



NATIONAL UBC MEETING IN FINLAND

The first national meeting of Finnish UBC member cities was held in Turku, Finland in June immediately after the 17th UBC Executive Board meeting in Bergen. The Finnish member cities showed great interest towards the meeting and eight of the total nine cities participated in this event hosted by Mr Armas Lahoniitty, the Mayor of

Turku.

The main topics of the meeting were UBC's role and its activities, communication and the board membership for the next two years period. UBC was regarded as a communication network via which the cities can act directly without any intermediaries. Many cities expressed their will to contribute to the work of the Commissions in the future. Some criticisms was pointed to the initiation and coordination of UBC

projects as well as acquisition of financing for them. Also the Finnish representation in the UBC Executive Board was discussed but no decision was reached regarding this question.

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NATIONAL UBC MEETING IN ESTONIA

On April 11th 1997, the Estonian UBC Member Cities Tallinn, Tartu, Kuressaare, Haapsalu and Pärnu met in Pärnu for a National Meeting.

The City of Pärnu is the Estonian representative of the UBC Board, and the Mayor, Mr Vello Järvesalu, chaired the meeting. Present were, apart from Mayors and Vice-mayors from the Estonian Cities, also the UBC President, Mr Anders Engström and the UBC Project manager, Juhan Janusson.

The agenda of the meeting included various topics, such as UBC Policy, projects and the work of the UBC Commissions. The participants shared their opinions on the role of Pärnu as the Estonian Member of the UBC Board. The meeting also discussed important issues of the UBC activities, such as exchange of information, encouraging new UBC members and the work of the UBC Commissions. The participants emphasised the favourable opportunity and necessity of taking part of the work of the UBC Commissions which studies problems profoundly and work together towards finding realistic new solutions.

Juhan Janusson, the UBC Project

Manager, introduced terms and conditions of projects and programmes undertaken in the framework of the UBC. The participant were very much interested in the subject as the number of projects carried out in Estonia in co-operation with the UBC is rather small. As a concrete example, the proposal to establish an emergency centre in connection with the Via Baltica highway was discussed.

Also projects related to the increase of the potential of the Baltic Sea Region cities, urbanisation of the population, development of the communications, transport and human resources, tourism and the environmental issues of the islands and coastal areas were discussed.

The Estonian UBC Cities put forward their proposals for the UBC General Conference, where the President, Vice President and members of the UBC Board will be elected for the next term of two years. The city of Pärnu was nominated to represent the Estonian Cities in the UBC Board.



Mr Vello Järvesalu, the Mayor of Pärnu, chaired the national meeting of Estonian UBC member cities.

