



ÅLBORG
ÅRHUS
BALTISK
BERGEN
BREMEN
ELBLĄG
GDAŃSK
GDYNIA
HELSINKI
KALININGRAD
KALMAR
KARLSHAMN
KARLSKRONA
KAUNAS
KLAIPEDA
KOŁOBRZEG
KRISTIANSTAD
KÜRESSAARE
LIEPAJA
LUBECK
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MAMONOVO
MÖRBYLÅNGA
NAKSKOV
NÆSTVED
NORRKÖPING
NYKÖBING F.
PALANGA
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RIGA
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ST. PETERSBURG
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VISBY
VÄSTERVIK
VÄSTERÅS
WISMAR
YSTAD

NEWSLETTER No 5

Dear Members and Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to address you as the Union of Baltic Cities enters its second term of activity. The Union has accomplished a great deal in the past two years. It has also grown in both the size and scope of its activities. We have welcomed new cities to our Union and have started several ambitious new projects. In addition, we have increased cooperation with several other influential organizations in the Baltic Sea Region. Perhaps of greatest importance is our work with HEL-COM PITF. The Union of The Baltic Cities will proudly take responsibility for the Institutional Strengthening and Human Resource Development component of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme. "Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme" submitted by Union's Commission on Environment will serve as a framework for Union activities in this field. I welcome this exciting prospect for the Union and look forward to this leadership role.

I extend my warmest greetings to all as we begin our second phase of activity and look forward to many more successful years.

Anders Engström
President

Kalmar, December 1993

I.WORK OF THE UNION

High Level Conference on Resource Mobilization, Gdańsk 24-25 March 1993

In Helsinki, in 1992, Ministers of Environmental Protection from the Baltic States adopted The Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme. The Programme was also adopted by countries lying within the Baltic Sea catchment area including Belarus, Ukraine, Czech and Slovak Republics. Additionally, financial institutions such as the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Nordic Investment Bank and the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation, supported the Programme. On 24-25 March 1993, the Ministers of Environmental Protection and bank representatives attended the High Level Conference on Resource Mobilization in Gdańsk. The Union was represented at the Conference, among others, by our President Mr Anders Engström and Secretary Mr Piotr Krzyżanowski. President Engström in his address to the Conference, offered a proposal for the Union's cooperation with the Helcom Programme Implementation Task Force (PITF). Mr Engström declared the Union's readiness to take responsibility for a programme of expertise transfer through twin-city arrangements - a part of the Institutional Strengthening and Human Resources Development, component of the Action Programme. Helcom PITF accepted the offer of cooperation put forward by the Union.

The Post Conference statement, written exclusively for this issue of the Newsletter by Mr Göte Svensson, Chairman of Programme Implementation Task Force, is included in chapter III of this bulletin.

The Sixth Meeting of the Executive Board

The Sixth Meeting of the Executive Board of the Union was held on 6-7 June 1993 in the premises of the City Hall of Kaliningrad, on the invitation of Mrs Nadezhda Lazareva, Chairman of the City Council. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the Baltic Cities and special guests. The Meeting was summoned on the occasion of the 1st International Art Festival of the Union held in Kaliningrad on 5-8 June 1993. Participants submitted reports regarding Union's activities and discussed contemporary issues and projects. The Meeting was also visited by Ms Eve Kuusmann, an expert from Coordination Centre of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) in Estonian Foreign Ministry. Ms. Kuusmann informed the Meeting participants about structure, programme and activities of the CBSS. On behalf of Mr Alar Olljum, chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials of the CBSS, Ms Kuusmann expressed a willingness to establish closer contacts and increased cooperation between the Council and the Union. The Executive Board welcomed the Council proposition of cooperation and decided to coordinate with CBSS its initiatives regarding the following issues:

- cross-border formalities
- state financial contribution for strengthening Union activities
- project for the leaders of study circles in environmental matters.

Second Meeting of PITF, Hamburg, 25-27 May 1993

The Second Meeting of the Programme Implementation Task Force was attended by the Union's Secretary Mr Piotr Krzyżanowski and Mr Jørgen Ringgaard, Commission on Environmental Protection representative from Århus. The main purpose of UBC's presence at the PITF Meeting was to present and obtain approval for the Union's proposal of cooperation presented by Mr Anders Engström at the Resource Mobilization Conference in Gdańsk. Presentation concerning the above was made by Mr Jørgen Ringgaard, coordinator of the Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme (BSCP). Mr Ringgaard introduced Meeting participants to the BSCP started by the Union to create a framework of twin-city cooperation regarding transfer of expertise and experiences from western cities to the cities in transition countries. PITF decided to accept the offer of cooperation from the UBC, but before more specific (financial) decisions could be made, they required a more detailed working plan that is to be elaborated by the Union. Mr Ringgaard stressed the need for coordination of these kind of initiatives between various organizations. In this case, the Union should coordinate its activities with International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and its "Baltic Eco-Cities" project. Similar statement was declared by ICLEI representatives. The 6th Union Executive Board Meeting in Kaliningrad, as a result of Mr Mikko Jokinen's (representative of the Commission of Environment) proposal, decided to create within the Union a small Task Force that:

- will be responsible for organizing and running this project;
- will elaborate a detailed proposal of cooperation to be presented to PITF;
- will take contacts with ICLEI and other organizations to obtain the needed coordination of activities;
- will be responsible for taking actions to ensure financing of UBC activities related to PITF.

The Executive Board also decided to elect the secretary Mr Piotr Krzyżanowski, Mr Mikko Jokinen, Mr Carl Nielsen and Mr Jørgen Ringgaard as members of the above mentioned Task Force.

Conference on Trans European Motorway and other contemporary transport projects, Gdańsk, 8 June 1993

The Conference on TEM was organized by the Secretariat of the UBC in cooperation with the cities of Gdańsk, Gdynia, Karlskrona, Baltic Institute in Karlskrona, Maritime Institute in Gdańsk.

The numerous presentations of representatives of authorities and experts on TEM, Kaliningrad-Elbląg transportation systems and discussions on Via Baltica have underlined the urgent necessity for improvement and development of roads, rail, air and ferry connections in the Baltic Region, bringing benefits for the inhabitants of this area (economic development, culture etc).

It was also stressed that it is very important for implementation of the above projects to obtain necessary support from local business organizations as well as governmental administration and investment banks offering low credits. The Conference appealed for establishing an international consortium for TEM and other projects implementation, which will associate enterprises and institutions interested in active participation in these projects. Further, investigation and feasibility studies should be carried out in order to establish costs, benefits, environmental impacts and multi-sectional dynamic effects in the Baltic Region on both multi and bilateral levels with cooperation from research institutes.

In order to achieve the desirable effects of TEM and other projects, closer cooperation between the Baltic Cities is needed. In relation to these demands, the Resolution of the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities (Kaliningrad, 7 June 1993), presented at the TEM Conference by Mr Engström, has to be accepted as a critical opinion of the past and a direction for the future activities:

1. Insufficient interaction of expert groups of the UBC member cities and regions in the course of development of local transport projects causes complications and drags out the work on the general concept of the transportation system development in the Baltic Region. It also increases risk and decreases efficiency of investments. Thus, in the course of developing the idea to provide effective transport links among the Baltic countries in the framework of the suggested project "Via Baltica", some vital transport junctions on the south-eastern Baltic coast - such as Klaipeda, Kaliningrad, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Szczecin - are left out of consideration. It will certainly impose restrictions on the future development of goods and passenger traffic, and will carry away from the main goal of the project - to balance the levels of development of Eastern and Western Europe transport infrastructure.

2. Proceeding from the above, the UBC Executive Board finds it appropriate to suggest that regional administrations and their working groups should consider the possibilities of coordinating their activities in the framework of the "Via Baltica" and "TEM-Scandinavia" projects thus creating suitable conditions for including South-Eastern Baltic ports into both projects under consideration and further into the concept of Baltic - European regional transport infrastructure development with the Baltic ports active participation.

This project should be formed as an indispensable part of the "TEM-Scandinavia" project, going from Oslo through Karlskrona, Gdynia/Gdańsk and all the way to Athens.

Environmental Summercamp for Youth from the Baltic Sea Region 1993

Latvia's environment, the monitoring of air and water pollution and the clearing of fallow land close to a former Russian military air base were part of the programme of the 2nd Environmental Camp for Baltic Youth (3-13 August 1993) about 100 km northeast of Riga. About 50 young people from the Baltic States, Poland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Germany participated in the youth camp. "This work is a moral impetus to the people here" said Ojars Abolkalns, director of the hosting Agricultural School of Janmuiza in the Cesis Region of Latvia.



The Environmental Youth Project was first organized last year after the former Minister President of the German State of Schleswig-Holstein, Björn Engholm, suggested setting up youth camps in the Baltic Sea region at a conference of the North European Club in August in 1991 in Copenhagen. The camps have since been organized by the Confederation of the Norden Association and financially supported by the State of Schleswig-Holstein, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Union of the Baltic Cities.

The future of the Environmental Youth Projects is, however still uncertain. "We have no solid financial-support promises for future camps, therefore we do not know if a continuation of this work will be possible in the coming years. In the name of the young people of the Baltic region we hope that this problem can be solved", said project manager Per Bergman from Falun, Sweden. For Jolanta Rungevica (17) and Jana Lindberga (17) of Latvia, one of the most important aspects of the Environmental Youth Camp is getting to meet and work with young people from other parts of the Baltic Sea region. But they also see political aspects. "Most young people in Latvia are not interested in politics and environment. This camp has opened our eyes to the problems we have in our country. So we will go home and tell other people about our experiences and try to help them open their eyes also", they said.

The national evenings and environmental education at the Youth Camp were favorite parts of the programme for many participants. "I think that the national evenings help to create a feeling of togetherness", said Andrea Ruppell (18) of Bremen, Germany. And since this camp, Susanne Weng (18) of Aalborg, Denmark sees herself not only as a citizen of her own country but also as a part of the countries surroundings the Baltic Sea. "It is important for me to talk and learn more about environmental problems in other countries", she said.

For more information, please contact:

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The 7th Meeting of the Executive Board

The 7th Meeting of the Executive Board of the Union took place on 4th September 1993 in the City Hall of Turku, on the invitation of Mayor of Turku Mr Juhani Leppä. Representatives of the cities of Århus, Gdańsk, Kaliningrad, Kalmar, Klaipeda, Kristiansand, Riga, Rostock, St. Petersburg, Sundsvall, Tallinn and Turku participated in the assembly. The Meeting followed the Baltic Sea Conference - Local Government and Environment, Helsinki, 1-3 September 1993, attended by the President of the Union, who presented the Union's environmental activities related to Baltic Programme implementation. Representative of the Commission on Environment submitted a report from the 2nd Helcom PITF meeting in Hamburg, where the Union's proposal of cooperation in Baltic Programme implementation was warmly accepted by PITF. Moreover, along other current issues, the Board Members discussed the status of preparations to the Second General Conference of the Union, Kaliningrad, 24-25 September 1993.

