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EDITORIAL

The subsidiarity dilemma



Urban mobility is a key factor in competitiveness, climate and quality of life, so it is highly relevant to the Europe 2020 goal of smart, sustainable and inclusive

growth. And although EUROCITIES has campaigned hard for EU action on urban mobility, the recently published white paper on transport has once more raised the debate as to whether the EU should set mandatory standards, for example for environmental zones or congestion charging in cities.

Subsidiarity reserves EU jurisdiction for those matters that cannot be addressed nationally or locally. That's to say, political decisions should be taken at the lowest appropriate level. But the dilemma is this:

From a strategic perspective it makes sense to set EU-wide standards to reach EU-wide climate targets. There is also a need to keep the playing field level. Cities should not be attracting business investment by offering environmental conditions lower than those of their competitors, for example.

However from a local perspective, ambitious cities risk being held back by mandatory EU standards that may not only be the lowest common denominator but could also be further watered down by powerful counter lobbying.

The competitive advantages and climate arguments for an EU-wide approach to the regulation of urban mobility are compelling, and EU imposition could actually help city mayors negotiate the fraught politics of restraining car use. But the risk of stifling local innovation and undermining more rapid progress is real.

The answer could be for the EU to agree minimum standards that force the general pace of change towards more sustainable urban transport, but that nevertheless allow pioneering cities to forge further and faster with equitable mobility solutions.

Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

Enterprising cities



EUROCITIES members Barcelona and Amsterdam were both winners of the European Enterprise Awards 2011. The award scheme recognises the excellent work of public authorities in promoting entrepreneurship and small business at national, regional and local level.

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Public sector buildings to face new legislation



The European Commission is expected to propose a new energy efficiency directive, which contains a target of refurbishing 3% of public building stock a year. EUROCITIES has made it clear that any legally binding targets must be realistic. We argue that efforts towards improving energy efficiency at the local level should be voluntary and that the EU should build upon successes such as the Covenant of Mayors.

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Social innovation for social inclusion



Under the headline 'new ideas for tackling social exclusion', EUROCITIES' social affairs forum met recently in Grenoble Alpes Metropole, to look at social innovation in cities. In today's tough economic context, local authorities across Europe must continue to address migration and demographic challenges but in a way that departs from traditional ways of working.

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www.eurocities.eu

Key developments



Be a EUROCITIES winner!

Take part in the 2011 EUROCITIES awards scheme and get recognition for your achievements in delivering quality local services that improve the quality of life for citizens.

Now in its sixth year running, the profile of the EUROCITIES awards has grown significantly both within and outside the network. Past winners have used the endorsement to reach out to local media and the general public. And in some cases, these cities have used their award as a spring-board to bigger successes. Barcelona, for example which won the EUROCITIES 2010 innovation award for efforts in stimulating entrepreneurship, went on to win the broadly acclaimed European Enterprise Award in 2011.

As with previous editions, projects are judged in the context of the theme of the EUROCITIES annual conference. As the Genoa event will focus on 'planning for people', so must award applications.

In particular, we'll be on the look out for entries that put citizens at the centre of urban planning and change, promoting environmental sustainability and social cohesion. They should be strongly linked to the idea of 'smart' cities and making cities become more liveable, accessible to everybody.

In each of the regular categories – innovation, participation, cooperation – the jury will be judging to what extent a plan (e.g.

for a city or neighbourhood) or a development or regeneration project better reflects the needs of the community through:

- **Innovation** in the way the plan or project is conceived, designed, financed or delivered;
- **Participation** of citizens, residents and other stakeholders affected; or
- **Cooperation** between the city authority and other partners, such as landowners, agencies, institutions, businesses, investors or developers.

There should be clear proof of improvement due to a particular approach taken. And you should also be able to show evidence of buy-in from the people affected by your plan or development.

The jury will compile a shortlist of nine cities by mid-July who will then be asked to produce a short film for the EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa awards ceremony.

Deadline for applications: **30 June 2011** ■

EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa: www.eurocities2011.eu

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European cities awarded for excellence in local democracy



EUROCITIES members were among the winners of the '12 Star Cities' award, which acknowledges commitments made by elected representatives in promoting local democracy during the 2010 edition of the European Local Democracy Week (ELDW).

Brussels, Katowice, Paris, Odessa, Strasbourg, Tbilisi and ten more European cities were honoured at an award ceremony organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on 23 March 2011 in Strasbourg.

The award aims at celebrating actions led by municipalities all across Europe seeking to strengthen the value of local

authority accountability to citizens, of transparency in decision-making processes, and of citizen participation in local life. The main theme of the 2010 ELDW was the role local authorities and citizens can play in addressing challenges posed by climate change.

The 2011 ELDW will run from 10 to 16 October 2011 and will revolve primarily around human rights at the local level.

In the media: cities and cohesion policy

Our network and the city of Rotterdam received coverage in a special report published by European Voice, one of the most influential newspapers on affairs of the European Union. The report was published on 20 April and focused on developments concerning the future of EU cohesion policy.

Among the range of associations of regional and local authorities represented in Brussels, EUROCITIES was the only network to get column inches. The coverage we achieved reflects the close and positive relations that EUROCITIES has developed with EU media here in Brussels over the last two years.



