

EDITORIAL

RAISING OUR GAME



It's fitting that 2009, the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, should mark a significant step forward in EUROCITIES'

organisational development. Since my arrival as the new Secretary General in November I have started to 'take the temperature' of our network. I have spoken to many members (politicians and officials), as well as stakeholders and, of course, staff; there is no doubt that EUROCITIES is well-regarded by all. Although 2008 was acknowledged as a difficult year for EUROCITIES, the fact that under the leadership of Lyon, we nevertheless achieved many notable successes, proves the resilience of our network.

So my judgement so far is that this is not a time for radical change. Rather, we should build creatively on what works well and pay attention to what works less well; a time for 'innovative evolution'.

EUROCITIES' two main functions are influencing and networking. My objectives therefore are to increase our influence and further improve our networking. For the first we need to increase our visibility - with stakeholders as well as with EU institutions - and to be more active in our political engagement. Our policy messages must be sharper, more focused, and repeated again and again.

For the second - to improve our networking - our operation must run smoothly, facilitating members' productive participation. We should constantly review and refine our well-established processes and ensure we have a solid and sustainable financial base. Above all we need to ensure the best communication possible within our network, so that all cities understand the diverse opportunities - for profile, influence, funding, exchanges, learning - that their membership of EUROCITIES offers.

Paul Bevan
EUROCITIES Secretary General

HIGHLIGHTS

Cities commit to reducing carbon footprint



The mayors and vice-mayors of over 350 cities across Europe signed up to the 'Covenant of Mayors' at a special ceremony held at the European Parliament on 10 February. The event was organised by the European Commission in partnership with the Committee of Regions. The Covenant of Mayors office is managed by a consortium of city and region networks including EUROCITIES.

[see p. 6](#)

Time for action on urban mobility



Reacting to delays in the Commission's Action Plan on Urban Mobility, MEPs have taken steps to move forward the agenda, initially through a report aimed at ensuring that public transport policy is not left by the wayside with the new Commission coming into office. In cooperation with Rapporteur Gilles Savary MEP, EUROCITIES is holding a panel discussion on 4 March 2009 to support this action.

[see p. 8](#)

Innovation, partnership and diversity – cornerstones of EUROCITIES 2009-10 work plan



EUROCITIES has kick-started its 2009-10 work plan. Approved by the network's members at their annual general meeting in November 2008, the new plan builds on EUROCITIES' recent and ongoing efforts and is focused on three core themes: innovation and liveability; partnership and participation; and diversity and cohesion.

[see p.2](#)

THEMATIC SECTIONS

- Culture p. 4
- Economic Development p. 5
- Environment p. 6
- Knowledge Society p. 7
- Mobility p. 8
- Social Affairs p. 9
- Participation & Cooperation p. 10

OTHER SECTIONS

- Key Developments p. 2
- Projects p. 11
- Events p. 12

Key developments



At lunch with Barroso

At a meeting with European Commission President José Manuel Barroso on 20 January in Brussels, Jozias Van Aartsen, President of EUROCITIES, presented the case for even closer involvement of cities in developing and delivering EU policies.

Mr Van Aartsen, Mayor of The Hague, said: 'Cities have a powerful role to play in improving Europe's global competitiveness. The weakness of Europe's current approach to growth and jobs, as reflected in the Lisbon agenda, is that it neglects the role of cities.'

The meeting with President Barroso focused on the forthcoming review of the Lisbon agenda post-2010.

Mr Van Aartsen explained: 'Cities are the focus for innovation and attracting investment, but they are also working hard to ensure inclusive labour markets. With economic migration higher than ever, the challenge is through active integration to make the most of the skills and potential of the workforce.' ■



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Innovation, partnership and diversity: the cornerstones of EUROCITIES' new work-plan

EUROCITIES has kick-started its 2009-10 work-plan. Approved by the network's members at their annual general meeting in November 2008, the new plan builds on EUROCITIES' recent and ongoing efforts and is focused on three core themes: innovation and liveability; partnership and participation; and diversity and cohesion. Based on these, EUROCITIES will develop its policy, networking, visibility activities, and projects as follows:

1. Innovation and Liveability

- Developing new and creative responses to changing societal demands
- Fostering entrepreneurship at the local level to better Europe's economy
- Using cultural and creative industries to make Europe's cities more attractive
- Promoting responsible consumption and lifestyles

2. Partnership and Participation

- Widening the political and active participation of all citizens in urban life
- Building new partnerships to achieve coherence in public policies across all activities, and between all actors for integrated urban development

- Making different levels of government work better together for effective public service delivery

- Empowering cities for the future through dialogue with local, national and European stakeholders

3. Diversity and Cohesion

- Adapting to and managing the growing diversity of cities' inhabitants
- Building inclusive societies, dealing with new forms of poverty, and creating employment
- Addressing disparities in socio-economic conditions within and between cities

The work-plan is available to download from EUROCITIES website.



