

## EDITORIAL

### Cites 4 Europe



Even before I took up my post as Secretary General of EUROCITIES a year ago I was impressed by our network's long and influential reputation.

My challenge has been to sustain and develop that still further.

EUROCITIES' strength lies in combining the specialist policy expertise we have here in Brussels with the front-line knowledge and experience of our member cities. My priorities over this first twelve months have therefore been:

- Membership: reaching out to colleagues in the cities and inspiring stronger member focus in the secretariat
- Management: strengthening our finances, simplifying our administration and building the confidence and capacity of our team in Brussels
- Mission: defining our business more clearly (visibility, influencing, networking) and our priorities more memorably (recovery, climate, inclusion) as part of a sharper approach to communications.

I look back over the year satisfied, both from my own observations and from feedback from many of you, that we have made demonstrable progress in all these areas.

We continue to build our reputation and influence as THE platform for Europe's most important cities. This is clear both our relations with the Commission and from our increasingly successful collaboration with the rotating EU Presidencies. In 2010, we're coming back stronger than ever and kicking off the year with our 'Cities4Europe' event with the European Parliament's 'City Champions' (more on this inside).

None of these achievements would be possible without the commitment of you, our members. I'd like to thank you wholeheartedly for the support you've given to the Brussels team during 2009, and to me in particular during my first year at the helm.

Have an enjoyable end of year holiday. See you in 2010 for more!

Paul Bevan  
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Europe's Parliament meets Europe's Mayors

#### Cities4Europe

Building on our close engagement with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and in particular our partnership with the Urban Intergroup, EUROCITIES is joining forces with MEP Jan Olbrycht to bring together city politicians and MEPs at an event in the European Parliament in Brussels on 27 January.

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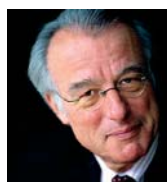
### Birmingham, Dortmund and Malaga win EUROCITIES Awards 2009



For outstanding projects contributing to a 'green recovery', the winners of the 2009 EUROCITIES awards were the cities of Birmingham, Dortmund and Malaga. Now in its fourth year, the EUROCITIES award scheme celebrates new ideas and approaches in local government of European significance.

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### EUROCITIES asks Commission to put 'people and places' at the heart of EU policy



In a letter addressed to re-appointed Commission President José Manuel Barroso, EUROCITIES President Jozias van Aartsen, Mayor of The Hague, has asked the new Commission to shift EU policy-making towards integrated EU policies that focus both on 'people and places'.

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# Key developments



## Register now for 'Cities 4 Europe' – Europe's Parliament meets Europe's Mayors

European Parliament, Brussels | 27 January 2009 at 18:00-20:00

### Cities4Europe

**B**uilding on our close engagement with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and in particular our partnership with the Urban Intergroup, EUROCITIES is joining forces

with MEP Jan Olbrycht to bring together city politicians and MEPs at an event in the European Parliament in Brussels on 27 January.

At the beginning of a new five-year term in the European Parliament, discussions will focus on the challenges lying ahead for European cities, and on

common priorities in both EUROCITIES and the European Parliament's work.

This event provides an important opportunity for city mayors and politicians to continue dialogue with 'city champions' in the Parliament, to show cities' engagement and to set the momentum for the five years to come. ■

Register now! <http://cities4europe.eventbrite.com>

Bernardo Rodrigues, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Governance and International Cooperation: [bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu](mailto:bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu)

## Europe's Mayors push for green and inclusive recovery

Addressing the effects of climate change while pursuing economic growth was the ambition for the mayors of Europe's biggest cities meeting at 'EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm'. With some 400 participants, this year's conference discussed the views and actions of cities in addressing the environment-economy connection. EUROCITIES President Jozias van Aartsen, Mayor of The Hague, shared his vision on the issue:

"Climate change is not just about the environment. It is THE social, economic and political issue for every city in Europe and worldwide. Any growth strategies of the future must be green and inclusive.

Cities have a key role to play in enabling local economies to anticipate and adapt to climate change to achieve economic recovery and sustainable growth."

The EUROCITIES conference was timely as it took place under the auspices of the Swedish Presidency of the EU, and just three weeks ahead of the United Nations Climate Summit in Copenhagen. The conference's political highlight was the joint 'Stockholm Appeal' by European and US Mayors to world leaders negotiating the climate change deal at COP15.

Special guests and keynote speakers at this year's event included the renowned Swedish Professor Hans Rosling, co-

founder and director of the Gapminder Foundation; Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister, Maud Olofsson; Elizabeth Kautz, Vice President of the United States Conference of Mayors; Pedro Ballesteros Torres from DG Energy and Transport of the European Commission; and Robert Silverman, Chargé d'affaires, from the US Embassy in Stockholm.

Finally, this year's Mayors' Debate held during the conference engaged political debate on how best to make serious progress on the 2010 European Year Combating Poverty and Exclusion agenda.

EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm: [www.eurocities2009.eu](http://www.eurocities2009.eu)

## Towards a shared vision for migrant integration in European cities

London | 22 February 2010

The INTEGRATING CITIES process continues in 2010 with the fourth conference in the series taking place in London's City Hall on 22 February.

The conference will explore the shared vision that leaders of Europe's big cities have on immigrant integration. Political highlights will include a 'Mayors Debate' on the theme, and the launch of the 'Integrating Cities Charter', which will underline the commitment and leadership of Europe's cities in addressing migrant integration through their roles as policymakers, service providers, buyers of good and services and employers.

