

XVII UBC General Conference

EU Cities Mission as a source of inspiration and expertise for cities towards climate-neutrality

UBC Sustainable Cities Commission session

25 October 2023

Palanga, Lithuania

The Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, or “Cities Mission” is one of five EU Missions, connected to the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme 2021–2027. In the Cities Mission, 100 selected European cities are jointly working towards ambitious goals addressing energy efficiency, green mobility, and sustainable urban planning to deliver tangible results and become climate-neutral by 2030.

12 UBC member cities are among the selected ones and many more will have the chance to be part of the mission through diverse capacity development activities and available funding. This session will provide the following information to the participants:

- how UBC Mission cities work towards climate-neutrality goals, what kind of challenges they are facing and how they overcome them,
- what opportunities UBC member cities have, to get involved on their own way to climate-neutrality, how they can test or replicate solutions and learn from the Mission cities and
- how UBC cities can act as innovation hubs and inspiration for other cities – also Ukrainian cities in the restoration process.

Agenda

10:00–10:10

Welcome to the meeting

Agnieszka Ilola, Head of Secretariat, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission.

10:10–10:25

EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities framework

Patrick Child, Deputy Director General, DG Environment, European Commission, online/recording.

10:25–10:40

Mission Platform support

Anna Huttunen, Climate Neutral Cities Advisor, NetZeroCities platform.

10:40–11:10

Best practices – pitches from UBC members

Risto Veivo, Climate Director, City of Turku, Finland.

Per-Åke Fredriksson, Chairman of the City Council, Municipality of Gävle, Sweden.

Kārlis Beihmanis, Project manager for Climate change and energy efficiency, Liepaja City, Latvia.

Agnė Petrošiūtė, Advisor for Sustainability, Tauragė District Municipality, Lithuania.

11:10–11:50

Panel discussion

Panelists: Anna Huttunen, Risto Veivo, Per-Åke Fredriksson, Kārlis Beihmanis, Agnė Petrošiūtė and youth representative.

11:50–12:00

Summary and wrap-up

Agnieszka Ilola, Head of Secretariat, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission.