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AARHUS
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BERGEN
COPENHAGEN
ELBLĄG
FREDERICIA
GDAŃSK
GDYNIA
GÖTEBORG
HAAPSALU
HELSINKI
KALININGRAD
KALMAR
KARLSHAMN
KARLSKRONA
KAUNAS
KIEL
KLAIPĖDA
KØGE
KOTKA
KRISTIANSTAD
KREISSAARE
LIEPĀJA

LÜBECK
LEBA
MAMONOVO
NACKA
NÆSTVED
NAKSKOV
NORRKÖPING
NYBORG
NYBRO
NYKØBING F.
OSKARSHAMN
PALANCA
PANEVĖŽYS
PÄRNU
RÉZEKNE
RIGA
ROSTOCK
ST.PETERSBURG
ŠIAULIAI
SOPOT
STOCKHOLM
SUNDSVALL
SZCZECIN
ŚWINOUJŚCIE
TALLINN
TAMPERE
TURKU
UMEÅ
VENTSPILS
VILNIUS
VISBY
VÄSTERVİK
VÄSTERÅS
VÄXJÖ
WISMAR
YSTAD

NEWSLETTER No 9

Dear Members and Friends,

Here comes the next issue of our Newsletter. Let me first share with you my satisfaction after our III General Conference held on 8-9 December 1995, at the Scandinavian Congress Center in Aarhus. The interest in the Conference has exceeded my expectations - over 120 representatives from 46 member cities, as well as the guests from the ministries, international institutions and other Baltic cities, attended the event. Special thanks must be given to the conference hosts - the city of Aarhus - who perfectly organized the meeting. I hope we will all meet at the next UBC General Conference, to be held in September 1997 in Gdańsk, in connection with Gdańsk 1000th Anniversary.



As you remember the Aarhus Conference has adopted two statements. First - "The Role of the Cities in the Baltic Sea Policy" - was sent to Mrs Monika Wulf-Mathies (EU Commissioner responsible for Regional Affairs) to influence EU Baltic Sea policy. The response was very fast. Mrs Mathies confirmed the Commission's great interest in strengthening transnational, interregional, and cross-border cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. The second "Statement on Local Government" was conveyed to the governments of Baltic countries with aim to strengthen the role of local self-governments.

I am looking forward to the Baltic Sea States Summit to be held in Visby, on the island of Gotland, on 3-4 May 1996. Prime Minister of Sweden invited the heads of Baltic Sea countries and the EU Commission President Mr Jacques Santer, with aim to give new political force to cooperation in the Baltic region as a dynamic, democratic and stable region in the new Europe. President Santer is expected to announce the frames of EU Baltic Sea Development Programme. The Programme will be discussed in details by the Baltic Ministers of Foreign Affairs at the Council of the Baltic Sea States meeting at Kalmar Castle in July and I shall try to express UBC view on this important question.

I extend my warm and spring wishes to all of you!

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

Anders Engström
President

Kalmar, April 1996



I. WORK OF THE UNION

The III General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities

The III General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities took place on 8-9 December 1995, at the Scandinavian Congress Center in the city of Aarhus, Denmark. The Conference was attended by over 120 representatives from 46 UBC member cities (including a number of Mayors) as well as invited guests from the ministries, international institutions and other Baltic cities.

The first day of the Conference was devoted to the problems of Unemployment and Social Affairs. The keynote presentations in question were submitted by high representatives of: Ministries of Labour of Denmark and Poland, European Union Commission DG V, Nordic Council, Social-Hansa. Representatives of UBC member cities presented papers on social and employment initiatives in the cities and perspectives of cooperation among the cities in mentioned fields.

The second day of the Conference - The General Assembly - was devoted to internal UBC issues such as reports, elections for next 2-year period etc. The General Conference anonymously reelected Mr Anders Engström, Mayor of Kalmar, as a President of the Union and Mr Michael Bouteiller, Mayor of Lübeck, as a Vice-President, for the next two-year period. Mr Jaak Tamm, Mayor of Tallinn, was elected as a second Vice-President.

The following cities were elected to the UBC Executive Board:

Aarhus (Denmark), Bergen (Norway), Gdańsk (Poland), Kaliningrad (Russia), Kaunas (Lithuania), Pärnu (Estonia), Riga (Latvia), Rostock (Germany), Stockholm (Sweden), Turku (Finland). It was also decided that the Secretariat of the Union of the Baltic Cities would remain in Gdańsk.

Following the initiative of the member cities, the General Assembly approved the creation of new UBC working Commissions - Commission on Sport and Commission on Tourism, and decided to change the name of the Commission on Telecommunication into Commission on Communication, in order to broaden its activities.



The General Conference adopted two statements:

1. The Role of the Cities in the Baltic Sea Policy addressed to the European Union with the aim to influence EU Baltic policy.
2. UBC Statement on Local Self-Government addressed to the national governments of Baltic countries to strengthen the role of the local self-governments.

Following the proposal of the Mayor of the City of Gdańsk, Mr Tomasz Posadzki, to organize the IV UBC General Conference in Gdańsk, in association with the celebration of Gdańsk 1000th Anniversary, it was decided that the next General Conference will take place in Gdańsk, on 12-13 September 1997.





The 13th Meeting of the UBC Executive Board

The 13th meeting of the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities was held on 7-8 December 1995 in Aarhus, Denmark, in association with the III UBC General Conference.

The Meeting was attended by the members of the Executive Board of the Union and the representatives of Union's Working Commissions.

The Board discussed all procedural matters related to the III General Conference as well as the current UBC issues and projects.

President Anders Engström reported from the visit to EU Commission in Brussels held on 23-24 November 1995. Besides the President, UBC was represented by the Vice-President, Mr Michael Bouteiller and the Secretary, Mr Pawel Zaboklicki. The visit was organized by informal group of Baltic cities and regions represented in Brussels. The aim of the visit was to discuss with General Directorates the content of development pro-

grammes carried out by the EU within the Baltic region. UBC representatives stressed the need to make mentioned programmes more accessible for the cities and networks of the cities. During UBC visit, the details of new programme "Baltic Small Projects Facility" were announced by the Commission.

Having in mind that in the predictable future the Baltic Sea will be surrounded by the European Union countries, the Board decided to launch a project called UBC Member Cities and the EU. The aim of the project is to prepare the cities from non-EU Baltic countries for the EU accession. Short description of the project is enclosed in this Newsletter.

The Executive Board emphasized the need to improve UBC internal and external marketing, communication and the public relations. The Board decided to establish a special Communication Task Force responsible for above questions and encouraged all member cities to take active part in the Task Force work.

UBC Task Force for Public Relations and Communication

THE UBC TASK FORCE FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION is a new opportunity for all member cities to take an active role in this network of nearly 60 cities around the Baltic Sea.

The Task Force membership benefits the cities by offering:

- Promotional possibilities for member cities on national and international level,
- Direct contacts and connections to other member cities,
- City presentations in joint marketing efforts,
- Networks towards media, financial institutions and the European Union.

The Task Force is essentially a network of key persons with direct connections between the member cities, commissions, projects and the secretariat. The Task Force is not a project but rather a process to continuously act as a channel for rapid and efficient information flow within and about the Union of the Baltic Cities. Therefore the Task Force membership is a great opportunity to a city, not an obligation. Active involvement in the Task Force operations guarantees a member city its place within the UBC main flow of communication.



Main goals of the Task Force:

- To act as a human network connecting the UBC member cities, commissions, projects and the secretariat.
- To spread information about the UBC activities within the member cities (internal marketing).
- To spread information about the UBC activities to important external reference groups (external marketing).
- To search and identify right partners for different UBC projects involving the member cities.

The first meeting for the Task Force members will take place in Tampere, Finland, during the spring. The event is open to representatives from all member cities. The cities who have not yet registered to the Task Force are kindly asked to name their representatives as soon as possible, as the invitation and the action plan for the workshop will be sent in April 1996.