The event will also feature a workshop discussion on findings from the EUROCITIES Diversity and Equality in European Cities (DIVE) project, as well as other discussions on current issues related to challenges of integrating migrants in the context of the economic downturn.

Co-hosted by the Mayor of London, EUROCITIES and the European Commission, the conference will gather European mayors, representatives of the Commission, service providers, academics, refugee and migrant communities and private sector organisations from across



Europe to debate the integration of migrants in urban areas.

The INTEGRATING CITIES conference series is based on a partnership between EUROCITIES and the European Commission's Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security on promoting the local implementation of the Common Basic Principles on Integration.

Space is limited for the event. Register now!

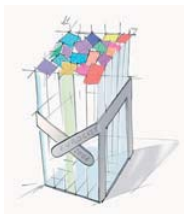
Programme and registration: [www.integratingcities.eu](http://www.integratingcities.eu); email: [integratingcities@london.gov.uk](mailto:integratingcities@london.gov.uk)  
Project Officer - Migration & Integration: [theresa.moloney@eurocities.eu](mailto:theresa.moloney@eurocities.eu)

Theresa Moloney, EUROCITIES

# Key developments



## Birmingham, Dortmund and Malaga win EUROCITIES Awards 2009



For outstanding projects contributing to a 'green recovery' in the categories of innovation, cooperation and participation, the winners of the EUROCITIES Awards 2009 are:

- Malaga - Interactive Atlas of Solar Irradiation: a state-of-the art tool that computes the amount of solar

energy captured at each point of a city's landscape, making urban planning ready for the solar city of the future.

- Dortmund - Consultation Circle for Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection: a city-led group of organisations representing the broad-ranging areas of activity needed to tackle climate protection in an integrated manner.

- Birmingham - Eco-village: concerning the Summerfield area of the city, which underwent the largest renewable technology retrofit project in

the UK through a successful partnership with local residents at the core.

The EUROCITIES awards provide an opportunity for local governments to celebrate their achievements and receive recognition for their commitment to improving the quality of life of Europe's citizens. For EUROCITIES, these 'best practices' support our message to EU and national policymakers on the important role that cities have to play in delivering on the EU's common goals ■

EUROCITIES Awards 2009: [www.eurocities2009.eu](http://www.eurocities2009.eu)

## Business Matters @ EUROCITIES

The main points of the latest EUROCITIES Annual General Meeting in Stockholm on 27 November were as follows:

- New members: Bratislava, BrabantStad Metropolitan Area, Mannheim, Brighton & Hove were accepted as new full members; Pristina and Kharkov as new associate members.
- Executive Committee: Genoa, Leipzig and Zaragoza will continue as members of EUROCITIES Executive Committee (ExCom). After 13 years, Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, stepped down from the committee. Ghent was elected as a new member of the ExCom. The Hague and

Copenhagen will remain as the President and Vice-president cities of EUROCITIES.

- Internal Audit: At the beginning of 2010, EUROCITIES Executive Committee will determine appropriate working arrangements for a formalised internal audit committee and will invite EUROCITIES members to volunteer to join it.
- Change in statutes: Statutory changes to criteria regarding metropolitan areas and approval procedures for accounts of year ended were unanimously approved by the 77 members present/represented at the meeting. To reach the quorum of 93, the Brussels Office will send an email

request for an electronic vote from those who were not represented at the recent meeting.

- Operations: The 2008 accounts, 2009 Report of Activities, 2010 draft budget and 2010 draft work programme, were approved.
- 2011 conference: EUROCITIES' 2011 annual conference will take place in Genoa.

A report of the meeting will be made available to all members by mid-January 2010.

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## Be smart, be sustainable – Restructuring the city of tomorrow

Madrid | 10-12 February 2009

Under the auspices of the Spanish EU Presidency, EUROCITIES' Forums on Economic Development and Environment will hold a joint event in Madrid on 10-12 February 2009 to debate how cities are rethinking their role and structure against today's challenges of climate change and recession.

The meeting will look at strategies that cities are adopting to address climate targets and improve economic performance. Presentations will be given on the various measures which cities are taking such as investments in green jobs, eco-innovation, greening SMEs and use of

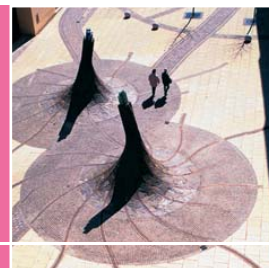
appropriate planning tools in order to maintain and improve standards of sustainable and economic development in today's economic context.

Representatives of the Spanish Presidency of the EU, the European Commission and the European Parliament have been invited to comment on how the EU can help cities move towards greater sustainable economic development.

A dedicated session will be held for local politicians to discuss the importance of strong leadership in driving forward this agenda.

The event will also feature a series of workshops on city planning, eco-innovation and the role of SMEs. Working Groups associated with the Forums will prepare these workshops.

Eva Baños de Guisasaola, EUROCITIES Policy Officer – Environment: [eva.banos@eurocities.eu](mailto:eva.banos@eurocities.eu)  
Marie Ranty, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Economic Development: [marie.ranty@eurocities.eu](mailto:marie.ranty@eurocities.eu)



## Creativity can help Europe's global competitiveness, say experts



In a 'manifesto' for creativity and innovation in Europe, ambassadors for the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009 have requested that the European Commission and EU Member States give full attention to the role of creativity and innovation in the Union's strategy for the decade 2010-2020. The 'Manifesto for Creativity and Innovation in Europe' is one of the key outcomes of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009.

