

Date
2016-04-13

Dear friends of the Nordic circle of twin cities,

The Nordic circle of twin cities has long traditions. The circle was founded in 1947 by Uppsala and Frederiksberg. In 1949 Baerum and Hämeenlinna joined and a couple of years later Hafnarfjörður became member of the group. In 1991 Tartu was welcomed to join the Nordic circle.

Through out the years we have met and learned from each other, shared visions and ideas and created common projects. Activities has brought great added value to the city of Uppsala and our organisation.

Due to financial restrains and a desire to streamline activities the city of Frederiksberg has expressed that they won't participate in future twin cities meetings in the same way as before. In Uppsala we share the view that we need to reform our twin city cooperation in order to make it more cost efficient and more directed to concrete output for our cities. In order to further develop the co-operation in the Nordic circle of twin cities, the city of Uppsala would like to make the following suggestions:

- Twin cities meetings with large delegations from each twin city are both expensive and difficult to arrange in order to create added value for all participants. The city of Uppsala would like to transform these meetings into smaller bi-annual meetings for the political leadership in each city. The purpose of these meetings would be to share knowledge and experience on a political level within a given topic for each meeting.
- The city of Uppsala puts great value in the youth exchange that is arranged every second year. We would like to continue with the youth exchange but disconnect it from the twin city meetings so that it does not have to be arranged at the same time or place as the political twin-city meeting.
- The Norden associations have played a very important role in creating and developing the twin city relations between our cities. However as the city of Uppsala would like to focus our biannual twin city meetings to smaller more focused meetings we suggest that the Norden association won't be invited to future twin city meetings. In Uppsala we will however encourage and support the Norden association to find other ways to meet with their counterparts in Baerum, Frederiksberg, Hafnarfjörður, Hämeenlinna, and Tartu.

I would like to suggest that we use the upcoming pre-meeting in Hafnarfjörður to discuss different alternatives on how to develop our twin cities cooperation further. We all know the city of Fredriksbergs opinion but I am most interested to hear what the cities of

Baerum, Hafnarfjordur, Hämeenlinna and Tartu thinks about the future of our twin cities co-operation. I will not be able to participate at the pre-meeting myself but I will make sure that the delegation from the city of Uppsala has a clear mandate to engage in a discussions on this topic.

Finally I would like to underline that the city of Uppsala puts great value in the co-operation within the Nordic circle of twin cities. It is of great importance to me that we find ways to develop our co-operation so that it is of benefit for all members of the circle.

With best regards,



Marlene Burwick,

Mayor of Uppsala