For more information, please contact:

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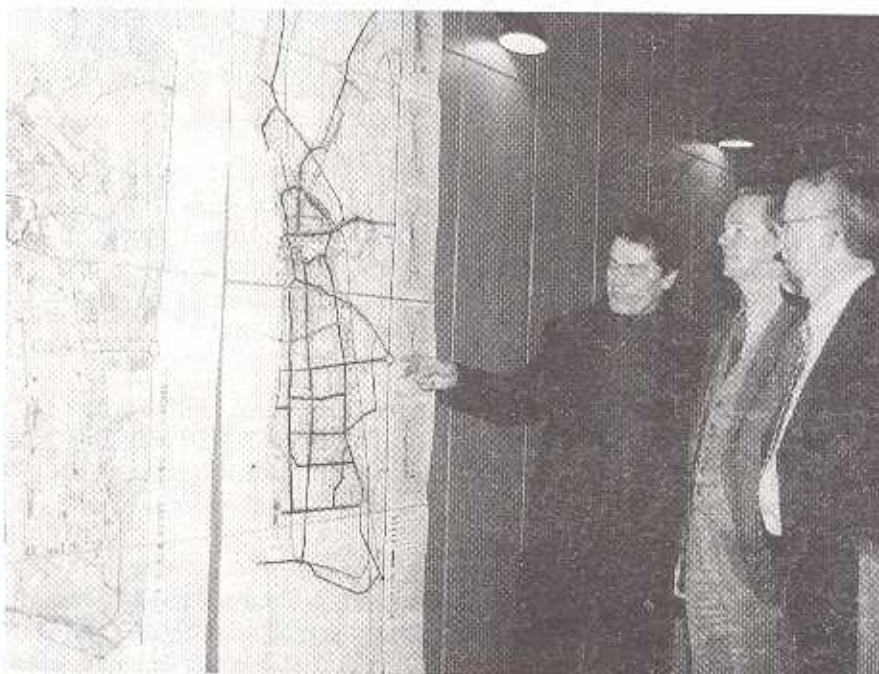


Seminar on Physical Planning and the Environment

The UBC seminar on Physical Planning and Environment, held on 17-19 February 1996 in Klaipėda, was the second event in the series of educational activities related to UBC responsibility over the HELCOM Baltic Sea Environmental Action Programme's 2nd element titled "Institutional Strengthening and Human Resource Development". The project is sponsored by the Nordic Council of Ministers which granted UBC with 550.000 DKK for its implementation. The seminar was organized by the UBC Commission on Environment. More than 60 experts and politicians from 20 UBC member cities representing 9 countries took part in the seminar.

organization are: Ms Dalia Žukienė, Head of Environmental Protection Department in Klaipėda, and Mr Krister Gustafson, Landscape Architect, Karlskrona.

In the form of lectures participants were introduced with examples of physical planning in the Nordic countries. The lecturers were Mr Claes-Åke Kindlund and Mr Krister Gustafson from Karlskrona and Mr Anders Eriksson from Norrköping. Mr Bo Löwendahl demonstrated the aims of "Vision and strategies around the Baltic 2010" programme which is a very important regional physical plan for the Baltic Sea region.



The main theme and the idea of the seminar was to give a general overview and practical examples of the important connections which physical planning and environmental issues do have nowadays in our cities.

The seminar programme was planned together with the environmental and physical planning departments of the cities of Klaipėda and Karlskrona. Persons to thank for their successful work connected with the seminar

During the seminar the case study visits were arranged to learn some of the problems which the city of Klaipėda is facing at the moment. Study visits were guided by architects Mr Kęstutis Vaitiekūnas and Mr Almantas Mureika. One very big question is the role of the harbour in the city. The harbour is totally owned (including the land) and ran by the government. This means that the city has very small possibilities to decide about the planning of its coastline. Even the opening of a small corridor to reach the open waters (in the old harbour area near the city center) seems to be difficult, although it would be very important for the city structure.

The Klaipėda seminar will be followed by the course on the same topics to be held in Liepāja, Latvia. The preliminary

date of the course is 14-17 June 1996. During the course the participants (maximum 20 persons) will work together in 4-5 groups, trying to solve the environmental and land-use problems of one case area. More information on this course will be sent to the member cities in the near future.

MIKKO JOKINEN
CO-CHAIRMAN OF UBC COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT

Seminar on Recycling as an Element of Solid Waste Management

On March 7-8, 1996, over 70 representatives from 18 UBC member cities took part in the seminar on Recycling as an Element of Solid Waste Management organized in Riga by the UBC Commission on Environment. This event was the third one in the series of UBC activities related to the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Programme's 2nd element.

The seminar was planned in cooperation with the Stockholm City Waste Management Company SKAFAB (Ms Daina Millers-Dalsjö, Ms Karin Jalmby and Mr Johan Torberg) and the Environmental Protection Board of Riga City (Mr Raitis Arnts).

The participants were welcomed by Mr Maris Purgailis, Lord Mayor of the city of Riga. The seminar was chaired



by Mr Lars-Eric Carlsson, Managing Director of SKAFAB, and Mr Mikko Jokinen, co-Chairman of the UBC Commission on Environment.

The main theme of the seminar was the recycling in the cities. Lecturers gave a wide overview describing the present status of recycling utilization in the Baltic countries and introduced a number of examples of practical cases and problems, which the cities are facing while trying to fulfill their recycling goals. The situation on waste management in Riga was demonstrated both by lectures and the excursion to "Getlini" landfill area. The seminar par-

ticipants were very active and raised a lot of questions and problems during lectures and discussions.

The seminar will be followed by the course for recycling specialists from the member cities. The course will be held in Gdańsk in June this year. The cities will receive the invitations and the programme of the course in due time.

RAITIS ARNTS

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD, RIGA

UBC Commission on Environment opens its secretariat in Turku

The Turku City Council decided at its meeting on 19th February 1996 to allocate resources for the UBC to support the work of the Environmental Commission for the next two years.

According to the action plan of the commission approved by the 3rd General Conference of the UBC in Aarhus, the commission will be able to open its secretariat in Turku. In practice this will mean that there will be a full-time person hired from 1st April 1996 in Turku ready to work for the UBC Commission on Environment until spring 1998.

The main task of the new person will be assisting UBC Secretary General in Gdańsk and the Environmental Commission in promoting environmental cooperation

between the member cities and other relevant bodies around the Baltic Sea. One of the main outputs of this job will be a UBC Environmental Newsletter concentrating on city-level problems. The newsletter is planned to be published both in printed form and as a part of UBC home pages in Internet.

The Commission's secretariat will be located in the same building as the Environmental Protection Office of the City of Turku. The address is: Linnakatu 61, 20100 Turku, Finland. Tel. +358 21 2302030, fax +358 21 2538613. The e-mail address as well as the name of employed person will be provided later on.

MIKKO JOKINEN

CO-CHAIRMAN OF UBC COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT

UBC Member Cities and the European Union

The Baltic Sea will be in the near future almost totally surrounded by the European Union countries, when Poland and the Baltic States join the EU. It will imply great changes and challenges for the member cities involved. In order to utilize fully the opportunities which the European Union provides, the cities from applying countries must adopt the rules and legislation introduced by the EU.

The purpose of the project is to prepare the UBC member cities for future functioning in the European Union. The cities should be prepared to reap the benefits from various programmes and financial funds, that are available within the EU.

The project will concern such areas as democratic institutions, city administration, city planning, education, youth programmes, social welfare, labour market, environment.

A steering group, consisting of one city from countries which applied to join the EU and one from the countries which are already EU members, was constituted in order to initiate a pilot study. The members of that group are: Copenhagen (Denmark), Kaliningrad (Russia), Kalmar (Sweden), Kristiansand (Norway), Liepāja

(Latvia), Lübeck (Germany), Panevėžys (Lithuania), Szczecin (Poland), Tampere (Finland) and Tallinn (Estonia).

The task of the steering group is:

- to consult the member cities in order to determine the scope of the project;
- to work out the scheme of project realization (seminars, workshops, etc.);
- to prepare and submit an application for project funding;
- to supervise the project implementation.

The steering group had its first meeting in Aarhus during the III General Conference of the Union on 8th of December 1995. The project is led by cities of Szczecin and Copenhagen, which had their first meeting in Copenhagen on 9 February 1996 and discussed the time-table of project realization.



Project on Public Transportation Reform

The first seminar of the project was successfully carried out on 22-24 January 1996 in Kalmar and on 25-26 January in Copenhagen. The participants were politicians and officials from the cities of Panevėžys, Šiauliai, Kaunas, Vilnius and Klaipėda. The hosts of the seminar were the County Public Transport Authorities of Kalmar, Blekinge, Kristianstad and Kronoberg Counties in Sweden and the City of Copenhagen. Representatives from the Ministry of Transport in Lithuania also took part in the seminar which was financed by the government of Sweden.

The title of the project is "Public Transport in a democratic and market-oriented society" and the contents of the seminar followed the title closely. Among topics discussed were the democratic process in public transport decision-making, relations to the customer regarding for example fare-system, privatization and tendering in public transport, legislation and organization of public transport authorities.

The lecturers were officials and politicians from the mentioned County Public Transport Authorities, the Swedish State Railways, the Swedish Association of Public Transport Authorities, the City of Copenhagen and the Public Transport Authority in greater Copenhagen.

The seminar also gave time for study-visits in Sweden and in Copenhagen. In Sweden the offices of County Public Transport Authorities were visited as well as city transport planning departments and bus companies.

The programme comprised also study-visits in Copenhagen. The City of Copenhagen is proud of its bicycle culture. Up to one third of all travels to work is by bike, even in winter. This is the most environmental friendly mode of transport in the cities and could be a solution to transport problems in many cities. Also mod-

ern bus terminals and bus transport systems for elderly were presented to the Lithuanian participants.

The possible implementation in Lithuania of the experiences gathered from the first seminar will be discussed at the local seminar, which will be organized in March in Lithuania with the envisaged participation of politicians and officials from Sweden and Denmark.

The carried out seminar can be assessed as successful. A continuation of this activity as an European Union project, financed by the Ecos-Overture programme, will be applied for. In the continuation process new cities will



participate. These will be Kuressaare, Pärnu, Haapsalu, Szczecin, Rostock, Västerås, Örebro, Norrköping, Göteborg and Nykøbing F.

A decision from the Ecos-Overture programme will come in June and the continuation phase of the project will start in September 1996.

JUHAN JANUSSON
PROJECT LEADER

The 2nd Working Session of the UBC Commission on Culture - the announcement

The Union of the Baltic Cities and in particular - the UBC Commission on Culture is a co-organizer of the Conference titled "Freedom of Expression - Information - Libraries" which will be held in Visby on May 3-4, 1996. Two other organizers of the event, which will be at the same time the Second Working Session of the UBC Commission on Culture, are the County Library of Gotland and the Baltic Center for Writers and Translators.

The invited lecturers are the famous and important persons of the culture life and the conference in itself will:

- examine different aspects of Freedom of Expression in the post communist world in a big panel with participants from Russia, Estonia, Poland, Lithuania and France;
- examine how libraries can play an important role in encouraging freedom of speech and entering the information society;
- serve as a way to increase contacts between libraries in the Baltic region - both East and West - in hopes of fostering cooperative efforts in the sphere of information technology;



- give information on possibilities to receive financial support from EU programmes.

The conference is directed to politicians, culture affairs directors, librarians and writers from the whole Baltic Sea Region. The number of participants is limited to 60, therefore the Conference Planning Committee reserves the right to make a selection of participants.

Notice

The UBC Commission on Culture has produced a Catalogue of Cultural Institutions acting in UBC member cities. It contains about 700 addresses and has been printed and distributed from Visby in Sweden to all institutions included. The project has been done with financial support from UBC, the Swedish Institute and the Municipality of Gotland. The aim of the project is to stimulate contacts between various cultural institutions, associations and groups to facilitate cultural coopera-

For more information, please contact:

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Commission on Culture and Recreation
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Tel. +46 498 269651
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tion. Moreover the Commission has produced a Calendar of Cultural Festivals taking place in Baltic cities. Both catalogue and calendar have been sent to all member cities. Additional copies may be ordered from Visby Culture Department.

The Calendar of Festivals is also available on Internet at the address:
www.algonet.se/~itekonom/ubc/ubchmpg.html

The 4th International UBC Art & Culture Festival - "Art of Musica - Szczecin '96"

This year in summer (from the 22nd of June till 7th of July), the City of Szczecin for the second time will organize the 4th International UBC Art & Culture Festival - "Art of Musica - Szczecin'96". We will use all our beautiful open air concert places like "Summer Theater", "Waly Chrobrego" terraces at Odra river, yard of "Pomeranian Dukes Castle". We also anticipate club meetings, jam sessions, street happenings, music stars and sunny weather together with a lot of fun for everyone. The Baltic Music Network is involved very much in this year's turn of the Festival, therefore all member cities of the UBC are kindly requested to contact representatives of the Network. Our promotional propositions (stalls, flags and emblems decorations) will also be the hit of the "Art of Musica". Do not miss the occasion to show and sell us your "visiting cards" - the best products making your city famous.

Rules of participation.

We invite groups and soloists presenting high artistic level. Applying performers shall send their recordings (audio, video, CD-s) till April 30, to the address:

"Pinokio" Student Club
UBC Festival Office
ul. Ku Słońcu 140
71-073 Szczecin, Poland
Tel. +48 91 494049
Fax +48 91 845495

After receiving the tapes organizers will appoint a committee to qualify all coming applications. All performers classified to take part in the Festival will be informed by the committee directly.

The organizers ensure full boarding for all participating musicians during 3-day sojourn in Szczecin as well as pocket money in PLN (equivalent of 12 DM per day). The cities and participants cover all expenses of travel and transportation.

Promotion of cities.

During two festival weeks, concerts and performances will be seen by approximate 500.000 people. This is why the Festival creates an excellent opportunity of promotion of all cities united in the UBC. We ask cities to send us 5 flags and cities emblems (dimension 3m x 1,5m) which will be placed in the streets of Szczecin. We also offer a possibility of wider promotion on stalls placed in the center of the city.

Stawomir Szafranski
Head of Culture Department, Szczecin
Tel. +48 91 224612
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The Union has new Members

The number of Union Members now totals 61 cities. More Cities decided to join the Union, these are namely: Göteborg, Kiel, Nacka, Nyborg, Nybro, Umeå and Växjö. We would like to warmly welcome these new cities and wish them fruitful cooperation with remaining UBC Member Cities.



II. INFORMATION FROM THE MEMBER CITIES

Aalborg



Welcome to the Danish Sports Confederation's Centennial Youth Games

The City of Aalborg celebrates the founding of the Danish Sports Federation (DIF) by hosting a gigantic sports feast in the days 5 - 11 August 1996 which is immediately after the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

Whereas the Olympic Games are reserved the top-athletes of the world, the DIF Centennial Youth Games applies to young athletes at any level. DIF invites youngsters from all over the world to meet in Aalborg, compete in their sport and to meet new friends from Denmark and all over the world.

The DIF Centennial Youth Games will be a unique sports event. With 9.000 young guests accommodated in all schools of Aalborg and competing in 34 sports, the Youth Games will without comparison be the largest multi-sport games for young athletes in recent times. The Youth Games applies to young people in the age 12 to 18 years old.

The Federation of Sports Associations in Aalborg (SIFA) is the organizer of this sports event and for the moment they are working on the programme details which include cultural-, social- and sports-

activities; everything under the motto: Friendship beyond all bounds.

All the member cities of UBC have already received an invitation and I hope very much to welcome as many athletes as possible from these cities.

KAJ KJÆR
MAYOR OF AALBORG

For more information and enrollment, please contact:

SIFA
Harald Jensens Vej 5,
DK-9000 Aalborg, Denmark
Tel. +45 98 124688
Fax +45 98 114472



1896 Danmarks Idræts-Forbund 1996

Copenhagen

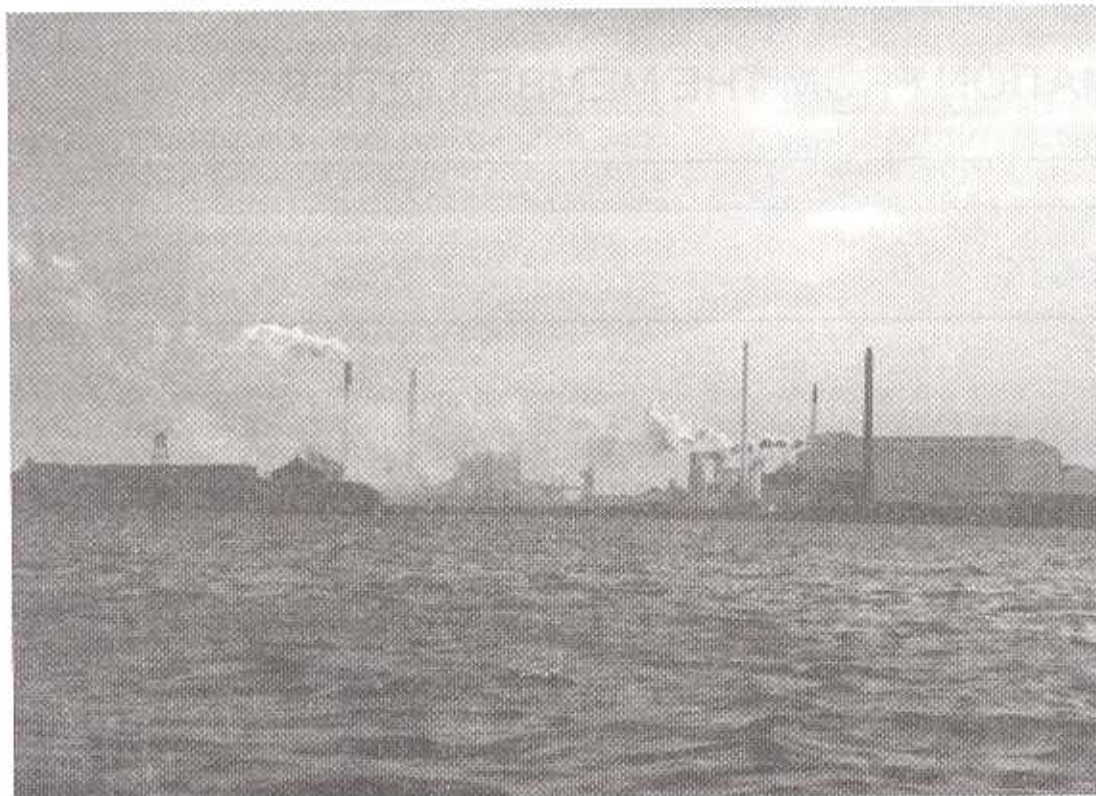


Environmental Projects with Perspectives for the Baltic Region

The new perspectives.

With the establishment of the new democracies in the eastern part of the Baltic Region a whole new perspec-

tive has opened up for establishing an integrated network of local environmental surveillance and management programmes between western and eastern cities.



Exchange of experiences.

The City of Copenhagen is a member of the UBC and is already in direct contact with a number of cities in the Baltic Sea area. The City of Copenhagen invites environmental units in the Baltic Cities for participation in exchange of experience projects. The challenges faced by actual projects lie in e.g. the sectors of harbour environment, waste handling, soil pollution, industrial inspection, carbon dioxide emissions and urban ecology.

Special attention is being turned towards the waste management field. A Copenhagen City Company, Danwaste Consult, has been established as a full public company offering waste management solutions to other cities. Projects in the Baltic area have been very often fully supported by public financing by the EU Community or by national foundations.