The Second General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities

The Second Conference was held on 24-25 September 1993 in the town of Svetlogorsk, Kaliningrad Region, Russia. The Conference was attended by the representatives of most of Union Member Cities as well as officials of international organizations and financial institutions. Welcome and opening words were given by Mr Vitaly Shipov, Mayor of Kaliningrad and Mr Anders Engström, Union President. The opening was followed by key note addresses made by representatives of: Nordic Council, Council's of Europe Conference of Local and Regional Authorities, Union of the Russian Cities, Helsinki Commission, Council of the Baltic Sea States. The plenary session was dominated by the presentations regarding Baltic Sea Environment Protection. Representatives of countries under economical transition from the cities of Gdańsk, Gdynia, Kaliningrad, Liepaja, Łeba, Riga, Rostock, Szczecin and Tallinn made the presentations concerning the present status of public utilities emphasizing privatization processes, current and planned investments, as their input to the Baltic Programme implementation. Overviews of the environmental activities within the Baltic Sea region, particularly in municipal utilities were presented by representatives of World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Nordic Environment Finance Corporation. Finally the delegates from international organizations: World Health Organization, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, Coalition Clean Baltic and World Wide Fund for Nature, introduced their projects that are taking place in the Baltic Sea area.

On the 2nd day of Conference the following documents were presented: Annual Report, Reports and Action Plans from the Commissions, Financial Report, Reports on Women's Conference and International Art Festival in Kaliningrad, Report on Environmental Summercamp for Youth in Latvia, Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010 project.

The Conference ended with the elections of Union Executives for next two years period. Mr Anders Engström was reelected as a president, as well as the Executive Board of the Union. Mr Michael Bouteiller, Mayor of Lübeck and Mr Andris Teikmanis, Mayor of Riga were elected as vice-presidents. The Union Secretariat will be located in Gdańsk for the next period. Membership fee for the next year was not changed and equals \$2000 USD. The next General Conference will be held in the City of Århus, Denmark. Finally the conference adopted the Resolution on Cooperation and Environmental Aid within the Baltic Sea Area.

Other recent Conferences and Meetings

*** Baltic Sea Conference - Helsinki, Finland 1-3 September**

Union's President attended the conference. In his address Mr Engström informed about Union's responsibility for one component of HELCOM Baltic Programme, Institutional Strengthening and Human Resources Development to be implemented through the Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme.

*** Environment of Northern Seas Conference - Stavanger, Norway 24-27 August 1993**

Union representative presented UBC environmental protection activities.

*** Baltic Cities MCAP Meeting - Sandness, Norway 22-24 August 1993**

Representatives of the Union and World Health Organization, Healthy Cities project coordinator attended the meeting and discussed accomplishments and future plans.

*** Meeting with EBRD Representative - Gdańsk, 24 August 1993**

Union Secretary Mr Piotr Krzyżanowski met Ms Hiroko Yamane, Political Counsellor of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Possibilities of trainings on public utilities reform for local government administration, to be organized jointly by Union and EBRD were discussed.

*** Modern Hansa League Conference - Münster, Germany 13 August 1993**

The President of the Union, Mr Anders Engström submitted presentation regarding Union Activities.

*** Council of the Baltic Sea States - Tallinn, Estonia, 29 June 1993**

The UBC President and Mr Alar Olljum, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States discussed cooperation between State and Local level organizations.

*** Council of Europe Seminar on Environmental Law - Gdańsk, Poland 4-6 June 1993**

The Secretary of the Union discussed future cooperation with Ferdinando Albanese, Director of Environment and Local Authorities, Council of Europe, Secretariat General

The Union has new Members

The number of Union Members now totals 42 Cities. Eight more Cities decided to join the Union, these are namely Baltijsk (Russia), Kuressare (Estonia), Łeba (Poland), Mamonovo (Russia), Palanga (Lithuania), Pärnu (Estonia), Västervik and Västerås (Sweden). We would like to warmly welcome these new cities and wish them profitable cooperation with the remaining 34 Member Cities of the Union.

II. INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

GDAŃSK

The Summer 1993 Cruise Round the Baltic Sea

Some sailors from the Baltic Cities (Klaipeda, Riga, Liepaja, Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Turku, Sundsvall, Karlskrona, Norrköping, Kalmar, Karlshamn, Visby, Stockholm, Ystad, Naestved, Nykøbing, Kristiansand, Nakskov, Ålborg, Århus, Rostock, Bremen, Lübeck) had an opportunity to take part in a journey through the oldest centers of Baltic Civilization. The voyage started in June and ended in September 1993. The itinerary was divided into 13 cruise-parts (Klaipeda - Riga - Tallinn - St.Petersburg - Helsinki - Turku - Vassa - Umea - Gavle - Stockholm - Kalmar - Copenhagen - Wismar - Szczecin).

The organizer, captain Tomasz Jakubowski from Gdańsk said that suppressing tariff walls, visas, all the barriers that made understanding hard, was their central idea. That is why the organizers wanted representatives of all nations living along the Baltic Sea to join their crew. The kind of chain changing in consecutive ports has been made and the circle of the cruise route has the symbolic meaning. The participants had the opportunity not only to sail but also fix their attention on specific features of all the places they wish to visit as well.

The cruise was supported by the Maritime Museum in Gdańsk and "Dziennik Bałtycki" the local newspaper.

KALININGRAD

The First International Art Festival of the Union of the Baltic Cities.

"It is not a holiday - it is the event "

The First International Art Festival of the Union of the Baltic Cities took place in Kaliningrad in June 5-8 1993. Its motto was "To the unity - through the rebirth!" Rebirth of lost historical ties. Rebirth of careful human attitude to the surrounding world. Rebirth of lost spiritual agreements, moral interactions and enriching creative work in the field of art and culture of different peoples who inhabit the Baltic coast.

