



ÅLBORG
ÅRHUS
BALTISK
BERGEN
BREITENBURG
COPENHAGEN
ELBLĄSK
FREDERICKSBURG
GDAŃSK
Gdynia
HAAPSALU
HELSINKI
KALININGRAD
KALMAR
KARLSHAMN
KARLSKRONA
KAUNAS
KLAIPEDA
KÖGE
KOŁOBZEG
KOTKA
KRISTIANSTAD
KURESSAARE
LIEPĀJA
LÜBECK
LEBA
MAMONOV
MÖRBYLÅNGA
NAKSKOV
NÄSTVED
NORRKÖPING
NYKÖBING
OSKARSHAMN
PALANGA
PANEVĖŽYS
PARNU
RÉZÉKNE
RIGA
ROSTOCK
RÖNNINGE
ŠIAULIAI
SOPOT
ST. PETERSBURG
STOCKHOLM
SUNDSVAL
SZCZECIN
TALLINN
TURKU
VENTSPILS
VILNIUS
VİSBEK
VÄSTERVIK
VÄSTERÅS
WISMAR
YSTAD

NEWSLETTER N° 6

Dear Members and Friends,
It is a pleasure for me to present to you the latest issue of the Union Newsletter providing updated information concerning Union activities, articles from member cities and other news from Baltic region. As you may notice from the content, the most comprehensive article describes the present status of the *Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme* (the Action Plan of the Union Environmental Commission) - the Union contribution to the implementation of Baltic Programme adopted by Helsinki Commission.



I must emphasize the fact that the Union project received endorsement from a number of international parties, such as HELCOM, the governments of Baltic countries, the European Union Commission and the World Bank. The Union looks forward with anticipation to a positive decision by the Commission (LIFE Programme) to be taken in the end of this year. This decision would grant the Union with the necessary resources to run the project. Apart from UBC, LIFE and World Bank resources we do hope that also environmental agencies from Sweden, Denmark and Finland, as well as Nordic Council of Ministers, will declare their financial and institutional participation and support for the project. Nevertheless, the Union plans to start first activities of the Action Plan with its own modest resources in the beginning of 1995, with strong believe that above institutions will decide to support the endeavour. It is apparent that comprehensive and successful implementation of the project depends on contribution of all mentioned parties, and we find it as one of the strongest elements of this initiative.

Another important fact which I would like to highlight is the opening of the Social Commission Office in Rostock, as a follow up of the workshop held by the Commission in January this year. I believe that establishing the office will provide a platform for joint social projects and exchange of experiences particularly dealing with unemployment - perhaps the most urgent problem to be solved in Europe just now and especially in new market economy countries.

Lastly, I would like to proudly announce that three years after the Union's foundation (on September 20, UBC celebrated its 3rd anniversary) the number of Union members passed the "50" milestone - now consisting of 55 cities. We welcome the cities that recently joined the mutually beneficial cooperation within the Union. The fact that UBC is a constantly growing organization brings satisfaction and shows that we are going in the right direction. Nevertheless we shall not rest on our laurels. We must increase our efforts to make the Union's work in various fields of cooperation more comprehensive and efficient.
I wish you all success in this crucial, exciting and satisfying work.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anders Engström'.

Anders Engström
President

Kalmar, September 1994



I. WORK OF THE UNION

The 8th Meeting of the Executive Board

The 8th Meeting of the Executive Board of the Union was held on 27 November 1993, in the premises of the City Hall of Tallinn. The meeting was attended by the members of Union Executive Board, representatives of Union working Commissions, as well as invited guests: Ms Eve Kuusmann from Council of the Baltic Sea States and Ms Pia Kurro, Nordic Council of Ministers.

Representatives of working Commissions reported on latest Commissions activities and informed about scheduled events and meetings in 1994.

Mr. Sławomir Szafranski from Szczecin, chairman of Culture Commission reminded that major annual UBC culture event - International Art & Culture Festival of the Union will take place in Kaliningrad in June 1994. Before the Festival a yacht cruise around the Baltic Sea with the Festival Fire on board, will be organized to advertise the event. Mr. Szafranski also informed that in 1996 the city of Copenhagen will become a cultural capitol of Europe and suggested the Union should take active part in number of events related to this fact.

Mr. Alexander Zubarev from the Commission on Transportation submitted the proposal from UBC Members of Kaliningrad region to issue official resolution calling for the opening of Vistula Bay area for international transport and tourism. Following Mr. Zubarev proposal the Union resolution concerning above was

forwarded by President Anders Engström to the Governor of Kaliningrad Region.

Mr. Carl Nielsen, Chairman of Environmental Commission reported from the III HELCOM PITF Meeting in Brussels, 22-24 November 1993, where the Union submitted to PITF concrete proposal of cooperation in implementation of 2nd Baltic Programme element - Institutional Strengthening and Human Resources Development. The Union proposal presented as Action Plan based on Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme was endorsed by PITF and HELCOM promised to give its recommendations to support project realization.

Following the proposal of Mr. Andris Teikmanis, Vice-President of the Union, Executive Board issued an official statement to all Baltic governments calling for the change of existing national law regulations that limit direct financial assistance possibilities between the cities.

Having the opportunity, that meeting was attended by representative of Council of the Baltic Sea States Ms Eve Kuusmann - in 1993 Estonia held chairmanship of CBSS - President Anders Engström put forward UBC application to governments associated in CBSS for financial assistance in Union projects. Ms Kuusmann assured the Executive Board that CBSS will give highest consideration to the Union application.

The 9th Meeting of the Executive Board

The 9th Meeting of the Executive Board of the Union took place on 26 March 1994 in the town of Palanga, Lithuania, on the invitation of Mr. Bronius Martinkus, Chairman of Palanga City Council. Apart from the members of Union Executive Board, the meeting was attended by representatives of Union working Commissions, as well as invited persons. Participants submitted reports regarding latest Union activities and discussed current issues and projects.

Mr. Mikko Jokinen, vice-chairman of Environmental Commission and Mr. Paweł Żaboklicki, Acting Secretary of the Union reported on latest developments concerning Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme. Mr. Żaboklicki informed that before 31 March 1994 the Union will submit the application to European Union LIFE-programme for project financing. President Engström added that UBC also made negotiations with Nordic governments about their contribution to the project. More details about project objectives and present status are provided below in separate article describing the project.

Mr. Mikko Jokinen proudly informed the members that during XV Meeting of the Helsinki Commission, Helsinki, 8-11 March 1994 HELCOM accepted UBC application for observer status to the Commission. In the consequence the Union will be entitled to take part in HELCOM meetings and express its opinions, will be receiving official HELCOM materials etc.

Mr. Andris Teikmanis, Vice-President of the Union presented a report from the meeting of Commission on Telecommunication in Riga. He informed that pilot E-MAIL connection based on Internet system was established between three cities Gdańsk - Kalmar - Riga.

Mr. Alexander Zubarev from Kaliningrad reported from II Baltic Conference of the Ministers of Transport of Baltic Sea region, where the Union was represented by Prof. Maciej T. Krzyżanowski, chairman of Union Commission on Transportation.

Mr. Sławomir Szafranski, Chairman on Culture Commission informed that following Action Plan adopted at General Conference of the Union, the Commission will spread among member cities a questionnaire asking to provide information about annual



international culture festivals and events taking place in the cities and culture institutions established in the cities. Collected information will be then compiled and published by the Union in form of 2 catalogues:

- A. Calendar of Culture Festivals going on in UBC Member Cities.
- B. Catalogue of Cultural Institutions, Organizations etc. of the Baltic Cities.

Mr. Paweł Żaboklicki informed about two interesting project proposals submitted to the Secretariat:

- „International UBC Economic Exhibition” - presented by the city of Gdynia
- Film project „The World of the Baltic Sea” - proposed by film making company from Gdańsk.

Both projects are described in the Newsletter.

Workshop of the UBC Commission on Social Affairs

The workshop was organized by the city of Rostock - lead city of the Commission on Social Affairs on 27-28 January 1994. The meeting was attended by 28 delegates from 17 Union member cities of 8 Baltic countries, and was chaired by Anders Engström, Union President, Dieter Schröder, Mayor of Rostock and Michael Bouteiller, Mayor of Lübeck. At the workshop specialistic reports submitted by delegates from Rostock, Aarhus and Riga describing social conditions and carried out social projects in those cities, were followed by the discussion between all delegates. The following resolutions have been passed:

1. The UBC acknowledges the need of having an active policy concerning the situation on the labour markets in the Union member countries.
2. The situation encountered on the labour markets in Baltic Sea region requires that member cities accept community responsibility.
3. During its next meetings, UBC Commission on Social Affairs will develop a programme for an active

policy concerning the situation on the labour market, proposing activities for each member country.

4. The Hanseatic town of Rostock recommends to incorporate in LEDA programme, initiated by European Union, those UBC member cities that express interest to join the project.
5. The Executive Board Meeting in Palanga, 26 March 1994, will discuss the problem of materializing UBC member cities cooperation on the field of labour policy.
6. Labour projects shall give priority to women, the young generation and long-term unemployed.
7. In order to attempt to materialize labour market policies, a network will be developed with the help of pilot project set up in eastern UBC member city. The draft for materializing this project will be elaborated together by Rostock and Lübeck and presented at the next Executive Board Meeting.