Danwaste has in 1993 prepared the general model for waste management in major European cities, based on experiences with waste management in Copenhagen. The Environmental Model was commissioned by EU's Environmental Directorate DG11 and it also created interest in the Baltic area. Contracts between Baltic countries and Danwaste have been agreed among others in Lithuania, where total waste system are being delivered. The contract includes mapping and analyses, construction, take off and joint participation in the running phase.

The harbour environment may serve as another illustrative example. Contacts between harbour cities around the Baltic Sea and with representatives of the Commission of the European Union were made. It was

decided to prepare a proposal for the project: "Baltic Harbour Environmental Network" for initiation in 1996. The project idea was accepted by the Union of the Baltic Cities during the 3rd General Conference of the UBC in Aarhus, Denmark in December 1995.

The project elements are defined in three phases in accordance with European and regional action programmes for financial support. The first phase covers the formation of a Baltic Harbour Environmental Net-

work between environmental authorities in about 40 potential harbour cities. The second phase is the introduction of a harbour environmental management system defined through a process of cooperation between the cities themselves. In the third phase identification and implementation of full scale projects will be carried through and evaluated. During the project period a number of workshops, training courses, evaluation meetings and conferences are to be held in order to secure an efficient transfer and communication of information.

The future.

The Agency of Environmental Protection, City of Copenhagen intends to continue its contribution to the development of Baltic cooperation, which has increased in recent years in dialogue with the Copenhagen EU-Office in Brussels. The exchange of experience to date has been extremely fruitful, and has proved to be of benefit to all parties - and not least to the environment.

JØRGEN DAHL MADSEN
PROJECT COORDINATOR

For more information, please contact:

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Flæsketorvet 68, 1711 Copenhagen
Denmark
Tel. +45 33 665800
Fax +45 33 667133

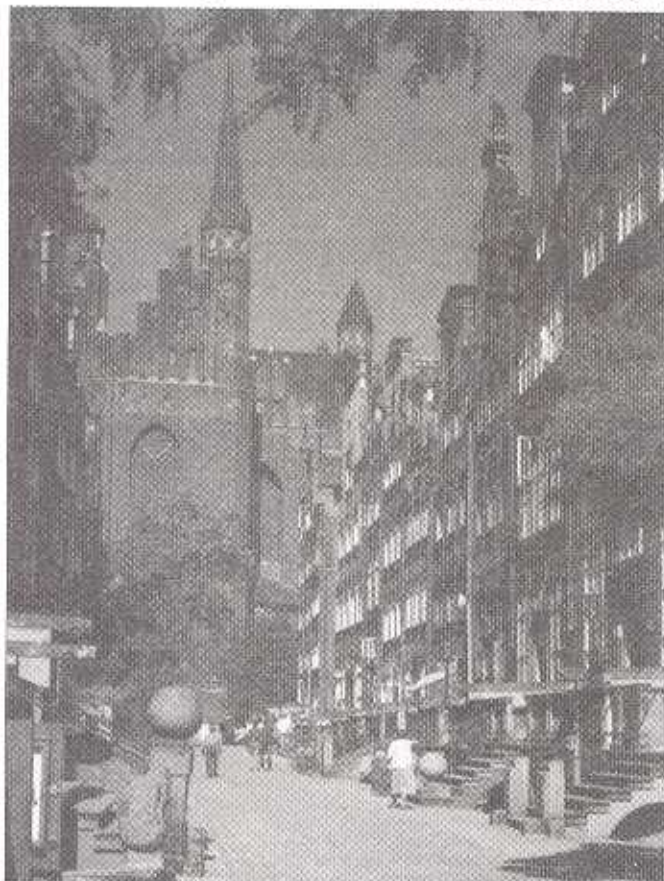


Association of Gdańsk Citizens

Having in mind coming 1000th Anniversary of the City of Gdańsk, some initiatives were undertaken to multiply the historical achievements of the city.

The idea was included into the project submitted to the contest titled "Local Innovations" organized by the Foundation of Local Democracy Development. It proposes to create in Gdańsk an association whose aim would be to integrate all citizens around the effort of rescue of the most precious monuments of the city.

On 26th February 1996 the Provincial Court of Justice in



Gdańsk registered first in the history of the city the Association of Gdańsk Citizens.

According to the Statute, the goals of the association are the following:

- integration of Gdańsk citizens and all interested domestic and foreign partners of the city around the idea of the augmentation of the historic fortune of Gdańsk;
- engagement of existing and not utilized local human capital in order to rescue inestimable Gdańsk monuments of past;
- popularization of knowledge about the history of Gdańsk through various forms of activity in the field of education, art, economy and publications;
- commemoration of the 1000th Anniversary of the City of Gdańsk and the following, organized in Gdańsk, events.

The way of implementation of the mentioned aims assumes the close cooperation of the Gdańsk citizens with partners from the Baltic Sea region which in the integrated Europe will become its central area.

RYSZARD BURCHARD
CHAIRMAN OF THE FOUNDING COMMITTEE



Disabled Youth Center in Gdańsk

Life of the disabled in Poland is not easy. Dwelling conditions aren't suitable to the needs, the educational system doesn't prepare the young persons to cope with the daily problems. Their life stops immediately after finishing the special school. They don't have jobs, what results in closing at their homes where they spend the whole days in front of the TV set. They stop to participate in the social life.

The Municipal Office of Social Help in Gdańsk wants to alter the existing for a few years situation. In 1991 the first Adaptation Center for the Disabled Youth came into being in one of Gdańsk districts. However there were places only for 27 people. Achieved results, reflecting a high level of engagement of the mentally handicapped people into the social life, influenced the decision about the extension of the hitherto existing activity.



In November 1995, the new center of this kind was opened. The old, but overhauled building started to be vibrant with life again. Other 25 people found there suitable conditions for their rehabilitation and a further education. They spend in the center most of the day, take part in the different forms of therapy, develop their interests and skills, but first of all they try to live on their own, independently.

One of the treatments is a therapy utilizing music. The music concerts for sponsors of the Center given by the disabled youth are the effect of these music activities. A combination of the fine arts with the music and body movement is another form of therapy. The Center is often visited by the students of High School of Fine Arts. The collective statuary art and making of plaster miniature figures brings a lot of joy for the handicapped.

For those who have problems with the proficient movement, the room for rehabilitation was created in order to correct the body defects and to strengthen weak muscles. This kind of effort, besides its good physical influence, helps to keep a good frame of mind as well. However fulfillment of the daily duties is also a part of the day. The youth has to keep room tidy, to water plants and to prepare meals.

For children from the families touched by the social pathology, staying in the Center is the only chance to feel safe and learn normal emotional reactions and social behaviors. Life is going on in the Center and according to the enthusiastic staff, all might succeed in this building and everybody can find there his or her own place. The joy and smiles have already appeared there. Future means a chance for finding a job.

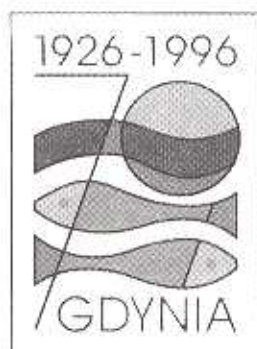
WIOLA SKRZYPIŃSKA



Gdynia



Welcome to Gdynia



Since our last report in the Newsletter No 8 a lot of important and successful events have taken place in Gdynia. In January the official delegation from Gdynia visited our sister city - Kiel. The topic was to discuss further activities planned for the nearest future, as well as to establish cooperation within the question of the city ver-

ture. Among others - return visit of Gdynia's citizens to Kiel in May is scheduled. At the beginning of 1996 two councillors from Gdynia paid a visit to Vilnius to attend the teacher's conference within the framework of "Aid for Poles Living in the East" programme.

Gdynia and Karlskrona will remain the partner cities for the second stage of "SALIDA" project concerning the wide range of matters referred to the drug and alcohol abuse. The representative of Gdynia City Hall took part in a meeting concerning the EU programme





"Ecos/Overture" in Karlskrona which was planned and prepared by Vorpommern, Blekinge, Kalmar, Kristianstad, Gdańsk, Elbląg and Słupsk Region.

10 February 1996 was a great day both for Gdynia citizens and for all who visited our city on that day. We celebrated solemnly the 70th anniversary of obtaining civic rights. Gdynia was visited not only for notable people who play important role in the city's development and prosperity but also by official delegations from our partner cities: Kaliningrad, Karlskrona, Kiel and Plymouth. Gdynia's friends enjoyed the "Gdynia Meetings" at WTC Gdynia-Expo where thousands of inhabitants and guests danced, sang songs and could try traditional, regional dishes. Among our guests there were also the representatives of major Polish cities -members of the Union of the Polish Cities.

The great events of 10th February are just the beginning of the whole year's celebrations and attractions planned to be held in Gdynia. The nearest international event will be the World Cup in Motorcross. Then the "Gdynia Art Spring" which will gather together many artists for the happenings, exhibitions and performances. Between 17 and 19 May 1996 Gdynia will host domestic and foreign representatives of communes and tourist agencies sell-

ing their offers during the 1st Tourism Market "Four Seasons in Kashubian Region".

The turn of May and June will witness another exciting event named "Joint Europe". Gdynia, which aspires to the role of international meetings' place, has very good experiences in this field. During the event "Join Europe", the Days of Twin Cities will be held bringing together the representatives of our twin cities presenting their hometowns by way of youth from twins cities during the IVth Twin Cities Sporting Competition. We expect that the number of participants will exceed all previous events.

