



Minutes

General Assembly of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize Strasbourg, 8-11 June 2022.

Place: Palais de l'Europe (Council of Europe headquarters), Avenue de l'Europe, 67000 Strasbourg, Room 3, 2nd floor

On 9 June 2022, the General Assembly of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize met in Strasbourg (France). Due to the impossibility of attending in person, some participants took part in the online meeting.

The meeting was attended in person by the following persons:

1. Mr Jerzy BAURSKI, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the Council of Europe
2. Ms Carmen Leyte, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on the Europe Prize of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
3. Ms Diana Stoica, Parliamentarian, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Romania)
4. Mr Hişyar Özsoy, Parliamentarian, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Turkey)
5. Mr Krzysztof MATYJASZCZYK, President of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize, Mayor of Częstochowa (Poland)
6. Mr Herbert HOF AUER, Vice-President of the Association, Mayor of Altötting (Germany)
7. Mr Rafał Czarski, First Secretary at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the Council of Europe
8. Ms Ingrid HEIHS, Town Councillor, St Pölten (Austria)
9. Mr Mohammed EL GHAZILI, City Councillor, Nancy (France)
10. Ms Verena DENRY, Director of International Relations, Nancy (France)
11. Mr Antoine POTOR, Intern, Nancy (France)
12. Ms Véronique BERTHOLLE, Deputy Mayor, Strasbourg (France)
13. Ms Yasmine SOULAIMANI-HARTMANN, City Hall, Strasbourg (France)
14. Ms Mathilde MARCILLE, City Hall, Strasbourg (France)
15. Ms Lynda KALLYCHURN, Strasbourg City Council (France)



16. Ms Ina PFEIFER, Director for European and International Affairs, City of Dresden (Germany)
17. Ms. Ann-Kathrin ALLEKOTTE, Mayor of Mülheim an der Ruhr (Germany)
18. Ms Sabine KUZMA, responsible for international affairs, Mülheim an der Ruhr (Germany)
19. Mr Michal KOPRIVA, responsible for international cooperation, Würzburg (Germany)
20. Mr Wolfram von ROTBERG, Town Councillor, Darmstadt (Germany)
21. Ms Joanna ISKIERKA, Director of the Mayor's Office, Częstochowa City Hall (Poland)
22. Ms Marzena CUPRJAK-WAGNER, Head of Department for Domestic and International Cooperation, Częstochowa City Hall (Poland)
23. Ms Katarzyna STROJEC, Częstochowa City Hall (Poland)
24. Mr. Leszek UNTON, Częstochowa City Hall (Poland)
25. Mr. Eneko GOIA, Mayor of Donostia / San Sebastián (Spain)
26. Mr Inigo AGUAYO, Donostia / San Sebastián, (Spain)
27. Mr Kepa KORTA, Donostia / San Sebastián (Spain)
28. Mr Mehmet Atilla BAYSAK, Councillor of Izmir, Chairman of the EU and Foreign Relations Committee of Izmir City Council (Turkey)
29. Ms Başak SOMUNCU BEKTAŞ, EU Affairs, Grants and Development Policy Department, Izmir (Turkey)
30. Ms Katharina PFEIFFER, Directorate of Partnerschaftsring Braunfels e.V. (Germany)
31. Mr Martin Neumann, Directorate of Partnerschaftsring Braunfels e.V. (Germany)

Youth representatives from the member cities

1. Mr Philip TUDOR, Sankt Pölten (Austria)
2. Mr Hannah REISCHER, Sankt Pölten (Austria)
3. Ms Sibylle SCHNEIDER, Strasbourg (France)
4. Ms Laura NAUMANN, Strasbourg (France)
5. Mr Raphael JÜCH, Darmstadt (Germany)
6. Mr Luc BÜTTNER, Darmstadt (Germany)
7. Ms Martha ANGENENDT, Mülheim-and-der-Ruhr (Germany)
8. Ms Mariam OWUSU AFRIYIE, Mülheim-and-der-Ruhr (Germany)
9. Mr Oscar Olaf JANDURA, Dresden (Germany)



10. Mr Artem ABROSIMOV, Dresden (Germany)
11. Ms Lea LEITERSBACH, Würzburg (Germany)
12. Ms Lisa-Marie PAUL, Würzburg (Germany)
13. Mr Wojciech BOJARSKI, Częstochowa (Poland)
14. Mr Radosław FIJAŁKOWSKI, Częstochowa (Poland)
15. Mr Damian TRZESZKOWSKI, Częstochowa (Poland)

Online participants:

1. Mr. Igor TEREKHOV, Vice-President of the Association, Mayor of Kharkiv (Ukraine)
2. Mr Oleksandr SYMCHYSHYN, Mayor of the City of Khmelnytskyi (Ukraine)
3. Ms Olena PETRENKO, Kharkiv (Ukraine)
4. Mr Krzysztof STANOWSKI, Head of the Centre for International Cooperation, Lublin (Poland)
5. Mr. Viktor SYNYSKYN (Ukraine), City Councillor, Ivano-Frankivsk (Ukraine)
6. Ms Elżbieta SIERŻĘGA, City Councillor, Gdynia (Poland)
7. Ms Grażyna Skoczylas, Częstochowa City Hall (Poland),
8. Ms Marta CHUDZIK, Częstochowa City Hall (Poland),
9. Ms Marta OGONOWSKA-JUSZCZYK, Częstochowa City Hall (Poland),
10. Mr Paweł STANIEC, Częstochowa City Hall (Poland)