The 27 ambassadors are leading European personalities from the arts and sciences, from industry and education, and include Ferran Adrià, often associated with 'molecular gastronomy', dance choreographer Anna Teresa de Keersmaecker, and the renowned American Professor, Richard Florida, who is best known for his work in developing the concept of the 'creative class', and its ramifications in urban regeneration.

Handed to European Commission President José Manuel Barroso on 12 November, the manifesto features a set of priorities - 'Seven commandments' as well as recommended lines of action. The commandments include:

1. Nurture creativity in a lifelong learning process where theory and practice go hand in hand
2. Make schools and universities places where students and teachers engage in creative thinking and learning through practice
3. Transform workplaces into learning sites
4. Promote a strong, independent and diverse cultural sector that can sustain intercultural dialogue
5. Promote scientific research to understand the world, improve people's lives and stimulate innovation

6. Promote design processes, thinking and tools, understanding the needs, emotions, aspirations and abilities of users

7. Support business innovation that contributes to prosperity and sustainability.

The recommended 'Seven lines of action' include investing in knowledge, reinventing education, rewarding initiative, sustaining culture, promoting innovation, thinking globally and greening the economy.

The manifesto will feed into discussions on Europe's future innovation policy and hopefully achieve the ambition expressed by the ambassadors which is for Europe to become a bigger global player in science, culture and competitiveness ■

European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009: [www.create2009.europa.eu](http://www.create2009.europa.eu)

## Six priorities on 'Promoting a creative generation' adopted by European Council

The EU's culture ministers, meeting in Council on 27 November, adopted conclusions on promoting a creative generation in the EU.

Noting that 'access and exposure to diverse cultural expressions [...] at an early age is important for personal development [...] and for equipping children and young people with [...] skills important for social inclusion, active citizenship and future employability', the Council identifies six priority actions, which aim to:

1. Include a 'children and young people' perspective in relevant policies to promote culture
2. Optimise the potential of the education sector to enhance the promotion of creativity through culture and cultural expression
3. Encourage and support cultural institutions to better engage with children and young people
4. Promote talent and creativity through culture as part of social inclusion

strategies catering for children and young people

5. Promote better access to culture through the use of ICTs for all children and young people

6. Facilitate the exchange of good practices and develop an 'evidence base' of knowledge



Council of the EU: [www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu); Julie Hervé, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer – Culture: [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)

## Rotterdam and Berlin take lead on EUROCIITIES' cultural working groups

Two new Working Group (WG) chairs were elected in Zaragoza during the latest meeting of the EUROCIITIES Culture Forum:

- Rotterdam – new Chair of WG Young People and Culture

Olga Smit will be the lead for this group. In 2010 the group will prepare a strategic document on the importance of cultural education, collect good practices to be published in a new booklet and provide project presentations and site visits in cities hosting the EUROCIITIES Culture Forum meetings.

- Berlin – new Chair of WG Resources for Culture

Reiner Schmock-Bathe will be supported in his chairmanship by Rob ter Steege from Eindhoven. In 2010 the group will exchange strategies on how to deal with shrinking budgets for arts and culture in the post-crisis years 2010 and beyond. They will also discuss the next generation of EU co-funding programmes and the role of culture in the future European cohesion policy.

Olga Smit, Programme manager, Culture department, City of Rotterdam: [o.smit@dkc.rotterdam.nl](mailto:o.smit@dkc.rotterdam.nl)  
Reiner Schmock-Bathe, City of Berlin: [Reiner.Schmock-Bathe@Kultur.berlin.de](mailto:Reiner.Schmock-Bathe@Kultur.berlin.de)

# Economic Development



## Evaluation methods for better EU cohesion policy

**B**oth Pawel Samecki, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, and MEP Danuta Hübner, Chair of the European Parliament's regional policy committee, have insisted on the need for evaluation to contribute to the improvement of cohesion policy performance.

Their remarks were given at the sixth European conference on the evaluation of EU cohesion policy held in Warsaw on 30 November-1 December 2009, where around 500 people participated including policy makers, managing authorities, evaluators and academics.

According to Commissioner Samecki, one of the roles of evaluation is to provide the basis for a political debate about the results of cohesion policy. He would like to launch talks between the Commission and EU Member States, and also among Member

States regarding the performance and problems of cohesion policy programmes.

Mr Samecki believes that annual political debates are needed in the Council and in the European Parliament on the effectiveness of cohesion policy. Such discussions would allow Member States to identify appropriate solutions, promote mutual policy learning and increase the visibility of cohesion policy.

Reflections from the conference will feed into ongoing debate on the future of cohesion policy by helping to improve understanding of what works, what doesn't and why. In addition, the European Commission Directorate General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO) will set up a group of evaluation experts to review and develop the Commission's evaluation guidance and will hold seminars to share examples of good evaluation practice used across the EU ■

See: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/evaluation2009/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/evaluation2009/index_en.htm)  
Marie Ranty, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Economic Development: [marie.ranty@eurocities.eu](mailto:marie.ranty@eurocities.eu)

## Cluster theory and practice

Participants in the INTERREG IVC-funded CLUSNET project visited Leipzig on 25-27 November to examine the city's healthcare and bio-tech cluster.