The conference committee presented above resolutions as the result of the workshop to the journalists during the final press conference.

Joint Meeting of UBC Environmental Commission and HELCOM PITF.

„The role of twinning arrangements in financing environmental investments in the Baltic Cities“

Joint Meeting of UBC Environmental Commission and HELCOM PITF was held in the city of Turku on 8th of April 1994. The meeting was attended by the members of UBC Environmental Commission as well as representatives of HELCOM PITF with PITF coordinator Mr. Niels-J. Seeberg-Elverfeldt.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Carl Nielsen, chairman of Environmental Commission and Mr. Mikko Jokinen, vice-chairman. The opening speeches expressed that the goal of the meeting was to discuss the role of the cities in investments in waste water management in the Baltic Sea area. It was also delineated that the meeting was intended to result in a standpoint of the UBC Environmental Commission to be presented at next HELCOM PITF in Nyköping, Sweden, 16-19 May 1994.

The Meeting started with the discussion on Baltic Sea waste load and ecological state of the sea. Representatives from western cities reported on current waste water requirements in their countries.

University of Turku presented summary on „Nutrient load into the Baltic Sea and its consequences. Participants concluded that from the Baltic Sea protection standpoint, control of emissions is of primary importance both in western and eastern cities. The cities and states are in a different phase of emissions control; among western states Denmark has the most developed system reducing the nitrogen load.

The meeting also discussed legislative aspects in allocating locally raised money from western cities abroad. Representatives from Denmark, Finland and Sweden introduced the position of the respective countries. Mr. Peter Gavelin from Sundsvall informed about initiative proposed by Association of Swedish Municipalities to government of Sweden regarding the use of municipal money in eastern Baltic countries if local investments in waste water management were postponed. The meeting concluded that current legislation in Nordic countries does not allow the collection of local waste water fees or municipal taxes in order to obtain



resources to be used outside the municipality. The legislation would have to be modified.

Having in mind above the meeting examined other possibilities of western cities assistance to eastern cities in waste water management and investments. It was concluded that transfer of usable equipment is possible within the current legislation, and this method has been used to some extent. Transfer of information and know-how was considered of primary importance. The western cities have a long experience in constructing and managing of the sewage and water treatment plants and systems. Transfer of this experience to the eastern cities was described as appropri-

ate and advisable practice, also economically profitable for the beneficiary cities.

The cities of Gdańsk, Gdynia and Sopot put forward a proposal to establish Municipal Pollution Load Compilation and Pollution Control DataBase. The Environmental Commission considered proposal as very interesting and authorized mention cities to go on with the project in collaboration with HELCOM Pollution Load Compilation.

Finally, after summary of the discussions, the meeting authorized Mr. Mikko Jokinen and Mr. Paweł Żaboklicki from UBC Secretariat to prepare the statement to HELCOM PITF.

Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme - present status

Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme (BSSP)- programme of cooperation between the member cities on the field of environment protection has been developed by Union's Commission on Environment. On the II UBC General Conference held in Svetlogorsk, Kaliningrad Region, on 24-25 September 1993, The Union of the Baltic Cities adopted the Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme as the action plan 1994-1996 concerning Union environmental activities.

To coordinate its activities with HELCOM Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP), the Union submitted to HELCOM PITF a proposal of cooperation in one of Programme elements: „Institutional Strengthening and Human Resources Development“. At the III Meeting of PITF in Brussels UBC presented a detailed Action Plan, based on BSSP, concerning the implementation of above mention element, on the municipal level. The Union proposal was warmly accepted by PITF and UBC was nominated as co-leader for the implementation of 2nd Baltic Programme element, responsible for the local level.

The main target of UBC-Helcom Action Plan are cities in south-east Baltic countries where environmental actions are most needed. The Union decided to utilize twin-city model as organizational model for project implementation. The overall aims of the Action Plan are:

- To upgrade the expertise and capabilities of municipal institutions and enterprises
- To improve the strategy and planning basis for project preparation and implementation
- To identify the priorities for necessary environmental investment projects
- To contribute to development of skills and motivation of politicians and administrative staff
- To establish frameworks of transfer of experiences and know-how from western cities, including how to deal with financial institutions.

The Action Plan contains two main elements under the heading Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme.

I. Cooperative Programme.

Cooperative Programme addresses the major elements of the HELCOM Baltic Programme component „Institutional Strengthening and Human Resources Development“. Particularly, the programme aims to fulfill the objectives related to the local dimensions of the implementation of above component. Cooperative Programme is directed to municipal staff administration as well as staff of public utilities enterprises. It will be implemented through the series of workshops, seminars, courses, training programmes, conferences and evaluation sessions, which will deal among others with following subjects:

- Public utilities restructuring; ownership, management and payment models
- Municipal decision-making processes in market society; new tasks and models of local management
- Municipal economy e.g. structure and sources of municipal incomes
- Dealing with financial institutions e.g. conditions of credits granting for municipal investments
- Project preparation, financing and implementation
- Environmental and physical planning
- Solid waste management, recycling, soil pollution and ground water protection, operation and maintenance of treatment plants.

The organizational concept is that for each of mentioned activities 1 eastern and 1 western city enters the cooperation and joint responsibility for organizing the activity. Each activity then will be open to all UBC member cities.

The Secretariat of the Union has spread the questionnaire to all UBC member cities to find out which cities will take responsibility for which activity and how many cities are interested in participation in proposed activities. The answer was very positive - most of the cities expressed their interest not only to take part but also to take active responsibility for organization of selected activities.



II. Baltic Municipal Environmental Audits

This element of UBC Environmental Action Plan is worked out on the basis of methods and principles for Municipal Environmental Audits (MEA) developed by the World Bank and recently implemented in the Mediterranean Sea region. However, it was necessary to adjust the concept of MEA to the conditions of countries involved and the potentials of UBC working principle of twinning eastern and western cities for concrete projects.

The project will take place in 5 cities from south-east Baltic countries, with one city participating from each country. In this way the optimal possibilities for dissemination of the results can be achieved, since other cities in each country will have easy access to the results and experiences of the MEAs (due to language, culture and distances). To each of the eastern cities 1-2 partner cities from western countries are connected. Western cities will provide technical assistance for the audits, that will be conducted by combined eastern-western teams.

The primary goals of the project are:

- To analyse and describe the current condition of the local environment
- To identify and assess strengths and weaknesses of environment within municipality
- To develop a broad based environmental strategy in accordance with the principles of sustainable development
- To ensure full public participation in the development of the such strategy
- To identify and prepare the basis for future investment projects
- To increase the institutional capacity of the beneficiary cities
- To make the results accessible and known to other cities of the five countries involved.

As an additional result of the audits should be the increase of public awareness and understanding of the local environment.

The following cities signed the declarations of participation in environmental audits:

Beneficiary cities	Western partner cities
Tallinn (Estonia)	Turku (Finland)
Liepāja (Latvia)	Nykøbing F. (Denmark)
Klaipėda (Lithuania)	Køge, Karlskrona (Denmark) (Sweden)
Kaliningrad (Russia)	Ålborg (Denmark)
Elbląg (Poland)	Kalmar, Sundsvall (Sweden) (Sweden)

The first meeting of the cities participating in Baltic Municipal Environmental Audits project was already organized by the city of Sundsvall, in association with Environmental Exhibition and Conference, 19-22 May 1994. Representatives of beneficiary cities: Tallinn, Liepāja, Klaipėda, Kaliningrad, Elbląg and several other UBC member cities that arrived to Sundsvall were addressed by Mrs. Hjördis Höglund, Deputy Mayor of Sundsvall who chaired the meeting and Mr. Mikko Jokinen, vice-chairman of Union Environmental Commission who introduced the cities to the goals, benefits, commitments and organizational structure of the project.

As regards project financing the Union must seek for external funds to successfully implement described Action Plan. The Union, having strong support for Municipal Environmental Audits project from Ministries of Environment of Baltic countries as well as Helsinki Commission and the World Bank, on 31 March 1994 UBC forwarded an application to LIFE-programme within Commission of European Communities to obtain external finances in amount of approx. 0.5 mln ECU for project co-financing. Resources to be acquired within LIFE-programme are mainly to cover costs of project management, experts (remuneration, travels, accommodation), durable equipment, dissemination materials. EU decision concerning above is expected in the end of this year.

Moreover, following preliminary negotiations, Union of the Baltic Cities will soon forward its application to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Nordic Council of Ministers for co-financing the Action Plan. Mentioned two institutions expressed positive opinion about Union project and stressed that financial support is very likely. The Union expects that also governmental agencies from Denmark and Finland will declare their financial and institutional participation in the project.

The World Bank offered to take coordination over Municipal Environmental Audits project and will contribute to the project with 150,000 USD by covering the costs of provided experts. As said above the World Bank successfully implemented analogous project in the Mediterranean cities.

UBC will provide chairman and secretarial assistance to the central project unit, as well as the practical coordination, planning and supervision of the implementation of the Action Plan. The Union intends to start first activities of the Action Plan in the beginning of 1995 with its own modest resources, however, UBC realizes that comprehensive and successful implementation of the project depends on contribution of all mentioned parties.

