

# COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATION

**Leading cities are Kalmar and Riga and the other cities are Gdańsk and Tampere. Chairman is Lars Malmborg, Kalmar and the other members are Viktors Buls, Riga, Elżbieta Stangret, Gdańsk and Sonja Hilavuo, Tampere. Sonja Hilavuo is also the chairman of the UBC Task Force which works closely with the commission**



The commission has put up its goals for the next period; developing the internal Internet network and connecting our net to the other major Baltic nets. 1997 was a break-through for the co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region. At the UBC general conference a decision was taken to invite all major organisations to a round table discussion over future common work. One of the tools for this is the Baltic Sea

Alliance, a platform for communication between the major organisations, UBC, BSSC and BCCA. Co-ordinator General for the project is Sonja Hilavuo and the server is at the moment located in Kalmar. As chairman for the Commission I represent UBC in the steering group.

In co-operation with the Task Force, the Commission has concluded a seminar in Kalmar in October for both Task Force members and a few internet specialists from the member cities. The aim is to build up an Internet-Team, much of the same type as the Task Force to develop the UBC net technically. The ultimate aim is to build up the best Internet system in the Baltic. The address of the server is Balticsea.net and it demonstrates the platform character of the project.

But to be able to present the best information, that means correct and updated, every member city must take its responsibility. The system is not better than its weakest link. The commission is therefore working hard to find money for two further seminars in 1998, for the forthcoming Internet-Team and one for



*Mr Lars Malmborg,  
Chairman of the Commission*

the Mayors of the UBC. The Commission will also, together with our partners in BSA go for EU-money to be able to give courses for how to use the net in the best way and to make it more professional in the future. The commission will also try to develop the Internet network together with the other commissions.

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# COMMISSION ON CULTURE

**UBC Commission on Culture intends to enrich cultural life of the citizens living in the area of the Baltic Sea. The aim of the Commission is to stimulate and coordinate culture and art projects, events and cooperation especially among UBC members to enrich contacts and develop joint cultural projects.**

Cultural collaboration due to the networks of contacts is a perfect tool for enlivening of mutual understanding, knowledge of history and the cultural background of the Baltic. The promotion of the contemporary art and artists, as well as of the historical and cultural traditions in 10 different Baltic countries could help us to break the former walls between countries, nations, cities and ordinary people around the Baltic Sea.

The second goal of the Commission is to provide and disseminate information on cultural activity in the

Region. The Commission works according to the Action Plan which is prepared every two years. The Commission on Culture looks forward to the more efficient co-operation within UBC city members. The Commission is chaired by Mr S<sup>3</sup>awomir Szafr<sup>3</sup>anski (Szczecin) and Mr Olov Gibson (Visby). The Secretariat of the Commission is financed by the City of Szczecin and led by Ms Magdalena Lewoc and Ms Marlena Chybowska.

## UBC Art & Culture Festival

The festival is the most significant culture event initiated by the Union.

Until now it has been organised by: Kaliningrad (Russia) in 1993 and 1994, Szczecin (Poland) in 1995 and 1996, Gdynia (Poland) 1997. In 1998 the festival will be probably realised jointly by Szczecin - The Baltic Theatre



*Mr S<sup>3</sup>awomir Szafr<sup>3</sup>anski,  
Chairman of the Commission*

meetings and Klaipėda (Lithuania) - Off-theatre days as a promotion and presentation of the Baltic dramaturgy and interesting performances.

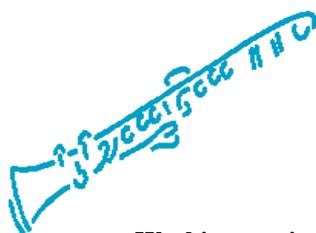
## Dissemination of information

In 1995 the UBC Catalogue of Cultural Institutions was published by the city of Visby. The catalogues includes contact addresses and descriptions of

over 650 municipal culture offices, art Centres, museums, libraries, art schools and other culture institutions. The catalogue is also available on UBC Internet homepages [www.ubc.net](http://www.ubc.net). The UBC Calendar of Cultural Events is presented under the same [www](http://www.ubc.net) address being updated twice a year.