Individuals as well as professional and amateur groups not only from 23 Baltic Cities, but also from Moscow, Paris, Kiev, Baku, Minsk took part in the Festival programme. Approximately two thousand guests came. Folk-lore, ecological, children and sport holidays were included in the Festival programme. The city hosted music events and meetings throughout the 4 days. Specially for the Festival, the famous Russian composer Alexandra Pahmutova had composed the song "The Baltic is the Muses road"

Ms Tamara Shkourenko, General Director of the Municipal Enterprise "Festival UBC" coordinated this event. She stated that the main purpose of it was a means of spiritual communication because organizers did not intend this Festival to become business-show. Many people did not believe the project would be success, however, Ms Shkourenko and her team in spite of many problems did - "The First Festival was a success. We are sure. Let us think about the second one together."

The artistic programme was divided into some themes:

The Holiday of Ecology - it took place on the 5th of June, on the All World Day of the Environment Protection. Attention was focused on the following problems: ecologically pure products, large city pollution, animals protection and the propaganda of environment protection ideas.



The Folk-Lore Holiday - folk music, people domestic craft fair, national food and games were presented on the central city stadium "Baltica" on the 6th of June.

Children Holiday - it filled the whole city, actors of the Puppet Theater and from the circus, sportsmen and musicians organized the holiday "On a visit to Buratino". Exhibitions of pictures made by children were also on display. The Sea Holiday - the programme consisted of: sailing on yachts, on boards, as well as rowing and fishing competitions.

The Second International Art Festival of the Union of the Baltic Cities.

According to the decision of Union Executive Board the next International Art Festival of the Union will be also held in Kaliningrad, 10-12 June 1994. Professional and amateur folk art ensembles, classic music performers, dance groups, singers and other artists from not only Baltic cities are welcomed to take part in this event. With the aim to advertise the Festival, the organizers plan to send a sailing yacht around the Baltic with festival fire on board. The cruise will take around 27 days, and the yacht with festival fire is expected to arrive to Kaliningrad on the opening day 10th of August. The preliminary itinerary of the yacht the following: Kaliningrad - Gdynia - Rostock - Copenhagen - Kalmar - Norrköping or Stockholm - Turku - Tallinn - Liepaja - Klaipeda - Kaliningrad. Following the resolutions of Executive Board in Turku, Mayors of above cities are asked to provide the yacht crew with any help they may require during their stops in these cities. More detailed information about the next Festival will be provided by the Secretariat later on. We look forward to the next International Festival of UBC in Kaliningrad in 1994!

KALMAR

Course on transfer of knowledge on Swedish social and unemployment public insurances

The formerly centrally planned economies; Russia, the three Baltic Republics - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and in Poland being in the transitional period inflict different strains on the societies of these countries.

The mechanism of changing economic structures causes increased unemployment rates that would severely impact family economics. Sickness, disability and a much greater older generation may also aggravate the economical situation of families. A new "safety net" for individuals created with the consent of the new economic system should be formulated in these countries and be made available for everyone. In this particular situation it is regarded as valuable for public insurance officers and the whole involved staff to study the social security systems in western countries.

In order to implement the new mechanism in the formerly centrally planned countries, the public insurance agency in Kalmar addresses its proposal. They would like to invite two (2) persons from each of the countries named above (UBC's member cities) to make study visits during the course of a week's stay to the public insurance agency and to the employment exchange office in Kalmar. The Swedish Association of Public Insurance Agencies will cover the travel expenses. The personal expenditures for living and accommodation during staying in Kalmar will be paid by the Agency from this city. Participants will be hosted by the employees of the Agency.

A sound knowledge of English is required. The course will be held in English. The study visit will be arranged in spring 1994. For more information please contact:

Kalmar Kommun

Sture Nachtweij

Box 611, 391 26 Kalmar, Sweden

phone: +46 480 83136, fax: +46 480 83122

Travel and Tourism Management Course

The Nordic Council of Ministers and Kalmar University College, in cooperation, offer three courses in a distance learning programme, correspondence courses. The following courses are available in Spring 1994.

* Business Development

- Business development in existing and new fields of activities
- Strategic Planning
- Marketing design and realization
- Development of service management systems
- Business financing

* Financial Control

- Introduction to the subject of Financial control
- Business account and Budgeted costs
- International account
- Procurement of capital

* Hospitality Marketing

- Marketing management
- Marketing hospitality
- Satisfied guests
- Service marketing
- Case study : "Hotel Henry"

The costs for each course are estimated to be approximately 500 US\$. Some scholarships are available for students from the Baltic States. For further information please contact:

Kalmar University College, ITEF

Dr A. Steene,

Box 905, 391 29 KALMAR, SWEDEN

fax: +46 480 17508



INVITATION TO THE SMALLEST AND THE YOUNGEST MEMBER-CITY

If you love nature, if you are interested in the history and architecture of the Polish Kashubian Coast - come to Łeba. If you feel tired and bored, if you have problems with your health or the health of your children - come to Łeba. Here you can enjoy everything you need to have a nice holiday.

* **THE LANDSCAPE.** The Scandinavian Glacier beautifully sculptured this piece of land. You can admire this from above by hiring a helicopter or a hang - glider. The town is located at the mouth of the Łeba River, facing the open area of the Baltic and bordering two large coastal lakes: Łebsko and Sarbsko. Surrounded by the waters, with the beautiful wide beach, it also adjoins the unique, impressive sandy dunes.

* **MOVING SANDS.** Between the sea coast and the Lake of Łebsko there are areas of drifting dunes, the unique phenomenon which is to be seen only in a few places in the world. The unusual landscape of sandy hills and valleys with dry pine forest, remains of the dead trees and rare, interesting plants are features of this area. A great variety of forms created by moving sands make a weird, surrealistic view.

