

**4:00 – 5:15 pm**

Theme: Social cohesion: Problems of migration and integration in the twin towns

Moderation: Christophe Rouillon, „Association des Petites Villes de France“, Mayor of Coulaines/F and member of the Committee of the Regions

Speech of introduction:

- Assemblyman Uwe Lübking (DStGB)
- German Bernal-Rios (European Commission, Education and Culture DG) :  
"The Green Paper on Migration and mobility: challenges and opportunities for EU education systems"
- Twin town of Rheine - *enquired*

Short presentation by participants from different countries:

- Regina Bologoviene, Head of the Social Service of Rajon Trakai/Lithuania
- Swedish association „Sveriges Kommuner och Landsting“ - *enquired*
- David Benak, Head of the Social Department of the Metropolitan district Praha 14 - *enquired*

**7.30 pm** : Evening programme on invitation of the City of Rheine

**3 April 2009**

**09:30 – 10:45 am**

Theme: European town twinning - The evolution in a changing Europe

Presentation: Günter Thum – President of European Committee of the DStGB

Speech of introduction:

- Risto Raivio (European Commission, Education and Culture DG) :  
"EU support for town twinning - what added value?"

Short presentations by participants of different countries:

- Rémy Rebeyrotte, „Association des Petites Villes de France“, Mayor of Autun/F – *enquired*
- Isabell Damasceno, Mayor of Leiria/Portugal
- Rüdiger Blaschke, Mayor of Itzehoe/Germany
- Asta Kandravičienė, Administration manager of Rajon Trakai/Lithuania
- John Taylor, International and Business Development Svedala/Sweden

**10:45 – 12:00 am**

Theme: The future of the EU Cohesion policy in the context of the territorial cohesion and urban development

Presentation: Assemblyman Uwe Zimmermann (DStGB)

Speech of introduction:

- Wladyslaw Piskorz (European Commission, Regional policy DG)
- Deputy Dr. Markus Pieper (MdEP)

Short presentation by participants from different countries:

- President Witold Krochmal, Polish association „Zwizek Miast Polskich“
- Spanish association „Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias“ – *enquired*
- Mayor of the City of Bernburg/D – *enquired*

Discussion

**12:00 am**

Theme: Closing session of the conference

Discussion and adoption of the final declaration

- Presentation: Mayor Dr. Angelika Kordfelder
- Closing speech: Dr. Gerhard Stahl, Secretary general of the Committee of the Regions
- Invitation to the next conference



Invitation



**Municipalities and Europe**

**Common steps into the 21st Century**

European conference in Rheine/D

from 1 till 3 April 2009

Under the title of „Town twinning and Europe – Common steps into the 21st century“, the city of Rheine is inviting, in cooperation with the German Association of Cities and Municipalities (DStGB), the Mayors of small and medium-sized cities of Europe to the "Third European Congress of small and medium-sized cities and municipalities", which will take place from 1 till 3 April 2009 in Rheine.

The dialogue will be focused on the role of the municipalities throughout the European unification process, the further development of the local networks in Europe and the experience exchange in the field of local economy, especially in the field of the climate and energy policy. Other domains are the local problems of migration and integration in the twin towns, the future of the Euro-twinning project as well as the EU structural policy from the local point of view.



Dr. Angelika Kordfelder    Dr. Gerd Landsberg  
Mayor of the City of      Secretary General  
Rheine                              DStGB

Participation at the conference is free of charge.  
A translation service is available in English, French and Italian

Contact address::  
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## Provisional programme

1 April 2009

### From 2:00 pm

Theme: Arrival of the participants and presentation of the meeting place

Speaker:

- Stadt Rheine

### 7.30 pm

Theme: Official reception by the City of Rheine

Speakers:

- Speech by Mayor Dr. Angelika Kordfelder
- Video message by Luc Van den Brande, President of the Committee of the Regions

2 April 2009

### 10:00 – 11:00 am

Theme: Greeting by the City of Rheine, Greeting by the German Association of Cities and Municipalities, Greeting by the Association of Cities and Municipalities of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW)

Greeting/Speech:

- Mayor Dr. Angelika Kordfelder
- Mayor Ronald Schäfer (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of DStGB and President of StGB NRW)

### 11:00 – 11:30 am

Theme: The role of the cities and municipalities in the European unification process - convention speech

Speech:

- Minister Andreas Krautscheid (Minister of Federal and European Affairs and Media, NRW) – *enquired*

### 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Theme: Local networks in Europe - Advantages for city and citizens

Moderation: Mayor Dr. Angelika Kordfelder

Speech of introduction:

- Jean-Pierre Balligand, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of "Association des Petites Villes de France", Deputy Mayor of Vervins/Aisne

Speech:

- Deputy Wolfram Kuschke MdL (Minister of State a.D.)

Short presentation by participants of different countries:

- Hungarian association – *enquired*

### 1.00 – 2.30 pm : Lunch

### 1:30 – 3:45 pm

Theme: Local economy and municipalities in Europe (esp. on the energy and climate policy) - Experiences in the twin towns

Moderation: Erwin Mohr (Österreichischer Gemeindebund, Mayor of Wolfurt/Vorarlberg)

Speech of introduction:

- Heinrich Hick (European Commission, Energy DG)

Short presentation by participants from different countries:

- Romanian association „Asociati Oraselor din România“
- Philippe Bodard, Vice-President of the „Association des Petites Villes de France“, Mayor of Mürs-Erigné/F and member of the Committee of the Regions
- Mauro Guerra, Italian association “Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani” : *“Interkommunalität”*
- Twin town of Rheine – *enquired*
- Assemblyman Norbert Portz (DStGB)

Discussion