The Union has new Members

The number of Union Members now totals 55 cities. More Baltic Cities decided to join the Union, these are namely: Copenhagen, Fredericia, Køge and Rønne from Denmark; Haapsalu from Estonia; Helsinki and Kotka from Finland; Kaunas, Panevezys, Šiauliai and Vilnius from Lithuania; Rēzekne from Latvia; Oskarshamn from Sweden. The new cities has been accepted by Executive Board as the full members of the Union so we wish them fruitful cooperation with remaining Member Cities of the Union.



Seminar on Social Welfare in Kalmar, 15-20 May 1994

During five days a seminar concerning transfer of knowledge of Swedish social- and unemployment public insurances and social welfare was held in Kalmar. The Social Insurance Office of Kalmar, the Association of Insurance Offices, the City of Kalmar and the County board of Employment had the honour to invite two delegates from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia and four delegates from Poland within the Union of the Baltic Cities.

The seminars were arranged as lectures mixed with educational visits for example visit to a Market Training Center and an Employability institute. Subjects as maternity/paternity, leave of absence sickness and rehabilitation were also discussed. Also the help from the computer network was shown. In the area concerning the care of elderly and disabled, different types of home help service were shown. A visit to a nursing home and a group dwelling was very appreciated.

The final discussion was about the social security benefit system, policy and treatment of alcohol- and narcotics abusers and the legislation concerning children rights. The five days were very stimulating and appreciated by the participants.

AGNETA HAMMERIN, CITY OF KALMAR



Seminars on Public Transport reform in Lithuanian Cities

At the 8th Executive Board Meeting in Tallinn, November 27th, 1993 a decision was taken to arrange seminars on the topic of Public Transport reform in the cities in Lithuania and later in Latvia and Estonia.

The aim of the project is to increase the knowledge on Public Transport organization which will be transferred from Sweden through the seminars and study tour in Sweden for key-persons, meetings between politicians and managements of city public transport companies in Sweden and Lithuania. The seminars will be organized in Lithuania and Sweden and will deal with local and practical questions in connection with the transition of the responsibility of Public Transport from state to local level. The goals of seminars are that the participants will have a better understanding of how to run a public service company like a Public Transport Company in a democratic and market oriented society. Furthermore the goal is to establish lasting cooperation links between public transport companies in Sweden and Lithuania to promote informal contacts, visits and exchange of knowledge and experiences.

A preparatory tour was already made by the President of the Union, Mr. Anders Engström together with the consultant to Vilnius (March 10-11, 1994). The project

was discussed with the representatives of the largest cities in Lithuania, Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs who emphasized the urgent need to carry out proposed project in Lithuanian cities. The public transport is in a considerable and critical transition period and has great difficulties, not only on the material side but also concerning organization, founding, ticketing and other factors. The extent of the success of the project can be measured in terms of change of organization, way of thinking and the forms of involvement of politicians and management in the Public Transport in the cities.

The project is carried out within the framework of the Union of the Baltic Cities. Swedish Public Transport Association, the Kalmar County Public Transport Company, Ministry of Transportation in Vilnius and Lithuanian cities are participants of the project. For the next step of the project, the Union intends to apply to Swedish authorities to obtain resources to purchase used buses in Sweden and replace with them worn out buses in Lithuanian cities.

The first seminar is scheduled to be held in the end of the year in Sweden. Seminars in Lithuania are to be organized in the beginning of 1995.



Other recent Conferences where the Union was present:

- **The Meeting of Four Mayors in Baltijsk - 29 August 1994**

The Mayors of the cities of Gdańsk, Elbląg, Kaliningrad and Baltijsk discussed the possibilities of opening the Vistula Bay area and the city of Baltijsk for international navigation and tourism, as well as activation of bilateral contacts. The meeting was coordinated by Union Secretariat and Transportation Commission.

- **The Transport Sector and our Baltic Cooperation - Malmö, Sweden 10-11 August 1994**

The Conference discussed future structure of transport system in the Baltic Sea region. The Union was represented by Prof. Maciej T. Krzyżanowski, chairman of the Commission on Transportation.

- **1st Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) - Strasbourg, France 31 May - 3 June 1994**

The Union was represented at the Session by Mr. Andris Teikmanis, Vice-President of the UBC.

- **Council of the Baltic Sea States, 3rd Ministerial Session - Tallinn, Estonia 24-25 May 1994**

President of the Union, Mr. Anders Engström had an opportunity to address the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Baltic countries, on behalf of the Union.

- **III Parliamentary Conference on the Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area - Warsaw, Poland 5-6 May 1994**

The President of the Union was invited to the conference as one of the key speakers. In his address Mr.

Engström presented review of UBC activities within Baltic Sea region.

- **Hansa Business Days - Kiel, Germany 15-16 March 1994**

The event was organized by Baltic Sea Chamber of Commerce. Union President had a presentation picturing Union actions carried out in the Baltic region.

- **II Baltic Conference of the Ministers of Transport - Kaliningrad, Russia 24-25 February 1994**

The Union was represented by chairman of UBC Transport Commission who on behalf of the member cities promoted the idea of opening the Vistula Bay for international transportation.

- **II Conference of Ministers for spatial Planning and Development - Gdańsk 14-15 December 1993**

Mr. Paweł Żaboklicki, Acting Secretary of the Union represented UBC at the conference and submitted presentation describing Union projects having inter-regional aspects.

- **Conference on Subregional Cooperation - Stavanger, Norway 7-8 October 1993**

The conference gathered representatives of regional authorities from the Baltic regions. Mr. Dagfinn Ovrebotten from Bergen declared Union readiness to coordinate its actions with the ones conducted by regional authorities.

II. INFORMATION FROM MEMBER CITIES

Ålborg



Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns, Ålborg, 24-27 May 1994

The conference was jointly convened by the City of Ålborg, the European Commission and International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). During the three-day conference, aspects of local development towards sustainability were discussed during the workshops by over 600 participants from 30 European and 4 non-European countries. A Charter of European Cities and Towns Towards Sustainability was established by more than 300 representatives of European local authorities, national governments, European institutions and experts.



In their opening speeches, Kaj Kjaer Mayor of Ålborg, Svend Auken Danish Minister for Environment and Jørgen Henningsen Director of Directorate-General Environment of the European Commission, underlined the importance of all levels of government taking responsibility for the creation of sustainable conditions for human, animal and plantlife on this globe.

The Union of the Baltic Cities was present at the conference as one of co-organizers by carrying out the workshop named Corporate Strategies for Sustainable Cities



and Towns - Coastal Towns, chaired by Mr. Mikko Jokinen, vice-chairman of UBC Environmental Commission as well as presenting Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme by Mr. Jorgen Ringgaard at the workshop concerning International and Cross-Border Projects. The Ålborg Charter states that our present urban lifestyle, in particular our patterns of division of labour and functions, land-use, transport, industrial production, agriculture, consumption, and leisure activities, and hence our way of life, make cities essentially responsible for many environmental problems humankind is facing. The signatories are convinced that sustainable human life cannot be achieved without sustainable local communities. Local government is close to where environmental problems are perceived and closest to the citizens and shares responsibility with governments at all levels in the process of changing lifestyles, production, consumption, and spatial patterns.

By signing the Ålborg Charter, 80 European cities and towns, many of them UBC members, committed themselves to engage in a Local Agenda 21 process. They will seek to achieve a consensus within their communities on a long-term action plan towards sustainability by the year 1996. By this they will meet the mandate established by Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 as agreed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, and contribute to the implementation of the European Union's Fifth Environmental Action Programme "Towards Sustainability".

The signatory cities and towns initiated a European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign. The initial phase shall be for a two-year period, after which progress shall be assessed at the second conference to be held, according to an invitation extended by Mayor Jorge Sampaio and Deputy Mayor Rui Godinho, in Lisbon in September 1996.

Gdańsk



The World of the Baltic Sea - documentary film

Video Studio Gdańsk, first independent TV studio in Poland have taken the steps aimed at production of six parts documentary film series entitled "The World of the Baltic Sea". The goal of the picture is to show the most important problems of the Baltic Sea. It will make easier to understand the threats that the 20th century civilization brings itself, when it becomes possible to get to know about how the Baltic came into being and about the rules of how the natural Baltic Sea and drainage area environment work.

The serial will be divided into two divisions:

A - THE BALTIC SEA NATURE

B - THE MAN AT THE BALTIC SEA

Each division will consist of three parts. First three parts will present the origin and the evaluation of Baltic, the wildlife of the seacoast and deep water.

Parts 4-6 will try to describe the man's activity at the Baltic - origin of civilization at the sea, threats for the sea and coastal ecosystems, that man carries with himself and will show a new way of thinking how to preserve Baltic Sea through introducing the activities taken by organizations e.g. Helsinki Commission, Union of the Baltic Cities, Greenpeace, World Wide Fund for Nature etc.

The Executive Board of the Union discussed the project during its 9th Meeting in Palanga, 26 March 1994. Board Members found the idea of making such a film series as very interesting and encouraged the member cities in which the shooting will take place to help the film crew with guide, transportation, accommodation, contacts etc.

"The Town Hall in the Baltic towns"

The scientific symposium was held in November 25-27, 1993 in Gdańsk. The Baltic Sea Culture Centre in Gdańsk organized the session to present a municipal town hall as a symbol of the European unity. The major purposes of the session was to portray the cultural heritage of Northern Europe, to present the town hall as a cultural symbol in European Communities and introduce and exchange scientific achievements.