* **THE WORLD'S BIOSPHERE RESERVE.** The Slovinski National Park, with the large Lake of Łebsko and the surrounding swamps and dunes - has been recognized as The World's Biosphere Reserve, thanks to its uncommon climate and rare flora.

* **OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS.** Interesting excursions start from Łeba - electric vehicles and bicycle are ready for hire (to the dunes or to the lighthouse in Stilo). Small passenger ships do short sea tours along the coast. A silent boat takes tourists to the other side of the Łebsko Lake, through the reserve of wild birds to the large scansen in the village of Kluki. Łeba is also a paradise for anglers and a challenge for horse riders.

- * **ACCOMODATIONS.** Numerous hotels, private pensions and the largest number of camping places in Poland are available in Łeba.
- * **YACHTING.** The Polish International Windsurfing Championships take place every August in Łeba. The Yachting Cup of Poland in the Omega class takes place every July here. 2500 m of wharfs and a small yachting port are waiting for sailors.
- * **ŁEBA IN NUMBERS.** 4000 permanent inhabitants, 15 km² of area, 700 years of history.
- * **OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS.** Yachting port and marina - 10 ha of land are predicted for the port infrastructure.

For more information please contact:

Piotr Chełkowski - Łeba City Mayor
 ul. Kościuszki 90
 84-360 Łeba, Poland
 phone: +48 59 661492, fax: +48 59 661337

RIGA

Culture Initiatives from the City of Riga

There are 55 folk-lore dance group with 1859 participants which are engaged in folk culture in the City of Riga; 72 amateur choirs with 3296 participants; of which 19 women's choirs, 8 men's choirs, 47 mixed choirs, 7 brass bands with 285 participants, 14 ensembles of folk instruments and ensembles of folk music with 208 participants, 7 folk-lore groups, 26 folk art artisan's groups which represent different genres of folk art including weaving, ceramics, needlework, woodworking, leather art processing, making of jewellerys (trinkets), metal forgings.

Every school in Riga has children's and youth choirs. There are regularly festivals of the folk art in Riga. Every three years the Baltic States Folk-lore Festival "BALTIKA" takes place; every five years- Universal Latvian Song and Dance Festival, Folk-lore Dance Festival "SUDMALINAS", Children's Folk-lore Festival "PULKĀ EJMU, PULKĀ TEKŪ".

Taking into account the number of different folk art genres, obtained experience, the City of Riga proposes to create the Folk Art Center of the Union of the Baltic Cities in Riga, as a special place for cultural exchange, the environment for ethnographical and cultural exchange of Baltic nations in order to realize the diversified and multifunctional nature of folk-lore and to save the totality of the folk-lore in contemporary cultural situations, and also to gain experience concerning inheritance of the folk-lore in the Baltic countries.

As a first step of this project is to propose to organize the Traditional Cultural week of Nordic Countries in Riga in autumn, 1994 with participation of cities of the Union of the Baltic Cities. Many creative groups which represent traditional art are invited to participate (dance, song, folk instruments, folk craft etc.). In the frame of this week the Scientific-practical conference concerning inheritance of current folk-lore will be held. Specialists and research workers of folk-lore are invited to participate.

The Ethnic Culture Center of University of Latvia in cooperation with the Latvia Music Academy and the Latvia Science Academy are the organizers of the Traditional Culture Week in Riga.

The City of Riga is ready to provide accommodation expenses for the Conference in Riga (lodging, food,transport). Participants would be responsible for travel expenses to Riga.

Addresses for contacts:

Riga City Government

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Fax: +371-2-220785

Ethnic Culture Center of University of Latvia

13, Merkeja Str., Riga

Telex: 161172 TEMA

Fax: +371-2-225039

Environment Fair in Sundsvall, 19-22 May 1994

We are living in a time of constant change. This is an expression often used, and today more appropriate than ever. Despite the deep economical and ecological crises we are in, it is still possible to find the seed to tomorrow's society. Nationally, as well as internationally, though often quietly, work is being done to improve the conditions for the future generation. The goal is an economically and ecologically sustainable society.

Sweden does have the means; widely acknowledged, scientists, general knowledge, cooperate traditions, natural resources etc. Sweden can and will take the lead in the necessary global development of the economically and ecologically sustainable society.

During a few, very intensive days in May, we want to focus on the environment work which is going to change the view of the whole society. We are gathering companies, local governments and organizations that are good role models, to inspire others to take part in this joyful ride into a necessary and very attractive future.

In combination with seminars, an eco-clothes fashion show and environmentally engaged top class entertainers, we want to present the work of environment organizations, environment technology and environment products, the way to the sustainable society.

The Environment Fair begins on Thursday 19th of May with two days exclusively for trade visitors, and on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd the fair is open to the general public.

For more information about the Fair, please call or write on address below:

Ms Stina Axelsson, Exhibition Manager

Box 890, 851 24 Sundsvall, Sweden

phone: +46 60 550040, fax: +46 60 550044

ST. PETERSBURG

Environmental Center for Administration and Technology

On July 15, 1993 the Environmental Center for Administration and Technology (ECAT) in St. Petersburg celebrated its official opening. In their speeches Anatoly Sobtchak, the mayor of St. Petersburg, Fritz Vahrenholt, the environmental minister of Hamburg and Tue Rohrsted, head of division at the DG XI of the European Community, expressed their willingness to support the center in pursuing its aim: helping the city of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region decrease their discharge of pollutants into the Baltic Sea. To underline the mutual co-operation an agreement was signed on this occasion between the twin cities of Hamburg and St. Petersburg.

The three speakers represent the main partners of ECAT - St. Petersburg. The European Community provides financial assistance (1.2 Million Ecu) through its environment programme LIFE. The second partner, the Ministry of the Environment of Hamburg, initiated the project and is coordinating it to help its twin city of St. Petersburg. The Environmental Commission of the City Council and the city administration of St. Petersburg as well as Lencomecologia, the local representation of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, are the closest partners of ECAT in Russia. However, the center also co-operates with local industry and non-governmental organizations- keeping in mind that the concept and initial momentum came from the German NGO "Aktionskonferenz Nordsee".

ECAT aims at combining Russian and Western European know-how. This is why four environmental experts with different professional backgrounds from EC countries and four from Russian specialists are working together.

The team will help decision makers in St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region solve environmental problems comprehensively: on a legal, administrative and technological level. The workplan of ECAT ranges from organizing seminars, the exchange of experts and the transfer of information material to involvement in the economic development plan of the city and the elaboration of new environmental legislation. As pilot project ECAT is going to advise two or three industrial plants on how to improve their environmental performance. ECAT will also assist the city and industry in applying for funding from international financing institutions. Last but not least, ECAT is going to establish a regional network of environmental institutions with similar aims for better co-ordination.

The ECAT - St. Petersburg team is happy to answer any questions or to provide more information:

ECAT - St. Petersburg

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199 155 St. Petersburg, Russia

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international phone/fax: +7-812 850 1492

Competition for Young Citizens from the Baltic Sea Region

Young artists from the Nevskij district in St. Petersburg decided to organize an exhibition of the children paintings entitled "Sea - my vision" in September 1992.

The best pictures were presented in an exhibition which was held in the Secretariat of the Union of the Baltic Cities in Gdańsk in March 1993.

Mr A.B. Kastalskij on behalf of the organizers has invited once again the young artists from 10 countries of the Baltic Sea region to take part in new competition. Its motto is "50 years of peace on the Baltic Sea"

Participants are asked to send their pictures (in size 60x40) on the address:

Box 241, 198103 St. Petersburg, Russia.

The meeting of young artists from the Baltic Sea countries - authors of exhibited pictures will take place in summer 1995.

III. VIEWS

Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

The structure of the CBSS

The structure of the CBSS is simple: the Council, i.e. the Foreign Ministers of the member states and the representative of the European Community Commission, meet once a year on the Ministerial session that is held in the Chairman country. The III Ministerial Session will take place in May 1994 in Tallinn, as Estonia is the present chairman of the Council.

The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) which consists of the senior officials of the corresponding Ministries of Foreign Affairs, mainly on the level of ambassadors and heads of departments, is charged by the Council to carry out the actual coordination and promotion of regional activities. The CSO meets on a regular basis in the chairman country. The CSO has a capacity to initiate working groups or expert meetings to discuss various subjects at length and enable concentration on certain areas during a longer period of time. During its first year the CSO established 3 working groups:

1. The Working Group on Assistance to the New Democratic Institutions;
2. The Working Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety;
3. The Working Group on Euro-faculty.

Estonia, the present chairman, has proposed the establishment of two new working groups: a working group on economic and technical cooperation and a working group on joint information network of the Baltic Sea. During its Tallinn meeting in May 1993 the CSO reached a principal agreement on establishing the working group on economic and technical cooperation. The working groups study the matters delegated into their competence by the CSO and report back to the CSO, making recommendations on the necessary action in the particular fields.

CBSS Reasons and Goals

In general the Council of the Baltic Sea States goals can be distinguished between the long-term objectives and the short-term tasks.

The long-term objectives spring from the argument that economic success in Northern Europe can only be achieved if political stability and democratic development is guaranteed and the economic and cultural potential of these states is reasonably utilized. As the Danish foreign minister Mr Uffe Elleman-Jensen put it in his opening speech in Copenhagen, "the Baltic Sea region is no longer a blind alley on the outskirts of Europe

but has the potential for becoming a new zone of growth close to the centre of Europe. Indeed, I see the Baltic Sea region as one of the most important zones of growth in Europe in the coming decade. The Baltic region contains a diverse industrial structure, access to raw materials and a highly educated work force. We must do our best to create the right kind of framework to realize the growth potential of the region". Another no less important long-term objective connected with the previous one, springs from the logic of the European integration. Cooperation in the Baltic region should facilitate the linkage of the European Community with the non-member countries of the region. This explains the membership of EC Commission in the Council and the fact that the initiators of CBSS were the only two countries within the Community, Germany and Denmark. Evidently the Community regards regional cooperation as an integral part of further European integration. Thus the Council, although a nascent body which still has to prove its efficiency, has a potential to play an important role in enhancing the "regional identity". Even not being a security organization, the Council serves as a forum for discussion and confidence building with a primary aim to contribute to political-economic stability and the continuation of democratic processes in the member-states.

The short-term, or immediate objectives are actually the steps needed to achieve the two major goals. The six priority areas of action listed by the Copenhagen Conference cover broadly the scope of cooperation. They indicate that in the first order the CBSS aims to promote cooperation in the field of democratic development and coordinate economic and technological interaction which form the basis to regional interaction in such fields as humanitarian matters, ecology and energy, culture, tourism, information and education. The short-term goals thus change when the situation alters or when the aims are reached. Identifying and realizing the short-term objectives is the primary task of the Council, and consequently of the Committee of Senior Officials, the inter-sessional working body of the CBSS.

