

**DECLARATION  
OF THE UNION OF CAPITALS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
IN TALLINN, 28 SEPTEMBER 2007**

The participants in the Union of Capitals of the European Union (UCEU) 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held in Tallinn on 27 and 28 September 2007,

**based on**

the European Charter of Local Government and the European Urban Charter, and considering the Final Declaration of the Meeting of Mayors of Capital Cities of the Council of Europe Member Countries in Helsinki on 29 September 2001, Recommendation 133 (2003) and Resolution 158 (2003) on the management of capital cities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Recommendation 12 (2004) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the processes of reform of boundaries and/or structure of local and regional authorities, the Warsaw Declaration “The Role of Capital Cities in Implementing the EU – Cohesion Policy nowadays and after the year 2006”, and the Leipziger Charter on Sustainable European Cities,

**having analysed**

the European Local Government Charter of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) experts’ reports on the capital cities [CG/INST/GIE(13)9] and the responses submitted by EU capitals in summer 2007 to the questions posed by the organisers of the Tallinn conference,

**declare the following:**

European Capital Cities are not only the seats of governments. They are the cultural and economic centres of Europe, vessels of identity, and places for tens of millions of most productive and creative European citizens to live and work. The international competitiveness of the state as a whole depends the development of its capital, which is generally the state’s centre of innovation, the engine of its economic growth as well as the source of most of its revenues. Compared to other municipalities, capitals perform a much wider variety of political, economic and cultural functions. Because of their role as capitals, capital cities often carry disproportional

costs and responsibility- especially in the provision of necessary services such as safety and security. All this requires special infrastructure e.g. in the field of public transport, social services, waste and water management, public healthcare, education system, recreation facilities and public institutions. Taking all this in consideration, capital cities must be enabled legally and financially to fulfil these long-term global requirements that should be taken into account in the national urban policy and in the distribution of national tax revenue.

We consider it necessary that the national government support and finance from the national budget, incorporating the use of the Structural Funds of the European Union, the fulfilment of those capital functions which are of national significance, including the construction and operation of infrastructure sites within the capital. For the balanced development of urban space and the fulfilment of its socio-economic tasks in the citizens' interests, the capital must have an adequate structure of land ownership and amount of municipal land.

It would be desirable that the relationship between the capital and the central government should be regulated through legislation or a bilateral agreement that provides the capital with long-term financial guarantees, ensuring its sustainable development and covering the costs of fulfilling its national functions. Permanent support for the capital is also required in applying for the international credit rating of the capital.

The ability of the capital to be competitive in the globalising world largely depends on the socio-economic and environmental cooperation between the capital and the surrounding municipalities and requires the creation of joint cooperation networks in the capital region. In countries where the capital is located close to the border, this also means the promotion of cross-border cooperation. National governments are requested to facilitate this cooperation within the limits of their power.

**Approved in Tallinn on 28 September 2007 by UCEU member cities of Amsterdam, Berlin, Bratislava, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Helsinki, Ljubljana, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Nicosia, Riga, Stockholm, Tallinn, Vienna, Vilnius and Warsaw and observer cities Chisinau and Skopje.**