The Union of the Baltic Cities was one of the co-organizers of the event. The Symposium was attended by

historians interested in sociotopography of towns, historians of architecture and historians of art examining the architectural and artistic shape of the town-halls. Mayors representing the Union of the Baltic Cities who quite often preside in historical town-halls were invited among other guests. Participants could hear many interesting lectures given by famous scientists.

The session was accompanied by other entertainments: the photographic exhibition, the show of documentary films and the concert of old Gdańsk music.



New development opportunities

The first part of the World Trade Center Gdynia, which will provide a valuable initial stimulus to other developments, is already functioning. Located in walking distance of the main WTC complex the site is close to the sea shore, the port and the downtown area. World Trade Center Gdynia - Expo is the biggest and most modern exhibition and fair center in the Gdańsk province, the Center consists of: exhibition area under roof of 12750 m.sq., open exhibition area of 2000 m.sq., a parking (800 places), conference rooms, warehouses and a restaurant. The Center provides telecommunication and other such as banking, insurance services.

WTCG-Expo has the ability to become a place which will be the focus of interests for the Baltic states, an intermediate for West-East cooperation, will further the penetration of the East markets by Polish firms as well as will introduce and represent Far East states on the Polish market. This policy is an accordance with Gdynia's overall development strategy to focus its future on maritime functions but also to enrich them with new logistics functions of the port. The related - value added activities - are of the utmost importance.

World Trade Center Gdynia-Expo opened with an international event. On the 9th and 10th of June 1994 the Europartenariat programme broke new ground by taking place in a non-European Union country. What is the Europartenariat Programme? It was designated to stimulate the development of less favoured regions by encouraging small and medium sized businesses from all over the Community to establish business relationships with their counterparts in these regions. Europartenariat Poland 1994 was the biggest event in the programme's history. We have had 401 Polish companies as the host companies, including 104 from Gdańsk province. By Wednesday at noon, the 9th of June, 4670 participants representing 1530 firm from 60 countries had registered their arrival at Europartenariat Poland 1994. Up till then only the event in Lille had been bigger. The Gdynia Europartenariat event showed that it had no equals in respect of the number

of meetings contracted by individual firms - there were 8360 of them. The largest groups of businessmen had come from Germany, Italy, France, Sweden and Belgium. Also present were Palestinians and several visitors from China and Thailand.

The outcomes of Europartenariat! Apart from the promotional effect it has an economic significance above all, Europartenariat creates and tightens bonds of economic cooperation and activity. For the first time Europartenariat was held outside the European Union. For the hosts it was not only a great honour but also a challenge. For the first time such a big economic event of international proportions had been organized in our country in Gdynia.

Deputy Mayor Maciej Brzeski, the force behind the WTC Gdynia and the Europartenariat event, says: "It was a historical chance for Gdynia and we have fully utilized it. Gdynia is becoming a real center of international trade and a very significant center for the Baltic region. We are expecting considerable growth of interest in our city and increase of economy in the long term period".

MALGORZATA DEHMEL
DIRECTOR FOR FOREIGN COOPERATION, CITY OF GDYNIA



First International UBC Economic Exhibition INTERBALTIC 95'

The city of Gdynia together with World Trade Center Gdynia-Expo, submitted to the Union Executive Board a proposal to organize the First International UBC Economic Exhibition INTERBALTIC 95' to be held in Gdynia in the first half of 1995. The organizers expect that such Exhibition will strengthen cooperation between Union member cities through:

- exchange of scientific, technical and cultural achievements and experience,
- presentation of offers from manufacture, service, trade companies aimed at finding new markets and mutual investment possibilities,
- direct contacts between firms enabling contract arrangements and creation of joint ventures,
- finding out new trends in mutual cooperation.



The Exhibition will be accompanied by the number of associated events such as seminars on important issues concerning Baltic region e.g. environment protection, transport routes, as well as cultural festivities etc.

The Board warmly supported the idea of creation annual UBC Economic Exhibition and authorized the city of Gdynia jointly with WTC to organize first event in 1995. The Exhibition also received a wide support from the Baltic Sea Chamber of Commerce Association (BCCA). The Union



Executive Board encourages all UBC member cities to consider active participation in the Exhibition by delegating the representation of the city or region and indicating the firms, organizations and institutions willing to participate in the Exhibition.

For more information, please contact:

World Trade Center Gdynia-Expo
Gdynia, T. Wendy Str. 15
phone: +48 58 205640
fax: +48 58 201012

Kaliningrad

The International Art Festival "Kaliningrad - 94"

The International Art Festival "Kaliningrad - 94" was held from June 17 to 25. About 1,5 thousand participants from 20 countries of the world came to Kaliningrad to take part in the forum of the people from Argentina, France, Spain, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Czech Republic connected with folklore art. The Union of the Baltic Cities was represented by the delegation from Sweden, Norway, Poland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia and Kaliningrad with a wide variety of folklore programmes of original songs and dances.

The solemn opening of the festival took place at the "Baltica" stadium where the festival fire carried through the member-cities of the Union of the Baltic Cities was lit. From the stadium the dramatized carnival procession of the participants of the festival in their national costumes, gigantic dolls, masks, decorated cars marched along the streets of the city to the island not far from the Cathedral. It seemed that all the inhabitants of Kaliningrad went into the streets to witness that splendid spectacle.

The most exotic shows were the night carnivals with the concert programmes of the participants of the festival, knights' tournaments, ritual games on the island. The people could participate in the fiesta of entertainment, sing and dance in a ring. It was fascinating, leaving no one indif-

ferent. During the festival the dramatized folk art fair was held on the island and it attracted the attention of the public. Everyone could come to the fair and join in the greatest show, view and buy works of folk art craft, handicraft, decorative-applied and fine arts in the pavilions and tents.

Events included concerts of the ensembles from different countries, one creative group followed another. There was fun for everybody, for all tastes and ages. One could go for drive, ride a horse or go by the helicopter to see a wonderful panorama of the city. As to the children they played and danced with Gigantic Dolls. Different languages were spoken in the festival and at the fair with opportunities for the participants,





visitors and guests to understand each other better, to develop friendly relations and contacts.

Those who were keen on folklore art could come to the gala-concerts to the Palace of Sports "Yunost" to enjoy the performances of the ensembles for different countries. The most popular creative groups in the festival were the national ballet of Argentina, Chukotsk-Eskimos ensemble Ergyron Cossacks dance ensemble and some other groups. In spite of the packed programme the participants of the festival after the gala concerts could have a good time in the interclub, make friends, dance and sing in the friendly festive atmosphere.

Within the frames of the festival the exposition of graphic art was held in the Art Gallery. It was the exhibition of the works of three artists: I. Vasiliev (Russia), A. Klemetsov (Lithuania) and Benta Salte (Sweden). The works on exhibit gained recognition of the public.

The final points of the festival were a Ball-Concert and Water Fairy scenes on the lake in the center of Kaliningrad. Performances of the best creative groups, ensembles, masters of art, tricks, special effects, play of water and fire, water bicycles camouflaged into gondolas, illuminating devices, created an illusion of the ancient Venice night. The participants and guests of the festival could witness an impressive spectacle crowned with grandiose firework according to cascade of many-coloured lights. It was surprisingly enjoyable and captivating.

The festival, night carnivals, merry fairs, meetings with masters of folklore art and picturesque fire-work will always remain in the memory of Kaliningraders and the guests of the festival.

TAMARA SCHKURENKO
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR, KALININGRAD

Kalmar



Opening of the Kalmar Office in Gdańsk

In May this year, the Union of the Baltic Cities took part in the ceremony of opening the Kalmar City Office in Gdańsk. The representative office will be located in the Green Gate, which is now the seat of the UBC and Polish Secretariat to the Helsinki Convention.

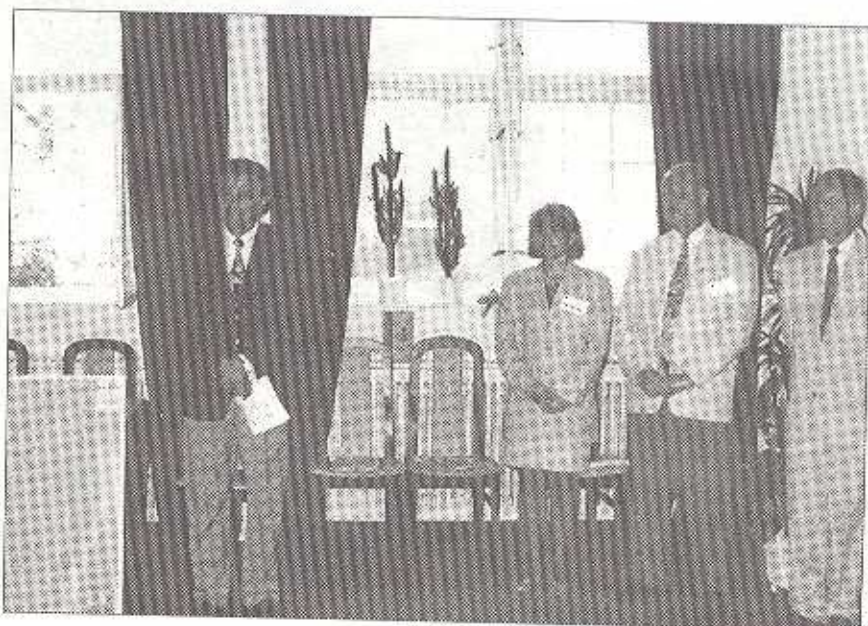
On 26th May, the Office was officially opened by the deputy Mayor of Gdańsk, Mr. Andrzej Skrzypek, and the Mayor of Kalmar, Mr. Jan-Olof Wernersson. During the opening ceremony the President of the UBC, Mr. Anders Engström, indicated that creating such an office was also a success of the Union, the aim of which is, among others, encouraging mutual relations between the Baltic cities. There were a number of noble guests present at the opening ceremony, including representatives of most consular offices in the Tri-City, as well as representatives of press and television stations.

