



# UBC e-News

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*Ms Anna Lindh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sweden, died early Thursday morning September 11<sup>th</sup>. She died from wounds caused by a maniac who stabbed her with a knife in a department store in central Stockholm the day before.*

*Ms Lindh was a very popular politician, both in Sweden and among colleagues all over the world. She strongly supported the development in the Baltic Sea Region. She was also a great friend of UBC. Among others, the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported UBC financially with substantial amounts during her term as Minister of Foreign Affairs.*

*The police are still searching for the murderer.*

*Mr Anders Engström, UBC Honorary President, has met Anna Lindh several times. He says:*

*"I had the privilege to meet Anna Lindh at several occasions, among others at the annual CBSS ministerial meetings where I could experience what a fantastic politician she was. Very few have the ability to combine intelligence, analytic sense and enthusiasm with a great social competence, popularity and joy as well as courage to push those political issues that were important for her even if it was against the party line.*

*During the ministerial meetings, after I had my speeches on behalf of UBC, she could send me a little note with the text: "Very good speech, Anders. What you said about ... sounds very interesting. Can we chat about it in a pause?" It was also she who introduced the informal tone at the CBSS ministerial meetings.*

*Last spring she called me herself (not any secretary which could have been expected) and asked me to send the greeting words in all Baltic Sea Region languages I used to use at different high-level meetings to break the ice. She also asked me if I miss UBC.*

*It was Anna Lindh who started to emphasize the importance of the decentralised co-operation in our region. Other Ministers of Foreign Affairs have after that followed the same track.*

*Sweden, the Nordic Countries and the European Union have lost a great politician and I hope that the struggle for democracy, freedom and solidarity will continue even stronger and in even greater unity"*

## **UBC General Conference in Klaipeda – the event of the year for UBC**

The UBC General Conference will this year concentrate on city role in business development. Apart from information from the key-note speakers, we will have interesting workshops that can inspire cities in their business promotion policies.

You can find more information at UBC homepage [www.ubc.net](http://www.ubc.net)

## **Most of the enlarged EU members oppose draft constitution**

A large majority of the 25 Member States of the enlarged EU have expressed determination to renegotiate the draft European Constitution. At the informal meeting of the European foreign ministers in Riva del Garda last weekend, only the six founding members of the EU (France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) defended the draft Constitution, proposed by the European Convention in July.

All other Member States of the enlarged Union expressed their firm intentions of negotiating the draft. They also rejected the proposal by the Italian Presidency of the Council and France to invite the Convention President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to participate in the IGC.

All but the six founding members presented their lists of demands that should be discussed at the IGC. Some of the most contentious issues at the Riva del Garda meeting were:

- taking away the right for each Member State to have a commissioner;
- changing the voting weights (the new qualified majority would consist of a simple majority of states that represent 60 per cent of European population);

- abolishing the six-month rotating presidency;
- creating an EU foreign minister;
- create a European public prosecutor;
- excluding a reference to Christianity in the Constitution;
- including a mutual defence clause in the Constitution.

The Commission will put forward its amendments to the draft Constitution on 17 September, when it adopts its opinion on the results of the Convention. The European Parliament will adopt its report on the Convention at its 22-25 September plenary session.

The intergovernmental conference is scheduled to start on 4 October in Rome and is expected to be concluded before the end of the Italian Presidency on 31 December 2003.

The first EU Constitution could be signed on 9 May 2004 - Europe Day, just before the next European elections.

The treaty will be ratified by the 25 EU parliaments Between May 2004 and the end of 2005.

*Source: EurActiv*

## **Easing Local Traffic over Europe's New Borders**

European Union enlargement means that many citizens living just on the other side of its new borders will face new controls when they want to cross into what will become EU territory on 1 May 2004. Short family or business trips from Russia into Latvia, or Ukraine into Poland, for instance, could suddenly become complicated.

