

Minutes - Session of the General Assembly of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize

Nancy, 16 June 2023.

On 16 June 2023, representatives of the cities affiliated to the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize met at the General Assembly session in Nancy (France) at the Nancy Town Hall.

Participants of the General Assembly in Nancy:

- **Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk**, Mayor of Częstochowa, president of the association
- **Herbert Hofauer**, retired mayor of Altötting, vice-president of the association
- **Oleksandra Chykhladze**, director of the permanent delegation of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine, representing the vice-president of the association, the City of Kharkiv,
- **Michal Kopriva**, head of the EU office for International Cooperation and Marketing of the City of Würzburg, member of the Presidium
- **Viktor Synyshyn**, secretary of the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council, member of the Presidium
- **Ralf Arnemann**, Darmstadt city councillor, member of the Presidium
- **Prisca Barthel**, Office of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, member of the Presidium
- **Mathieu Klein**, Mayor of Nancy
- **Evelyne Beaudeau**, deputy mayor of Nancy
- **Krzysztof Żuk**, Mayor of Lublin
- **Frank Mentrup**, Mayor of Karlsruhe
- **Piotr Roman**, Mayor of Bolesławiec

- **Joanna Iskierka**, director of the Corporate Governance Office, Częstochowa City Hall
- **Kepa Korta**, director for the Strategy Office, Municipality of Donostia - San Sebastian
- **Krzysztof Hewak**, head of the department of Development and Promotion of the city of Bolesławiec
- **Anna Idkowiak**, director of the Municipal Public Library - Knowledge Centre, municipality of Bolesławiec
- **Roman Jaborkhel**, deputy director for Cooperation Planning and International Promotion
- **Verena Denry**, head of the department of Promotion and Regional Development, municipality of Nancy
- **Joanna Szelağ**, head of department for Protocol and Organisation of Official Visitations
- **Marzena Cuprjak-Wagner**, head of department for Foreign Cooperation and Tourism, Częstochowa City Hall
- **Ewelina Maszewska**, representative of the Department of Foreign Cooperation and Tourism, Częstochowa City Hall
- **Marlene Meder**, Municipality of Nancy
- **Bescka Siehl**, Karlsruhe City Hall
- **Agnieszka Gergont**, Spokesperson for the City of Bolesławiec
- **Sofiia Tsikhovska**, Ivano-Frankivsk City Hall

Online participants of the General Assembly:

- **Oleksandr Semczyszyn**, Mayor of Khmelnytskyi
- **Ann-Kathrin Allekotte**, Mayor of Mülheim an der Ruhr

Proceedings of the Session of the General Assembly

1. Opening of the General Assembly Session of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize. The rendition of the anthem of the European Union.
2. Welcoming speech by Mr Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk, President of the Association and Mayor of the City of Częstochowa.
3. Presentations of the cities follow.
 - The city of Nancy, host of the General Assembly celebrating the 40th anniversary of the city's inscription on the UNESCO heritage list, was the first to make its presentation in the form of a film. The President of the Association presented the Mayor of Nancy with a congratulatory letter to commemorate the event.
 - The Mayor of the City of Boleslawiec presented a film showing his city being honoured with the European Prize in 2023.
4. The President of the Association initiated the Conference of Mayors. As agreed by the 2023 Presidium, the topic of the conference is: "How we Europe Prize cities translate our values of solidarity into action".
5. Representatives of the cities present at the Conference presented speeches in the following order:
 - Ivano-Frankivsk
 - Würzburg
 - Khmelnytskyi
 - Darmstadt
 - Karlsruhe
 - Lublin

- Nancy: The mayors of Nancy, Karlsruhe and Lublin signed a declaration within the framework of what is known as the "Little Weimar Triangle". The mayor of Nancy Mathieu Klein, the mayor of Lublin Krzysztof Żuk and the mayor of Karlsruhe Frank Mentrup affixed their signatures. The document obliges the above-mentioned local governments to cooperate on a permanent basis for the benefit of Ukraine. The signatories of the agreement reaffirmed their unconditional support for Ukraine and declared their readiness to continue helping cities in need and to support them in their reconstruction efforts. [The signing of the document took place outdoors, in a symbolic place - on the roof of the Arc de Triomphe Arc Héré, located on Nancy's main square: Place Stanislas.](#)
6. A break in proceedings.
 7. The Conference of Mayors was joined by representatives of the young participants of the Youth Forum. [They presented the conclusions of the proceedings and invited the conference participants to participate together in an online survey.](#) The online survey consisted of indicating the values most important to individuals. It turned out that, despite the different countries of residence, different languages or ages of the participants, common values are a factor that unites European citizens: fairness, equality, solidarity, democracy were the values most frequently indicated in the survey. The President of the Association stressed the need to involve young people in discussions on issues that are important to them. He also pointed out that it is in the hands of the young generation that the responsibility for the future of Europe will rest.
 8. The President of the Association opened the proceedings of the General Assembly.
 9. The agenda for the meeting was unanimously adopted in a vote.
 10. The President of the Association presented a report on his activities during his two terms of office, the period of the Presidency of Częstochowa. He recalled