EUROCITIES Awards 2008: www.eurocities2008.eu

City planners get helping hand from Commission's new Urban Atlas

Whether big or small, European cities need reliable and comparable urban planning information for safe, sustainable and prosperous development. This year, for the first time, 185 cities from all 27 EU Member States, will benefit from the "Urban Atlas", which has been produced by the European Commission and Member States with the support of European space technology.

Compiled from thousands of satellite photographs, the Urban Atlas provides detailed and cost-effective digital mapping,

ensuring that city planners have the most up-to-date and accurate data available on land use and land cover. The Urban Atlas will enable urban planners to better assess risks and opportunities, ranging from threat of flooding and impact of climate change, to identifying new infrastructure and public transport needs. All cities in the EU will be covered by the Urban Atlas by 2011.

Urban Atlas: http://ec.europa.eu/gmes/index_en.htm

Key developments



Thinking globally, acting locally

Representing the experience and expectations of big cities in Europe, Paul Bevan, Secretary General of EUROCITIES and the Mayor of Lyon Gérard Collomb, former President of EUROCITIES, will take part in an expert panel on 'Success factors for a city in 10 years vs. in 100 years', as part of the Global City Forum 2009. EUROCITIES partnership with the event entitles EUROCITIES members to a 10% discount on the conference fee.

Global City, an international forum enabling urban development decision-makers to discuss practice on building sustainable cities, is being held in the middle-eastern region for the first time ever. As for the 2007 edition, several hundred delegates including local elected representatives from around the world are expected to attend to learn about outstanding, far-sighted urban

development projects from within the region.

A wide range of leading intellectuals including urban planning experts, architects, senior governmental advisors, municipality officials and CEOs of major corporations have been confirmed as speakers for Global City 2009. City guru, Richard Florida will deliver the opening keynote to speak on economic competitiveness, demographic trends and cultural innovation. Florida, Founder of the Creative Class Group, an advisory firm charting new trends in business and community, is the author of several best-selling books, and articles that have been carried in international publications including The New York Times.

Some of the sessions to be held during the event will focus on:



- Globalisation of the world's sustainable cities
- City branding – a comprehensive approach for city identity
- Dynamising the city through downtown redevelopment
- Disaster resilient cities: planning for sustainability
- Smart Cities: a new generation of very large scale projects at the intersection of real-estate development, technology and urban design
- Local climate strategy ■

Nicola Vatthauer, Communications Director;
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Global City: www.globalcityforum.com

EUROCITIES welcomes three new additions



Olivier Baeselen (BE)
Function: Finance, HR and Office Manager
Working Languages: EN, FR, NL

Olivier has a degree in accounting and business management and an MBA in international business. He has worked for several years with service, commercial and industrial companies in Belgium, including five years at Schlumberger as an Accounting Manager and three years as Financial and HR Manager with the Boehler Welding Group.



Vanessa Holve (FR/DE)
Function: Policy Officer - Mobility
Working Languages: EN, FR, DE, ES

Replacing Barbara Bernardi, Vanessa joins EUROCITIES as our new policy officer for mobility. Vanessa worked for Aéroports de Paris and Air France, after three years with the Airports Council International (ACI Europe) in Brussels, during which time she managed one of ACI's Committees and lobbied on issues such as airport charges and facilitation.



John Dodd (UK)
Function: Secondment – Economic Development Officer
Working Languages: EN

John Dodd joins for one year as part of a secondment arrangement with Gateshead. Until May, John will be the main contact for EUROCITIES Economic Development policy areas, covering the maternity leave of Marie Ranty, Policy Officer – Economic Development. John will also work on the CLUSNET project, led by Lyon, until the end of 2009.

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Business @ EUROCITIES

Forum Chairs Meeting: Newly elected EUROCITIES Forum Chairs met in Brussels on 23 January to discuss their role within the network, forum management, and possible changes to guideline procedures for Forums and Working Groups. They also discussed proposals regarding metropolitan areas and a EUROCITIES 'corporate cabinet'.

Joint Executive Committee Politicians - Forum Chairs meeting:

Brussels | 19 February 2009

What's on the agenda:

- Latest developments on EUROCITIES policy, communications and project work
- Plans for the EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform and the EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm event.
- Political discussions on metropolitan areas, EUROCITIES' 'corporate cabinet', EUROCITIES' response to the Green paper on Territorial Cohesion, implementing the Leipzig Charter and messages for the European Parliament elections.
- Politicians lunch meeting Commissioner Danuta Hübner

Next meetings:

Executive Committee at Officers level: Brussels, 24 April 2009

Executive Committee at Officers level /Forum Chairs: Oslo, 14 May 2009 at the Cooperation Platform

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Vilnius becomes European Capital of Culture

As 2008 became 2009, the European Capital of Culture migrated from Liverpool and Stavanger to Vilnius and Linz.

The highlights for Vilnius 2009 include 'Art in Unusual Places', 'Vilnius Book Fair', 'Street Musician Day' and 'The Oak Mystery' (theatre and music performance). As Lithuania celebrates its millennium in 2009, other events like The Millennium Song Festival of Lithuania "Songs of the Centuries" are also planned.