### **MARE ARTICUM - Baltic contemporary art magazine**

Szczecin is an initiator and coordinator of that project. The main purpose of the magazine is to initiate a joint discussion and to establish a promotional tool for the under-developed artistic movement in the Baltic region. The first issue was published in September 1997.



### **Working sessions**

The Commission co-ordinates the international working sessions which focus on different cultural topics and helps to establish the international networking groups. Until now the following sessions have been held: 1995 in Szczecin to discuss the possibilities of co-operation in the field of culture, 1996 in Visby (Sweden) on the theme "Freedom of expression Information Library" when the UBC Library Network has been established. The 1998 session

in Kaliningrad will focus on Artistic Education and the Scholarship System in the Baltic Countries. One of the goals of the session is creation of a working group for facilitating the future co-operation between artistic schools and publishing a catalogue of art. and music schools and colleges in the UBC cities. For 1999 in Kalmar the proposed theme

"Protection of cultural heritage"

Further information:

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## COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT

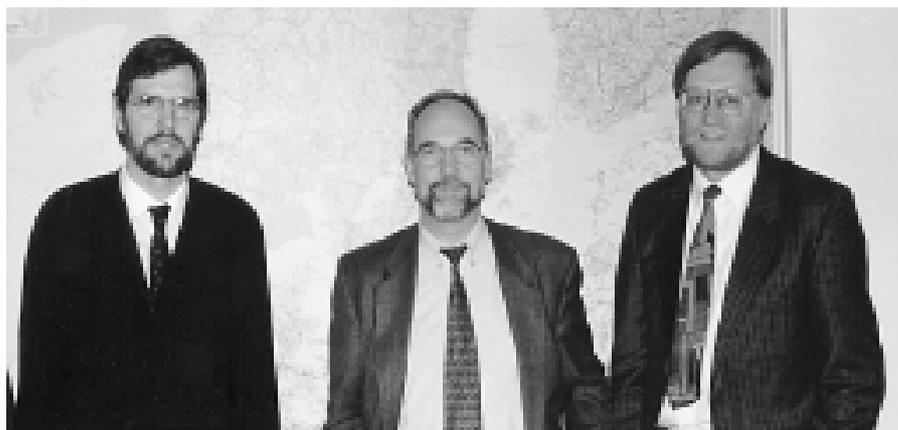
**The Commission on Environment aims at increasing cooperation and the exchange of experiences and know-how between cities in the field of environmental protection. The focus is on environmental issues that are relevant from the member cities point of view, e.g., traffic, treatment of contaminated soils and management of environmental issues.**

The Commission on Environment is chaired by Mr Carl Nielsen from Aarhus and Mr Mikko Jokinen from Turku. Mr Peter Gavelin from Sundsvall is the third person belonging into the core group of the Commission. The Secretariat of the Commission on Environment is located in Turku, Finland, where UBC's Environmental Coordinator Esko Sorakunnas and Project Assistant Antonia Sucksdorff-Selkämä work on a full-time basis.

The Commission on Environment is currently working with the following topics:

### **Baltic Municipal Environmental Auditing (MEA) Project**

The MEA project has developed a model for municipal environmental auditing in Baltic cities, tested it in Tallinn and disseminated it to interested cities in the Baltic Sea Region. The first phase of project will be finished by the



*Core group of the Commission on Environment, from left to right: co-chairmen Mr Mikko Jokinen and Mr Carl Nielsen together with Mr Peter Gavelin from Sundsvall.*

end of November 1997, but it is followed by the implementation phase when UBC member cities are expected to adopt the model and use it in auditing their own city. The project has been financed by the EU's Life-fund, the World Bank, Finnish and Estonian Ministry of the Environment and the participating cities.