IZABELA DUDEK
CITY OF GDYNIA

More information on 70th birthday of Gdynia is available at:

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Foreign Relations Department
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Haapsalu



The Month of the White Lady

In the year of 1979 Haapsalu celebrated its 700th anniversary of receiving the town by laws. To mark the occasion the local amateur theater "Randlane" came out with the new open-air performance - "The Legend of Haapsalu" - based on Paul Kilgas's libretto and accompanied by Gennadi Taniel's music. The legend tells us the story about a young peasant girl who is punished for her love to a noble man and immured into the walls of the castle. Every years in August she appears in the chapel window to remind us of her eternal love.

The number of the audience has increased from year to year. Because of its particular subject the legend can be performed only when the darkness has fallen over the town. Visitors usually come to town much earlier. That's why the cultural activities of Haapsalu made up their minds to offer people some entertainment before the evening performance start.

So the idea of the White Lady Days (WLD) came into being. It took some time before the idea became a reality - the first official WLD took place in 1986. Since then we have had 9 WLD and it has always been the busiest period in the cultural life of the town, the time when people can enjoy the legend and a countless number of all kind of events - from concerts to night dancing. Now we have got





to the number 10, which means that this summer we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the WLD. We intend to dedicate to this famous Lady the whole month of August.

The opening bells chime on August 2nd with two-days blues festival "Augustibluus", the event that has occurred 2 times already. On August 5-8 the town will be captured by the actors and actresses of Estonian Amateur Theaters. With the help of the drama teachers from Denmark, Russia and Estonia they will have their summer training course. Everybody interested can see the results of the training on August 8. The joint show will open the Estonian Amateur Theatre Festival of the open-air performances. The festival will last for 3 days.

Naturally, the legend is a part of the days. The public can see the performance, which has gone through the refreshment and brought about 7.000 people to the castle park

last year, at two weekends - August 9-10 and 16-17. The Month of the White Lady ends on August 28th when the full moon once and again invites us to meet the mysterious Lady in the chapel window. Haapsalu is waiting for you in August ! But you are always welcome whenever you come !

ANNETI AKEN
CULTURAL COUNCILLOR, HAAPSALU

For more information, please contact:

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Fax +372 47 45101

Kalmar



Social Welfare Project enters its third phase

In the Newsletter No 8 we informed about phase of the project which was carried out in Kalmar in October. The project was continued in December when the Swedish participants visited Panevėžys. Together with the Lithuanian participants, plans were worked out for the next steps. The draft program will be:

- Doctors from Kalmar will have exchange with colleagues from Panevėžys,
- A dentist from Panevėžys will spend three weeks in Kalmar as a vocational visit,
- Information about the Swedish way of work with making new laws in the field of social insurance,
- Studies on the structure of Swedish social insurance on the county level,
- Studies on problems connected with archives,

- Studies on children rights and a way of Kalmar works with children with special problems,
- Education of parents who are interested in adoption,
- Studies on organization of elderly care in their own homes,
- Building up day-centers for youth,
- Vocational visit and training of psychotherapists and occupational therapists.

The detail program is under work and an application for money will be sent to the Swedish Association of Local Authorities before summer.

BENGT ENGE
CITY OF KALMAR

Kaunas



Kaunas Free Economic Zone project

Kaunas, the second largest city of Lithuania including Kaunas region (0,5 million of inhabitants), the geographical center of Lithuania, is an important point of crossing of West-East and North-South transit corridors.

It makes Kaunas a prospective area in terms of Free Economic Zones establishment in Lithuania. Great hopes of Kaunas lie in the Via Baltica highway. Crossing Kaunas and connecting Helsinki with Western and



Southern Europe it would intersect the route which connects the ice-free port of Klaipėda with the boundless Eastern market. The development of these transit corridors was approved at the Conference of European Ministers of transportation in Greece on March 14-16, 1994.

The Kaunas Free Economic Zone project tries to benefit from the fact that well-equipped Karulia airport is only 10 kilometers from Kaunas. After the European-standard railway is extended, not only the communication with the West would improve, but Kaunas would also become an important transit center of cargo transportation. The transportation terminal in Kaunas free economic zone would connect European and Russian gauge railway, air and motor routes into one system. Keeping in mind the proximity of Klaipėda and navigation in the Nemunas, it is possible to conclude that all sorts of transportation will meet there.

Foreign investors are seriously interested in these projects. The establishment of Free Economic Zone is an important term for investments. One of the constituents of Free Economic Zone will be Scientific Technological Park. Kaunas Scientific Technological park "NOVA" is a member of International Association of Scientific Parks (IASP). It undertakes the searching and attracting of foreign investors.

During the realization of Kaunas Free Economic Zone project, more than 700 million USD of investments are expected. The establishment of Scientific Technological Park and Free Economic Zone would create 10 thousands of working places, thus activating the social and economic development of Kaunas region.

LIUDAS MAYLIS
HEAD OF PRESS CENTER, KAUNAS

Kiel



Kiel introduces itself

Kiel is the youngest member of the UBC. The City would like to introduce itself herewith and also to draw attention to the events which will take place in the city this year.

Kiel's name is internationally linked to shipbuilding and seafaring. The Kiel Canal linking the North Sea with the Baltic is the busiest artificial waterway in the world. Kiel became a major city through shipping and the navy. To this day the visual impression of the capital of the country of Schleswig-Holstein, situated on townscape which stretches along for 17 kilometers, is dominated by the

huge cranes of the shipyards. But Kiel has developed into a modern harbour-, industry-, service- and university-city with about 245.000 inhabitants. Kiel is the biggest German port for ferries on the Baltic, by number of passengers.

In the city the most modern ships are under construction and high quality colour scanners are built. Kiel is the center of administration of the country; it has a university, including institutes are renowned as the Institute for Global Economics, the Institute for Maritime Research and the Institute of Geological Research in the Maritime Sector (GEOMAR).

The International Kiel Week

Every year during the last full week of June, the international attention turns to Kiel, the capital of Schleswig-Holstein. The reason is the International Kiel Week which is the biggest sailing contest in the world with 4.500 sportsmen from more than 40 nations. But during these nine days, not only sailing goes on. Another vital parts of this event are two conferences, the Kiel Week Conference 1996, 23-25.06.1996 (announcement in





the third chapter of the Newsletter), and the 19th International City Forum.

The latter event will be one-day meeting (24.06.1996) on the subject "The economical factor of the harbour - its meaning for the city, the country and Europe". The capital of the country itself invites representatives from its twinned cities and befriended communities mainly out of the Baltic region to this international city forum.

For more information, please contact:

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Kotka



CPMR Seminar for the Baltic Sea Regions

CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe) is over 20-year-old organization consisting of more than 100 regions from coastal states in Europe. The aim of CPMR is to promote the role of regions within the European institutions. The Conference works in the fields of regional planning and development, environment, traffic, tourism, etc. and creates and leads several cooperation projects.

Last year CPMR held general conference in Donegal, Ireland, where Mr Hannu Tapiola, Mayor of Kotka, was elected to the Political Bureau of CPMR. Then it was also decided by common consent to found the Baltic Sea Commission. The Baltic Sea Commission will be the fifth geographic Commission to be created within CPMR and will complete and complement the representation of the large spatial planning areas through the other CPMR Commissions (Atlantic Arc, Mediterranean, Islands, North Sea).

The Political Bureau will held its meeting in Kotka on 6 May 1996 and on 7 May there will be the seminar of Baltic Sea Region. The seminar has two targets:

- official establishment of the Baltic Sea Commission,
- initiation of the cooperation among the Baltic Sea regions.

For more information, please contact:

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e-mail: tapi.valinoro@kymenlaa.reg.reg.elisa.fi

Łeba



Łeba - small city, big organizer

On the 29th February 1996 a meeting of the UBC Commission on Sport took place in Karlskrona. During that meeting the representative from Łeba proposed to organize an international windsurfing competition from the 7th till 9th of June 1996 for the participants from the Baltic states. The race will be called "UBC REGATTA" - one hour classic. In case of poor weather conditions the regatta will be held on the Serbsko Lake near Łeba.

