



## XVI UBC General Conference online, 29 October 2021 Report

### The General Assembly

XVI UBC General Conference was held online on 29 October 2021 and was devoted to the statutory issues.

The conference was attended by 95 participants from 47 UBC member cities and international institutions. List of participants is enclosed.

- Welcome and opening addresses

The statutory General Conference was opened by Mantas Jurgutis, the President of the Union. The opening session was moderated by Elina Rantanen, UBC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Turku.

The following speakers delivered their addresses:

- Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russia (video)
- Dario Nardella, President, Eurocities (video)
- Normunds Popenis, Deputy Director General, DG Regio, European Commission
- Grzegorz Poznański, Director General, CBSS Secretariat

The opening addresses are enclosed.

- Report on UBC Activities

President Jurgutis submitted the report on UBC activities during the period November 2019 - October 2021. The representatives of the UBC Commissions summed up their activities. The UBC activity report is enclosed. The General Conference approved the report.

- Auditor's report

Paweł Żaboklicki, Secretary General, informed the General Conference that the audit of UBC accounts for 2019 and 2020 had been performed by a chartered auditor Dorota Rutkowska, No. 11978 of the register kept by National Board of Chartered Auditors in Warsaw. The report states that the Union financial transactions and records within the mentioned period have been handled properly. The conference took note of the report. The auditor's report is enclosed.

- Board of Audit report

Marta Chelkowska, Director of Tourism Department, Marshal Office of Pomeranian Region, presented the report and recommendations of the Board of Audit. The General Conference took note of the report. The report of the Board of Audit is enclosed.



- Absolving the Presidium, Executive Board, Secretary

Following the proposal of the Board of Audit, the General Conference acknowledged the fulfilment of duties by the Executive Board, Presidium, Secretary General in 2019 and 2020.

- Membership fees 2022-2023

Paweł Żaboklicki, Secretary General, presented the proposal of the membership fees for 2022 and 2023 - no change comparing to the previous period.

The General Conference approved the membership fees for the financial period 2022-2023. The table with fees is enclosed.

- Amendment in the Statute

President Jurgutis presented the following proposal of a change in the Statute:

Point d) in the Article 4: *The Executive Board consisting of the Presidium and one Member City representative from each country where UBC has Member Cities.*

Should state as follows: *The Executive Board consisting of the Presidium and one Member City representative from each country where UBC has Member Cities. Countries not holding a seat in the Presidium may propose two Member Cities to the Executive Board.*

Thus, each BSR country could have two votes in the UBC Executive Board. Karin Wohlgemuth, Rostock, suggested that it could be discussed at the next UBC Executive Board meeting. Jukka Vilen, Kemi, supported the idea.

Piotr Grzelak, Gdańsk, Natalja Vecvagare, Liepāja, Wolfgang Schmidt, Kiel, Marie-Louise Rönmark, Umeå, Elina Rantanen, Turku, supported the proposal of the amendment in the Statute.

The General Conference decided to adopt the amendment. Karin Wohlgemuth, Rostock, was against. The amended Statute is attached.

- Executive Board in the next two-year period

After appointment/election amongst the member cities in each country the following cities were confirmed as members of the Executive Board in the next two-year period:

Estonia – Elva, Finland – Kemi, Germany – Rostock, Kiel, Latvia – Liepāja, Riga, Lithuania – Panevėžys, Norway – Arendal, Poland – Gdynia, Russia – St. Petersburg, Sweden - Umeå, Trelleborg. Denmark representative will be appointed after local elections on 16.11.2021.

- President and Vice-Presidents in the next two-year period

The General Conference unanimously elected for a two-year period:

Mantas Jurgutis, Deputy Mayor, Kaunas, as President of the Union



Elina Rantanen, Deputy Mayor, Turku, as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the Union  
Piotr Grzelak, Deputy Mayor, Gdańsk, as Vice-President of the Union  
Vyacheslav Kalganov, Deputy Chairman, Committee for External Relations, St. Petersburg, as Vice-President of the Union  
Jørgen H. Kristiansen, Councillor, Kristiansand, as Vice-President of the Union

- Board of Audit in the next two-year period

The General Conference appointed Marta Chełkowska, Director of Tourism Department, Marshal Office of Pomeranian Region, Frede Danborg, International Coordinator, Guldborgsund and Roger Kaliff, Chairman of the City Council, Kalmar to the Board of Audit for a two-year period.

- New UBC Strategy

Björn Grönholm, Sustainable Cities Commission, presented the new UBC Strategy 2022-2030. The document expresses the mission of the UBC, its values, ambitions, goals and areas of cooperation. The General Conference adopted the UBC Strategy.

- UBC Policy positions on Climate Change, Resilient Cities, Social Cohesion, Urban Agenda

Marko Paunovic, UBC Antenna in Brussels, presented UBC Policy positions on Climate Change, Resilient Cities, Social Cohesion, Urban Agenda. The General Conference adopted UBC Policy positions.

- Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2030 and Sustainability Action Programme 2022-2030 are included in the conference documentation.

- XVII UBC General Conference in St.Petersburg, autumn 2022/2023

Vyacheslav Kalganov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for External Relations, St. Petersburg maintained the invitation to hold the UBC General Conference in St. Petersburg. The decision on the date will be taken later due to pandemic. The General Conference accepted this proposal.

- Photo contest “Our member Cities and Citizens” – announcement of results

Irene Pendolin, UBC Communications Manager, presented the winners of the Photo contest “Our member Cities and Citizens”. The winning photo (1<sup>st</sup> place) is: Kaunas, Mantas Zinkevičius, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Valmiera, Jānis Ukass, 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Tartu, Mana Kaasik, 4<sup>th</sup> place: Karlskrona, Stefan Andersson.

- Roger Kaliff, Chairman of City Council of Kalmar, conveyed greetings on the 30<sup>th</sup> UBC anniversary from its founder and first president, Mr Anders Engström. He noticed that in the time of pandemic, we came back to the roots of the UBC, and yet again it was necessary to support local governance, democracy and public health. He encouraged the cities to contact each other and cooperate.



- Closing

President Mantas Jurgutis thanked the member cities representatives, speakers, commissions, guests and the secretariat, and closed the XVI UBC General Conference.

Mantas Jurgutis  
President

Paweł Żaboklicki  
Secretary General

The attachments are available at:

<https://ubc.net/document-categories/general-conference-documents/xvi-general-conference-online-29-october-2021>