



Minutes

Presidium of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize

Udine 20.12.2021

12.00 - 14.00

On-line meeting (Webex)

The meeting was opened by **Mr. Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk, Mayor of Częstochowa, President of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize**, who welcomed the participants and thanked **Mr. Pietro Fontanini, Mayor of Udine** for preparing the meeting in on-line formula.

Then **Mr. Pietro Fontanini, Mayor of Udine**, presented a promotional film of his city and regretted that the members of the Presidium, due to Covid-19 pandemic, could not meet in Udine in person.

Then, **Mr. Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk** presented the minutes from the General Assembly of the Association, which was organised in a hybrid formula by Ivano-Frankivsk in September 2021.

The next point of the meeting was a presentation of the activities taken by the President since the last General Assembly. **Mr. Mayor Matyjaszczyk** reported that, with regard to the organisation of the next General Assembly in Strasbourg, he was continuing discussions on this topic with the Council of Europe and representatives of the City.

From the Department of translation, travel, events and multimedia services of the Council of Europe, he received confirmation that two rooms would be reserved for the Association free of charge on 9-10 June 2022.

He also informed about the possibility of providing simultaneous interpretation in 4 languages: English, French, Polish and German and about the high costs of such a service

Then, in response to the information provided, the floor was taken by **Mr Kęstutis Masiulis, Chairperson of Sub-Committee on Europe Prize**. He suggests that the General Assembly should be organised on either Thursday, 9 June or Friday, 10 June 2022. This day could be dedicated to the General Assembly and the Youth Forum, and meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize would be organised on the same day as the General Assembly. This would allow parliamentarians to take part in the meeting and to discover the work of the Association.

At the same time, he declared that if there was agreement on such a proposal, then Parliamentary Assembly can cover the interpretation costs for English and French on that day.

Then **Mrs. Prisca Barthel from Europe Prize section** detailed the issues concerning the organization of the meeting and the form of involvement in it the Europe Prize section.

The next point of the meeting was a discussion about possible forms of cooperation between associated cities. Due to limited meeting opportunities caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, **Mayor Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk** proposed a form of exchange that does not require personal contact. He mentioned the international competition „**Fujifilm Moment Street Photo Awards**” organized by the Częstochowa Centre for Promotion of Culture "Gaude Mater".

Mrs. Ann-Kathrin Allekotte, Vice Mayor of Mülheim an der Ruhr, agreed that it is very important to integrate and implement joint activities. She also underlined that it is worthwhile to activate young people, also by using multimedia tools.

At the end of the meeting, **Mayor Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk** summarised the discussion and expressed his hope that the General Assembly of the Association in 2022 would be an opportunity to meet personally in Strasbourg.