So to make life easier for people from non-EU countries who face this situation, the European Commission has made proposals on "local border traffic" - which is defined as "the crossing of borders by nationals of third

countries who live in border areas and regularly travel for legitimate reasons to a member state of the Union without constituting a threat to security".

Possible solutions include special border-crossing points or corridors reserved for the inhabitants of border areas. And new types of document could be issued - such as a special visa for local border traffic, with limited territorial validity, but allowing the holder to cross the border repeatedly for stays of up to seven consecutive days, but for less than three months every half-year.

Each member state would be entitled to negotiate bilateral agreements with each of the non-EU neighbours concerned, because of the local nature of small-scale cross-border traffic, but the Commission's proposal lays down some common concepts. Border-control authorities issuing these special visas would need to conduct full security checks on applicants, who would have to have lived for at least a year in the country where they make their application, and would have to demonstrate why they need to cross the border on a regular basis. And any bilateral agreement would have to confer reciprocal rights on EU citizens wanting to cross in the opposite direction.

The proposals will be examined by the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

*Source: Enlargement Weekly*

### **Ireland plans enlargement ceremony in May 2004**

Ireland will chair the European Union when the EU enlargement will take place. Irish Minister for European Affairs Dick Roche announced on 3 August that a special ceremony to commemorate EU enlargement will be held by the Irish Presidency of the Union in Dublin next May. Minister Roche said the purpose of the ceremony was "to

display the diversity of the European culture and the unity of the European peoples".

Irish Prime Minister has invited heads of state and government from the other 24 countries of the enlarged Union to Dublin for the ceremony.

*Source: EurActiv*

### **New Director General**

The Enlargement DG of the European Commission acquired a new Director General this week, when Fabrizio Barbaso replaced Eneko Landaburu. The change was accompanied by a reshuffle, in the DG to take account of revised priorities after the end of negotiations with the acceding countries and the acquisition of responsibility for the "Wider Europe" dossier.

*Source: Enlargement Weekly*

### **New UBC Strategy/Policy Document**

The UBC Executive Board has approved of a new UBC strategy to be adopted at the UBC General Conference in Klaipeda. It has now been forwarded to all UBC member cities for comments.

The comments should be sent to [juhan@janusson.net](mailto:juhan@janusson.net) latest by 24 September 2003.

## REMINDER!

Please note, that the deadline for sending the registration forms for the VII UBC General Conference to be held on 17-19 October is

**20 September**. Please send your registrations to Liturimex at the fax number:

+370 5 2314902. If you need the additional invitation, you may find it on the UBC homepage at:

<http://www.ubc.net/today/viith-general.html>

## Past UBC activities

The UBC Commission on Tourism met on 23-25 August in Cesis. 24 people from 16 UBC member cities gathered to discuss perspectives of tourism development. Ms Ieva Kalnina from Interreg III C Secretariat informed about the possibilities to participate in the Interreg III C program with tourism development projects for Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, especially after the EU enlargement. Ms Romy Sommer brought information from Animare Tourism Management and advised on preparing and running projects. Participants also discussed the Baltic Cultural Tourism Policy Paper, prepared by the Baltic Working Group and supported by UNESCO. The other main topic of discussion was the tourism situation for disabled people: what are the problems, and how cities can improve the situation.

During the meeting there were elections for the Steering Committee of the Commission for the years 2003-2005. The new members are: Chairman: Mr Kyrre Dahl, Kalmar

Mrs Irena Satkauskiena, Palanga;

Mr Armands Muiznieks, Jurmala

Mr Vladislav Andreev, Kaliningrad

Secretary: Mr Viktor Rydell, Kalmar

More info at:

<http://www.ubc.net/commissions/tourism.htm>

## Info from the UBC Commission on Sport

Dear Friends,

With the holidays being over, once again I would like to invite you to take part in the competition for **Equal Opportunities Prize (3000 euro)**. The UBC Commission on Sport has proposed the a/m competition in response to the Council of European Union's decision to announce 2003 the European Year of People with Disabilities. The competition is addressed to all UBC member cities, and the prize will be awarded to one city for the best organised sporting event with participation of **people with disabilities**. In order to enter the competition, an applying city should fill in the application form which is at the address: [http://www.ubc.net/today/e\\_News/documents/EqualOpportunitiesPrize.doc](http://www.ubc.net/today/e_News/documents/EqualOpportunitiesPrize.doc) and send it by e-mail to the UBC Commission on Sport Secretariat ([ubcsport@gdynia.pl](mailto:ubcsport@gdynia.pl)) by **1st October 2003** at the latest.

I would appreciate if you could forward this information to people involved in sport-related issues in your city.

Best regards, Ewa Depka

## Info from the UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs

Dear UBC friends, dear friends of the UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs, please find under the following link the official edition of the Social Monitor Report 2003 from all Baltic Countries under the theme "Children at Risk"

<http://www.socialpolitisk-forening.dk/hjemmeside/sider/social%20monitor%20reports%20html/index.htm>

We would be interested to know if this theme is of special interest for you and if you would like to treat it during the VII UBC General Conference in Klaipeda, at the Meeting of the UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs.

Looking forward to your ideas,  
Karin Wohlgemuth

## Partner Search

### **Project from UBC Women's Network: Combatting the silence and invisibility of trafficking locally**

The aim of the project is to reinforce the capacity of key players (non governmental organisations) active in the area of combatting trafficking. Focusing on the local clients in the partner cities/countries, the project would involve facilitating transnational exchange, transfer of information, experience and good practices.

The leader of the project: Ulla Lundqvist, Turku Women's Centre

Deadline for the proposal: 19.9.2003.

Duration: 01.01.2004-31.12.2004 (12 month)

More info at:

[http://www.ubc.net/today/e\\_News/documents/TraffickingPartnerSearchProforma.doc](http://www.ubc.net/today/e_News/documents/TraffickingPartnerSearchProforma.doc)

- **Project proposal from the City of Burgos (Spain) concerning an Interreg III C project.**

Burgos is a member of UBC sister organisation on the Atlantic coast - Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities.

If your city is interested to participate in the project, please contact Burgos directly.

More info at:

[http://www.ubc.net/today/e\\_News/documents/Burgos\\_project](http://www.ubc.net/today/e_News/documents/Burgos_project)

- **eMERGENCY**

The project deals with emergency services. For this project, the following entities are needed:

- an emergency service of a country or city, such as 112
- an integrator that belongs to the same country as the emergency service

Info at:

[http://www.ubc.net/today/e\\_News/documents/eTEN\\_eMergency](http://www.ubc.net/today/e_News/documents/eTEN_eMergency)

- **eTEN MUNICIPALITY**

This project aims to introduce a service that enables quick and efficient management of

municipal field work orders derived from requests made by citizens. For this project, the following entities are needed:

- a council of any city of any EU country
- an integrator of the same country as the council

Info at:

[http://www.ubc.net/today/e\\_News/documents/eTEN\\_Municipal\\_Services](http://www.ubc.net/today/e_News/documents/eTEN_Municipal_Services)

- **BIG**

Demonstration of innovative technologies and integration schemes concerning organic waste utilization and effective additional use of sludge, rest fractions from organic industries, cultivated bio mass and manure in 3 communities and a number of observer communities in order to increasing the use of renewable energy.

The initiators are looking for a local authority in one of the new EU countries in the Baltic Sea Region

Info at:

[http://www.ubc.net/today/e\\_News/documents/BIG-exsum.doc](http://www.ubc.net/today/e_News/documents/BIG-exsum.doc)

## **People**

Mr Gundars Bojars, the Mayor of Riga, will be representing UBC on the 5th Baltic Development Forum summit to be held in Riga on 5-7 October.