The basic aim of the Kalmar City Office in Gdańsk is to assist firms, organizations, and the authorities of the Kalmar area, interested in creating links with the Gdańsk region, and vice versa. The Office is thus a servicing institution, created in order to enforce mutual contacts. The person responsible for the Office's activities

is Ewa Bilińska, graduate in Scandinavian philology, who has spent several years in Norway.

The office will be open on weekdays, 8:30 - 12:30, and - as we do hope - will fill the significant gap in economic contacts between southern Sweden and the Gdańsk region.

EWA BILIŃSKA
HEAD OF THE KALMAR OFFICE IN GDAŃSK





Sister Companies in Poland - Summary of a project

During the spring there has been a project going on with the purpose to establish contacts between companies in the northern part of Poland and the south-east of Sweden, especially the administrative province of Kalmar. In the beginning of the project education was arranged for those Swedish companies that were interested in the project, about polish law, custom rules, risk management, banking, general knowledge of Poland etc. Meanwhile a job began to look for cooperation partners in Poland. Then the project had much help from the City of Gdańsk and the Economic Chamber of Commerce in Gdańsk (GIG). GIG held in 1993 a seminar about the Swedish market and how to get there.

The Swedish companies that wished to establish contacts with polish firms made descriptions of their

companies. Those descriptions were translated into polish and were sent to GIG, who started the searching for interested polish companies. In May a trip was arranged to attend the opening of the Kalmar office in Gdańsk, where representatives from ten Swedish companies had the opportunity to meet their new polish contacts.

The project, which now is finished, was found to be a simple way to stimulate contacts between companies in the two twin towns Kalmar and Gdańsk but it is of course applicable for other cities. For more information, please contact Mr. Bengt Enge, city of Kalmar, tel. +46 480 83250.

BENGT ENGE, CITY OF KALMAR

Kaunas



The World Lithuanian Song Festival, an important cultural event in two cities of Lithuania

On July 7-10, 1994 the World Lithuanian Song Festival took place in Lithuania. The Festival started in Kaunas to which came several thousands amateurs and professionals of song and dance from all the Lithuania. More than 1000 Lithuanians from USA, Canada, Australia, Germany and other countries came to Kaunas too. An impressive concert was held in the charming Valley of songs, a traditional place of festivals in Kaunas.

The main part of the Festival took place in Vilnius, capital city of Lithuania. More than 100 choirs and ensembles took part in various concerts and competitions during three days. Main events called Ensemble Evening, the Dance Day and the Song Day took place on 8, 9 and 10 of July in different places of Vilnius. Thousands of spectators from Lithuania and other countries had a lot of impressions.

It is important to mention that the First Lithuanian Song Festival was held in 1924 in Kaunas, which has been a temporary capital city of Lithuania that time. On July 6, 1994 the monument to the 70th anniversary of that event was in Kaunas.

The Festival was a good opportunity to meet in Kaunas the delegations from almost all cities which have twinning or friendship and cooperation agreements with Kaunas. The representatives of Vaxjo and Linköping (Sweden), Vestfold county (Norway), Odense (Denmark), Kreis Lippe (Germany), Białystok (Poland) and Tartu (Estonia) visited Kaunas that days. During the meeting of all these delegations the future projects of the cooperation between those cities and Kaunas were discussed.

LIUDAS MAZYLIS

PRESS SECRETARY OF KAUNAS MUNICIPALITY



Łeba



Yachting Port in the City of Łeba

Łeba is a very well known and popular tourist resort in Poland. It is situated on the coast of the Baltic Sea and between two lakes - Łebsko and Sarbsko. The city neighbours with Słowiński National Park which is regarded as the World's Biosphere Reserve. The number of permanent inhabitants in the city is about 4000 while in the summer season there are about 40000 visitors every day. Except fish processing there is no industry in the city, the environment is clean - there is a new sewage treatment plant performing well.



There is one strategic direction of the development of the city - tourism. In June 1993 the city of Łeba joined the Union of the Baltic Cities in order to establish close links with foreign Baltic towns and Scandinavian ones in particular.

There is an existing fishing harbour with 2500m of wharves. Yachting is the activity which the city wants

to encourage. Every year International Windsurfing Championships of Poland and a yachting competition as a part of the Cup of Poland take place in Łeba.

A yachting port in Łeba has been a dream of its inhabitants for many years. But the city budget is too small to finance such an investment. The city authorities have been looking for external investors for many years. Łeba is situated in the middle of the Polish coast and on the route from the Kiel Channel to Kaliningrad.

There is no yachting port in the neighbourhood - the nearest one is in Gdynia 100 km to the east. So the idea of the yachting port is justified not only for the reason of the beauty of the countryside in Łeba, but for the right location of the city on the Baltic.

Fortunately this year the yachting port in the city of Łeba has been selected as the best project among about 350 projects in Poland under one of the PHARE programmes called CROSSBORDER. The idea of the programme has been to identify and finance the right projects connected with the crossborder infrastructure which would influence the development of the Polish-Scandinavian contacts, and Polish-Danish ones in particular.

1 million ECU has been awarded to the city of Łeba as a grant to carry out investment of the yachting port. The first part of the money will be transferred in November, when the works are predicted to start. The completion of the project is foreseen in summer 1996. 1 million ECU and the financial input of the city budget will enable to build the necessary basic infrastructure (wharves, roads, installations). Other investors are encouraged to contact the city authorities if they are interested in the investment in the marina adjacent to the port.

The location of the yachting port is predicted in the north-western part of the existing fishing harbour. There is a natural

bay at the mouth of the Łeba River which is suitable for the development of the yachting port infrastructure. 3.8 hectares of land are reserved for the yachting port and marina in the city plans. The port is foreseen for 200 yachts.

PIOTR CHEŁKOWSKI
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ŁEBA



Rostock



Creation of the Coordination Office of UBC Commission on Social Affairs

At the last UBC - Workshop in January 1994 in Rostock there was determined to install an Coordination Office on "Social Affairs" in Rostock. In accordance between the Mayors of the Hansestadt Lübeck and the Hansestadt Rostock the office started its work on 15th of June 1994.

Mrs. H. Fröhlich, Mrs. K. Wohlgemuth and Mr. H. Linke, the colleagues of the coordination office, are available as follows:

Hansestadt Rostock
Amt für Wirtschaftsförderung
Abt. Kommunale Arbeitsmarktpolitik

UBC - Koordinationsbüro
Neuer Markt 1, D-18050 Rostock
Tel.: +49 381 3811452, Fax: +49 381 3811902

The coordination office will establish the links to the UBC -members to stimulate common projects to improve the employment situation especially of the east European Partners.

Therefore, the coordination group asks for the kind assistance of the UBC members and others organizations taking an interest in this matter looking forward for a good cooperation.

KARIN WOHLGEMUTH, CITY OF ROSTOCK

Stockholm

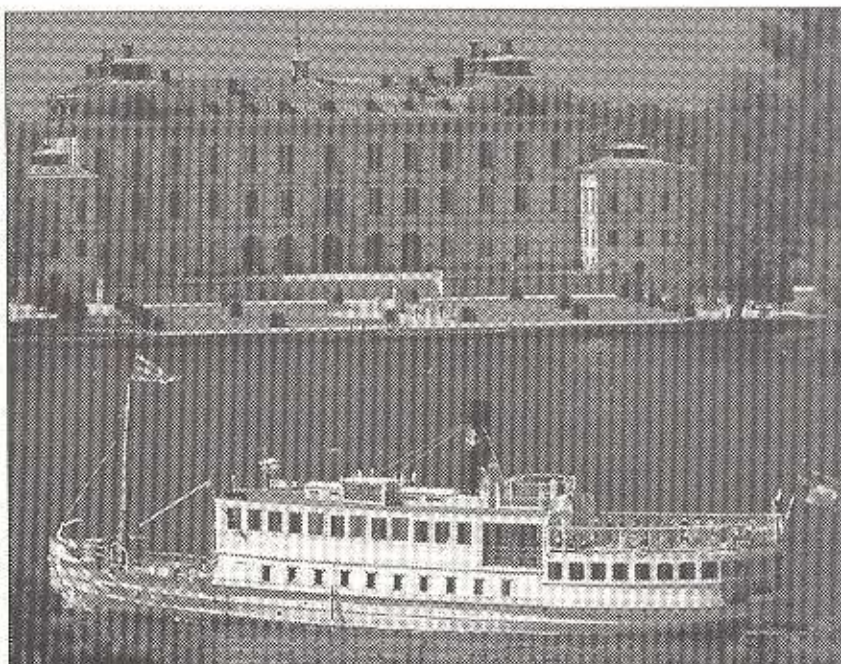
Stockholm - beauty on the water

Stockholm has been called the most beautiful city in the world. Sweden's royal capital is endowed with a rare and consequential beauty: lying as it does gracefully spread over 14 islands in an aquatic world poised between Lake Mälaren and the Baltic Sea. It is thanks to the care and concern of its inhabitants that the city has preserved its distinctive mark of all-round cleanliness. Stockholm is a well-maintained preserve amid wild open country: a third of the total area is in fact parkland and green spaces. Stockholm is a city with magnificent archipelago. Clean waters permit bathing even in the centre of the city, and in "the stream", Strömmen, between the Royal Palace and Opera House you can fish for salmon. Proximity to nature is a resource that should never be taken for granted.

Stockholm is also a city of refinement. A keen sense of culture in the inhabitants ensures genuine quality. Environmental regulations and legislation have played a part in conserving valuable buildings and monuments. A stroll through the cobbled alleyways of the Old Town is to be wafted straight into history, as you wander through what is perhaps the best preserved example of a medieval city-core in the world. The cultural heritage is cherished on various levels. The Nobel prizegiving ceremony is an institution with international resonance. While the

Festival of light and Midsummer Eve festivities are events with an intrinsically national flavour. The Water Festival is a celebration of the purity of the city's surrounding waters. Such concern builds on traditional values, which in turn create faith in the future.

Today the Stockholmer uses the lessons of the past to shape the future. We talk in terms of the quality of life. It is a prerequisite for successful research and enterprise. Stockholm is a never-ending adventure, a challenging encounter with a modern city seething with





activity. To the lover of culture and the arts it offers more than 50 museums, some 70 theatres, and the very best in opera and ballet. Shopping offers a wide range from traditional handicrafts to the latest exciting designs in the field of furniture and fashion. Stockholm is among the cities in Europe with the highest density of restaurants, having 700 in all. The traditional Swedish smörgåsbord of today includes gastronomic specialties from all parts of the world.

Stockholm is full of happy contrasts. Here you will find the manifold attractions of a metropolis coupled with the close intimacy and quiet charm of a village. A sensual atmosphere, allied to solid homespun reliability. And a blissful calm prevails amid the city's roar and bustle. The city has four distinct seasons to offer. The ever-changing nordic light affords a rich variety of rhythms and helps to generate harmony.

Stockholm is near and dear. Accessible, not only geographically. It is an open city, in the very best sense of the word.

Szczecin



Information from the city of Szczecin

Last time in Szczecin many substantial changes inspired by the City Executive Board's decisions have taken place. There is being executed the Strategy for Downtown Renovation. Full modernization of one of the downtown blocks (so called Turzyn Block) is financed totally from the City budget. However commercial renovation of the central blocks is at the stage of organization; Norwegian investor who signed the agreement with the City concerning the renovation of the blocks, carries out negotiations with European Bank for Reconstruction and Development financing this project. End of these negotiations is most likely to take place in July 1994. Negotiations are also being carried out with French and Swedish, concerning similar agreements about renovation of next blocks. In the middle of May 1994 the execution of Small Improvements Programme was begun, which is integral part of the Renovation Strategy. The point of this programme is to subsidize small repairs and modernization in the council houses (f.ex. liquidation of the stove heating, bathrooms, toilettes, kitchens, installation, repairs of staircases) done by tenants. Szczecin inhabitants' great interest in this Programme is proved by the fact that within less than 3 months 3 billion zloty destined for it was used. In this situation City Executive Board decided to grant an additional 1 billion zloty.

City Development Team deals with solution of current problems concerning Szczecin development. Its task is to prepare projects within the scope of town and country, economic and urban planning as well as to prepare complete investment offers. On City Executive Board's initiative there were organized national urban-architecture competitions for modernization and management of several city districts. At the moment there is taking place SARP competition for Merchant's House in Krzywoustego St. and next International Fair for the part of 19th century industrial buildings located directly at Odra river is under preparation now.

Modernization is required not only by historic buildings of Szczecin, but also its infrastructure. Taking under consideration poor condition of the central heating installations there has been approved the modernization idea proposed by the French company "Thion". Also some efforts were undertaken to establish a company with the foreign participation, which will deal with purification and waste management at the right side of Szczecin. At the left one such an activity has been carried out by "Rethman" company since November last year. In this way all work in the scope of streets cleaning and waste taking out will be done by private companies. Independent economic enterprises were also established as the result of reorganization of the Public Utilities Company. Newly created companies rent properties and were sold movables. They were also given orders for work for next 2 years for execution of services connected to f.ex. preservation of the city greenery, cemeteries, monuments, fountains etc. City Executive Board aims to create Szczecin world trade center established company named World Trade Center-Szczecin, which has already received the license of the WTC Association and has started its operation. WTC-Szczecin can offer professional tool for producers, dealers, servicing and financing institutions, facilitating approach to a wide range of customers.

International Szczecin Fair (MTS) become a magnet attracting numerous contracting parties to Szczecin. MTS is the biggest organizer of the fair-exhibition events in the West Pomerania (since its opening, i.e. November 1991, 20 events with the participation of ca. 400 companies have been arranged). Since April 1994 MTS is an owner of building - Fair-Exhibition Center, located in 6-8 Struga St., with an area of over 60.000 m². MTS is the first prize-winner of "Golden Chain '94", an award granted by the monthly magazine "Business Forum" for an excellent organization of fairs as well as the promotion of region in Poland and abroad.



Szczecin has also involved itself in the pilotage programme. That is why City has taken over 24 Company Health Care Institutions (ZZOZ), 3 comprehensive school complexes, Pomeranian Education Center, School Sport center and 4 cultural buildings. Programme documentation has been acknowledged as a model one by the former government plenipotentiary for public administration reform, prof. Michał Kulesza. City has also taken over supervising of grammar schools and has worked out local government administration schools' management. In March this year City signed an agreement with the Szczecin Voivode concerning the running of Philharmonic as an ordered work, which ended lasting many months strike in this institution. To facilitate Szczecin inhabitants orientation in moving about the ZZOZ, "The scope of basic and specialistic services Available for a Patient" was worked out. Moreover, works are carried out on

the project "Healthy City", which execution will open for Szczecin way to the Healthy Polish Cities Association and will improve health level of inhabitants as well as environment condition. Within the scope of wide action helping physically disable people, the kerbs were lowered in the city center, acoustic signalization on the crossings was installed, inductive loops were mounted (in cinemas, theaters, etc. - for people using ear apparatus) and a special car transport was created. City Hall building is completely adjusted for the needs of the disabled people (toilettes, lifts, drive-ways, raisers, etc.). Numerous and interesting cultural events, such as Small Form Theaters Review, Swedish or French Cultural Days, Polish-German Poetry Forum "Dialogue" place Szczecin among the cities of rich and various cultural-artistic life.

ZBIGNIEW ZALEWSKI
DEPUTY MAYOR OF SZCZECIN

III. VIEWS

UBC was represented in Nordic Forum, Finland, August 1-6, 1994

The Nordic Forum 1994 named "Women's life and work - joy and freedom" was the largest project ever organized by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The conference was held in Turku the first week in August.

In the conference UBC was represented by Ingrid Augustinsson from Karlskrona, Brigitta Theander from Kalmar and Hjördis Höglund from Sundsvall. They gave an introduction and informed about UBC. The message was that it is very important that both men and women will participate in the work within our Union. A special little booklet was made for this event and many good contacts were taken with other women and female network around the Baltic region.

The previous Forum was held in Oslo 1988. It was a great success; the Council of Ministers regarded it as one of the best PR projects on Nordic cooperation and we can already now see that even the conference in Turku become the same success. More than 15.000 women (we have not got the exact figure yet) came to Turku and discussed their place and role in society, today and in the future. They met in seminars, workshops and a lot of other forms. Since 1988 the world has undergone dramatic changes. Today the concept, structures and services of the Nordic welfare state are threatened. The new development will also put women's jobs and situation in jeopardy. Will it also mean



that male values will become increasingly emphasized in society? What will it mean for women?

The Forum 1994 would also constitute a Nordic preparatory phase for the UN Women's Conference. The UN conference and citizens' forum will be held in Beijing 1995. Although the Nordic countries are facing severe problems and threats, The steering group of Nordic Forum thought was important to keep in mind that the problems elsewhere in the world are worse and more serious. The Nordic countries cannot close their eyes from the problems of the developing countries.

The Forum had also participants from the Baltic Sea regions. various forms of cooperation already exist with the Baltic states. They have signed the UN convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The most active women now are insisting that their governments put the convention into effect.

Through our participation from UBC in the Nordic Forum I hope we now will have more contacts between women in our member cities and also with other female networks in Europe.

MRS HJÖRDIS HÖGLUND
CITY COMMISSIONER, SUNDSVALL, SWEDEN



Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) replaced Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

The first session of new Congress was held in Strasbourg from 31 May to 3 June 1994 due to the statutory resolution adopted by The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The establishment of the Congress was approved by the Heads of State and Government of the "32" at the Vienna Summit after the consultations with the Parliamentary Assembly, the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the Assembly of European Regions and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.

