

INTRODUCTION TO UBC COMMISSIONS

- Let's keep the wheels running!

Today the UBC has eight different commissions on business co-operation, communication, culture, environment, social affairs, sport, tourism and transportation.

Much of the work of the Union takes place within these commissions. They have numerous activities in their respective fields ranging from music festivals and sports events to concrete projects and training seminars.



But even an energetic and innovative commission without active member cities and partners is like a bicycle without wheels, so it is up to our

devotion to keep these vehicles on the right track and moving.

The following pages aim at briefly presenting the different commissions and their activities. Everyone is encouraged to contact the commissions and join their activities. And remember, the commissions have been established to promote cooperation between the UBC member cities. Now it is your time to utilize this opportunity!

COMMISSION ON BUSINESS COOPERATION

The Commission on Business Co-operation is the newest UBC Commission. It was established at the General Conference of the UBC in Gdańsk in September 1997. The City of Stockholm will invite the board members to a preparatory meeting in Stockholm in the beginning of 1998.

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better possibility of exchanging experiences, bringing up new initiatives and creating impact on joint projects. It may improve possibilities to take part in the EU funding of large and small scale projects with focus on internationalisation of enterprises and the developing of business networks in the region.

Background and ideas

Several members of the UBC prosecute an active networking today to promote business contacts with the cities they have a formal twin city cooperation with. Besides that many members participate in joint business arrangements like the Hansa Days in Kalmar, The Business Convent in Karlskrona and others. There are some ongoing multilateral projects such as "The UBC-EU information Project" with focus on the information technology and EU-association.

The organisation has a huge potential as the platform for mutual initiatives in the fields of business development and match-making activities in the Baltic Sea Region. Several arguments are put forward that this structure can efficiently be used as an initiator and applicant in projects with EU-funding within special programs such as Cross Boarder Co-operation, Baltic Small Project Facility etc. The Interreg-initiatives also open new possibilities

to initiate and finance joint projects.

A future Commission on Business Co-operation could be used like a:

1. Opinion making organ in all questions concerning business development and trade in the region.
2. Organizer of contact meetings like the INTERPRISE for individual companies
3. Initiator of business conventions of all kinds
4. Promoter of trade fairs of international importance in the region
5. Project manager in multilateral projects in the field of business development, institution building or business education
6. Applicant in the EU-projects that promotes business cooperation in the region.

Working with these issues in a more organized way, in a specialized commission, gives the member cities a