Liverpool's figures show the benefits of having the 2008 title:

- 7,000 events held throughout the year

- 15 million people attended a cultural event or attraction
- 70% of Liverpoolians visited a museum or gallery
- 1,000 volunteers and all school pupils took part in the year's activities
- £4 billion (€4.59m) invested into 300 major developments since 2008
- £800 million (€918m) calculated as the overall economic benefit to Liverpool city region ■

Liverpool European Capital of Culture 2008: www.liverpool08.com

Vilnius European Capital of Culture 2009: www.culturelive.lt

Intercultural cities conference and EUROCITIES' Culture Forum

Amsterdam | 5-7 March 2009

The EUROCITIES Intercultural Cities final conference and EUROCITIES' Culture Forum next meeting will be hosted by the city of Amsterdam on 5-7 March 2009. Two events will be held:

- **Intercultural cities final conference, 5 March:** organised to showcase the outcomes of the Intercultural Cities programme in which 23 member cities were involved as part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008. The conference will include a plenary session with keynote speeches and a panel discussion involving politicians and young people and parallel on-site workshops. Final recommendations will also be presented to the European Commission. The conference is open to all EUROCITIES members.
- **EUROCITIES Culture Forum, 6-7 March 2009:** focusing on two thematic sessions: 'The role of culture in cities' international relations and cooperation' and 'Showing world-class culture'. Working Groups will also meet in Amsterdam and a special meeting will take place for politicians involved in the Culture Forum.

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES Policy Officer – Culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

European Year of Creativity and Innovation website launched!

The European Commission has launched the official website of the European Year of Creativity and innovation 2009. The website presents the main activities and events of the year.

Visit: www.create2009.europa.eu

Czechs on culture

The Czech Republic, which currently holds the EU's rotating Presidency, has set out the following priorities in the field of culture for its term in office:



- Developing the role of culture to catalyse creativity as part of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009; a 'Forum for Creative Europe' taking place in Prague on 26-27 March 2009 will look at the role of creativity for society, education and the economy.
- Supporting civil society's access to culture, especially through the support of cultural heritage, cultural tourism, cooperation with artistic education and wider mobility in the field of culture.
- Supporting the European Heritage Label project to promote the public's access to cultural heritage
- Digitilising cultural content to preserve cultural heritage and to make it accessible through the European Digital Library

Czech Republican Ministry of Culture: www.mkcr.cz/en/

Creativity and innovation: best practice from EU programmes

Brussels | 2-3 March 2009

The European Commission is organising a major European conference on creativity and innovation to explore and identify examples of best practice among projects that have received funding through several EU programmes and funds.

Taking place in Brussels on 2-3 March 2009, the conference will be accompanied by a special exhibition of 20 Europe-wide projects whose success has resulted from the EU's contribution, highlighted by the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009.

Visit: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/valorisation/conferences_en.html

Economic Development



FAO the European Commission: Cities' position on territorial cohesion

Responding to the European Commission consultation launched in October 2008, EUROCIITIES' Working Group on Policy Cohesion is presenting the shared position of EUROCIITIES members – 137 big cities in Europe – on areas it would like the Commission to further address in the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion. Specifically, EUROCIITIES asks that the Commission:

- **Defines territorial cohesion:** in a way that recognises the diversity and polycentricity of Europe an asset and the role of cities as the key drivers of socio-economic performance.
- **Promotes sustainable urban development:** by addressing the challenges caused by social and economic concentrations which are exclusive to cities.
- **Recognises that access is not only influenced by distance:** but that

connectivity is also affected by high population densities in cities for example where demand for services is greater than supply, and can endanger access to and quality of services.

- **Cooperates with cities for better policy-making:** by building on cities' expertise and networks, the EU can improve the effectiveness of multi-level governance.
- **Develops tools to monitor territorial cohesion:** such as socio-economic indicators and territorial impact assessments that would help effectively identify challenges and opportunities facing cities, and ensure that policies don't negatively impact on territories.

Territorial Cohesion complements social and economic cohesion as one of the strategic objectives of the EU – a position that will be formalised with the adoption of the Treaty of Lisbon.

The adoption of the Green Paper signalled the launch of a major consultation with regional and local authorities, associations, NGOs, civil society and other organisations, aimed at achieving a better and shared understanding of territorial cohesion and its implications for the future of the EU's regional policy. Central to this were the 'three C's' said to present both challenges and opportunities to achieving territorial cohesion – Concentration, Connection, and Cooperation. The paper argued that these differences in density, distance and administrative borders have varying impacts across Europe's territories ■

Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/terco/index_en.htm

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Europe catching up on innovation

The EU is becoming more innovative but continues to perform less strongly than its competitors, Japan and the US. This is according to the 2008 European Innovation Scoreboard published on 22 January.