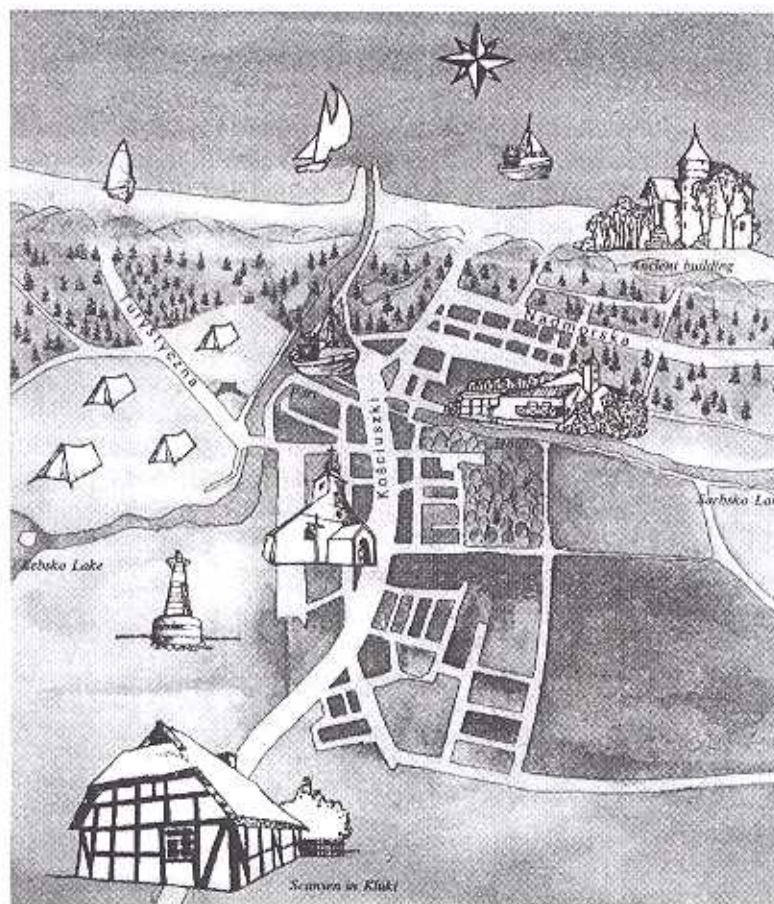
From the 18th till 21st of July 1996 a BEACH BALL'96 tournament will take place. Everybody is invited to the playground on the beach in Łeba.

From the 19th till 22nd of September 1996 Łeba invites competitors for the International Windsurfing Championships of Poland in Funboard class. For the sixth time in row the city is the organizer of these championships, an event which is open for the windsurfers from different countries. The Łeba Yacht Club organizes a series of windsurfing "Grand Prix" regatta on the Serbsko Lake for amateurs on the following days in 1996: 3 May, 22-23 June during the Days of the Sea, 7 September, 28 September. During those events several other accompanying meetings and other attractions will be organized.



In summer 1998 the International Camping and Caravanning Rally will be held in Łeba. Visitors from many countries are expected, because it is the biggest annual event for the fans of camping in the world.

A new sport hall with 350 seats for audience is built for that occasion and in order to provide adequate facilities for the development and education of youth in the region.



Apart from that the local authorities undertake some other important investments. Modernization of the refuse dump and construction of a new water intake are planned. In 1996 a new concrete bridge on the Łeba river will replace the current wooden construction.

In 1996 construction of the yacht port for 130 yachts and marina will start. Completion is predicted for the beginning of 1998. The new port will create better access and facilities for the visitors willing to come to Łeba and the World Biosphere Reserve in a yacht.

Ms MARTA CHEŁKOWSKA
DEPUTY MAYOR

For more information, please contact:

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Pärnu



International Choir Festival Pärnu'96

Pärnu, the town aiming at becoming the summer capital of Estonia, is especially active during the summer season. Its magnificent sandy beach, peaceful parks and friendly atmosphere are the attractions to entice people to spend their holidays here. Thus, in the calendar of cultural and sports events of 1996, more attention has been paid to the international events.

The International Choir Festival PÄRNU'96 taking place on July 4-7 is surely one of the reason to come to Pärnu. This is a great party, offering amateur choirs a change to get together and sing in the period between the famous all-Estonian song festivals. 19 Estonian and 16 foreign choirs have applied for participation on the festival. This means that about a thousand singers are coming to Pärnu for the event.

In Pärnu, finding the most favourable spots for the concerts of the festival is no problem. Halls, open air stages and stands are always ready for performing, whatever the event. If everything turns out according to the plans and the International Choir Festival PÄRNU'96 is a success, the next festival will be arranged in 1998, to be followed by the one in the year of 2000.

Even if you are not too fond of choir music, do not hesitate to visit Pärnu anyway - whatever your idea of entertainment and fun is, you will find it here.

EHA RISTIMETS
PRESS-SECRETARY, PÄRNU



Rostock



Baltic Sea Biennale 1996

Preface.

Due to the City's strained financial situation, the Rostock Kunsthalle has been compelled to alter its original exhibition plans. As announced in December 1992 at the Ars Baltica meeting in Kiel, we had hoped to send members of the Kunsthalle staff to the countries bordering of the Baltic, to review the art scenes there and select artists for our forthcoming exhibition. As the city's funds no longer permit of such necessary information trips - the artistic director of 1992 Biennale required DM 15.000 alone - we had to develop a conception for the event two years from now that would be acceptable to all and would not require the services of a head curator.

Intro(-)Duction.

The exhibition is intended to be understood in two ways:

- The artists selected by the Kunsthalle are to be presented in solo or small group exhibitions in coming years. This amounts to an indirect introduction to our long-term exhibition schedule, to our plans for the future. In addition, by presenting their works at the Baltic Sea Biennale, the artists will have a chance to introduce themselves to the public.
- An "Introduction" will also be made on the part of the artists selected; each has been asked to suggest another artist he or she finds important - preferably from his or her own country - to participate in the forthcoming Biennale. Thanks to these "unknowns" the exhibition will contain an element of surprise, introducing a factor of artistic spontaneity and subjectivity into our long-term planning. The nominated artists will make their suggestions known both to us, the exhibition organizers, and in consequence to the visitors of the exhibition.

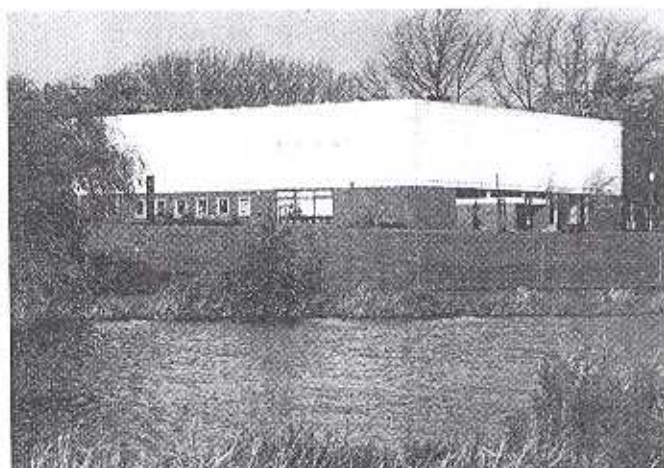
The exhibition is to take place along a route extending between two key points in the city: the site of the event, Rostock Kunsthalle and St. Peter's Church (Petri-Kirche) in the eastern section of the Old Town.

All participating artists will be invited to visit Rostock at least one year before the Baltic Sea Biennale, to give them opportunity to acquaint themselves with the city and the exhibition sites. After having done so, the artists (possibly aided by the organizers) will develop conception for the sites along the route and for the spaces in the Kunsthalle. The works of art they suggest, depending on the situation, can either be already existing pieces or works created especially for the site or directly at the site.

To represent the exhibition and to mark the various sites, one of the participating artists will be requested to design an emblem to serve as symbol of the Baltic Sea Biennale.

For more information, please contact:

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Fax +49 381 8016288



"Growing Europe - Groovy Europe" - a Baltic Sea regional youth festival

The Europe Day, 5 May, and the European Week, 5-12 May 1996, is the occasion for the idea of a transnational project between the following partners: the "Kunst-Raum-Schiff STUBNITZ", the Baltic Music Network and the Hanseatic City of Rostock. The rock bands will attract many 15-30-year-old youngsters.

On 8-9 May 1996, eleven rockbands from Germany, Denmark, Russia/Kaliningrad and Poland will perform on board the "Stubnitz" in the city harbour of Rostock. The main objective will be to increase the interregional tolerance in the mentality of youngsters by means of an Interbaltic theme. The youngsters should learn to accept their identity as a part of the European family.

The low-budget project comes up to DM 27.000. Partly, the financing is expected to be granted by the Ministry of Justice of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern within the framework of support to activities during the European Week. Another considerable amount will be given from the Danish, Swedish and Finnish cultural and social funds. The partner fitting, the application procedure and part of the fund raising, was executed by the UBC Office on Social Affairs in Rostock.

KARIN WOHLGEMUTH
UBC OFFICE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS, ROSTOCK



Šiauliai



Free Economic Zone in Šiauliai

Šiauliai is a cultural and industrial center of the Northern Lithuania. It is the fourth largest city in the country according to area and population. Under the historical circumstances Šiauliai has become the junction of various transportation roads. That is why the preconditions of the establishment of Free Economic Zone are on the analyses from the point of view of geography, development of transport and economics.

The land, that surrounds the Airport, belongs to the city and is free of buildings. The establishment of the Airport according to the requirements of ICAO, gives the economical opportunities for Free Economic Zone. The following spheres of infrastructure, both for local and foreign capital, can be attracted:

- aircompanies,
- complex of warehouses,
- transportation companies and firms (local and international freightage),
- service of vehicles,
- hotels, recreation complexes, restaurants,
- outpatient clinics, hospitals,
- communication system of infrastructure,
- fuel bases,

- service of the saloons of aircraft,
- technical supervision of the aircraft.

There are many buildings, suitable for business development and creation of airport infrastructure, left on the territory. Besides a military plane plant, which had 2.000 employees, there are around 140 buildings, 46 of which can be used for production purposes. This area is 25.000 m² and the administration building is 5.000 m². There are 44 hangars with their apron areas on the territory. The present property of the airport (buildings, runways, navigation, equipment) and formed air space have value of 1.5 billion US dollars, 80% among them in runways, 10% - full supply system, 10% - navigation equipment, etc.

