

MINUTES
OF THE
44TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
UNION OF CAPITALS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
CITY HALL, BUDAPEST, 9 OCTOBER 2004

Participants:

Amsterdam: Mr. Job COHEN, Mayor
Athens: Ms. Dr. Kalliopi A. BOURDARA, Deputy Mayor
Berlin: Ms. Karin SCHUBERT, Mayor
Bratislava: Mr. Branislav HOCHÉL, Deputy Mayor
Brussels: Mr. Marc FRÈRE, City Secretary
Budapest: Mr. Gábor DEMSZKY, Mayor – the CHAIR
Mr. Tibor BAKONYI, Deputy Mayor
Mr. Pál PATAKI, Head of European Integration and Foreign Affairs Office
Copenhagen: Ms. Bente FROST, Deputy Chairman of the City Council
Dublin: Mr. Michael CONAGHAN, Lord Mayor
Helsinki: Ms. Eva-Riitta SIITONEN, Mayor
Lisbon: Ms. Teresa CRAVEIRO, Director of Strategic Planning Department
Ljubljana: Ms. Zdenka ŠIMONOVIČ, Head of International Relations Office
(member of the Standing Committee)
London: Ms. Jennette ARNOLD, City Assembly Member
Luxembourg: Mr. Laurent MOSAR, Vice Mayor
Madrid: Ms. Ana ROMÁN, Councillor
Ms. María FÚSTER CAVESTANY, Head of Youth Department
Paris: Mr. J. Daniel GAÏTELLI, Director of Cabinet of Foreign Relations
Prague: Mr. Miroslav POCHÉ, Chairman of the European Integration Committee
Riga: Mr. Aivars Guntis KREITUSS, Deputy Mayor
Rome: Ms. Mariella GRAMAGLIA, Vice Mayor
Sofia: Mr. Stefan SOFIANSKI, Mayor (observer)
Stockholm: Ms. Cecilia FRAENKEL, Senior International Co-ordinator
(member of the Standing Committee)
Tallinn: Mr. Heido VITSUR, Adviser to the Mayor
Vilnius: Mr. Gediminas PARVIRZIS, Deputy Mayor
Vienna: Ms. Rudolf SCHICKER, Deputy Mayor
Warsaw: Ms. Mirosława BORYCZKA, Deputy Treasurer of the City of Warsaw

The meeting starts at 3 P.M.

The CHAIR, Mayor DEMSZKY opens the General Assembly, welcomes the participants and states that the actual meeting has a quorum. He informs that an apology from Nicosia has been received. There was no answer from La Valletta.

1. Approval of the Agenda

There were no objections and the CHAIR states that the Agenda is adopted.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 43rd General Assembly (Madrid, 8 November, 2003)

In absence of any objections the CHAIR declares the last Minutes adopted.

3. Amendment of the Statutes of the Union

The General Assembly approves the inclusion of the 10 new members to the Preamble of the Statutes (page 5) of the Union, so the members of the Union of Capitals of the European Union namely are the following: Athens, Amsterdam, Berlin, Bratislava, Brussels, Budapest, Copenhagen, Dublin, Helsinki, Lisbon, Ljubljana, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Nicosia, Paris, Prague, Riga, Rome, Stockholm, Tallinn, La Valletta, Vienna, Vilnius and Warsaw. According to the opinion of the Standing Committee from the day before La Valletta is also mentioned in spite of the fact that this city does not show any interest in the activities of the Union actually.

4. Financial Report

The Treasurer of the Union, Mr. FRÈRE presents the financial situation of the organization, based on the Financial Report, which was distributed before the meeting. Actually the fortune of the Union all together is more than 81,000 euros. He will transfer 10,000 euros to the City of Madrid for the costs of the last Youth Meeting in July. The

amount of 81,734.81€ does not contain the membership fees to be paid in the forthcoming weeks. The interests are also added to the amount. The resources are sufficient and there is no need to increase the membership fee.

The CHAIR thanks Mr. FRÈRE for the Financial Report and his activities in the finances of the Union and states that the Financial Report is adopted.

5. Decision on increasing of contribution of the Union to the costs of the Youth Meeting

The CHAIR proposes based on the proposal of the meeting of the Standing Committee in June the increasing of the contribution of the Union to the costs of the Youth Meeting to the host-cities. From 2005 it shall be 15,000 euros instead of 10,000 euros. The proposal is approved.

Mr. FRÈRE outlines the proposal of the City of Brussels concerning the mission, objectives and themes of the youth meetings based on their proposal distributed before. The CHAIR states that it is not necessary to approve the proposal because the Standing Committee has already its opinion in it.

6. Common Statement on a stronger urban dimension of EU cohesion policy beyond 2006

The CHAIR summarizes that based on the proposal of the Standing Committee the day before the text prepared by the City of London together with the City of Budapest should be approved with two small amendments. (Mr. PATAKI, as Secretary of the Standing Committee informs the General Assembly about them.) As there are not any objections, the Statement is approved.

Mr. COHEN thanks London and Budapest for the preparation of the Common Statement.

The CHAIR adds that Budapest will forward the Statement to the European Parliament, to the European Commission and to The Council. He asks the member-cities to send it also to their national governments, because this is the right period for achieving the changes in the new European structural policy, which the European cities are proposing.

7. Report on the UCUE Youth Meeting held in Madrid, July 2004

Ms. FÚSTER CAVESTANY from Madrid has a presentation of the event and its evaluation. The newspaper of the Youth Meeting is distributed among the members during the presentation.

8. Election of the next president of the Union

The CHAIR states that the City of Amsterdam is the only candidate for 2005. No objection is made, so the CHAIR declares the City of Amsterdam is elected next President of the Union of Capitals of the European Union. He passes the UCUE key and flag, symbols of the Organisation to the Mayor of Amsterdam.

Mr. COHEN gives a short thanking speech for their election and for the excellent organisation of this meeting.

9. Theme(s) and dates for the next General Assembly

Mr. PATAKI, as Secretary of the Standing Committee informs that according to the decision of the Standing Committee the proposal will be taken next year under the presidency of Amsterdam (probably by the first meeting of the Standing Committee in 2005.)

10. Presentation of the website of the Union

Mr. FRÈRE presents the Internet Site (<http://www.ucue.org/beta> ; user name: ucue ; password: beta; actually functions in "beta" mode yet). According to the decision of the last General Assembly, now it is ready and realized following the remarks, proposals and amendments of the meeting of the Standing Committee in June. Actually its use is limited, it can be used with a password only. The City of Brussels asks the member-cities for sending the available documents of the Organisation electronically for the common "electronic archive" of the Union.

The CHAIR thanks the City of Brussels for all of their activities in realizing the website.

11. Others

Mr. SEIDER from Berlin tells that another statement has been also prepared by the City of Berlin. (It is distributed on the spot.) It is not an official document yet, and he asks the member-cities for commenting it by e-mail.

The CHAIR thanks the participants for their work and cooperation and closes the meeting at 4 P.M.