

North Sea Commission
13th General Assembly, Gothenburg 2004
Culture and Tourism Study tour, 17 June 2004

Some issues that the delegates should consider prior to the study tour

The urban environment and the urban cultural heritage is becoming progressively more important in a competition between cities and regions to attract businesses, skilled manpower, students, tourists and events. The urban heritage is inherent in the built environment as well as in local culture and everyday-life of the city. Processes of transformation often give cities and regions great opportunities to highlight and make use of its heritage and culture as resources in the development of new urban qualities and competitiveness. Consequently, the urban and regional development planning – its instruments, processes and arenas – has a key role in the preservation and sustainable management of urban cultural heritage.

- *Identity*: How can knowledge about history and cultural identity of the area be managed and contribute in transformation processes and structural change?
- *Cultural landscape including built heritage*: How can the physical capital, which is embedded in the cultural landscape, including the built heritage, best be managed and used in different stages of urban and regional development?
- *Democracy*: How can platforms and processes be developed, which open up for participation by citizens to influence the development and transformation and also give citizens a chance to contribute to the planning and decision-making with their local knowledge and experience?

During the study tour:

- How has the maritime heritage been used in the development of the Göta Älv river basin area and to which extent can the maritime heritage become an asset in the future development of your cities and regions?
- How can North Sea Co-operation, based on urban cultural heritage, and in particular its background in shipping, trade and other activities related to the sea contribute to Regional Development around the North Sea?