

## **Minutes**

### **General Assembly of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize, September 21-22, 2021, Ivano-Frankivsk**

The meeting was opened by Mr. Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk, Mayor of the City of Częstochowa, President of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize, who welcomed the participants and thanked Mr. Ruslan Martsinkiw, Mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk for organizing the General Assembly in his city. Then Mr. Ruslan Martsinkiw presented a promotional film of his city and a presentation on "Ivano-Frankivsk - a city for living". In the next part of the session, Mr. Kestutis Masiulis, Chairman of the Subcommittee for the Prize of Europe, referred in his speech to the planned for 24 September this year ceremony of awarding the Europe Prize to the city of Khmelnytskyi. It is the third Ukrainian city to receive this honorable distinction. The prize was designed by French friends and made with great precision. In the next part of his speech, he focused on the situation related to the pandemic. He said he was extremely happy to be able to attend the General Assembly in person, even though wearing a mask. The Covid-19 crisis involves obtaining a European certificate, a passport, without which it will be impossible to move freely between countries, participate in concerts or enter a university.

In the next point of the meeting, Mr. Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk welcomed Mr. Oleksandr Symchyshyn - Mayor of the City of Khmelnytskyi, this year's winner of the Europe Prize and asked for the floor. Mr. Symchyshyn presented a promotional video of his city and a presentation. Then, Mr. Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk presented a report on the meeting of the presidium organized on-line by Darmstadt in December 2020.

After a 15-minute break in the session, the Conference of Mayors began: "Energy efficiency in terms of sustainable development of local government", moderated by Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk.

The following cities presented their positions on this topic:

1. Ivano-Frankivsk,
2. Khmelnytskyi,
3. Kharkiv
4. Darmstadt,
5. Częstochowa,
6. Lublin.

After a two-hour break, the working part of the General Assembly took place. It was chaired by Mr. Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk, Mayor of Częstochowa, Chairman of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize. He began by presenting the report on the last two years of his term of office (2019-2021). He spoke about closer cooperation with the Council of Europe and the Prize of Europe Subcommittee in order to promote the activities of the association on the European forum, as well as on the symbolic renewal of the agreement with regard to the document signed in 1984 in Udine.

The next point of the meeting was the adoption of resolutions on the election of the President of the Association for the years 2021-2023, 2 Vice-Presidents and members of the Presidium. Ms. Joanna Iskierka - Director of the Chancellery of the Mayor of Częstochowa read the election procedure from the statute, according to which the Presidium consists of:

- 1) the city currently presiding in the Association;
- 2) vice-president cities currently in the Association;
- 3) the city presiding over the Association in the previous term;
- 4) other, up to seven member cities of the Association approved by the General Assembly;
- 5) a representative of the Council of Europe

So as, the board can consist of a maximum of 11 people.

Ms. Alina Filimonowa read a letter from Mr. Terehov, Mayor of Kharkiv, who addressed Mayor Matyjaszczyk, emphasizing in it that the Association under his leadership would continue to develop so dynamically and take up new challenges. He also declared his support and assistance and expressed his willingness to continue to serve as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Herbert Hofauer also proposed that Mayor Matyjaszczyk again assume the position of the Chairman of the Association of Towns awarded the Europe Prize for another two-year term. He spoke about the great involvement of the President in the implementation of new ideas. As a result of the vote, Mayor Matyjaszczyk was unanimously elected President of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize for the 2021-2023 term.

He thanked the cities for their trust and activity so far, and then invited everyone to further fruitful cooperation. He also said that he is open to any new proposals and suggestions. Regarding the election of Vice-Presidents and members of the Presidium, Mr. Matyjaszczyk proposed that the cities that had been present so far and whose representatives took part in the General Assembly should remain, i.e.:

- Vice-President: Mayor of Altoetting and Kharkiv

- **members of the Bureau: Darmstadt, Ivano-Frankivsk, Würzburg, Ankara, St. Pölten, Mülheim an der Ruhr.**

As a result of the vote, the General Assembly unanimously elected the mayor of Altoetting and Kharkiv as Vice-Chairmen of the Association and the cities of Darmstadt, Ivano-Frankivsk, Würzburg, Ankara, St. Pölten, Mülheim an der Ruhr for members of the Presidium. Since the representative of the city of Szeged was absent and no written information from that city had been sent, one seat in the Presidium remained vacant. Mr. Herbert Hofauer proposed that the city of Udine should join the Presidium, due to its involvement in the work of the Association and its willingness to organize the Presidium. The City of Udine agreed to participate in the work of the Bureau. The assembly unanimously elected the cities of Darmstadt, Ivano-Frankivsk, Würzburg, Ankara, St. Polten, Mülheim an der Ruhr and Udine as members of the Presidium.