The 'innovation scoreboard', which includes country profiles and data, provides an assessment of innovation performance across European countries based on the most recent statistics.

The latest figures show considerable progress in Europe in the areas of human resources – such as the availability of science graduates and other high-skilled people – as well as broadband access and the availability of venture capital. It concluded however that investments in business and research and development remain relatively weak compared to the US and Japan.

Commissioned by the European Commission Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry, the report uses 29 indicators of innovation, prioritising developments in service sectors, non-technological innovation, and innovation outputs achieved since previous years.

Based on performance over a five-year period, four distinct groupings of countries were identified:

- **Innovation leaders:** Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom, with scores well above the EU 27 Member States (EU27)
- **Innovation followers:** Belgium, France, Ireland, whose scores are below the leaders but above the EU27
- **Moderate innovators:** Estonia, Iceland, Spain, among others, scoring below the EU27
- **Catch-up countries:** Greece, Hungary, Poland, among others, with scores well below the EU27, but are generally making progress

2008 EIS: www.proinno-europe.eu

Innovative ways of financing businesses and city projects

Gijon | 25 – 27 March 2009

The next EUROCIITIES Economic Development Forum (EDF) to be hosted by Gijon, Spain, will focus on 'innovative ways of financing businesses and city projects'. This will be the first EDF held since The Hague and Poznan took the Forum's chairmanship and vice-chairmanship respectively.

The meeting will explore ways in which the global financial crisis has impacted cities, and how financial mechanisms and funding programmes can be used to

help support and stimulate economic development in the current climate.

Participants have the opportunity to present and develop project ideas with interested cities at the Project Fair that is being organised as part of the meeting.

Side meetings will also be held by EEF Working Groups on Entrepreneurship; Spatial Planning and the City of the Future; Cohesion Policy; Economic Migration; Clusters; and Urban Regeneration.

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Commission drafts position for Copenhagen talks

In a communication issued on 28 January, the European Commission set out a series of proposals to prevent global warming from reaching dangerous levels and to influence outcomes from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December.

The communication, 'Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen', calls for:

- Developed countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by 30% below 1990 levels before 2020, and their emissions by 15% to 30% below 'business as usual levels' by 2020;
- Emissions from international aviation and shipping to be covered by the forthcoming agreement;
- All countries to develop comprehensive national adaptation strategies, considering inevitable climate change consequences;
- Global energy-related research and development to be at least doubled by 2012 and quadrupled by 2020;

- Developed countries to contribute 'fairly and comparably' to the estimated €75 billion net additional investments needed worldwide to cope with climate change;

- The EU to build an OECD-wide carbon market by linking the EU emissions trading system with comparable domestic cap-and-trade systems in other countries; and

- A reform of Kyoto's Clean Development Mechanism, phasing it out for the most advanced developing economies and replacing it by comprehensive crediting mechanisms.

The Commission's communication stems from the December 2008 UN Conference in Poznan, during which EUROCIITIES hosted an event on 'What role for local authorities in the post-2012 regime?' At it, the EU French Presidency's Ambassador for climate change, Brice Lalonde, stressed that cities are the main drivers behind climate change action and are best placed to find local solutions to this global

challenge. Ronan Dantec, President of Nantes Metropole and Co-chair of the EUROCIITIES Executive Committee Working Group on Climate Change and Energy, presented EUROCIITIES' Declaration on Climate Change and asked that national governments involve cities in the policy-making process at international level. The EU French Presidency has offered to collaborate with EUROCIITIES and other local and regional authorities to see that they have a significant role in preparations for the UN Climate Change Conference Copenhagen 2009.

EUROCIITIES' Executive Committee Working Group (WG) on Climate Change and Energy will discuss the outcomes of Poznan, this communication and EUROCIITIES' plans in relation to Copenhagen at its next meeting in Nantes on 24-25 February. The WG will also meet with EUROCIITIES Air Quality/Climate Change/Energy Efficiency WG ■

Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/future_action.htm

Eva Baños de Guisasola, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Environment: eva.banos@eurocities.eu

Cities commit to improving energy efficiency

The mayors and vice-mayors of over 350 cities across Europe signed up to the 'Covenant of Mayors' at a special ceremony held in the European Parliament on 10 February. The event was organised by the European Commission in partnership with the Committee of Regions.

By signing the covenant, the mayors have committed their cities to adopting sustainable energy action plans within a year going beyond the EU's official targets of 20% reduction in GHG emissions, 20% use of renewable energy and a 20% effort in energy efficiency.

The Covenant of Mayors office is managed by a consortium of city and region networks, led by Energie-Cites, composed of EUROCIITIES, Climate Alliance, CEMR, Fedarene and Praxis. To date, around 40 EUROCIITIES members have joined the covenant.



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Green Week 2009- changing our behaviour

Brussels | 23-26 June 2009



The ninth edition of Green Week, the biggest annual conference event on European environment policy will take place in Brussels on 23-26 June 2009 on the theme of climate change.