all the sessions of the General Assembly and the meetings of the Presidium during this time. He also mentioned the cities that had been awarded the Europea Prize during this term and had joined the ranks of the Association. He also referred to the highlights of the period: the actions taken in the face of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Association's activities following the start of the invasion on Ukraine by Russian forces, the sending of a letter of condolence to the Association's British members following the death of Her Majesty Elizabeth II - Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the forwarding of a request for assistance from partners in Turkey following the tragic earthquakes that hit that country.

11. Marzena Cuprjak-Wagner read out Article 10 of the Association's Statutes listing the organs of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize and describing how they are elected.

12. The election procedure began. The President read out the list of cities that had put themselves forward as candidates for the Presidium:

- Mülheim an der Ruhr;
- Altötting;
- Kharkiv (vice-president).

As the vice-presidential city, President Matyjaszczyk put forward the candidacy of Częstochowa. He also put forward the city of Lublin as a candidate for the association's authorities. He then asked for nominations from the other cities. The following members of the association declared their willingness to sit on the Presidium: Chmielnicki;

- Ivano-Frankivsk;
- Würzburg;
- Darmstadt;
- Nancy.

13. In the absence of the mayors, the representatives of the cities submitted the appropriate authorisations to represent them, vote and agree to stand for election to the Association's authorities.
14. Elections of the Association's authorities for the term of office from 2023 to 2025 were held. Voting was done by a hand raise, while the mayors attending the online meeting voted verbally and by recording their vote on 'chat Zoom'. As President for the new term of office, President Matyjaszczyk recommended the city of Lublin, for first vice-president: Częstochowa and as second vice-president: Kharkiv. The Association's authorities and Presidium were elected unanimously.

The Presidium of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize for 2023-2025 will sit as follows:

- Lublin – President;
- Częstochowa – 1. Vice-President;
- Kharkiv – 2. Vice-President;
- Altötting – member of the Presidium;
- Khmelnytskyi - member of the Presidium;
- Ivano-Frankivsk - member of the Presidium;
- Mülheim an der Ruhr - member of the Presidium;
- Würzburg - member of the Presidium;
- Darmstadt - member of the Presidium;
- Nancy - member of the Presidium.

In accordance with the Statute, a representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was also made a member of the Presidium.

15. The Mayor of the City of Lublin, Mr Krzysztof Żuk, took his seat at the presidential table, from where he delivered a speech as the President of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize. He thanked the former President for his active work in the association, and thanked the participants of the General Assembly for supporting Lublin's candidature. He discussed plans for the organisation of events as part of the association's work. He thanked the hosts - the partner city of Lublin: Nancy, and proposed that the next General Assembly should take place in Lublin in June 2024.
16. Ms Oleksandra Chykladze, director of the permanent delegation of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine, representing the Mayor of Kharkiv - Vice President of the Association, spoke. She thanked President Matyjaszczyk for the work he had done in the last terms of office. She thanked for choosing Kharkiv as Vice-President. She congratulated Lublin for taking over the presidency of the Association. She also addressed all participants expressing her thanks for their support to Ukraine in the face of the war caused by the Russian Federation.
17. The election of the host city for the 2023 Presidium was then held. Michal Kopriva put forward the candidacy of Würzburg with the proviso that it requires the final decision of the City Mayor. The Mayor of the City of Częstochowa proposed Częstochowa as the host city for the Presidium Meeting in the case that the meeting could not be organised in Würzburg. The General Assembly unanimously approved this solution.
18. The election of the host city for the 2024 General Assembly session follows. The candidature was put forward by Lublin, which was voted on unanimously by the General Assembly.
19. The former President thanked all those present for coming and actively participating in the debates and votes, and for their trust during the term now coming to an end. He also expressed his gratitude to Nancy's local government, emphasising their role in organising the event.



20. The General Assembly session of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Nancy. 16 June 2023 concludes.

Minutes: Marzena Cuprjak-Wagner