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WOMEN AND WORK

Conference of Women in the Union of the Baltic Cities

The first Conference of Women of the Union of the Baltic Cities, UBC, was held in Svetlogorsk, Kaliningrad on May 13-15, 1993. Thirty-five women from fourteen Cities of seven UBC countries and two participants from the United Kingdom took part in the Conference. Around fifty Russian women and students from the University of Kaliningrad, both male and female, were invited too.

The main theme of the Conference was "Women and work". The programme was drawn up by Ms Nadezhda Lazareva, Chairman of City Council, Kaliningrad and me Ms Hjördis Höglund, City Commissioner, Sundsvall, Sweden. The purpose of the Conference was to give women from our Cities a chance to meet, exchange experiences and discuss how to work together in the future.

In the Baltic Region there is a problem with growing unemployment and the Conference focused on how this affects women. Participants gave a report of the situation for women in their own town. The reports will be put together to give a complete picture of the situation and our ambition is to present them at the Second General Conference in September 1993.

The participants also gathered in groups to discuss matters as "Women, children and family",

"Women and health" and "Women's image". The discussion were very intensive and ended often with the question of how women should act to get power and influence. A report from the discussion will be prepared.



Children and family were matters often in focus. We realized that we have common experiences even if we come from different societies with different traditions and culture.

How do we make children and working life match? These are problems all women have in common. Ms Lazareva pointed out that good education is very important for women. Her ambition is to create a Women's University in Kaliningrad, an interesting issue is that has been discussed even in Scandinavia lately. In the United States, where universities of women already exist, reports have shown that women who are educated at universities of women have been more successful in their careers than women who have been educated at universities for both sexes.

The Conference also showed a great interest in starting an exchange student program between the Cities. Something that the women consider a good idea for the UBC to work with.

"How to set up a private company" was another issue on programme. One of the Swedish participants gave a report on how female owners of private companies have started their own networks in Sweden to support each other.

A resolution approved by the participants suggested that the UBC should hold regular conferences of women and that the next one will be held in 1994. The Conference also considered it necessary "to set up a Women's Committee within the UBC order to increase women's influence within all projects and areas where UBC is working".

The resolution also stated that "The Conference promotes the work of the UBC and testifies to equal participation of women together with men in future co-operation between our Cities."

The Conference of Women and Work in Kaliningrad was very well organized and all participants thanked Ms Lazareva and her assistants for three fine days. This first Women's Conference is important. The UBC will be strengthened when women become more involved in the work.

Ms Hjördís Höglund

City Commissioner, Sundsvall Sweden

The Baltic Gateways Seminar, Rostock, 1-2 April 1993

On 1-2 August 1993 the Union representative Mr Marek Maciejowski attended the Seminar of Baltic Gateways in Rostock. The Baltic Gateways Project is coordinated by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) and financed within the frames of "Overture Programme" by European Economic Community. Project concerns the following cities: Gdynia, North Tyneside, Ejsberg, Hamburg and Rostock. The Project aims are as follows:

- development of business and trade cooperation
- improvement of communication systems
- development of ports and sea transport links

Mr Maciejowski introduced the Seminar participants to the Union's programme and activities. The Seminar concluded with a resolution that CLES will apply to the EEC for extra funds to include the cities from Baltic Republics into the project in cooperation with the Union. Participants also extended the project framework on social and environment protection issues.

Outcome of High Level Resource Mobilization Conference, Gdańsk 24-25 March 1993

When one attempts to evaluate the Gdańsk Resource Mobilizing Conference in retrospect it becomes clear that the Conference has been instrumental in paving the way to a more enlightened and efficient use of the financial resources which are offered to enable implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme.

Conferences of this kind can be significant in at least three ways. First, there is a process of preparation, which is an exercise of analysis and fact-finding and ideally characterized by more or less bold creativity. Second, there is the dynamics evoked by the interface and dialogue during the conference itself. Third, there is the visible outcome in the form of an agreed text, a resolution or declaration. The Gdańsk conference can be said to have been conspicuous in all these three respects.

Why is that so? The main result of the preparatory process is undoubtedly the production of the Background Paper, which was submitted by the Programme Implementation Task Force as a basis for discussion. This Paper contains a description of the various financial resources, a meticulously elaborated analysis of implied opportunities and constraints and elucidating examples of intelligent ways of combining disparate resources in order to achieve optimum results. It seems to me that the conference acted wisely when it adopted the

proposal by the Russian delegate to endorse the principles contained in the Background Paper as guidelines for Programme implementation. I am convinced that the Background Paper will have a long-term favourable impact in this respect.

The Conference itself yielded at least two important results. One is the high level political confirmation of the preparedness to support Programme implementation financially in the form of continued appropriations of grants. Another is the dialogues between Conference participants, government representatives and bank management and between donor countries and recipient countries. This exchange of views and experiences helped understand the complexity of the problems in front of us and illustrated clearly a number of critical issues which must be tackled with resolve and determination. The conference discussion will undoubtedly serve as a valuable source of knowledge and inspiration both for the Programme Implementation Task Force and for actors in the national areas as well as in multilateral institutions.

The Conference also confirmed the willingness of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute tangibly and with specific competence in Programme implementation.

Finally, the Gdańsk Declaration will provide an impetus for continued and strengthened support for the Joint Comprehensive Programme and is an affirmation of the intent to pursue and further develop, the fruitful co-operation between governments and multilateral financial institutions that commenced as part of preparations for the Ronneby Conference.

Conference participants from abroad will certainly also remember the Gdańsk conference because of the excellent performance of the host country organizers and for the exquisite hospitality offered by the Polish hosts.