Attracting some 3,000 participants from government, business and industry, non-governmental organisations, academia and the media, Green Week offers an opportunity for debate and exchange of experience and best practice.

Under this year's slogan 'Act and Adapt' the conference will address the climate challenge from different angles: the need to achieve deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, the need to 'climate-proof' economies against the impacts of climate change and the need to address climate change within the wider ecosystem challenge.

Green Week 2009: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html>



Commission and Parliament prepare to recast data protection rules

According to Vice-President of the European Commission Responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security, Jacques Barrot, the Commission is set to launch a public consultation in April, on how to reinforce data protection rules. The announcement came during the third European Data Protection Day on 28 January in Brussels.

Setting out reasons for this development, Barrot pointed to some disconcerting figures - only 33% of Internet users aged 15-24 are aware of their rights in relation to their own personal data. This is becoming more of an issue as the popularity of social networking websites, such as MySpace or Facebook, grows among this age-group.

A Commission expert group is currently evaluating possible innovations that could help to update the Data Protection Directive established in 1995. National privacy regulators are in favour of broadening the list of personal data to include Internet Protocol addresses and

web cookies. In addition to this, they intend to discuss the privacy implications of panoramic street-level view services, made famous by Google's successful Street View: this software makes it possible for Internet users to scrutinise cities right down to street level, with cars, people and shops.

By contrast, EU institutions and Member States still argue how to include future data breach notification rules for private business and public bodies in the ePrivacy Directive, which will be decided on by the European Parliament in April as part of the so-called Telecoms Package.

Peter Hustinx, European Data Protection supervisor, recommended that individuals should be informed if the data breach "is reasonably likely to cause adverse effects". EU Member States are in favour of restricting the need to notify people of a loss of data, preferring to inform them if a breach "seriously" affects their privacy. Companies with big shares in online commerce argue that



absent restrictions on breach notification will result in over-notification which ends up having little impact on individuals ■

European Commission Data Protection Portal:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/privacy/index_en.htm

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Call for proposals: ICT policy support

The European Commission is now accepting applications for the third call of its Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Policy Support programme.

The programme aims to stimulate innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses. This is done in line with the key objectives of i2010, the EU's overall strategic framework on Information Society.



Projects should address one of the following thematic priorities:

- ICT for health, ageing and inclusion
- Digital Libraries
- ICT for government and governance
- ICT for energy efficiency and environment
- Multilingual Web
- Public sector information
- Internet evolution and security
- Open innovation, user experience and living labs

Deadline for applications: **2 June 2009**

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Clarity needed on digital divide and broadband issues

Greater recognition of issues related to the digital divide within cities was one of the main points raised by members of the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum at their meeting together with European Commission officials in Brussels on 22 January.

About 30 participants gathered for discussions on Next Generation Network (NGN) deployment in cities as well as presentations on future EU policy

development and state aid rules in this area.

Forum members also expressed the need for more structured guidance from the Commission on public investments in broadband networks.

All presentations and meeting documents are available on the EUROCITIES members area.

EUROCITIES members area:
www.eurocities.eu/membersarea

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Time for Commission to take action on Europe's transport

In a press release of 13 January, EUROCITIES has expressed its dismay at the delay to the European Commission Action Plan on Urban Mobility, which was originally due for release in mid-December.

Miguel Ángel Cámara, Chairman of the EUROCITIES Mobility Forum and Mayor of Murcia, said: "We need an answer. The European Commission Action Plan will represent a milestone for cities already engaged in developing innovative urban transport policies aiming at the reduction of emissions and a better quality of life for European citizens".

EUROCITIES is strongly supporting the views of those MEPs who fear this important initiative, if delayed, will fall with the European Parliament elections and the subsequent change of Commission. EUROCITIES remains committed and is willing to help the Commission to solve this apparent bottleneck. It is crucial that the valuable work on urban mobility started by Vice President Barrot and taken forward by Vice President Tajani, is not put at risk.

EUROCITIES urges the European Commission to publish the Action Plan as soon as possible ■



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EU French Presidency reviews transport successes

Dominique Bussereau, French State Secretary for Transport, in January, presented the EU French Presidency's main achievements on transport-related issues to Members of the European Parliament's Transport Committee.

The Presidency's main success has been the agreement on the 3rd maritime safety package. In terms of progress on public transport and urban mobility, Mr Bussereau welcomed the advances made on the green transport package and the promotion of clean and energy-efficient vehicles. Members of the European Parliament noted several important topics which they see as requiring further consideration during the Czech, Swedish and later presidencies. One such case is the Directive on the enforcement of cross-border road sanctions, which has been blocked by the Council of the EU.

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Cities: the lynchpins of international accessibility

EUROCITIES is challenging the European Commission to reinforce the urban dimension of international accessibility documented in the Green Paper on the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), launched on 4 February.

In a statement, EUROCITIES has urged the closer involvement of cities in strategic transport planning in order to maximise the potential of TEN-T for the benefit of Europe's citizens and competitiveness. To illustrate the impact of poor connectivity between strategic infrastructure and urban transport systems, EUROCITIES has presented several case studies to the Commission. These show how congestion has been displaced, pollution concentrated and economic benefits lost because local authorities were not involved from the outset. By comparison, cross-border transport projects building on cities' expertise have proved successful.

EUROCITIES has pressed the Commission to promote:

- **Integrated planning:** making urban transport arrangements an integral dimension of planning for TEN-Ts;
- **More cooperation:** among and within different government levels, taking into account the crucial role of cities as the level closest to citizens; and
- **Smarter financing:** mobilising funds including public-private partnerships.

EUROCITIES remains committed to working with the Commission to develop an effective policy response to this challenge.

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The EU Action Plan on Urban Mobility: Where to now?

Brussels | 4 March 2009

Reacting to new delays in the European Commission's Action Plan on Urban Mobility, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) meeting in January announced their intentions to take forward the agenda. As an initial step, MEPs, led by Gilles Savary, have published a report aimed at ensuring that public transport policy is not left by the wayside as the new Commission comes into office.

To support this action, EUROCITIES with Mr Savary on 4 March 2009 is holding a panel discussion entitled 'The Action Plan on Urban Mobility: Where to now?' Several political representatives have already confirmed their attendance at the event which is expected to together key MEPs, European Commission representatives and politicians from major European cities, for a rich and dynamic exchange of views on the challenges of urban mobility and the future of the Action Plan.

This initiative is a unique opportunity for the European Parliament and European cities to jointly address some of the issues at the heart of the current transport debate, focusing on the financing of urban transport and a more integrated approach of transport planning.

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Test out new European website on integration!

The European Commission is inviting stakeholders from cities and other experts to explore, test and provide feedback on its new website on migrant integration:

www.integration.eu. EUROCIITIES is part of the consortium that developed the website. Many EUROCIITIES members have submitted project descriptions from their city for the website's database on integration practices.

To be launched in April 2009, the site includes a database of good practice case studies on integration; information about funding opportunities for integration projects; a regularly updated news section; and an extensive knowledge resource base with documents related to the integration of migrants in all EU Member States.

>> To access and test www.integration.eu <<

1. Go to www.integration.eu
2. Login and password are "test" and "test".
3. Explore and assess the site's various elements
4. Complete the online survey: www.integration.eu/survey

You can become a regular user of the website and submit examples of your city's integration practices simply by registering as a user ■

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EUROCIITIES' proposals on closing the education gap between migrant children and peers

'Culturally diverse classrooms are, in most cities, today the norm and not the exception. Appropriate measures are needed to adapt resources, teachers, teaching methodologies and class sizes to deal with this challenge'

This was the key message of EUROCIITIES response to the EU Green Paper on Education and Mobility, issued to start discussions on how to close the gap between the educational achievements of children with a migrant background and their peers in Europe.

EUROCIITIES emphasised the importance of involving parents, opening up schools to the community, and coordinating relevant policies and organisations in the fields of housing, childcare, employment and health services that influence the educational success of pupils.

Measures that help avoiding and mitigating the effects of early school leaving, support for training in heritage languages and projects that involve peers as mentors are other successful policies underlined in EUROCIITIES' response.

To close the gap of educational achievements between children with migrant background and their peers, EUROCIITIES asks the Commission to maximise the potential of the EU's wide-ranging policies and funding programmes, including cohesion policy, education, training and also immigration policy.

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The lineup for coming meetings

Social Affairs Forum: City Strategies against Poverty and Exclusion
Rotterdam | 2-3 March 2009

The programme includes a political plenary session on city strategies against poverty and exclusion; sessions on tackling child poverty and on integrated strategies to address neighbourhood decline; a debate on EUROCIITIES campaign' for the 2010 European Year to combat poverty and exclusion; site visits to local projects and elections for the new Social Affairs Forum Chair and Vice-Chair.

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EUROCIITIES Working Group Housing
Wroclaw | 23-24 February 2009

The programme includes a presentation of the position paper on affordable housing; EU developments in the field; and Wroclaw's housing situation.

Wolfgang Förster, City of Vienna: wolfgang.foerster@wien.gv.at

Prevention of Early School Leaving in Europe: What works?
Hengelo | 26 March 2009

This European conference organised by EUROCIITIES Working Group Education will showcase programmes and approaches to tackle early school leaving and good practice examples from European Cities. The meetings conclusions will feed into a position paper and political recommendations.

Paul Hoop, City of Rotterdam: p.hoop@jos.rotterdam.nl

Integrating Cities III: Embracing Diversity – Achieving Equal Opportunities

Berlin | 2 April 2009

After two successful events in Rotterdam and Milan, preparations for the third edition of Integrating Cities, are underway. Taking place in Berlin on 2 April 2009, this edition will focus on diversity management and local approaches to promote equal opportunities.

The Integrating Cities conference series launched in 2006 by EUROCIITIES and the European Commission is a platform for dialogue across all government levels on the implementation of the European Common Basic Principles on the integration of migrants. Among the list of speakers confirmed for the April 2009 event are Jacques Barrot, Vice-President of the European Commission, Klaus Wowereit, Mayor of Berlin and Steven Vertovec, Director of the Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity.

The event promises to be a prime opportunity for a high-level political debate and practical learning at five workshops scheduled during the conference.

Integrating Cities: www.integratingcities.eu

Dirk Gebhardt, EUROCIITIES Programme Officer - Migration and Integration: dirk.gebhardt@eurocities.eu

Participation & Cooperation



EU2009.CZ

Czech Presidency to address urban-rural relations

The Czech Republic, holding the Presidency of the EU for the first semester of 2009, has designated urban-rural relations as its priority for moving forward the EU's urban and territorial development agenda.

The Czech Presidency is coordinating a specific action to prepare policy measures aimed at supporting urban-rural cooperation and strengthening polycentric development throughout Europe. This work will take place in the context of the First Action Programme to implement the Territorial Agenda of the EU, the highlight of which will be an International Conference on the Future of the Cohesion Policy in Prague on 26-27 March.

Regarding its general work programme, the Czech Presidency's main priorities are the economy, energy and external relations, as follows:

- **Economy:**

Responding to the current financial crisis, the Czech Presidency will focus on increasing Europe's competitiveness and enhancing consumer and business' confidence in the market economy.

- **Energy:** Prague wishes to improve Europe's energy security by diversifying suppliers and improving its infrastructure. They will also pay attention to renewable energies and energy efficiency.

- **External relations:** Finally, and in addition to initiating relations with the new US administration, the Czech Presidency will pay specific attention to the Eastern neighborhood, in particular by supporting the kick-off of the Eastern Partnership, an enhanced cooperation with countries in Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus ■

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Save the date! EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform

Oslo | 14-15 May 2009

How to make the most of the EUROCITIES network will be discussed at this coming fifth edition of EUROCITIES' Cooperation Platform taking place in Oslo on 14-15 May 2009.

This year is one of transition for EUROCITIES, with the entry of a new President and a new Secretary General, bringing about a new strategic vision and goal-setting. Building on this momentum, the 2009 Cooperation Platform will provide EUROCITIES' main contact officers from member and partner cities, an opportunity to connect, communicate, collaborate, and deepen their understanding of how

EUROCITIES works today.

This is the event of the year where the EUROCITIES-Cities' relationship dynamic is discussed at large and where both parties come away with new ideas, new tools, and renewed engagement to further improve the diverse opportunities - for profile, influence, funding, exchanges, learning - from which EUROCITIES members can benefit.

EUROCITIES will send details about the event programme and registration to all members by the end of March.

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Dealing with demographic dilemmas in an urban setting

'Demographic Change & urban mobility and public space' is the title of a new publication just launched by EUROCITIES. The publication is based on research carried out on how five cities across Europe have dealt with the challenges of demographic change in their urban planning strategies.

Conducted by the EUROPAFORUM Wien research institute, the research study benefited from the input of Berlin, Copenhagen, London, Vienna, and Zurich. Each of these cities showed evidence of having taken an innovative approach to demographic challenges.

To support cities in successfully managing demographic change in urban areas, the study looks into how cities can better provide accessible and adequate infrastructure, attractive and safe public space, and encourage local participation in order to promote social cohesion.

This is the first of three studies coordinated by EUROCITIES in 2008 on the impact of demographic change in European cities. The studies were carried out by different research institutes under the European Commission's 'PROGRESS - Inclusive Cities for Europe' programme. Two other studies, focusing on a) housing, and b) health and social services provision, will be available in the coming year.



'Demographic Change & urban mobility and public space' is available to download from the EUROCITIES website: www.eurocities.eu

Projects



Cities managing diversity

The results of the 'INTI-CITIES' project, now published and available in six languages, were presented at a conference on 26-27 January in Brussels.

At the conference, Jean-Louis De Brouwer, Director, DG Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission (project co-funder), congratulated EUROCIITIES on the innovative peer-review methodology used in the project and confirmed the Commission's wish to involve EUROCIITIES in debates on the future of European integration governance.

The project aimed to qualify cities' approaches towards managing diversity and involved a series of peer-reviews with EUROCIITIES members Amarousson, Barcelona, Belfast, Dusseldorf, Genoa, Helsinki, Lyon, Malmö, Milan, Rotterdam, Tampere and Utrecht.

'Benchmarking Integration Governance in Europe's Cities', sets out some of the common identified challenges faced by Europe's big cities and presents innovative city practices in migrant empowerment, cooperation across departments and governance levels, and working with

partners to provide integrated services to migrants. It also includes a guide on the peer review and benchmark tool used in the project.

The project partners will join with EUROCIITIES' Working Group on Migration and Integration to continue to engage with European policy-makers as a 'Community of Experts', advising on developments at the local level ■

INTI-CITIES: www.inticities.eu

Zoe Catsaras, Project Officer – Social Inclusion : zoe.catsaras@eurocities.eu

Apply now for workplace travel award!

