

## ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AWARDED THE EUROPE PRIZE

### PRESIDIUM

November 30, 2019

St., Pölten (Austria)

#### Minutes

1.	Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk (moderator)	moderator, Mayor of Częstochowa	Częstochowa (Poland)
2.	Joanna Iskierka	Director of the Mayor's Office	
3.	Marzena Cuprjak - Wagner (secretary)	Head of the Domestic and Foreign Cooperation Office	
4.	Kestutis Masiulis	Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	PACE
5.	Prisca Barthel	PACE	
6.	Herbert Hofauer	Mayor of Altötting	Altötting (Germany)
7.	Dierk Molter	Councilor	Darmstadt (Germany)
8.	Sabine Kuzma	Office for Town Partnerships and Europe	Mülheim-un-der Ruhr (Germany)
9.	Margarete Wietelmann	Mayor of Mülheim	
10.	Matthias Stadler	Mayor of St. Pölten	St. Pölten (Austria)
11.	Ingrid Heihs	City Councilor	
12.	Róbert Szénási	City councilor	Szeged (Hungary)
13.	Tibor Papp	Director of Foreign Affairs	
14.	Sofiia Tsikhovska	International Cooperation Specialist	Ivano-Frankivsk (Ukraine)
15.	Viktor Shutka	Director of Municipal Enterprise Miskosvitto	
16.	Viktor Synyshyn	Secretary of the City Council	
17.	Serpil Öztürk	City Councilor	Ankara
18.	Halime Battal	Director of EU Division	

19.	Marion Schäfer-Blake	Mayor of Würzburg	Würzburg
20.	Michal Kopriva	International Cooperation Specialist	

Official ceremony of opening (UE anthem performed by the students of the music school in St. Pölten, welcome speech by the Mayor of St. Pölten, Mr. Matthias Stadler).

The Chairman of the Association, Mr. Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk welcomed the participants and invited Mr. Kęstutis Masiulis, Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize, to take the floor. Mr. Masiulis presented the activities of the Sub-Committee undertaken in 2019.

The Chairman of the Association expressed his gratitude for organizing the meeting of Presidium. He stressed the role of the cooperation within the UE, presented the agenda and asked a representative of St. Pölten, Ms. Ingrid Heihs to present a video promoting St. Pölten (prepared by the Department of Tourism of St. Pölten).

Next, the representatives of Szeged, Mr. Robert Szenasi and Mr. Tibor Papp presented a photo report from the General Assembly 2019, which took place in Szeged, Hungary and a video done during the Youth Forum. In addition, the history of the city was briefly discussed and the re-election of Mr. Laszlo Botka as the Mayor of Szeged was announced. The representatives of Szeged also expressed the will of the city of Szeged in continuing and developing foreign cooperation.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE ACTIONS TAKEN TO MOBILIZE INACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Presentation of the actions taken by the Chairman after taking over the chair in September 2019:

- sending letters to 65 inactive members of the Association,
- sending a letter to Mr. Ionut – Marian Stroe, the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize, inviting him to the meeting of Presidium and presentation of his answer,
- updating the data on the website and publishing information on the current activities of the Association (thanks to providing the login and password to the website by Kharkiv). The Chairman encouraged the members to send information on organized events that could be found on the Association's website.

### **DISCUSSION – GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN CZESTOCHOWA 2020**

- Discussion over the programs of the General Assembly and Youth Forum in Częstochowa – a video promoting the city was shown and the draft programs of the General Assembly and Youth Forum 2020 were presented.
- Choice of the theme of the mayor's conference

The Chairman's proposal: „Challenges and Opportunities for European Unity”

As proposed by the Chairman, this is the chosen theme of a conference and Youth Forum in Częstochowa.

According to the Chairman, it would be very interesting to learn about young people's opinion on the same topic. At the same time, a youth delegation would not have to discuss the same challenges and opportunities as the senior delegation.

Mr. Dierk Molter, Darmstadt, suggested that an important topic for youth would be climate. It is general and could be interesting not only for German, but for all European youth. It would be an opportunity for cities to present the measures they implemented to combat climate change.

Ms. Marion Schäfer-Blake, Mayor of Würzburg: The topic suggested by Darmstadt can be included in the one suggested by the Chairman and treated as a challenge for Europe.

Ms. Halime Battal, Ankara, suggested „smart city”, refugees, climate change and youth mobilization as the possible themes of the next General Assembly.

Mr. Michal Kopriva, Würzburg, said they would like to invite youth from their city to cooperation, present their schools and amateur theatre groups etc., as mobilization and including young people in the activities is very important.

Mr. Herbert Hofauer, Mayor of Altötting: The conference of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize, due to its limited time, will not be conducive to discuss matters of climate or refugees.

The Chairman noticed that „Smart city” was the theme of the last General Assembly in Szeged. That is why the Presidium should find another topic. He suggested that choosing a general topic will enable the discussion over the important problems for the cities, or it is possible to choose a topic from above mentioned. Thanks to the choice of a general topic of the conference, the participants would learn about the problems of other European cities.

Ms. Margarete Wietelmann, Mayor of Mülheim noticed that the general theme may include more content. Youth mobilization is in line with the theme proposed by the Chairman.

According to Ms. Ingrid Heihs, St. Pölten, the theme suggested by the Chairman has the potential and will allow to notice what is really important in other cities.

Mr. Kęstutis Masiulis, in addition to the above mentioned, proposed the topic of plastic and waste – a discussion over good practices. He noticed that in Norway the waste management system works very efficiently, so it is reasonable to deal with this matter in the future, in Częstochowa, but also at subsequent meetings.

- voting

The Chairman ordered voting on the theme of the conference

The theme of the mayor's conference accompanying the General Meeting of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize “**Challenges and Opportunities for European Unity**” was adopted unanimously.

The Chairman ordered voting on the theme of the Youth Forum

The theme of the Youth Forum “**Challenges and Opportunities for European Unity**” was adopted unanimously.

The representatives of Ivano-Frankivsk applied to present their city. A video was presented.

## **PROPOSALS FOR JOINT INITIATIVES PROJECT BETWEEN THE TOWNS MEMBERS IN THE YEARS 2019-2021**

- the initiative to organize a General Meeting 2021 in Strasbourg

The Chairman noted that the representative of the Sub-Committee is a member of Presidium and Strasbourg is a member of the Association, so it would be a good idea to organize a General Assembly in 2021 together with the Sub-Committee and the Municipality of Strasbourg.

The Chairman ordered voting on the Presidium's agreement to the initiative of organizing the General Assembly 2021 at the Council of Europe's headquarter in Strasbourg.

Results of voting:

9 votes - for

1 vote - abstained

- The Chairman discussed the idea on the renewal of the 1984 Udine Agreement. He informed the Presidium that he had asked the Udine Authorities to send the agreement which was signed in that city in 1984. At the same time he proposed to renew the agreement and sign the document again in Częstochowa.

The Chairman ordered voting on the Presidium's proposal to renew the Agreement of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Częstochowa during the General Assembly in June 2020.

All the present members voted for this proposal.

### **FREE DISCUSSION**

During the free discussion, Ingrid Heihs asked the Chairman whether each city should choose one topic to discuss at the conference, or both young people and adults from each city should deal with the same topic. The Chairman replied that leaving young people free to choose would enable the senior representatives to know problems and challenges that are interesting to the younger generations.

Mr. Herbert Hofauer, Altötting, expressed his gratitude for sending letters to all inactive members of the Association.

Mr. Dierk Molter, Darmstadt, also thanked and invited the member cities of the Association to Darmstadt on 23 August 2020 to celebrate the Christopher-Street-Day event, in which the twin cities of Darmstadt will participate. He also informed that the City of Darmstadt had expressed its readiness to organize the meeting of the Association's Presidium in 2021.

At the end of the meeting, the draft resolution no. 1/2019 of the Presidium of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize on the adoption of a position during the meeting of the Presidium (in annex) was read out.

The resolution was signed by the representatives of the cities.