Proceedings of the meeting:

1. President Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk welcomed all participants of the meeting, both those present in Strasbourg and those participating in the online format.
2. Ms Véronique Bertholle, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, welcomed the guests, expressed her thanks for the opportunity to co-organise the event and stressed the role of solidarity and cooperation at transnational level.
3. Ms Carmen Leyte, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Assembly's Europe Prize Sub-Committee, welcomed the participants and expressed her opinion on the need for cooperation between European local authorities, especially in the face of war on the continent. She also emphasised the important role played by the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize as a forum for dialogue and exchange of good practices.
4. Mr Jerzy Bauriski, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the Council of Europe, took the floor. In his speech, he pointed out that Russia's aggression



against Ukraine calls for unconditional solidarity and empathy more than ever before in the Association's history. The Permanent Representative added that the Europe Prize is on the one hand a distinction and on the other hand a commitment to act with increased intensity in difficult times for Europe.

5. The representatives of Strasbourg presented a film about the host city: its main monuments and attractions, its history as well as presenting the city as the seat of the European Authorities.
6. A film on the 2022 Europe Prize Winner was presented by representatives from Izmir. After the presentation, the City Councillor of Izmir took the floor and welcomed all participants and declared his satisfaction at being able to join the laureate cities.
7. The President introduced the agenda of the General Assembly, which was unanimously adopted by the members.
8. The President presented the activity report for the year preceding the meeting, starting with the General Assembly in Ivano-Frankivsk. He also reported, among other things, on his attendance at the ceremony of presenting the Europe Prize to the City of Khmelnytsky in September 2021 and on the organisation of the 2021 Presidium in an online format. The President also addressed issues regarding assistance to Ukraine. He further informed that, at the request of the members of the Association from Ukraine, he had passed the appeal of Ukrainian cities on the shutdown of airspace over Ukraine to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Maria Pejćinović Burić. He also said that he had forwarded a letter supporting Ukraine's aspirations for EU inclusion to the President of the European Parliament.
9. Elections for the host of the 2022 Presidium meeting took place. Altötting (Germany) put forward its application, proposing to host the event in December 2022. The proposal was unanimously accepted.
10. The President moved on to the election of the host of the 2023 General Assembly. Nancy (France) had put forward its nomination, justifying the proposal with the organisation in their city in June 2023 of the anniversary celebrations to mark the inscription of the city's main monuments on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The proposal was unanimously approved by the participants of the General Assembly.
11. The President opened the discussion on the situation in Ukraine. He said that the common position on peace in Ukraine had shown unity in seeking to respect and promote the values on which the EU is based, and therefore the Association should carry on working together and showing solidarity on behalf of Ukraine.



12. Mr Ihor Terekhov then took the floor and reviewed the situation in Ukraine, particularly in Kharkiv, and thanked the Association for its support so far.
13. Mr Viktor Synyshyn addressed the audience, speaking on the situation of the inhabitants of Ivano-Frankivsk and thanking the Association for its support.
14. Mayor of the City of Khmelnytskyi, Oleksandr Symchyshyn, took the floor and thanked for the support provided to Ukraine by the countries of Europe and asked for the ongoing assistance, especially to the civilian population, who are often internal migrants remaining on the territory of the country, facing many difficulties and needing basic aid to survive.
15. The experience of local government in assisting war refugees from Ukraine was shared by Mr Krzysztof Stanowski, Head of the Centre for International Cooperation in Lublin.
16. The summary of the discussion was the adoption by the association of a resolution to send an appeal for peace to the authorities of the Russian Federation. The resolution was to be published as well as sent to the Russian Federation Embassy in Warsaw.
17. A break in the proceedings took place.
18. The participants were joined by youth representatives - participants of the Youth Forum.
19. The President announced the city representatives, who made presentations on the topic: "The impact of the pandemic on different areas of city functioning". The President of the Association emphasised that sharing experiences and good practices on the topic of dealing with the pandemic would help local government officials participating in the discussion to be more effective in meeting the needs of their residents.
- 20 City representatives made presentations:- Mülheim an der Ruhr,
 - St. Pölten,
 - Donostia/San Sebastian,
 - Würzburg,
 - Darmstadt,
 - Dresden,
 - Częstochowa.
- 21 This part of the meeting also featured presentations by young people, who demonstrated the results of their work and debates from the Youth Forum. The youth representatives talked about the problems they faced in the aftermath of the pandemic. They discussed the topic of remote education, the problem of the absence of peer



relationships and feelings of closure and isolation, as well as internal disapproval towards the restrictions put in place. They also communicated that the pandemic had shown how fragile and precious human life is, and that by battling the virus together, people had, in their view, united more than ever.

22 At the end of the session, the President summed up the proceedings, expressed his thanks for the large attendance during the Association's exceptional deliberations at the Council of Europe's headquarters in Strasbourg and invited the public to participate in the next planned events.

Minutes: Marzena Cuprjak-Wagner