### **Harbours and the Environment in Finnish-Swedish Archipelago**

This new project, started in August 1997, aims at creating a common environmental policy for the harbours and ships in the Archipelago Sea between

Finland and Sweden. The cities involved in this project are Turku and Mariehamn from Finland and Stockholm from Sweden. The project is financed by the participating cities and the EU's Interreg II A programme.

### **Seminar on Contaminated Soils**

The Seminar on Contaminated Soils is going to be arranged together with ECAT Lithuania in Lithuania 20-22 February 1998. Methods for surveying and monitoring potentially contaminated sites, different remediation methods as well as financing of remediation

activities are the main themes of this seminar. This is the last event in the environmental training programme carried out by the Commission on Environment with financial support from The Nordic Council of Ministers.

### **Baltic 21 and Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum**

The Commission on Environment has participated in Baltic 21, the process of creating an Agenda 21 for the entire Baltic Sea Region. In addition, it has been actively involved also in the Baltic Local

Agenda 21 Forum, which is a recently established network to support Agenda 21 activities in cities and municipalities around the Baltic Sea.

### **Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin**

The Commission on Environment publishes an environmental bulletin four times a year. The bulletin focuses on environmental issues that are relevant from the cities point of view, e.g. waste management, traffic and Agenda 21. The edition, 2.500 copies, is distributed to

environmental experts and decision-makers in the Baltic Sea Region. *All UBC members are encouraged to send material to be published in the environmental bulletin.* Also, if you would like to receive the bulletin, please contact the UBC Commission on Environment.

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## COMMISSION ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

**The Commission on Social Affairs is chaired by Mr Ulrich Baurmeister from Rostock and Mr Michael Bouteiller from Lübeck. The secretariat of the Commission on Social Affairs is financed by the city of Rostock and Ms Petra Hamann and Ms Karin Wohlgemuth are responsible for the secretariat.**

The Commission on Social Affairs has very actively developed new project ideas, applied for funding from different EU programmes and successfully carried out projects. The following is a short summary of the main activities.

### **The EU PACTE Project "Baltic Cities"**

The project was launched in May 1996. Participating cities are: Helsinki, Storstrom, Kalmar, Lübeck and Rostock. The main aim of the project is the exchange of experience in transnational employment development between the Baltic Cities. The project budget is 131900 ECU. The projects includes seminars in each city, workshop, conference, exhibition and a brochure. The project ended in September 97.

### **Conference on "Labour Market and Social Policy" in the Baltic Sea region**

The conference took place in March

1997 and was a part of the above mentioned project. 120 participants from 9 Baltic countries and approximately 35 cities participated.

### **ECOS-Ouverture project "Baltic City Tourism"**

The project application has been prepared in July 1997. The project aims were developed directly from the results of the BALTIC TREFF workshop. The Baltic Events Calendar "What happens in the Baltic?" shall be distributed around the Baltic Sea region. The Commission expects to obtain EU grants in order to perform this project from the beginning of 1998.

### **Baltic Bicycle Ride for Charity**

The bicycle ride went around the Baltic Sea, through Germany, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Finland, Sweden and Germany. A group of Rostock citizens started on 16 June 1997 taking with them goods dedicated to three orphanages in Stegna / Poland, in Kaliningrad / Russia and Riga / Latvia. The goods which came from Rostock inhabitants, were successfully delivered and gratefully accepted.

### **New activities from the Commission on Social Affairs**

During the IVth UBC General Conference it was decided to extend the



*Mr Ulrich Baurmeister, Chairman of the Commission*

profile of the Commission's work towards social and health promotion problems. We approached the WHO sub-regional office for the Baltic located in Turku, Finland in order to find out about their work and to use the already existing networks and sources. The answer was very positive and our first meeting will be in Rostock on 5th of December.

One of the main tasks of our commission will be the creation of different networks for persons responsible for health and social welfare and services; exchange of information and experience; training of specialists of hospitals, homes for elderly and disabled; raising of public awareness to diseases like cancer, AIDS and drug abuses through publications, teaching training courses.

Today's introduction of the Social Market is one of the results of our new ideas and work. In order to make it work, we need your help and assistance - we kindly ask all of you to answer a