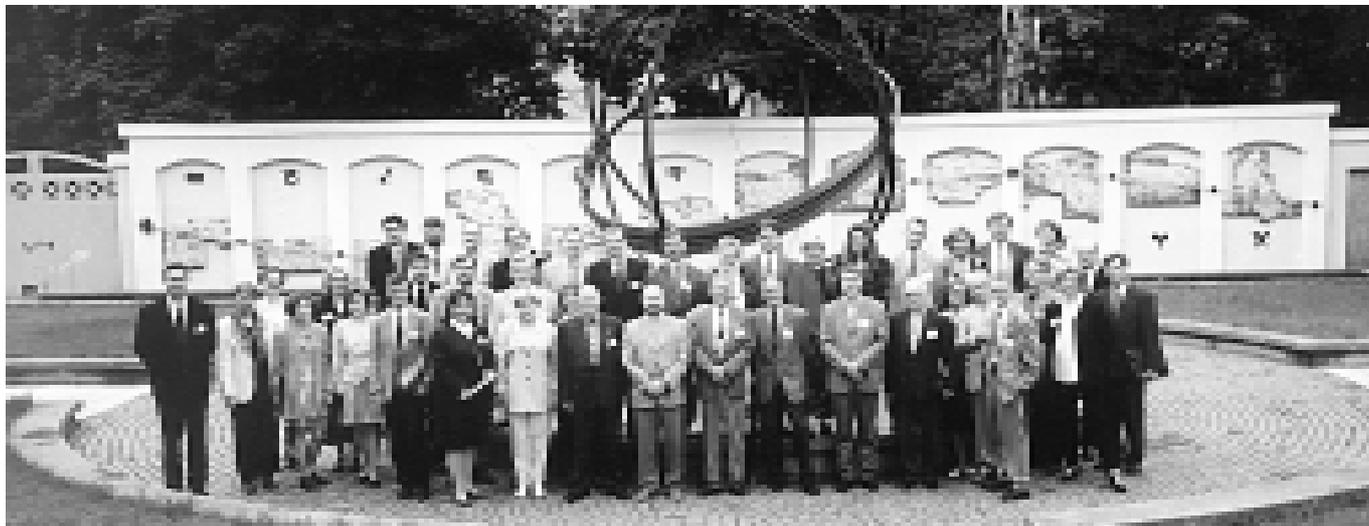


II. UBC TODAY



Participants at the courtyard of the Clock Museum in Klaipėda

21ST MEETING OF THE UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The 21st meeting of the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities was held on the 26-27 June 1998 in the City of Klaipėda, Lithuania, upon the invitation of Mr Eugenijus Gentvilas, Mayor of Klaipėda. The first day of the meeting was attended only by the members of the Executive Board. The second day was open for the representatives from all member cities.

New Commission

President Anders Engström reminded that during the last Board meeting in Kalmar two member cities ie. Norrtälje and Kärddla put forward the proposal to create the UBC Commission on Education. The Board considered the proposal as very interesting and authorised Norrtälje and Kärddla to make a survey to find out which member cities would be interested to cooperate within the new Commission. Mr Erki Tamm, Deputy Mayor of Kärddla, reported that in response to the survey 21 member cities expressed an interest to participate in the work of the new Commission on Education. The Board decided to create the Commission on Education with the cities of Kärddla and Norrtälje as leading cities.

Strategy & Regulations

Mr Anders Engström reminded all participants that the Strategy has been already discussed during the last two Executive Board meetings. The strategy working group consisting of the Presidium and the cities of Copenhagen, Kaunas, Pori, Riga was appointed. The group appointed Mr Bartłomiej Sochański to be responsible for drafting the Strategy document. Mr Sochański presented the draft of the Strategy paper which was discussed in-depth by the Board members. The Board praised the working group for the work done so

far. Secretary General Paweł Ćaboklicki presented the latest draft of UBC Internal Regulations. The Regulations concern the following Union structures: General Conference, Executive Board, Presidium, Commissions, Secretariat.

80 Member Cities

President Anders Engström informed the Executive Board about new application for Union membership submitted by the city of Silkeborg, Denmark. The Board decided to accept Silkeborg as a member of the Union and wished Silkeborg a successful



The closed session of the Executive Board was mainly devoted to the UBC Strategy

cooperation with other UBC members. The number of Union member cities reached the figure 80.

Euroregion Baltic

Mr Sarunas Reikalas, Deputy Governor of Klaipėda County and Vice President of Euroregion "Baltic", gave introduction on the aims and structure of newly established (in February 1998) Euroregion "Baltic". The Board expressed hope for good cooperation between both organisations in the areas of mutual interest.

UBC and LA 21

Mr Mikko Jokinen, chairman of UBC Commission on Environment, reminded that Baltic 21 (Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region) process was launched by the Baltic Ministers of Environment in Saltsjobaden, Sweden, in 1996. The Baltic 21 process is carried out by the Senior Officials Group (SOG) of which UBC is an official member. The Commission actively contributes to the SOG work. Mr Jokinen informed that the Baltic 21 final document was officially adopted by CBSS at the recent meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs held in Nyborg on 22 June 1998. UBC is mentioned several times in the final document. Mr Jokinen invited all member cities to participate in the Health and Sustainable Cities Conference to be held in Turku in September. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Commission on Environment for its active contribution to the elaboration of the document "Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region".

Mrs Hjördis Höglund, Leader of the Women's Network reported on Network's activities in the first half of 1998. Mrs Höglund visited 12 member cities and represented UBC in three women's conferences.

Ms Sonja Hilavuo reported from the third meeting of the Task Force for Public Relations and Communication held in Szczecin on 25-27 May 1998, attended by 35 participants.

Mr Risto Veivo, UBC Environmental Coordinator, informed that the Commission on Environment received a grant of 300.000 DKK from the Nordic Council of Ministers for the continuation of the project Municipal Environmental Auditing.

Following an invitation from Mr Bartłomiej Sochański, the Board decided to hold its next (22nd) meeting in Szczecin on 16-17 October 1998.

20TH MEETING OF THE UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The 20th meeting of the UBC Executive Board was held in Kalmar on the 27-28 March 1998, at the invitation of Mr Anders Engström, Mayor of Kalmar and President of the Union of the Baltic Cities.

After the opening President Engström informed the Board about unexpected death of Mr Igor Kozhemiakin, Mayor of Kaliningrad and member of UBC Executive Board. With the minute of silence, the Board paid a tribute to the memory of Mr Kozhemiakin.



Mr Paweł Ąaboklicki, Secretary General, informed that the Secretariat sent out a short questionnaire to all member cities to find out cities views on UBC Strategy. The questionnaire was widely responded by member cities. The cities answers were the basis for the meeting of the strategy working group held in Copenhagen. It was decided that Mr Bartłomiej Sochański, Vice-President, shall be responsible for formulating the Strategy and Mr Paweł Ąaboklicki for the Internal Regulations.

The President informed that the major Baltic organisations (UBC, BSSSC, CPMR) met in Copenhagen to discuss cooperation and Baltic strategic issues. The meeting was held in association with the session of CBSS Committee of Senior Officials.

The Secretary General submitted UBC financial report for 1997. Mr Ąaboklicki underlined that all member cities pay mem-

bership fees and the financial position of the Union is stable.

President Anders Engström informed that two member cities ie. Norrtälje and Kärddla put forward the proposal to create the UBC Commission on Education. The Commission could deal with eg. pupils and students exchange, distance education, adults education etc. The Board considered the proposal as very interesting and authorised Norrtälje and Kärddla to make a survey to find out which cities would be interested to

cooperate within the new Commission.

The President also informed the Board about the application for Union membership submitted by the city of Koszalin, Poland. The Board accepted Koszalin as UBC member and wished Koszalin a good cooperation with other member cities.

The Chairmen of eight UBC working Commissions submitted the reports on Commissions' activities since the IV UBC General Conference held in in Gdańsk on 12-13 September 1998. The Board adopted the reports and encouraged to continue their important work.

Mr Arne Ellefors, Director of Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC) put forward a proposal to establish the Baltic Sea Tourism Alliance connecting the major Baltic organisations interested in tourism development. The Board decided UBC shall join the Alliance.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBER CITIES!

The Fifth General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities will be held in Stockholm on 24-25 September 1999. Please mark these dates in your calendars.