The Šiauliai Free Economic Zone will be therefore:

- zone of international cargo shipping and distribution,
- zone of storehouses and production zone,
- plane repair and servicing center,
- refueling station,
- constant exhibition (in the future).

Creating of Free Economic Zone confirms a fact that Šiauliai is a city which is open to ideas, innovation and capital.

Świnoujście



Świnoujście - an ideal place for summer holidays

Świnoujście, Poland, is situated on the German border and at the Baltic Sea. It is historically, one of the favorite Polish holiday locations. Thousands of people enjoy the sea, sun and recreation on the more than 10 kilometers of white beach. The promenade near the beach has games, shopping, food, drink and music for every age.

The city offers daily entertainment during the season in the amphitheater and free orchestra concerts in the band shell on the Promenade in August. Our Baltic neighbours might be interested in joining us for some of the following events this summer.

- June 20th to 23rd: "Świnoujście Days" - concerts and festivals with a Neptune theme and the celebration of St John's Night.
- July 1st to 14th: "Fama'96" - the 26th year of the national festival of art, music and theater by and for students.
- July 18th to 21st: "Świnoujście Folk Picnic" with music, dancing and folklore.
- Sept. 12 to 22nd: "III Uznamski Festival of Music": Classical music concerts.



- Sept 13th to 15th: "Nordenham Days" - a festival to celebrate our sister city in Germany.
- Sept. 23rd to 29th: "A Week of Maritime Culture" - including the renown "Wiatrak", shanty festival.

There are many other events and activities throughout the spring, summer and fall that holiday visitors can enjoy.

For more information, please contact:

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Turku



Turku - a city with long traditions in the trade across the Baltic Sea

Already in the prosperous time of the Hanseatic League Turku had close connections with the merchant routes between Western and Eastern Europe. Its birth itself as the first town in Finland is a proof of the profitability and the advantageousness of its location along the trading routes of those days. The international trade uses today nearly the same routes between East and West as it did in the Middle Ages and the beginning of the 16th century.

Favourable location in the center of the markets of 50 million people.

Scandinavia, Finland, Balticum and North-Western Russia are a market area of about 50 million customers. In Russia and the Balticum the purchasing power is rapidly growing. Finland and Scandinavia have for decades been among the most prosperous countries in the Western world. Five daily ferry connections from Turku to Stockholm and vice versa guarantee fast deliveries across the sea. No extra investment in storage on the other shore is needed. Many daily flight connections are available between Turku and Stockholm for person and freight traffic.

An effective transportation net - availability of the nearby markets.

The new European motorway (E-18) leads from Central Europe via Stockholm and Turku to St. Petersburg and Russia. The route is to be completed in ten years. The location of the City close to Stockholm offers the enterprises and people in the city a good variety of international flight connections via Stockholm airport (a 35-minute flight from Turku). Port of Turku has regular connections with the ports around the Baltic Sea. There are many private enterprises ready to solve the transportation needs of the enterprises in the City.

Enterprises and three universities in cooperation - Turku concept for the economic growth.

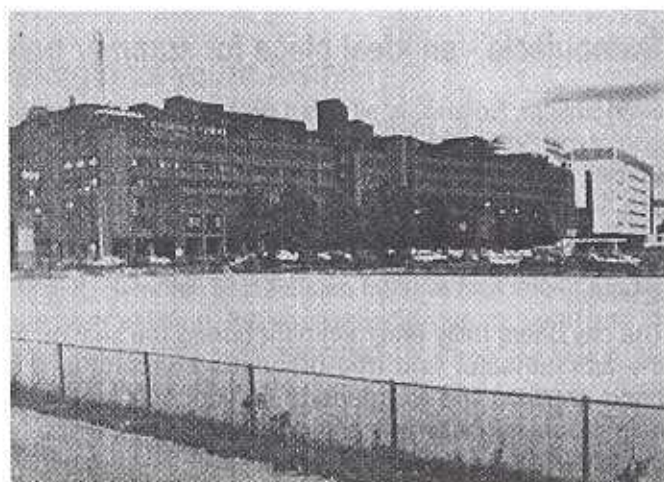
The versatile economic structure and the cooperation between the enterprises and the three universities in the largest Finnish technology center enables an effective and profitable R&D in many high-tech enterprises in the region.

Turku Technology Center is created by the universities and private enterprises. It is very strong in biotechnology, material sciences and programming. Many international researches are working in the Technology Center. Research is being carried out e.g. for the European Space Programme, and for the local export oriented medicine industry. The technology Center is also active in co-operation between the Finnish and Russian bioscientists in the form of a joint laboratory.

For the enterprises looking for a place to reach the Scandinavian, Finnish, Baltic and Russian markets Turku is well worth of considering. The Entrepreneurial Liaison Office of the City of Turku is willing to assist companies looking for a new start on these markets of significant purchasing power.

For more information, please contact:

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Fax +358 21 2627458





III. VIEWS

Baltic Sea States Summit 1996

On 3-4 May 1996 in Visby, on the island of Gotland, the Baltic Sea States Summit will be held at the invitation of the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Ingvar Carlsson.

The purpose of the conference is to give a new political force to cooperation in the Baltic region as a dynamic, democratic and stable region in the new Europe. The participating states will be the countries bordering on the Baltic Sea, this is Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Denmark. Norway and Iceland will also participate in the conference as they have traditionally a natural interest in the region.

The heads of governments will discuss democracy, international cooperation, trade, economy, environmental control and cultural matters. The aim of the conference is to increase and intensify cooperation in these areas. The meeting will conclude with a joint declaration - a final document in which the heads of governments will declare their intention to work towards the common goals.

The European Commission is also invited to that meet-

ing and will be represented by the President of the Commission. This participation is of a high importance having in mind a fact that the Baltic Sea will be in the near future surrounded by the countries of the European Union. Germany and Denmark have long been members of the EU. In a few years' time, Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will also become full members of the EU. As a result, the Baltic Sea region will be an EU concern in many respects.

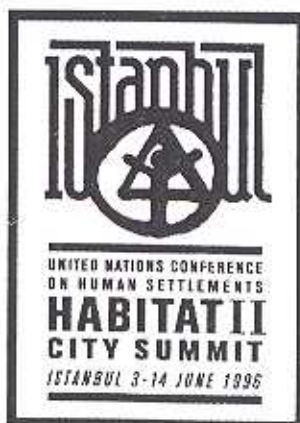
Therefore a large number of people may be affected by the various decisions taken at the summit meeting in Visby. Some 50-million population lives in what is described as the Baltic region. This region can serve as a bridge between 350 million inhabitants of the industrialized EU and 250 million people in the rapidly progressing Eastern Europe. All these people are directly or indirectly interested in developments of the Baltic region that are characterized by peace, democracy, increasing trade and economic growth. The changes will, of course, be most noticeable for the citizens of the countries whose economic and cultural development were inhibited for several decades by their non-democratic governments.

HABITAT II and WACLA Conferences

The first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, HABITAT I, was held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976. At that time there was still the belief that rapid urbanization could be mitigated or even diffused. But this has not happened. In the twenty years that have gone by, urbanization and large city growth have continued relentlessly. Recognition of the urgency of the problem led participants of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio to request the organization of a second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, HABITAT II, to address the

persisting problems of housing, settlement and urbanization. In an attempt to formulate solutions to these problems, the United Nations General Assembly decided in December 1992 that a new UN Conference on Human Settlements, known as the City Summit, be convened in Istanbul, between June 3-14, 1996.

The overall objectives of HABITAT II are to increase global and national awareness of the problems facing human settlement, to highlight their potential role in fos-



tering social progress and economic growth and to encourage the world's leaders to make commitments towards making the world's cities, towns and villages healthy, safe, just and sustainable. HABITAT II will be the last building block of the efforts of the international community to shape the global agenda of the 21st Century.

During the HABITAT II, in addition to the official conference, separate forums will be organized for:

- Mayors, members of city councils and associations of cities;
- Parliamentarians;
- Researches, academics and professionals in the field of housing and settlements;
- Non-profit organizations and foundations;
- Private sector;
- Trade-unions;
- NGOs and civil society associations.



Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010 "VASAB 2010" Secretariat in Gdańsk

On 21 August 1992, representatives from national and regional ministries of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) responsible for environment protection and for spatial planning met in Sweden. During the meeting it was decided to jointly prepare a document on a spatial development concept "Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010".

Four basic values, aiming at the improvement of the quality of life, constitute the "heart" of the vision:

- **development**, where the economic prosperity plays a predominant role
- **environmental sustainability**, because development must not deprive future generations of their chances
- **freedom**, as it implies the possibility to choose in accordance with individual/regional preferences
- **solidarity**, the characteristic of a caring society, sharing benefits from development.

The focus in VASAB 2010 current work is on priority common actions and pilot projects.

Pilot Projects:

- Transport corridors: Helsinki - Tallinn - Riga, Berlin - Warsaw - Minsk - Moscow, Petrozavodsk - Vaasa - Umeå, TEM (Warsaw - Gdynia - Karlskrona).
- Urban system: cooperation of Luleå - Oulu.
- Specific areas: Tourism development of German-Polish border region, Transborder cooperation of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus, Larger islands development network, Green Lungs of Europe.