The main aims of the Congress is to ensure the participation of local and regional authorities in the implementation of the ideal of European unity, promoting the functioning of local and regional democracy in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, transfrontier and inter-regional cooperation and thus contribute to democracy and security in Europe.

Congress has 234 members and 234 substitutes. Representatives come from various types of local and regional authority in each member state. The



Congress consists of two chambers: the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions with the President and the Bureau elected every two years. The President of the Congress will also be chosen every two years and will come from each chamber in turn. The bureau of the Congress will be made up by the bureau of

the two chambers and the president. The Congress will meet in ordinary sessions once a year at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

The Union of the Baltic Cities has an observer status with the CLRAE, representatives of the Union are able to attend Congress sessions. At the First Session of new Congress the Union was represented by Mr. Andris Teikmanis, Vice-President of the Union, the Mayor of the City of Riga.

For more information about CLRAE please contact:

Mr. Rinaldo Locatelli
Executive Secretary of CLRAE
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France

Council of Europe - European Nature Conservation Year 1995

More than 25 years ago, the Council of Europe launched its first nature conservation campaign, making Europeans generally aware of the overriding need to protect our environment. This campaign gave the Council itself an opportunity to forge close links with the countries of central and eastern Europe and paved the way for the establishment of protected areas.

Today we must venture further; existing threats to our environment are so serious that nature conservation is needed, not just in the protected areas, but comprehensively throughout Europe. This is why the Council of Europe has decided to make 1995 "European Nature Conservation Year", with special emphasis on conservation outside the protected areas.

All European countries are being invited to take part in the campaign, including the Council of Europe's member states and other countries with which it cooperates. Altogether, 40 countries will be working together on the campaign to achieve one vital objective: making sure that the concepts of natural environment and biodiversity are allowed for in every human activity. The establishment of protected areas excluded human activity from some of them. The time has now come to extend nature conservation to the areas where people live and work. The campaign will accordingly promote a new understanding of nature: even in populated areas, wildlife can survive and prosper, as long as it is respected.

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural mountains, from Lapland to the Mediterranean islands, the environment



faces widely varying dangers: mass tourism, desertification, industrial growth and development of road and rail networks, and so on. Every country taking part in ENCY will be able to adapt the general theme, "nature conservation outside protected areas", to its own situation. Sub-themes covering the various types of problem and environment have been devised,

(aquatic, forested, agricultural, urban, industrial, tourist and leisure areas, trunk communications, military and demilitarized zones).

Four target groups will be specially emphasized:

Local, regional and national authorities. Many conservation initiatives are launched by these bodies, and their importance as decision-makers should give them a priority role in the ENCY.

"Environment users". Many people "use" the environment for professional or leisure purposes: farmers, foresters, anglers, hunters, and so on.

"Space consumers". These include the tourist, building, industrial and public works sector.

Young people. Making young people aware of conservation issues is essential, as the future of our environment also depends on their commitment.

The campaign will cover numerous activities and events:

At national level. Every country will have its own organizing committee for ENCY'95, and these committees will arrange events on themes suited to the various target groups, either on their own or in cooperation with other national committees.



At international level. Among other things, the Council of Europe will organize a number of seminars and colloquies. In general, every effort will be made to maximize the campaign's public impact - through initiatives involving media and the national and international press, brochures and leaflets, special postage stamps, photographic competitions, seminars, conferences, and so on.

To facilitate maximum participation, the Council of Europe has set up a special secretariat for the ENCY. If you want to take part in the campaign or need more information, please contact:

Council of Europe
Centre Naturopa - ENCY '95
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
Tel.: +33 88 412278

20 years of Helsinki Convention

The Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area was signed in 1974 by seven Baltic Sea States, Denmark, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, Sweden and the USSR, to protect their common sea area. The Baltic Sea States established a commission, the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). Subsidiary bodies have been created to provide proposals that will lead to the implementation of the obligation laid down in the Convention. The decisions of the Commission are taken unanimously. It can operate on a basis of recommendation for implementation by Contracting Parties through their national legislation. Recommendations concerns maritime and combating fields, environmental and technological fields. They are based on information on the state of the sea and load of the pollution entering the sea. Implementation of the recommendations is responsibility of each Contracting Party and is controlled by a system of obligatory regular reporting. In 1974 the Convention, dealing with pollution from all possible sources, was unique in the world.



The fundamental principles and obligations of the 1974 Helsinki Convention is that the countries around the Baltic Sea "shall individually or jointly take all appropriate legislative, administrative or other relevant measures in order to prevent and abate pollution and to protect and enhance the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area". Convention covers pollution from land-based sources, discharges from ships and dumping of wastes, airborne pollutants deposited over the Baltic, and pollution caused by exploration or exploitation of resources on the seabed.

After ratification by all the Baltic Sea States the convention entered into force in May 1980.

The Helsinki Commission consists of the representatives of all the Contracting Parties. The headquarters of the Commission -Secretariat is settled in Helsinki. An Executive Secretary, an Environment Secretary, a Technological Secretary, a Maritime Secretary, a Programme Coordinator and seven Assistants are the staff of Secretariat.

In 1974, when the Helsinki Convention was signed, it proved politically impossible to include in the convention text the coastal waters and the catchment area of the Baltic Sea. Because of new political, economical and environmental prerequisites, the Baltic Sea countries worked out a new, 1992 Helsinki Convention. The Convention, after having been ratified by all Baltic States and the European Union, will replace the pre-

sent Helsinki Convention signed in 1974. The main aim is to embody developments in international environmental policy and law in order to extend, strengthen and modernize the legal regime for the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area". There are few new

provisions introduced with regard to:

Environmental impact assessment, prohibition of incineration, notification of an consultation concerning pollution incidents, nature conservation and biodiversity, reporting and the exchange of information and information to the public. "Precautionary principle", the "polluter pays principle" and obligations to use the Best Available Technology (BAT) and the Best Environmental Practice (BET) are the new fundamental principles explicitly expressed in 1992 Helsinki Convention.

In 1988, the Baltic Environmental Ministers made a Declaration in which they expressed their 'firm determination' to reduce substantially the inputs of heavy metals, toxic or persistent organic compounds and nutrients in order of 50% by the year 1995. Sweden and Poland were initiators of the Ronneby Conference on Prime Minister level in September 1990. The process lunched in Ronneby resulted in the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP). It consists of six major elements:

1. Policies, Laws and Regulations
2. Institutional Strengthening and Human Resources Development
3. Investment Activities, including point sources and non-point sources
4. Management Programmes for Coastal Lagoons and Wetlands
5. Applied Research
6. Public Awareness and Environmental Education

Union of the Baltic Cities will be involved in practical implementation of the second element of JCP.

In order to facilitate the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the Programme the High Level Conference on Resource Mobilization was arranged in March 1993 in Gdańsk, Poland. At this Conference was stressed confirmation of the preparedness to support the Programme financially. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations affirmed their will to contribute with specific competence to the Programme implementation.

In March 1994 a Ministerial Meeting was convened, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the 1974 Helsinki Convention, to assess progress in the implementation of the previous ministerial declarations.



CCB, UBC, and the JCP

Most UBC Newsletter readers are familiar with the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP). The JCP is an ambitious program with tremendous potential. For this reason both the Union of the Baltic Cities and the Coalition Clean Baltic involved themselves in this international, governmental process.

CCB is proud of its association with HELCOM. CCB currently acts as a Lead Party for the PITF Working Group on Public Awareness and Environmental Education (PA&EE). CCB applauds the Union of the Baltic Cities' (in cooperation with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) involvement with the HELCOM PITF Working Group on Institutional Strengthening and Human Resource Development. This is a vital contribution to the overall sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region. CCB also supports the UBC Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme which takes a through, interdisciplinary approach to the Region's future. CCB would like to lend its support and stress its willingness to cooperate with such efforts.

Like wise, CCB is committed to strengthening NGOs and other related regional organizations, institutions, and local governments, as a result, CCB hopes that they may be better qualified to deal with the changing environmental and economic needs of the Baltic Sea Region. One of the Coalition's most important current tasks involves the preparation of NGOs and local governmental authorities so that they can work together more efficiently.

Most of our planned activities directly assist the work of cities and local municipalities. The nature of CCB's PA&EE goals is cross sectoral and interdisciplinary. Environmental improvements, clean-ups and studies are common in every Baltic city and will only increase in the future. In addition, they are extremely costly and they must receive support from different sectors of society. CCB realizes it is a difficult task to justify to

your constituency the importance of a new waste water treatment plant, or landfill, or coastal protection measures when Regional economies and budgets are in many cases struggling. CCB maintains that NGOs, working in close contact with local municipalities, schools and institutions are extremely effective vehicle for the education. These organizations are often established specifically for educational purposes and are already opening. In this respect, NGOs could be a tremendous boost to local support for governmental initiatives.