Göte Svenson

Chairman, Programme Implementation Task Force

Conference on "Contemporary Ceramics: Links of National and International", Panevėžys, Lithuania

The city of Panevėžys, Lithuania invited all UBC Members to take part in the theoretical conference entitled "Contemporary Ceramics: Links of National and International" held in Panevėžys on July 20-21, 1993 as a part of the International Ceramic Symposium, Panevėžys'93. The topic for the conference had been proposed in expectation to discuss regional and international trends, the two main creative directions in ceramics of the end of 20th century. The conference emphasized the analysis of mentioned trends, their interrelation and correlation as it becomes more evident nowadays. Other issues the conference dealt with were as follows: functioning of regional schools of ceramics, the role of regionalism in the predominant environment of the international art/ceramics, regionalism and avant-garde transformations, influences etc. The project to establish the Baltic-Scandinavian Ceramics Centre in Panevėžys was also considered at the Conference. The Centre is expected to become an association engaged in the promotion of creative and educational activities, arranging exhibitions, exchange of artists and students etc. Besides, in the near future, the planned centre could also promote the implementation of various glass art projects to utilize the possibilities provided by the Panevėžys Glass Factory facility. As the result of the Conference the documents of intent were signed, regarding the mentioned projects as well as establishing a Fund which would involve people and organizations to accrue resources and ideas to bring the project into being.

Conference of European Rectors (CRE) Project COPERNICUS

THE PROJECT

Project COPERNICUS (COoperative Programme in Europe for Research on Nature and Industry through Coordinated University Studies) is a special project of the Conference of European Rectors (CRE), the organization of European universities. It is designed to bring together all European universities (from West and East, North and South) to work on ecological problems as the most important basis for their future cooperation.

Project COPERNICUS offers to the members of CRE and others European universities help in reorganizing universities, faculties, etc., especially in the fields of environmental management, environmental technology, environmental law, environmental economics and health and the environment. During this period of increasing awareness of environmental problems among the members of CRE, the COPERNICUS Project will permit the dialogue between European universities to expand, thereby helping to bring together not only universities but also government agencies, professional associations and international organizations willing to co-operate in the field of ecology.

Assuming that each region of Europe would like to contribute to preparing a solution for some of the particular ecological problems facing the region in question, as well as put into practice the proposed solution, the COPERNICUS Project will group all these efforts and assist in defining the importance of these problems, as well as in preparing the appropriate solutions. The COPERNICUS Project will also initiate specific ecological programmes on particular regions and groups of countries.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

A. First phase

1. Preparation of university curricula and reference lists in the fields of environmental management, technology, law, economics and health.
2. Preparation and publication of compendia in the fields of environmental management, technology, law, economics and health.
3. Organization of international seminars and courses in the fields of environmental management, technology, law, economics and health for teachers, research workers and professionals.

B. Second phase

1. Assistance in organizing undergraduate and postgraduate studies in environmental management, technology, law, economics and health at Eastern European universities.
2. Assistance in organizing courses for employees /professionals/ in environmental management, technology, law, economics and health at European universities.
3. Assistance in organizing practical training courses for students and employees environmental management, technology, law, economics and health at Western universities and other institutions.

C. Third phase

1. Assistance in elaborating legal, economic, health and management standards for Eastern European countries, taking into consideration the work of the universities in the country concerned.
2. Assistance in preparing and coordinating regional co-operation programmes, e.g. Baltic region, Danube basin, Mediterranean region, etc. (the COPERNICUS label).
3. Initiation and coordination of joint research programmes in the field of ecology with an initial focus on the Baltic region and the Danube basin, in particular.
4. Creation of a European information centre on research programmes, research activities and research results in ecology.
5. Dissemination of a newsletter relating activities in the field of environment /teaching, research, exchanges, co-operation among universities and industry, review of publications, etc./ to European universities and interested industries, governments and international organizations.

FINANCING

To implement the aims of the COPERNICUS Project, CRE will try to tap several funding sources either directly or through the participating universities; these sources may be public or private institutions, international organizations and international programmes. It is foreseen that regional co-operation programmes will be financed through inter-governmental resources, while the COPERNICUS label will be the guarantee of an internationally recognized acceptance of these programmes.

For more information please contact:

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International Class Afloat Foundation

International Class Afloat Foundation is a non-profit organization founded for comprehensive upbringing and teaching of international school children on the sea.

President of International Class Afloat Foundation - Cpt. Krzysztof Baranowski, together with a group of people grouped around him, have many years of experience in sailing with young people and teaching them during long-term ocean journeys on the board of Tall Ships "Pogoria", "Iskra" and "Oceania".

International Class Afloat Foundation finished last year its own flagship s/y "Fryderyk Chopin" - The enterprise was made possible thanks to a number of sponsors. The ship is 55.5 m long with 1200 sq.m total sail area, designed particularly for children crews unfamiliar with sailing. She fulfills the Foundation's statutory aim - "Let's learn to live and work together".

A new concept of a Tall Ship comes as a result of 12 years of experience in building original sailing ships in Poland (altogether 11 ships). This brings us to the extinct species named BRIG. Because of speed and maneuverability these kinds of rigs were abandoned by economic minded owners in mid-XIX century.

Poland known for constructing and building new Tall Ships now presents a completely new design by Zygmunt Choreń. "Fryderyk Chopin" was built to the Foundation requirements and is registered as a Yacht serving educational purposes as well as charter cruises.

The maiden voyage turned up to be Grand Regatta Columbus'92 with the mixed Polish-Scottish crew and resulted in 3 place in Class A (Tall Ships) and 5 place over all (180 ships and yachts). "Fryderyk Chopin" was cruising around the Caribbean this winter and this summer is cruising back on European waters.

The Foundation would welcome the help from all those who cherish the idea of bringing up young people at sea.

For more details please contact:

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