VISION & STRATEGIES 2010 AROUND THE BALTIC

Common actions:

- Guidelines for spatial planning in the coastal zone.
- Compendium of Planning Legislation (linked to the EU Compendium).

Secretariat of VASAB 2010 has been working in Gdańsk since February 1996 in the historical Green Gate building. Secretariat employs three persons: Jan Kuligowski - the Secretary, Jacek Zaucha - the Deputy Secretary, and Agnieszka Żaboklicka - the Assistant.

We perform the tasks defined in the § 12 of the Tallinn Resolution, adopted 08.12.1994, including the following in particular:

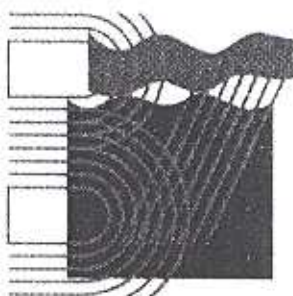
- pushing forward the approved actions,
- assisting in the preparation of BSR Ministers' annual meetings and CSD/BSR meetings,
- organizing the ongoing concentration process with other institutions, cooperation with international and regional programmes, that deal with spacial and regional development in the BSR,
- proposing and accompanying research and pilot projects,
- publishing brochures on spatial planning in all the countries participating in the programme.

For more information, please contact:

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The Baltic Institute of Finland

Radical changes in the Baltic Rim have brought a new economic era with interesting opportunities and enormous potential. The Baltic Institute of Finland, an independent nationwide organization, was founded in Tampere in 1993 to meet the challenges of this strongly emerging new region. The main goal of the Baltic Institute is to promote and stimulate purposeful cooperation and projects in the fields of business, public administration and research in the Baltic Sea Area.



- runs and promotes commercial, industrial and cultural projects,
- organizes conferences, seminars and training courses,
- monitors current issues and prevailing trends,
- is lean and efficient in operations.

Activities.

The Baltic Institute of Finland is an **information center** for gathering and delivering information about issues and undertakings regarding the Baltic Sea Area.

The Baltic Institute of Finland:

- is an independent nationwide foundation,
- stimulates international cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region,

- The Baltic Sea Directory - initiative provides organizations and persons active in the Baltic Sea Cooperation with a possibility to communicate via electrical mail and/or be included in the annually published Directory of contact information.



The Baltic Institute of Finland is an independent **forum** for representatives of business enterprises, public administration as well as research and culture organizations to meet and create discussion, improve cooperation and launch initiatives and projects regarding topical issues in the Baltic Sea Area.

- In March 1995 the Baltic Institute hosted a Workshop on Networks and Communication in order to improve the information flow in the Baltic Sea Area. The published final report contains the summary of the workshop proceedings.
- The Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce's annual Hansa Business Days event will take place in Finland in March 27-28, 1996 and the Baltic Institute of Finland is one of the local organizers. Hansa Business Days event contains the conference on economic development in the Baltic Sea Area as well as an East-West market place for companies.

The Baltic Institute of Finland offers a platform for various **projects** and functional connections. The Institute

facilitates the formation of partnership and multinational projects in the Baltic Sea Area.

- As a first stage of the BALTINFO-project, the Baltic Institute has created a Home Page for the Baltic Sea Cooperation into the World Wide Web. All other organizations are invited to link their own home pages to this structure (see <http://www.tampere.fi/baltic/>).

DR MATTI OTALA
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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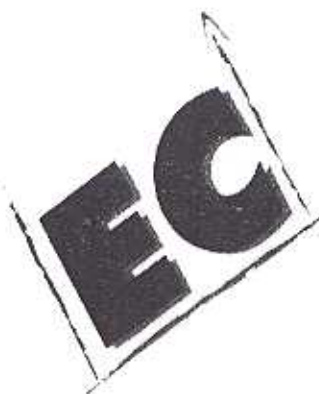
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EUROCITIES

Eurocities was founded in 1986 on the basis of two clear ideas: that cities working together to provide common solutions to common problems would be more effective than cities working entirely on their own; and that by cooperating they could provide a common platform to speak to the European institutions with a single and more powerful voice. Interest in Urban Policy and the activities of the European Community was rising. The positive impact of transnational cooperation was beginning to be understood. The wealth of experience, both positive and negative, in the city development was being recognized. Recognized as well, was the role of cities in social, cultural and economic development, not only for their surrounding regions, but for the growth and development of Europe as a whole.

Ten years later, while the underlying themes have remained the same, the initiative of the original six cities has changed beyond recognition. Eurocities now comprises 72 of Europe's leading cities, both east and west. In January 1996 Eurocities underwent a merger with Eurometropoles which opened the network to membership by the Universities and Chambers of Commerce of those same cities. The association, which established a permanent secretariat in Brussels in late 1991, has six committees (Transport, Environment, Social Affairs, Economic Development and Urban Regeneration, Culture, East/West), a forum for the development of



Technology Policy, three major sub-networks (Telecities, Car Free Cities and DIECEC - Cooperation in Intercultural Education) and various other projects and working groups. Eurocities also runs the TACIS City Twinning Programme on behalf of the European Commission, and has a major programme for reconstruction in Sarajevo in cooperation with Metropolis and the United Towns Development Agency.

In addition, and for some cities more importantly, Eurocities is developing as the main Urban Policy lobby in the European Union. With initiatives such as the publishing of a "Charter for Cities for the Intergovernmental Conference" (1995), at the behest of its current President, Walter Vitali, Mayor of Bologna, an "Agenda for Cities for the European Parliament elections" (1994), Eurocities provides the vehicle for the cities to express their common views and concerns to the European institutions in a regular and coordinated basis. Collectively, the cities have been able to commission an audit on the impact of European policies on cities, and to consider the policy and information requirements of cities for database development.

The Executive Committee Meeting in April 1996 will most probably focus on the effects of Economic and Monetary Union on local government and issues relating to local employment, all key issues of concern to Europe's mayors. Other themes in the current work pro-



gramme include the effects of enlargement of regional policy and its funding instruments, via the next reform of the Structural Fund. Eurocities is also representing European local government for the first World Assembly for Cities and Local Authorities (WACLA) and the United Nations Habitat II Conference in Istanbul in June 1996.

Eurocities continues to evolve rapidly as its membership grows and both its old and more recent members become more "European" and therefore more active in a pan-European forum. It is designed to serve its members, to facilitate cooperation and to provide the basis for cities to come together in areas which they define

themselves. It will continue to develop as long as it remains relevant to its members.

More information about Eurocities can be obtained from:

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Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions originated out of two essential prerequisites:

- local democracy is the basis of all States' democratic public life; deeply attached to the principle of democracy, the CEMR may only accept as members local and regional authorities resulting from free universal suffrage;
- as one of the founders of the CEMR asserted "everything divides States and everything unites municipalities", local authorities have an essential role to play in the achievement of the European Union.

In a world which has become extraordinarily interdependent, towns and regions are therefore called upon to cooperate with their counterparts from other countries. The exchanges of experiences and transfers of know-how in the most varied fields are of the greatest interest to them. However, in order to make this cooperation successful, they must have their own tools available at the national level and set up joint structures with the local authorities of other countries.

It was in response to this need that the Council of European Municipalities (CEM) was founded in 1951 in Geneva, becoming the Council of European Municipalities and Regions in 1984.

The idea which formed the basis for the foundation of the CEMR was sufficiently strong so that today the CEMR brings together almost 100.000 local and regional authorities in Europe, federated through 38 large national associations of local and regional authorities in 25 European countries. Hence, the CEMR, since its fusion with IULA, is by far the most representative association of local and regional authorities in Europe.



The CEMR works for the federation of the representation and defense of local authorities' interests within official European institutions, in the framework of the Council of Europe or the European Union. It argues for the establishment of consultative structures for the institutions, providing a balanced representation of the various levels of local and regional authorities existing in the various countries and ensuring the equal dignity within all authorities.

The popular base of the CEMR's action nevertheless remains the remarkable network of twinnings which it initiated; over 6.000 European twinnings are the fruit of the vitality of a movement unique in the world. The CEMR succeeded in obtaining the setting up of a financial structure by the European Parliament, adapted to the support and encouragement of twinnings; the fund of Community Aid for Twinnings established in 1990 in support of thousands of the twinning events in Europe.

More than ever, the development of the European continent progresses through the cooperation and exchange of experiences between its component local and regional authorities. Placing this cooperation within the larger context of the strengthening of the European Union and the Council of Europe, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions therefore aims to be the partner of all local and regional authorities, whose role is so important in the construction of the citizen's Europe.

For more information, please contact:

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The Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of over c60 member cities from all 10 Baltic countries.

The Article 1 of the Union's Statute reads as follows:

"The Union was initiated for the purpose 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 Sea Region.

The Union has the observer status with Helsinki Commission, HELCOM PITF, Council of Europe's 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 seven working Commissions as follows:

- *Commission on Culture*
- *Commission on Environment*
- *Commission on Social Affairs*
- *Commission on Telecommunication*
- *Commission on Transportation*
- *Commission on Sport*
- *Commission on Tourism*

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 of entering the Union, please contact the Union's Secretariat in Gdańsk.