The next point on the vote was the appointment of the Bureau in Udine. The resolution to organize this event in Udine was adopted during the on-line meeting of the Bureau in Darmstadt on December 1, 2020. President Matyjaszczyk proposed the dates of December 17 or 20, 2021 and a face-to-face meeting, if the situation allowed. Ms. Ludovica Toso from the Office of the Mayor of Udine agreed to the proposal to organize the Presidium on December 20, 2021, but in the online formula. The assembly passed these arrangements by a majority of votes. Only the city of Darmstadt abstained from voting.

Then, Mr. Matyjaszczyk suggested that the next General Assembly to be held in Strasbourg, as the one scheduled for June 2021 was not held in that city due to the pandemic. He also reminded that the General Secretary of the Council of Europe had agreed to provide premises free of charge at the seat of the Council of Europe. In consultation with the persons responsible for booking the rooms, taking into account the calendar of meetings planned for 2022, it was possible to agree that the General Assembly and the Youth Forum could be held between May 30 and June 12, 2022. Therefore, Mr. Matyjaszczyk applied for the date of June 6, 2022. However, Mr. Wolfram von Rotberg from Darmstadt announced that June 6, 2022 is a public holiday in Germany. In connection with the above, Mr. Matyjaszczyk indicated the date of organization of the General Assembly of the Association in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg for June 9-10, 2022. The resolution was passed. The next point of voting was to determine the topic of the Conference of Mayors and the Youth Forum during the General Assembly of the Association in 2022. The proposed topic "The impact of the pandemic on various areas of the functioning of cities" was voted by a majority of votes. Only Mr. Wolfram von Rotberg had reservations that the subject was too broad to be discussed at one meeting in December.

During the meeting of the General Assembly, it was not possible to adopt resolution regarding the location and date of the Presidium of the Association in 2022. None of the cities expressed their willingness to organize this event in their city. The resolution will be adopted at a later date.

After voting on the resolutions, Mr. Matyjaszczyk presented a proposal to establish an official statuette of the Association, which could be used to honor newly admitted members and distinguished persons. He also presented the project of the statuette asking for an opinion. Ms. Alina Filimonowa said that it was a good idea to award such a statuette, but preferably to specific people, for merits for the most active political leaders on the forum of the Association, and not for the city. However, the others present agreed that it should be awarded to the organization for all its activities. Mr. Matyjaszczyk proposed that the President and two Vice-Presidents decide on awarding the statuette and it was approved by a majority of votes. (The Commission for Establishing the Prize of Europe abstained).

At the end of the first day of the meeting, Mr. Matyjaszczyk thanked for participating in the meeting and invited Mayors and young people to a joint meeting on the next day.

On the second day of the General Assembly, the representative of the youth, Mr. Adam Wojtysiak, summarized the proceedings of the Youth Forum and presented the joint conclusions:

- Aware of the climate crisis, we call for action for sustainable development for our cities and countries;

We would like to live on a cleaner and healthier planet, so we encourage you to increase green areas in our local governments;

- Every tree is important, so we encourage you to raise funds for the purchase of machines for replanting trees, which will be used during the investment;

- We encourage more frequent dialogues with the young generation, through meetings with youth city councils or other representatives of young people;

- Each individual must take care of their surroundings, so we encourage you to increase penalties for people who smoke with prohibited substances or fuel;

- Following the example of Częstochowa, we encourage other local governments to support thermal modernization of buildings, which will directly contribute to energy savings;

- Many young people have interesting and innovative ideas for a new low-emission economy, so we encourage you to create subsidies to support young entrepreneurs operating in the environmental protection sector;

- We encourage the introduction of projects aimed at popularizing science among young people and city residents by creating scientific platforms and establishing scholarships.

Mr. Matyjaszczyk summarized the proceedings of the General Assembly, thanked all those present in person and people connecting remotely, first of all the authorities of the city of Ivano-Frankivska and all associates for their contribution to the preparation of this event.