



Kalmar, 15-18 May

Proposal of the UBC Youth Conference "Young Voices" concerning a youth structure in UBC

We, the participants of the conference appreciate the work of the UBC and the principals and ideas behind the Union. We are recognising the value of the UBC member cities as a basis for increasing cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

The youngsters participating in the conference propose a youth structure in the framework of the UBC in order to improve their possibilities to influence their local society and everyday life.

1) Youth network

The tasks of the network are to promote youth co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region and to work towards youth involvement, youth exchange and youth participation in the UBC member cities.

It should serve as a basis for contact making and information distribution. It will also be a reference point for the *Commission on youth co-operation and participation*.

The network builds upon existing youth networks of local youth structures as well as upon one youth organisation as a contact point in each member city. It is also open to other cities and youth interested in co-operation, and with other existing youth fora in the region. The network co-operates closely together with the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs, which is to become a co-ordinating body for the network, as well as with the UBC Secretariat.

2) "Commission on youth cooperation and participation"

The Commission will be included in the existing structure of UBC and will serve as a support to the network of young people in UBC. It will consist of young people as well as civil servants dealing with youth issues on the local level. Existing youth networks of the Baltic Sea Region will be taken into account. The commission will monitor the agenda of UBC from a youth perspective.

The first task of the Commission would be to organise a seminar at the General conference in Klaipeda in October 2003 with a topic of youth participation within UBC and local youth actions, to which the members of the UBC youth network will be invited.

3) Annual UBC Youth Conference

The focus of the annual conferences is on questions important for young people of the Baltic Sea Region. It represents a forum for young people of the UBC member cities as well as other cities willing to join in, to exchange experiences, finding partners and discuss common issues such as youth participation, EU and Baltic Sea- cooperation and youth influence on local levels. The conference is organised with regard to the UBC General Conference as well as to other fora addressing youth issues in the Baltic Sea Region.

In the framework of the conference youth representatives will be elected for the "*Commission on youth co-operation and youth participation*".

4) UBC Executive Board

The young people of the Baltic Sea Region consider it of great importance that the UBC Executive Board gets in contact with young people of every city they meet in, with the aim to learn about the views and ideas of the young generation concerning the life in and the future of that very city.

5) Cooperation between UBC and the youth

We call upon the UBC Executive Board and the UBC Secretariat to work towards the nomination of a youth contact officer in every UBC member city and to promote the activities of the "*Commission on youth co-operation and youth participation*".