The Fund was set up in 1956, and its purpose is to help member states to solve problems resulting from the presence of surplus elements of population, including refugees, in Europe. The Fund lends up to 40% of the cost of projects for:

- social reintegration of jobless or homeless people;
- vocational training;
- provision of infrastructures;
- regional and rural development;
- low-cost housing;
- schemes to promote education and public health.

Since its establishing, the Fund has granted approximately 8.85 thou. million ECU in loans.

Coalition Clean Baltic Goals and activity

Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) is a network of 22 ecological non-governmental organizations from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden. Also Global Challenge Network and Swedish World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Sweden) are members of the CCB. It is politically independent and a non-profit organization i.e. all its funds are allocated for activity for protection and improvement of the Baltic Sea environment.

Coalition was established in 1990 in an urgent need for better collaboration and cooperation among many non-governmental organizations that are working on Baltic Sea issues. Being the biggest organization of this type in the region, and having the observer status with the Helsinki Commission (the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission), the CCB plays an important role in activating people around the Baltic Sea to work more for its environment.

The Coalition is also a member of the World Conservation Union, thus contributing to global efforts to improve state of the environment.

The overriding goal of Coalition Clean Baltic is to promote, on a politically independent and non-profit-making basis, protection of the environmental and natural resources of the Baltic Sea Region.

To reach this goal and address the most acute problems of the Baltic environment, the CCB is, in a daily work, active in many fields. This comprises inter alia creating of international public opinion concerning the Baltic Sea issues and providing organizational and financial support to member and other organizations in need as well as gathering and producing and finally distributing information on environmental problems arising in the Baltic Sea Region and steps that need to be taken to address these problems with the objective of restoring Baltic Sea environment to ecological balance. The CCB is also acting as a joint contact and lobby organization for member groups towards intergovernmental organizations working on Baltic Sea issues (e.g. Gdańsk Commission and Helsinki Commission).

As its own contribution to the activity for the Baltic Sea environment, Coalition Clean Baltic has produced jointly with WWF Baltic Sea Action Plan and NGO Statement on the Protection of the Environment of the Baltic Sea Region. Both documents have been presented to, among others, the Ministers of Environment Protection of the Baltic States, representatives of Commission of European Communities

and four development banks, at the Baltic Sea Diplomatic Conference held on April 8-9, 1992 in Helsinki, Finland.

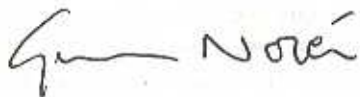
Another example of activity of the CCB is that it conducted or supported many projects in 1991/1992 including "Baltic Sea Campaign" – a cruise of ship over Baltic ports between Kaliningrad and Tallinn (the idea was to inform the public, including decision-makers, about ecological concerns in the Baltic Sea and its region as well as needed measures that will solve them); nutrient monitoring of lakes, rivers and coastal waters; translation and printing of environmental literature.

Environmental problems of the Baltic Sea, which are the clear evidence of drastic changes, have been the concern of the surrounding states for the last twenty years. Even if the polluting activity of people living nearby the Baltic Sea started many centuries ago. The Baltic countries decided to protect Baltic Sea environment less than 20 years ago. In the seventies and early eighties this Sea more divided people than united. The real chance for its protection arose now, with recent, fresh view of democracy in the region and more perspectives for closer cooperation. The Baltic Sea and its drainage area form a uniform hydrological system, and the development of a closer social and economic cooperation would therefore benefit all nations living within its drainage area as well as the environment surrounding them. The evidence proves the worldwide rule that human development proceeded in the past at the cost of nature. Now, we need to know that further development must not occur at the cost of the environment.

We welcome the Union of the Baltic Cities – a new organization established in the Baltic Sea Region, and we are happy to see this Organization has set up within its structure the Commission on Environmental Protection which is working actively to determine and address environmental problems of the region.

Since Coalition Clean Baltic much appreciates the activity of the Union of the Baltic Cities, we are pleased to inform all Member Cities of the Union we include the information about the Union in our Update reaching all CCB member organizations. As we see many possibilities for collaboration and cooperation between our organizations, we look forward to our contacts in the future.

Best regards,



Gunnar Norén

Executive Secretary to CCB

Coalition Clean Baltic

c/o Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
P.O. Box 4625
S - 116 91 Sweden
Phone: +46 18 422015 or +46 8 7026500
Fax: +46 18 422121

The Baltic Institute of Sweden in Karlskrona

The Baltic Institute was established in 1992 with aim to continue the work started in 1989 with a special project launched by the Trade and Industry Delegation of Blekinge (NLD). Within this project much emphasis was put on issues of network building, communication, education and business contacts.

Founders of the Baltic Institute are the City of Karlskrona, the Chamber of Commerce, NLD and Swe-Road. The Chairman is Mr Svante Ingemarsson, the Deputy Governor; Mr Åke Landqvist is acting as the executive Officer and Ms Johanna Björkman is the Institute Assistant.

For more information please contact:

Mr Åke Landqvist
The Baltic Institute
Box 544
S-37123 Karlskrona, Sweden
Phone: +46 455 35180
Fax: +46 455 35185
Telex: 43171 KFOND S

CLES – Center for Local Economic Strategies

On September 26, 1992, the Secretariat of the Union of the Baltic Cities was visited by Ms Martha Sic-
kles and Mr Adam Scott, who represented Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES).

Presented are below basic facts about CLES.

Centre for Local Economic Strategies is a local authority association in the United Kingdom working on Economic Development. Controlled by local government, and staffed by local authority experts, the Centre makes original and major contributions to policy debates on economic issues, as well as providing a quality research, education, library and information service. Through its participation in local British, European and international economic networks, the Centre is acting to bring together local authorities, trade unions, voluntary organizations and the private sector, to facilitate innovative and international solutions to local problems.

Specific research and consultancy work is carried out by its sister organization, the CLES European Research Network (CERN). CERN has extensive knowledge of the needs of the public sector; voluntary organizations, business and training companies and has a particular interest in European regional economic development. It is working on local government project analysis, strategic planning and management development, with particular expertise in the development of strategy, analysis of strengths and weaknesses in the local economies, and examination of strategic growth sectors. With links across Training and Enterprise Councils, local authorities, business and the voluntary sector CERN brings together the major partners to deliver effective strategies.

Business

Business Foundation Book



The Secretariat of the Union has obtained the Business Foundation Book, Second edition 1992-93. This book contains names, profiles and contact addresses of firms, companies, enterprises and organizations doing business and willing to expand their activity.

Those who are interested in obtaining this Book are kindly asked to contact Business Foundation for more information.

Business Foundation
Krucza 38/42
00-512 Warsaw, Poland
Phone: +48 22 219993 or +48 2 6282882
Fax: +48 22 219761
International fax & phone: +48 39 120077

List of enterprises

The Secretariat of the Union has obtained lists of enterprises from Elbląg, Riga and Szczecin which are interested in making business contacts and seek cooperation with other interested parties. It contains all together more than 500 items already.

Those who are interested are kindly asked to contact the Secretariat for more information.

The updated lists can also be obtained directly from those Cities, i.e. from:

– Mr Andrzej Wiśniewski;

Urząd Miasta
ul. Łączności 1
82-300 Elbląg, Poland
phone: +48 50 25814
fax: +48 50 26769

– Mr Arnolds Ubelis;

K. Valdemara 3
226162 Riga, Latvia
phone: +07 0132 212550
fax: +07 0132 325377

– Mr Andrzej Markowski;

Urząd Miasta
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70-456 Szczecin, Poland
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