Leipzig is in the Free State of Saxony region, which missed out on funding from the national BioRegio programme, yet started its own bio-tech initiative in 2000. Between 2000 and 2005 Saxony used EU Structural Funds to invest over €200 million in developing and nurturing the biotech industry in the region, split evenly between the two cities of Dresden and Leipzig.

Funds paid for business incubators, as well as 12 biotechnology junior research groups at Dresden and Leipzig Universities. Funds also supported R&D projects. Saxony has four venture capital funds that invest in life science companies, and Leipzig pledged around €13 Million for the commercial part of BIO CITY. Numerous public and private organisations are involved in healthcare and bio-technology in and around Leipzig, which are contributing to this initiative.

In Leipzig and in other seminars, the project partners have identified four prerequisites for cities to successfully support clusters:

- **Management:** Given the number of organisations often involved in clusters, there is a need for a lead organisation to coordinate stakeholders and drive cluster development.
- **Governance:** Cluster initiatives are often simultaneously active at both the regional and city levels. Clarity is needed over which competences are held where. There is also often potential to improve visibility and critical mass through cooperation between cities or clusters.
- **Strategy:** Cluster strategies with key objectives and milestones are important as they allow stakeholders to jointly commit to coordinated action. Such a strategy is most effective when developed in the context of a wider city strategy.
- **Funding:** Many clusters are supported by time-limited public funds such as EU Structural Funds. It is important that the sustainability of cluster initiatives is secured by drawing on a variety of different income streams beyond grants.

CLUSNET will continue until late 2011. The next meeting will be in Budapest on 3-5 March.

CLUSNET: [www.clusnet.eu](http://www.clusnet.eu)  
John Dodd, EUROCIITIES Economic Development Officer: [john.dodd@eurocities.eu](mailto:john.dodd@eurocities.eu)

## The Lisbon Treaty: implications for Services of General Interest

EUROCIITIES' Working Group on Services of General Interest (SGI) met in Brussels on 19 November to discuss 2010 work priorities and review new opportunities opening up as a result of the Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force on 1 December 2009.

In terms of SGI, the Treaty:

- Defines key values for SGI and recognises the essential role of regional

and local authorities in defining and organising SGI (Protocol on SGI)

- Provides a legal basis for future European legislation on SGI (Article 14 Treaty on the functioning of the EU)

The WG members have agreed the need for cities to advocate for appropriate European legislation taking into account the principle of subsidiarity and the freedom for them to choose the

best way to provide services. The idea is to safeguard the wide range of high quality public services provided by cities and to guarantee security of supply.

The WG will also provide input into the European debate on the draft directive on the application on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare, on the issue of social services, and on the question of state aid.

Karin Mathé, City of Vienna, Chair of WG Services of General Interest: [karin.mathe@wien.gv.at](mailto:karin.mathe@wien.gv.at)



# Environment



## All new buildings to be 'near-zero-energy' by 2020

Any new buildings in Europe constructed after 2020 will have to rely on renewable energy sources and consume 'near zero' amounts of energy.

This was the main outcome of a meeting on 17 November where EU legal officials agreed on the long-awaited recast of the 'Energy Performance of Buildings Directive' (EPBD). The review has been on the EU's agenda since 2008, and was pushed forward by

the current Swedish Presidency of the EU.

As buildings account for around 30% of the EU energy consumption, increasing energy efficiency in this sector could contribute significantly to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This month's recast aims to increase public funds and improve the directive's energy performance certificates. In the future newly constructed

and renovated buildings will have to live up to stricter energy efficiency rules. Moreover, every building that is sold or rented will need a certificate, pointing out the annual energy consumption, the share of renewable energies, etc.

The agreement was officially endorsed by the EU energy ministers on 7 December, reinforcing the EU's leadership position during the

climate change negotiations in Copenhagen.

Cities can contribute significantly to the successful implementation of the building directive. EUROCITIES submitted a contribution to this recast early this year and will continue to follow up on any new political developments at EU level ■

Energy efficiency in buildings: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/buildings\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/buildings_en.htm)  
Eva Baños de Guisasola, EUROCITIES Policy Officer – Environment: [eva.banos@eurocities.eu](mailto:eva.banos@eurocities.eu)

## The Future of Cities

London | 8-9 February 2010

As cities are being forced to address some of the most dramatic challenges of the 21st century, including energy and water supply, demographics and climate change, can they lead the way in finding sustainable solutions? The 'Future of Cities' conference will debate just that.

Specifically, the conference will aim to find answers to the following:

- Which policy tools do cities need to tackle these challenges?
- Can cities become carbon-neutral?
- Strategic planning for social inclusion
- What are essential services and infrastructure? How can they be made sustainable?
- What are the best models for financing development to support long-term growth and sustainability?

Register now!

The Future of Cities:  
[www.chathamhouse.org.uk/cities2010](http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/cities2010)

## 1,000th city joins the Covenant of Mayors!

On 4 December, the German city of Rostock became the 1000th signatory of the Covenant of Mayors, marking a milestone in the initiative's unprecedented growth.

Since its launch at the European Parliament in February 2009, where the first 372 signatories gathered, the Covenant has enjoyed considerable attention as the number of local authorities participating has almost trebled. Speaking of its success, EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs said "The number of communities now involved is a clear indication of the strong belief in tackling climate in a coherent way at local level."