The Pan-European Workplace Travel Award (PEWTA) recognises efforts aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions in urban areas through the implementation of workplace mobility plans. Eligible applicants include public authorities; employers; and networks. The prize offered is an expenses paid trip to a city of choice to learn from a pioneer public authority, organisation or network in workplace mobility plans, plus a cash prize of €1000 to further develop mobility plan measures.

Deadline for applications: **20 February 2009**

PEWTA: www.epomm.org/index.phtml?id=1593

Peter Staelens, EUROCIITIES Project Officer – Mobility: peter.staelens@eurocities.eu

Energy Management for Sustainable Cities

Partner cities and other EUROCIITIES members met in San Sebastian, Spain, in December for the fourth thematic URBAN MATRIX workshop on energy management at different levels as follows:

- **Micro (buildings):** case studies from Amsterdam and San Sebastian proved how the introduction of environmental quality standards for buildings and the promotion of small photovoltaic installations can successfully raise citizen's awareness and reduce energy consumption in individual households.
- **Mezzo (neighbourhoods):** Sheffield's Energy Recovery Facility and Helsinki's district heating system demonstrated how cities can achieve higher energy efficiency by making use of their own energy sources. In the case of Stockholm's eco-districts, this case highlighted the potential of partnerships in taking forward sustainable urban development projects and shaping the sustainable cities of the future.
- **Macro (strategic planning):** Malmö presented its successful approach in integrating energy into different sectorial plans and programmes such as transport, air quality, urban planning or climate change. This and Freiburg's case showed how ambitious targets and visions can only be achieved if supported by adequate mechanisms, clear guidelines and enough resources for implementation.

For the meeting presentations and summary report, visit: www.urban-matrix.net

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Budapest and Zagreb nominated for Mobility Week Award 2009

EUROCIITIES members Budapest and Zagreb have been nominated for the Mobility Week Award 2009 based on their outstanding activities to promote sustainable mobility at the local level undertaken during the European Mobility Week (EMW) 2008. Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas will announce the Award winner and two finalists at a ceremony in Brussels on 23 February 2009, as well as the winner of the first 'European Green Capital Award'.

Coline Hommelen at
Coline.HOMMELEN@ec.europa.eu

'Making EMW a success', 24-25 February, Brussels:

On 24 February in Brussels, EUROCIITIES will hold an interactive workshop with speednetworking sessions and technical trainings for national EMW coordinators and city representatives that want to improve their campaigning skills. National coordinators are invited to attend the EMW coordination meeting at EUROCIITIES' office on 25 February to further prepare the 2009 campaign focusing on 'Improving City Climates'

Rachel Barnett, EUROCIITIES Project Assistant:
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Accommodating users and planners of innovative transport

NICHES+ representatives and other transport experts across Europe are beginning research based on identified innovative transport concepts in order to define the needs of both users and planners of innovative transport. They will focus on the conditions for successful implementation and expected transferability to other urban contexts, taking into account the country and regional conditions.

NICHES+: www.niches-transport.org

OSMOSE: www.osmose-os.org

Peter Staelens, EUROCIITIES Project Officer – Mobility: peter.staelens@eurocities.eu

Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
2-3 March 2009 London, United Kingdom	Cities: The secret of a winning destination International conference examining the role of cities as economic powerhouses	www.citiesconference.com
11-13 March 2009 Orebro, Sweden	Conference on Sustainable Cities and Regions: Enabling Vision or Empty Talk? Organised by the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Orebro University and Malardalen University	www.oru.se
23-26 March 2009 Kaiserslautern, Germany	8th International Symposium of the International Urban Planning and Environment Association Parallel patterns of urban growth and decline	www.upe8.uni-kl.de
25-27 March 2009 Reykjavik, Iceland	EcoProcura 2009 conference: Climate Neutral through Procurement Organised by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and Reykjavik City Council	www.iclei.org
1-3 April 2009 Seville, Spain	International Seminar: strategies of city-to-city cooperation for economic revitalisation Organised by UN-HABITAT	www.unhabitat.org
2-3 April 2009 Warwick, United Kingdom	Crises and the City Conference on urban crises at a variety of scales	www.le.ac.uk/urbanhist/uhg/conf2009.html
7-8 April 2009 Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	Global City Forum 2009 International forum for exchange of best practices on sustainable urban strategies	www.globalcityforum.com
17-18 April 2009 Sofia, Bulgaria	URBAN GREEN SPACES - a key for sustainable cities International conference on urban green spaces	www.greenkeys-project.net
22-24 April 2009 Loughborough, UK	Second International Conference on Whole Life Urban Sustainability and its Assessment Organised by the SUE-MoT consortium	http://sue-mot.org/conference
22-24 April 2009 Malmo, Sweden	24th Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) General Assembly Are Europe's towns and regions fit for the future?	www.ccre.org

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