The Union of the Baltic Cities is in a unique position to encourage the development of PA&EE activity through its leadership role in the JCP's Institutional Strengthening and Human Resources Development component. It is through these activities that the Union can connect NGOs, businesses, governments and the general public. This is an exciting prospect. Through education and the creation of concern and support for environmental initiatives, the public may become more willing to make sacrifices to achieve a more sustainable development. The Coalition wishes to applaud the Union for its activities to date and hopes that the Union will continue its fine work. The Coalition extends an offer to work with Union to begin the long and involved process of coordinating some of the Region's activities. The Coalition asks that the Union increase its cooperation and mutual assistance with CCB as we both take on the exciting and ambitious challenges of Institutional Strengthening and Human Resources Development and Public Awareness and Environmental Education, respectively. By coordinating our efforts we are confident that our activities can be more effective and efficient and can take place on much greater scale for the good of entire Baltic Sea Region.

GUNNAR NÖREN
COALITION CLEAN BALTIC

*Coalition
Clean Baltic*

The Stockholm Water Symposia

The Stockholm Water Symposia are a series of future-oriented water policy symposia, arranged to address key environmental issues on the threshold of the 21st century. The aim is to identify and analyse such issues, and the principal solutions required. The approach taken is integrative: across disciplines, professions and sectors of society. At these Symposia, the selected issues are presented by invited key speakers and discussed in plenary session or addressed in workshops.

The first Symposium, in 1991, identified the main global problems relating to water (water as major constraint, large-scale water quality deterioration), and identified basic criteria regarding the way to seek solutions. The 1992 Symposium selected water quality management as its niche, and identified the measures needed to minimize fluxes of harmful substances from



land to water in different main regions of the world. The 1993 Symposium addressed a subset of the barriers impeding the implementation of such measures: lack of convincing economic arguments for minimizing harmful pollutant fluxes, inadequate finance, and inadequate communication between scientists and decision makers.

The theme of the 1994 Symposium, held on 9-13 August 1994, was Integrated land and water management - challenges and new opportunities. The meeting was attended by experts and decision makers from different disciplines - environmental, technical, financial, political, religious, educational, legal, social - whose spheres of interest comprise water resource management, water protection, water treatment and utilization, plant operation, design and development programmes,



water-related education and training etc. The Symposium covered all these aspects within society, with an emphasis on urban, industrial and agricultural problems, and discussed ways of reducing the barriers to progress. The conference addressed the benefits and problems associated with achieving lifestyle changes and taking an integrated approach to land and water management. The Symposium also addressed challenges and new opportunities as regards educational renewal; coping with hazardous waste; stimulating an accelerated greening of industry; and achieving increased agricultural yields at lower cost in terms of water pollution. 1994 Symposium was also a continuation from 1993 with respect to promoting financing for post-communist and southern countries.

The Symposia was alarmed by the lack of contemporary effort to address the creeping water crisis. The world - full of vested interests producing pollutants that will end up in water - lacks a strong water quality protection constituency. Water systems already suffer from past land/water mismanagement. Hazardous waste, reflecting decades of cynical industrial management, has introduced latent chemical bombs, containing heavy metals and other toxic substances. Exaggerated fertilization has contributed to overloaded

phosphorus pools, now threatening land and water systems. Water scarcity and quality deterioration escalate with time as the world population continues to expand at a rate of some 90 million inhabitants every year, especially in view of the associated industrialization and urbanization.

Part of the explanation is the wide-spread water illiteracy found among decision makers and general public alike. In politicians' perceptions, more focus is put on small, visible problems than on the large, invisible ones which are eroding our life-support systems. One fundamental issue is the paradigmatic problem. Water's basic roles as lifeblood of the biosphere and as the medium of biomass production are not properly recognized; nor is the role of water cycle continuity in cascading human environmental disturbances from air to land to water, finally to be translated into biodiversity disturbances.

For more information about Stockholm Water Symposia, please contact:

Symposium Secretariat
Stockholm Water Company
S-106 36 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel: +46 8 7362021
Fax: +46 8 7362022

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PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

Mr Anders Engström
Kalmar Kommun, Box 611
391 26 Kalmar, Sweden
Phone: + 46 480 83500
Fax: + 46 480 83122

SECRETARIAT OF THE UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

24 Długi Targ Str.
80-828 Gdańsk, Poland
Phone/Fax: + 48 58 317637
Phone/Fax: + 48 58 310917
Phone/Fax: + 48 58 319123
Telex: 512844 ubc pl

BANK ACCOUNT OF THE UNION

BANK GDAŃSKI
IV Oddział w Gdańsku
301817-661416-132

BALTIC SEA FLIGHTS

KRISTIANSTAD (KID) - PALANGA (PLQ)			
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	Departure	Arrival	Flight
Palanga-Kristianstad	16.10	16.30	TT492
Kristianstad-Palanga	17.50	20.10	TT493

KRISTIANSTAD (KID) - KAUNAS (KUN)			
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	Departure	Arrival	Flight
Kaunas-Kristianstad	15.00	16.30	TT492
Kristianstad-Kaunas	17.50	21.20	TT493

KRISTIANSTAD (KID) - VILNIUS (VNO)			
Monday, Thursday	Departure	Arrival	Flight
Vilnius-Kristianstad	15.30	16.30	TT490
Kristianstad-Vilnius	17.50	20.50	TT491

KÖPENHAMN (CPH) - VILNIUS (VNO)			
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Departure	Arrival	Flight
Vilnius-Köpenhamn	08.15	08.45	TE410
Köpenhamn-Vilnius	09.45	12.15	TE411
Saturday	Departure	Arrival	Flight
Vilnius-Köpenhamn	10.30	11.00	TE410
Köpenhamn-Vilnius	13.25	15.55	TE411

STOCKHOLM (ARN) - VILNIUS (VNO)			
Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday	Departure	Arrival	Flight
Vilnius-Stockholm	16.10	16.45	TE412
Stockholm-Vilnius	17.45	20.05	TE413

JÖNKÖPING (JKG) - RIGA (RIX)			
Monday	Departure	Arrival	Flight
Riga-Jönköping	08.30	09.00	T4-747
Jönköping-Riga	09.40	12.05	T4-748
Wednesday, Friday	Departure	Arrival	Flight
Riga-Jönköping	15.15	15.40	T4-747
Jönköping-Riga	16.15	18.40	T4-747

KÖPENHAMN (CPH) - RIGA (RIX)			
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday	Departure	Arrival	Flight
Riga-Köpenhamn	16.25	17.00	PV755
Köpenhamn-Riga	17.55	20.15	PV756

STOCKHOLM (ARN) - RIGA (RIX)			
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Departure	Arrival	Flight
Riga-Stockholm	09.40	09.45	PV751
Stockholm-Riga	10.40	12.45	PV752

SWEDISH TAFFO AVIATION

Box 73

291 21 Kristianstad

Tel. 044-10 39 00

Fax 044-12 77 10

Swedish Taffo Aviation
Lithuania
Seliu 18-38
VILNIUS

Tel. 2-35 11 36

Fax 2-35 11 36

Taffo-Pentacom

Laisves 58

KAUNAS

Tel. 7-20 35 10

Fax 7-20 32 05

 **Swedish**
Taffo Aviation

CITIES - MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Århus

City Hall
Magistratens 2, Afdeling
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 320134

Kaliningrad

City Hall
Pl. Pobedy 1
236040 Kaliningrad, Russia
Phone: +7 0112 215395
Fax: +7 0112 215395

Klaipėda

City Hall
Liepų 11
5800 Klaipėda, Lithuania
Phone: +370 61 59979
Fax: +370 61 13343

Kristiansand

City Hall
Rådhusgaten 20
4601 Kristiansand, Norway
Phone: +47 42 75000
Fax: +47 42 24042

Riga

City Hall
K. Valdemara Str. 3
LV-1539 Riga, Latvia
Phone: +371 2 320680
Fax: +371 2 220785

Rostock

City Hall
Neuer Markt 1
D-18050 Rostock, Germany
Phone: +49 381 3811452
Fax: +49 381 3811902

Sundsvall

Sundsvalls Kommun
85 185 Sundsvall, Sweden
Phone: +45 60 191398
Fax: +45 60 128191

Tallinn

City Hall
Vabaduse Sq. 7
EE0001 Tallinn, Estonia
Phone: +372 6 404160
Fax: +372 6 404162

Turku

City Hall
Kristiinankatu 1
20100 Turku, Finland
Phone: +358 21 623412
Fax: +358 21 303518



The Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of the cities currently consisting of 55 member cities from all 10 Baltic countries.

The Article 1 of the Union Statute reads as follows:

"The Union was established with the aim of developing cooperation and exchange between the Cities - Union members."

The overriding goal of the Union is to contribute to the positive democratic and economic development for the benefit of people living in the Baltic cities. This is accomplished through unprecedented international cooperation, constant communication, and a common concern: the

health, protection and well-being of the entire Baltic Region.

The Union has the observer status with Helsinki Commission, Helcom PITF, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE).

The Union is governed by the General Conference, the President, two Deputy Presidents and the Executive Board consisting of one member city representative from each Baltic country.

In a daily activity the Union has as its basis five working Commissions as follows:

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

In each of the respective areas the Commissions oversee specific Union projects, activities and special events. Each city is capable to have its own creative and fully independent input to the Commission's work.

The Union is open for the new members. Any coastal city of the Baltic Sea or any other city interested in Baltic Sea area development may become a member of the Union by making a written declaration of its will to enter UBC.

For more information about UBC work and the rules for entering the Union, please contact the Union Secretariat in Gdańsk.