In the meantime, the first 44 Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) have been submitted, marking the stage at which the covenant will start to deliver results. These

documents outline the workplan of local authorities for delivering on commitments underlined in the covenant. Typical areas of action focus on improvements in buildings, transport, district heating and local electricity production. To date, 77 members of EUROCITIES have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors.



Pedro Ballesteros, European Commission and Karina Jens, President of Rostock City Council.

Covenant of Mayors: [www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)  
Dion Wierds, EUROCITIES Communications Officer – Covenant of Mayors: [dion.wierds@eurocities.eu](mailto:dion.wierds@eurocities.eu)

## Working Group updates

At its latest meeting in Frankfurt, EUROCITIES Working Group (WG) on Climate Change, Air Quality and Energy Efficiency discussed the air quality situation in cities with regard to the emissions ceiling directive, and agreed to review the directive's impact at city level.

Parallel to the joint meeting of EUROCITIES Forums on Environment and Economic Development, the WG will meet again in Madrid on 9-10 February 2010 to discuss the Sustainable Energy Action Plans to be developed within the Covenant of Mayors. The group will also look at the future EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change and will evaluate the outcomes of COP15.

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## First 14 cities sign up to EUROCITIES' Green Digital Charter!



The mayors and leaders of 14 EUROCITIES member cities have signed the EUROCITIES Green Digital Charter which will commit them to reducing emissions through Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). An official signing ceremony was held on 27 November as part of EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm, where around 400 delegates including mayors, politicians and stakeholders discussed local government action for a green recovery.

By signing the charter, the mayors of these first 14 cities (pictured here)- Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Genoa, Ghent, The Hague, Lisbon, Murcia, Nantes Metropole, Reykjavik, Tallinn, Stockholm, Vienna and Zaragoza - have agreed to:

- Deploy five large-scale ICT pilot projects before 2015;
- Decrease ICT's direct carbon footprint by 30% by 2020; and
- Create a partnership of cities on ICT & Energy Efficiency to work until 2011.

Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, which is the lead city behind the initiative said: "Real opportunities exist today for harnessing digital technologies to address climate change, especially to increase energy efficiency. Cities have a crucial role to play in achieving Europe-wide climate change targets in partnership with EU institutions and Member States."

Today, conurbations across Europe are responsible for a main share of emissions, but they are also well-placed to deliver solutions. In terms of specific measures aimed at reducing emissions through IT, city councils that get behind the Charter will identify opportunities to use new technologies at a critical scale, provide for regulatory incentives, set up new types of public-private partnerships with business, industry and the voluntary sector, and share expertise and practice with fellow cities.

The Green Digital Charter aims to be a catalyst for cities to work together to find creative and imaginative ways to become 'smarter cities'.

If your city wants to be part of this movement, get in touch with Jan at the Brussels office ■

EUROCITIES Green Digital Charter: <http://www.eurocities.eu/content/climatechange.php>  
Jan Franke, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society: [jan.franke@eurocities.eu](mailto:jan.franke@eurocities.eu)

## Building smarter cities

Over the past few months, EUROCITIES has been following political developments at the EU level which concern future ambitions for creating smarter cities. In line with this, our joint workshop with the European Commission on 16-17 November looked at how open innovation can support the uptake of future Internet-enabled services in smart cities.

The event was closely linked to an upcoming funding call within the Commission's Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP). Expected to be launched in late January 2010, the call will fund up to five pilots with the aim of accelerating the uptake of innovative Internet-based technologies and services in cities.

One of the meeting's aims was to determine what is understood by the term, 'Smart City'. The consensus is that such a city is one that makes a conscious

effort to innovatively employ ICT to support a more inclusive, diverse and sustainable urban environment. The workshop also looked at:

- User-driven open innovation ecosystems, such as 'Living Labs', that aim to bridge the gap between the development of Internet-based technologies and their rapid uptake in new services.
- A cross-border network of 'smart' cities that supports the sharing of experiences and best practice in implementing open platforms for new Internet-based services in a set of key areas for cities.
- Innovative Internet-based services based on an appropriate combination of technologies such as mobile and location based technologies, broadband and high speed networks.

## Comparing digital services across 15 European cities

City governments find themselves in a transition from traditional models of local public organisation to more efficient and more effective models. Behind such transformative processes is the idea of putting citizens at the centre, and delivering user-centred and user-driven public services.

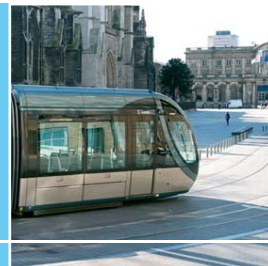
A report just published by the EUROCITIES Working Group eGovernment Benchmarking, assesses the maturity of digital public services across 15 WG member cities in 10 different countries. Respondents provided more than 1,200 inputs related to 81 different on-line services. These services were grouped according to 9 main categories shaping a 'Global Services Catalogue'. Online services have been measured based on their standard coverage across all cities and their diversity.

Besides a list of highlighted best practices, the report presents city maps to showcase areas where individual cities excel as well as areas where improvements could be carried out.

The survey was led by the city of Barcelona.

