

**ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AWARDED THE EUROPE PRIZE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES**

JUNE 03, 2016
(Klaipeda, Lithuania)

Delegations present: Altötting (Germany), Częstochowa (Poland), Dresden (Germany), Gdynia (Poland), Mühlheim an der Ruhr (Germany), Katowice (Poland), Kharkiv (Ukraine), Klaipeda (Lithuania), Regensburg (Germany), Schwarzenberg (Germany), Tata (Hungary), Vara (Sweden), Würzburg (Germany)

Official ceremony of opening

The participants and guests of honor of the General Assembly take their seats in the hall; the Mayor of Klaipeda Mr. Vitautas Grubliauskas, the First deputy Mayor of the city of Kharkiv Mr. Igor Terekhov and Maria Osinska (Secretariat member) take their seats at the presiding table.

The First deputy Mayor of Kharkiv Mr. Igor Terekhov opened the Meeting.

The first floor to welcome the guests and participants of the General Assembly of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize was given to the Mayor of Klaipeda Mr. Vitautas Grubliauskas.

The Mayor of Klaipeda Mr. Vitautas Grubliauskas welcomed the participants.

Next floor is given to the Head of the Sub-committee on the Europe Prize, Committee for Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Mr. Jean-Claude Frécon.

Mr. Jean-Claude Frécon welcomed the participants of the meeting.

In his speech Mr. Jean-Claude Frécon touched the questions of closer cooperation between Association and Sub-committee on Europe Prize, described the importance of web-site and Statute actualization and closer work between cities. Also he mentioned that the city of Girona (Spain) became Europe Prize winner in 2016.

Session I

The First deputy Mayor of Kharkiv Mr. Igor Terekhov opened the meeting and read his welcoming speech.

Agenda was proposed for voting.

The Agenda:

- Report on the activity of the Association for the period of 2015 – 2016;
- Presentation of new members of the Association Dresden, Germany, and Vara, Sweden;
- Deciding about the place and time of the next meeting of the Presidium and the General Assembly;
- Voting for the questions on the activity of the Association.
 - modernization of the web site of the Association
 - development on the basis of the web site of a resource for regular exchange of best practices and implementation of joint project;
 - starting of regional offices of the Association in order to promote and disseminate main ideas of the Association, as well as involvement into the regional work of the towns awarded the Diploma of Europe, the Flag of Honor of the Council of Europe and the Plaque of Europe.
 - updating and specifying of the Statute of the Association;
 - modernization of the logo of the Association.

Reports on the topic of the Meeting: “Exchange of best practices and experience in the area of public transport and city mobility”

Summing up the results and approval of the Declaration of the General Assembly

The Agenda was adopted unanimously.

After adopting the Agenda First deputy Mayor of Kharkiv Mr. Igor Terekhov read the Report about activity of Presiding City for the period of 2015-2016.

Two new members of Association the cities of Dresden (Germany) and Vara (Sweden) made introductory presentations about their cities.

A representative of Dresden made the report.

A representative of Vara made the report.

Host cities for Presidium Meeting 2016, General Assembly and Youth Committee meeting in 2017 and Presidium Meeting 2017 were chosen.

– The city of Mulhaim an der Ruhr proposed its candidacy for hosting Presidium Meeting 2016.

– The city of Kharkiv proposed its candidacy for hosting General Assembly and Youth Committee meeting in 2017.

– The city of Altoetting proposed its candidacy for hosting Presidium Meeting 2017.

These proposes were adopted unanimously.

According to the Agenda the following proposals on updating the work of the Association were voted:

– updating the web site of the Association;

The First deputy Mayor of Kharkiv explained the necessity of updating the web-site.

Adopted unanimously.

– development on the basis of the web site of a resource for regular exchange of best practices and implementation of joint project;

The First deputy Mayor of Kharkiv explained the necessity of creating a resource like that.

Adopted unanimously.

– starting of regional offices of the Association in order to promote and disseminate main ideas of the Association, as well as involvement into the regional work of the towns awarded the Diploma of Europe, the Flag of Honor of the Council of Europe and the Plaque of Europe.

The First deputy Mayor of Kharkiv explained that the City of Kharkiv would like to start Association’s regional office in its area to provide support to other Ukrainian towns and Kharkiv’s twin towns all over Europe.

Mayor of Częstochowa stressed that starting regional offices is a free will of every city and not an obligation and suggested to support this initiative

Vice-Mayor of Wuerzburg made a statement that many cities would like to open regional offices but the obstacle for that can be the budget restrictions, but as long as this initiative is optional, it can be supported

Adopted unanimously.

– updating and specifying of the Statute of the Association;

The First deputy Mayor of Kharkiv explained the necessity of introducing the stamp of the Association and other amendments to the text of the Statutes

Adopted unanimously.

– modernizing the logo of the Association;

The First deputy Mayor of Kharkiv suggested to organize open competition among the students of the town members and then choose the best logo at General Assembly 2017.

Vice-Mayor of Wuerzburg suggested to choose the three best logos at Presidium meeting 2016 and then discuss only these three logos at General Assembly.

Vice-Mayor of Wuerzburg's suggestion was taken into account and adopted unanimously.

Session II:

Representatives of cities made their presentations on the topic: "Exchange of best practices and advancement in the area of public transport and sustainable mobility":

Artūras Šulcas, Klaipėda city vice-Mayor (Klaipėda, Lithuania) – "Sustainable mobility in Klaipėda";

Saulius Ružinskas, Lithuanian Cyclists Community, council member (Klaipėda, Lithuania) – „Cycling in Klaipėda: success stories and challenges“;

Alvydas Naujėkas, head of company „Vėjo projektai“ (Klaipėda, Lithuania) – „Electrification breakthrough in Klaipėda public transport“;

Andrius Samuilovas, Klaipėda public transport (Klaipėda, Lithuania) – „Regional Public Transport System in Klaipėda. Chalanges and Problems“;

David Linse (Manheim, Germany) – "Public transportation and sustainable mobility in Manheim city";

Beata Szadziul, Elzbieta Sierzega (Gdynia, Poland) – "Modern and practical – Gdynia Public Transport";

Marion Schaefer-Blake (Wuerzburg, Germany) – "Public transport and sustainable mobility in Wuerzburg";

Caroline Larisch (Schwarzenbek, Germany) – "Transportation and Transit Analysis in Schwarzenbek";

Mariusz Skiba (Katowice, Poland) – "Transformation of Katowice transport system".

The summing up session

The representative of Youth Committee Mr. Konstantin Kudriavtsev (Kharkiv, Ukraine) made a speech on the topic: "Modern problems of migration and social adjustment of migrants".

In his speech Mr. Kudriavtsev emphasized the importance of NGO participation in the process of social adjustment of migrants. Municipalities should consider needs of migrants in their social work.

The member of the Secretariat Mrs. Maria Osinska read the text of Klaipėda Declaration.

First deputy Mayor of Kharkiv Mr. Igor Terekhov made a summoning speech.

The Declaration of Klaipėda was adopted unanimously.

The General Assembly and Youth Committee meeting 2016 in Klaipėda was closed.