## **From our BSR friends**

### **Launch of the Baltic 21 Report 2000-2002: Towards Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region**

Baltic 21 launched the hard copy version of the "Baltic 21 Report 2000-2002: Towards Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region" - on 5 June 2003. The its web-based version was unveiled on 29 August 2003, on the day when the Environment Ministers of the Council of the Baltic Sea States had their meeting in Luleå, Sweden. The Ministers in their declaration determined to reinforce efforts to promote sustainable development for the Baltic Sea Region. The Environment

Ministers acknowledged that Baltic 21 report indicates major challenges to sustainable development in the Region. The Environment Ministers meeting as well as 12th Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CBSS held in Pori, Finland, on 10 -11 June 2003, welcomed the Report and noted the need to strategically develop the work. Baltic 21 will submit the Report and the outcome of its strategic work to the Prime Ministers' Summit that will take place in 2004.

The Baltic 21 Report 2000-2002 is a comprehensive guide regarding sustainable development of the BSR and addresses the three dimensions of sustainable development - environmental, economic and social. The report takes a look at the Region's advancement towards the sustainable development goals by means of ca. 100 Baltic 21 indicators. It also contains a detailed description of the progress made by the Baltic 21 Sectors, Spatial Planning and selected Joint Actions in the implementation of the Action Programme. To obtain further information or download the report, please visit the Baltic 21 web site at [www.baltic21.org](http://www.baltic21.org) or contact: Baltic 21 Secretariat (telephones: +46 8 440 19 38/41; fax: +46 8 440 19 44; e-mail: [baltic21@cbss.st](mailto:baltic21@cbss.st))

By Laila Kule, Baltic 21 Consultant

### ***Call for stories to the Baltic Cities Bulletin!***

The next issue of our BALTIC CITIES BULLETIN will have the same cover theme as the UBC General Conference: "THE BALTIC SEA WAVE - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW EUROPE". That issue of the Bulletin intends to share the best practices of self-governments to promote business in your cities. What are the priorities, policies, projects and activities in this field in your city? The cities have an important role in this process. Most economic activities take place in cities. The ideas, the money and the

people meet there and push the development forward. The political and administrative capacity of cities is also an important growth factor in the process.

The editorial board welcomes also news and information about other interesting events, projects and activities taking place in Member Cities. The bulletin is distributed to over 200 Baltic cities and many key organisations and institutions including the EU.

Please follow these guidelines, when submitting your story:

- Deliver the story by e-mail to: [iwona.belczak@ubc.net](mailto:iwona.belczak@ubc.net) in MS WORD format, remember to kill the viruses before sending.
- Each member city may submit two articles - one related to the cover theme and one to the chapter "Cities in Action". Naturally all stories shall be sent in English.
- Each article may have max 400 words, It is also important to include the author's name and contact numbers for possible further questions related to the story.
- Please make all efforts to include a smashing photo or a digital picture to illustrate the article (JPG format, min. 400 ppi, one e-mail - one picture, the file should not exceed 2MB). Remember to send us also the code of arms of your city, if you have not sent it earlier.
- The deadline for stories to the Bulletin is 15 September 2003, please respect this timetable!

### ***Reminder - Call for stories to the Environmental Bulletin!***

The theme for the coming Baltic Cities Environmental bulletin is Sustainable Consumption and Production. Thank you for all those who have already contributed! However, there is still room for some more stories and so we will extend the deadline for stories till 15 September 2003.

Consumption is something we all do, whether we are a municipality or a citizen. We have the power to decide on which products and services we use. That means pressure to producers and service providers. As a consequence, we possess a huge power to affect the state of the environment.

The theme is closely linked to a wide range of topics, for example Eco-labels, Energy, Water, Waste, Food products, Recycling, Education, Procurement. There are lots of good examples and practises in all of our 105 member cities that would benefit others. So, please use this opportunity to spread your good work and lessons learned.

The recommended length of the articles is 300-1000 words and photos and other illustrations are welcome.

Sari Bowie