Workshop report: [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/livinglabs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/livinglabs/index_en.htm)  
Draft ICT PSP Work Programme 2010:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/ict\\_psp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm)  
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## Commission moves toward Transport White Paper for next decade

The European Commission has brought the revision of the 2001 'White Paper on Transport' one step further through a high-level conference on the future of the European transport system. Held on 20 November in Brussels, the event aimed to identify policy measures that stakeholders would like to see covered in the next European Commission's White Paper on Transport.

This new paper will define a vision for the future of transport and specific steps to be taken in the next decade and is due to be adopted in the second half of 2010, its focus will be the main transport challenges that Europe is facing today and in the years ahead.

During the event, European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani expressed his wish to see the creation of 'green corridors', a new dedicated fund for transport in the broad sense of the word, or the formation of a core network of TEN-T projects.

The panel discussions held during the conference focused on three main topics:

- Integrating transport modes, notably through infrastructure policy and the revision of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) policy;
- Promoting innovative technologies for clean vehicles and traffic management; and
- Responding to the future needs of both transport users and workers ■



Future of Transport: [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2009\\_future\\_of\\_transport\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2009_future_of_transport_en.htm)  
Vanessa Holve, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Mobility: [vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu](mailto:vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu)

## What MEPs think of the Urban Mobility Action Plan

On 9 November, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) held an exchange of views on the European Commission's Urban Mobility Action Plan launched in September this year. As background to the initiative, the European Parliament during the last legislature, with Gilles Savary (PSE/FR) as rapporteur, decided to take the lead with an own-initiative report in the absence of European Commission proposals.

During the exchange of views, the following points were raised:

- Actions: The European Commission representative attending explained that the Savary report is well reflected in the action plan, which is composed of 6 thematic areas and 20 separate actions. Some actions, such as an Internet site to aid

public authorities for the purchase of clean and energy efficient vehicles, have already been launched.

- Modal Shift: Sir Albert Bore, rapporteur for the Committee of the Regions, also provided an overview of his assembly's views on the subject, and argued that the action plan was a positive step, though he felt there could have been a greater focus on modal shift.
- Subsidiarity: The respect of the principle of subsidiarity was felt to be particularly important, though MEPs emphasised that this should not be used as an excuse to remain inactive at EU level. They also discussed the provision and exchange of information, the use of incentives, passengers with reduced mobility, Intelligent Transport Systems and soft modes of transport.

EU Urban Mobility Action Plan: <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban>  
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## New road rules come into force



New regulations modernising the rules governing road transport come into force today and are expected to generate administrative savings of €190 million a year. The Commission's new road package simplifies the legal framework for the 900,000 European road transport undertakings engaged in the transport of goods or passengers.

The regulations streamline rules in the road haulage and passenger transport sector governing entrance into the profession and access to the market. The new rules will apply in one year from date of publication/entry into force. The provisions on cabotage and 12 days derogation for the rest period for tour coach drivers will apply within six months.

EU Road Transport: [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road/index_en.htm)



# Social Affairs



## Better education for migrant children

The Council for Education, Youth and Culture called on Member States to close the achievement gap that exists between children with a migrant background and their peers in many education systems in Europe.

Proposals outlined in the Council conclusions from the meeting held on the 26-27 November include measures for:

- more accessible education systems;
- better support for schools facing particular challenges;
- better access to early childhood education; and
- greater effort to strengthen teachers' intercultural and linguistic skills.

The conclusions are the result of a European Commission consultation around the Green Paper on migration, mobility and education to which EUROCITIES Working Group Education contributed. Many of the points made by the Working Group such as the need to work closer with parents and migrant communities and the importance of support for mutual learning are mentioned by the Council.

The Council and Commission plan to strengthen a structured exchange on adapting education systems to increasingly diverse societies in the new framework for education and training (ET 2020) and within the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on education ■

Council of the EU: <http://consilium.europa.eu>

Dirk Gebhardt, EUROCITIES Programme Officer – Social Affairs: [dirk.gebhardt@eurocities.eu](mailto:dirk.gebhardt@eurocities.eu)

## Roma exclusion requires greater attention, say EUROCITIES members

City administrations should focus on tackling Roma exclusion more effectively. This was the conclusion drawn by participants of the EUROCITIES Working Group (WG) on Social Inclusion at their meeting in Ghent on 4-5 November.

Roma people are one of the most excluded ethnic minorities in Europe. They face numerous problems in accessing basic services, such as water, sanitation and food as well as employment,

education and housing. In addition, many Roma groups in Western Europe are new migrants from Eastern European urban and rural areas.

A new report published by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) further shows that Roma and travellers continue to be strongly disadvantaged in public and private housing in the EU. The report points out that most Member States have now

recognised the need to adopt Roma specific initiatives in the field of housing.

So far, however, this has not resulted in the overall improvement of the housing situation of Roma. Future activities of all levels of government and equality bodies should focus in particular on combating discrimination and gathering better evidence for policies.

In light this, members of the WG Social Inclusion have agreed to scale up work in this area by improving the exchange of experiences on how to deal with the challenges faced by Roma and on the types of interventions which have proven successful. The group will also work on raising awareness of the situation among EU and national policymakers.

FRA report on Roma and travellers: [http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/home/home\\_en.htm](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/home/home_en.htm)

Simon Underwood, Chair of WG Social Inclusion, City of Newcastle: [simon.underwood@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:simon.underwood@newcastle.gov.uk)

## New report on active inclusion policies in cities



How can social services reach users and what makes a partnership work? These are just two of the questions the 'CONNECTIONS' project has recently addressed through a series of peer reviews carried out in Budapest, Leeds, Malmö, Munich, Newcastle, Oslo, Rotterdam and Vienna between 2008 and 2009.

The project's final report which is now available, presents the findings of the peer reviews, draws conclusions and provides criteria on how cities can design successful policies on active inclusion.

Connections final report: [www.connectionsprogress.eu/133/final-report](http://www.connectionsprogress.eu/133/final-report)

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Caroline Greene, EUROCITIES Communications Officer - Inclusive Cities: [caroline.greene@eurocities.eu](mailto:caroline.greene@eurocities.eu)

## Working Group Health and Well-being prepare for the European Year 2010

The next meeting of EUROCITIES' Working Group Health and Wellbeing will focus on preparing and agreeing on follow-up actions to the seminar on health inequalities set to take place in Ghent on 21-22 April 2010. The seminar will be organised in the framework of EUROCITIES' Inclusive Cities for Europe campaign during the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Vera Ronteltap, Manager, Municipal Health Policies, Rotterdam-Rijnmond Community Health (GGD) and Chair of WG Health and Well-being: [ronteltapv@ggd.rotterdam.nl](mailto:ronteltapv@ggd.rotterdam.nl)

# Participation & Cooperation



## EUROCITIES asks Commission to put 'people and places' at the heart of EU policy

In a letter addressed to re-appointed Commission President José Manuel Barroso, EUROCITIES President Jozias van Aartsen, Mayor of The Hague, has asked the new Commission to shift EU policy-making towards integrated EU policies that focus both on 'people and places'.

Mr van Aartsen stressed that "the global challenges of economic recession

and climate change will be won or lost in our cities" and for this reason, "cities must be real partners in EU policy-making and implementation."

Pointing to the framework of the Lisbon Treaty and its new objective of territorial cohesion, Mr van Aartsen highlighted this as a perfect opportunity for the EU to work differently, partnering with local authorities

and stakeholders to deliver solutions that are appropriate to the challenges and potential of each area.

EUROCITIES will continue to follow the hearings of the Commissioners-designate in the European Parliament, focusing particularly on how they plan to work with cities in the next five years ■

Bernardo Rodrigues, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Governance and International Cooperation: [bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu](mailto:bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu)

## New Commissioner-designate for Regional Policy



Name: Johannes Hahn

Portfolio: Currently the Austrian minister for science and research. He studied philosophy and law. He is Head of the Vienna branch of the conservative Austrian People's Party (OeVP) party.

European experience: Hahn has emphasised in the Austrian parliamentary hearing that he has been pro-European since his youth. His idea of Europe relates to 'bringing Europe closer to the citizens'. In the hearing, he talked

about subsidiarity and representing Austrian interests in Brussels.

Strengths: Hahn has been praised as a 'man of the future' in Austrian domestic politics, with clear ideas for a re-structuring of research investment priorities. He said he would be in favour of more money in the 8th Research Framework Programme and a re-focus on issues like climate change and education.

European Commission José Manuel Barroso announced the portfolios responsibilities of the new Commissioners-designate in late November. They will each present themselves at individual hearings before Parliamentary

committees on 11-19 January 2010. The vote of consent on the new Commission as a whole is foreseen for 26 January 2010. With the Parliament's approval, the Commission will be appointed by the European Council.

The Commission Designate: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_designate\\_2009-2014/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_designate_2009-2014/index_en.htm)

## New EUROCITIES Working Group on 'city attractiveness' launched

EUROCITIES will host a new horizontal working group in 2010, focusing on brand management and city attractiveness. Reporting to the EUROCITIES Executive Committee, the group's main objective will be to look at how cities combine strategic visions for their future with branding and marketing tools in a bid to reinforce growth and attract investment, business and people.

This working group will also provide advice and input into the programme for our upcoming annual conference, 'EUROCITIES 2010 Zaragoza', the theme of which will be 'Successful cities – vision and identity'.

Grand Lyon has already shown interest in chairing the new WG and is looking both for cities interested in participating in the group as well as for additional ideas on its potential activities.

Get in touch!

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[julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)

## EUROCITIES in the cities

In 2010, the EUROCITIES Brussels Office is keen to work more closely with a selected group of EUROCITIES members in order to bring EUROCITIES to the cities.

If you are planning an event with other EUROCITIES members, we could offer to join you and provide a general update on EUROCITIES activities and/or information around a specific policy issue which we are working on.

In some cases, the meetings could also involve local Members of the European Parliament or European Commission representatives.

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# Projects



## Cities advise Commission on shaping research funding for sustainable urban development

**R**epresentatives of the URBAN MATRIX project have presented the European Commission recommendations on how to shape future EU research in a way that ensures that the challenges of sustainable urban development are appropriately addressed.

Eduardo Carqueijeiro, Directorate-General Research, received the recommendations on behalf of the Commission at the URBAN MATRIX final event held on 25 November in Stockholm.

The recommendations, 'Shaping future EU research funding for Sustainable Urban Development' point to areas that the Commission should consider addressing when designing future EU research funding in a way that ensures that the challenges of sustainable urban development (SUD) are appropriately addressed. They also include suggestions on how to improve information exchanges in SUD as well as information aimed at encouraging cities to become more active in EU-funded research projects.

The recommendations are based on lessons learnt from the URBAN MATRIX four-year project which has just concluded. A collection of case studies have also been produced as part of the project. These provide practical information on a range of

local initiatives, covering topics such as urban planning, citizens' participation and public-private cooperation. The case studies are available to download from the 'good practice' page of the EUROCIITIES website.

The URBAN MATRIX final event gathered over 40 participants from MATRIX partner cities as well as other EUROCIITIES members. During the workshop, representatives of Helsinki and San Sebastian spoke of research and practical cooperation that had been carried out successfully in their cities.

The workshop also featured a presentation by Corinne Hermant from the European Commission Directorate-General Regional Policy on EU indicators relating to quality of life and sustainability in European cities.

Representing the Swedish EU Presidency of the EU, Ola Göransson and Olov Schultz, hosted a discussion on the latest developments of the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities.

This event was the last in the series of the URBAN MATRIX thematic workshops. All presentations are available in the project website. A report summarising the main elements of this latest debate and conclusions will be published soon ■

URBAN MATRIX Website: [www.urban-matrix.net](http://www.urban-matrix.net)

Jorgina Cuixart, EUROCIITIES Project Officer – Environment: [jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu](mailto:jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu)

## Winner of European Mobility Week 2009 to be announced shortly

The winner of the European Mobility Week (EMW) Award 2009 will be announced at an award ceremony during the EU Sustainable Energy Week taking place on 22-26 March 2010.

The EMW Award 2009 will be given to the city judged to have made the most significant contribution towards sustainable urban mobility in the framework of the EMW 2009 which was held on 16-22 September this year.

Over 40 applicants from 14 different countries submitted entries for the 2009 award scheme. As in previous years, applicants will be evaluated on the quality and comprehensiveness of the awareness-raising activities organised in their cities during the EMW. For this year, special recognition will be given to those entrants that have addressed the 2009 theme, 'Improving City Climates', and which have organised activities in

cooperation with citizens and other stakeholders.

EUROCIITIES will co-organise the EMW interactive workshop in March 2010 in Brussels. The workshop aims to facilitate networking and knowledge exchange between EMW stakeholders and will feature speed-networking on the new EMW 2010 theme and training workshops on social media tools.

Peter Staelens, EUROCIITIES Project Officer – Mobility: [peter.staelens@eurocities.eu](mailto:peter.staelens@eurocities.eu)  
European Mobility Week: [www.mobilityweek.eu](http://www.mobilityweek.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. More specifically, it offers applicants a chance to be rewarded for their efforts in achieving a shift away from single occupancy car use and to be recognised across Europe.

The PEWTA is awarded in three categories: public authorities; employers; and networks.

The prize includes 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. The official award ceremony will be organised alongside the European Conference on Mobility Management, ECOMM, which will take place in Graz on 5-7 May in 2010.

Deadline for applications: 25 January 2010



Pan European  
Workplace Mobility Plan  
Award 2010

PEWTA: [www.epomm.org/index.phtml?id=1593](http://www.epomm.org/index.phtml?id=1593)

Melanie Leroy, EUROCIITIES Project Officer - Mobility Management: [melanie.leroy@eurocities.eu](mailto:melanie.leroy@eurocities.eu)

# Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
27 January 2010 Brussels, Belgium	<b>Cities 4 Europe</b> Europe's Parliament meets Europe's Mayors	<a href="http://www.eurocities.eu">www.eurocities.eu</a>
3-4 February 2010 Brussels, Belgium	<b>Intermodes 2010</b> The first international convention devoted to intermodality in passenger transport	<a href="http://www.intermodes.com">www.intermodes.com</a>
10-12 February 2010 Madrid, Spain	<b>Be smart, be sustainable – Restructuring the city of tomorrow</b> Jointly organised by EUROCITIES' Forums on Economic Development and Environment	<a href="http://www.eurocities.eu">www.eurocities.eu</a>
22 February 2010 London, UK	<b>INTEGRATING CITIES IV Conference</b> Towards a shared vision for migrant integration in European cities	<a href="http://www.integratingcities.eu">www.integratingcities.eu</a>
23-24 February 2010 Ghent, Belgium	<b>International Quality Congress for Local Authorities</b> Quality out of the blue?	<a href="http://www.ghentqualitycongress.be">www.ghentqualitycongress.be</a>
25-26 February 2010 Liverpool, United Kingdom	<b>Mapping, Memory and the City</b> Role of maps and mapping practices in cultural explorations of urban space and memory	<a href="http://www.liv.ac.uk/lsa/cityinfilm/mappingmemory">www.liv.ac.uk/lsa/cityinfilm/mappingmemory</a>
11-12 March 2010 Murcia, Spain	<b>Launch event of EUROCITIES campaign for the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Inclusion 2010</b> Organised by EUROCITIES Social Forum	<a href="http://www.eurocities.eu">www.eurocities.eu</a>
14-16 April 2010 La Coruña, Spain	<b>The Sustainable City 2010</b> Sixth International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability	<a href="http://www.wessex.ac.uk/10-conferences/the-sustainable-city-2010.html">www.wessex.ac.uk/10-conferences/the-sustainable-city-2010.html</a>
19-21 May 2010 Dunkerque, France	<b>6th European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference</b> How can local sustainability respond to current economic, social and climate challenges?	<a href="http://www.dunkerque2010.org">www.dunkerque2010.org</a>

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