European Voice is the weekly English language newspaper owned by The Economist Group; it covers the activities of the key EU institutions and the day-to-day business of the EU. It has a readership of some 20,000 mainly Brussels-based stakeholders, including commission, parliament and council contacts.

European Voice: www.tinyurl.com/evcities2011

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Key developments



EUROCITIES: new EU funding framework must unleash urban innovation at large

Responding to the European Commission's proposal of a funding framework for innovation and research, EUROCITIES has stressed that such a framework must be ambitious enough to promote a holistic approach to innovation.

Our main recommendation supports the comprehensive approach set out in the EU's Innovation Union. This flagship was introduced in 2010 to promote a world class science base through public-private partnerships and the removal of bottlenecks that prevent ideas from reaching the marketplace.

EUROCITIES believes that the Innovation Union and the introduction of a common funding framework would give cities a better chance to play out their role in innovation and research. Also by capitalising on cities' strengths, the EU would be one step closer to achieving its 2020 objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

In our comments on the commission's proposal, we have pointed specifically to the following:

- The new funding framework must support a broader concept of innovation that goes beyond the traditional emphasis on technology. It should follow more impact-driven principles so as to demonstrate the relationship between 'grand' societal challenges and results of European funding on the ground.
- As the centres of economic activity, of innovation and markets, cities are where supply and demand meet. Within this environment, with the right combination of partners, a set of actions with effective funding can cover the whole process, from research and innovation to development and deployment.
- Cities offer 'living labs' for market, public, social and cultural innovation that address concrete challenges, whether economic, social or environmental or indeed all three.
- A new funding framework should develop wider possibilities to combine use of regional development funds



with the Framework Programme (FP) and Competitiveness & Innovation framework programme (CIP) .

- A new funding framework should allow the combination of grant financing with local seed capital, revolving, venture capital and guarantee or collateral fund schemes to allow a more flexible and process oriented support for research and innovation.
- Access and funding application procedures should be simplified.
- Information on open and upcoming funding calls needs to be communicated more clearly.

The European Commission will follow up on the green paper responses with a concrete proposal on future innovation and research funding in the second half of this year ■

European Commission green paper on common strategic framework for future EU research & innovation funding: www.ec.europa.eu/research/csfr

EUROCITIES position on future EU research & innovation funding: www.eurocities.eu

Jan Franke, EUROCITIES policy officer - knowledge society; jan.franke@eurocities.eu

New policy advisor at EUROCITIES



Dorthe Nielsen

Function: policy advisor

Nationality: DK

Working Languages: DK, EN, FR

Drawing on her nine years experience at the city of London's European office, Dorthe will give support to the range of policy activities carried out by EUROCITIES, with a special focus on EU budget. She will also strengthen relations with key institutional partners, in particular through our work with EU presidencies, and act as deputy, as required, to EUROCITIES' policy director.

Dorthe Nielsen, EUROCITIES policy advisor: dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu

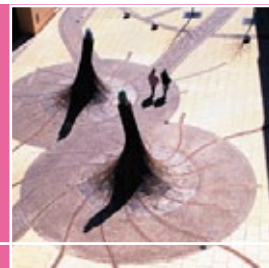
How European is your city?

Local authorities have the opportunity to raise awareness about European citizenship, to promote their municipality's own European identity, and to cooperate with other local governments and civil society organisations all across Europe through a new initiative dubbed 'My European City'.

My European City will highlight the European influences that can be found in municipalities, such as the name of a street, an architectural style or a statue of a famous European, thanks to a number of guided tours, documents, brochures and discovery trails. A dedicated website will also allow users to take virtual tours of the cities involved and to consult documents on the European heritage.

The initiative is supported by the European Commission 'Europe for Citizens' programme.

My European city: www.myeuropeancity.eu



Culture in the city: a vital part of EU 2020 strategy

Meeting in Brussels on 20-21 May, EU ministers for culture adopted conclusions on the contribution of culture to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

In their conclusions, the ministers have asked the commission to produce reliable and up-to-date information on the economic and social impact of culture and to explore new ways of developing the innovation capacity of cultural and creative industries. The ministers conclusions are line with EUROCITIES' view that we need to harness the EU's creative capital, which is concentrated in cities, in order to bring forward economic recovery. Today some 10% of workers living in Europe's largest cities are employed by the cultural and creative industries. For example, Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture in 2008 generated an 8% growth in the city's creative businesses, a 34% increase in visitors and an overall economic impact of €800 million.

In addition, the ministers have asked the European Commission to incorporate culture into future EU policies and financial instruments. They have also called on member states to use structural funds for cultural projects in regions and cities, and, where appropriate, to integrate them into smart specialisation strategies ■



Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES policy officer – culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

MEPs highlight local government role in creative industries

In a resolution recently adopted on the European Commission's Green Paper, 'unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries', the European Parliament has underlined the value of these industries as a driving force for economies in the digital age.

In its resolution, the parliament tackles seven areas including local and regional cooperation. The parliament calls on local and regional authorities to form networks for exchanging good practice and setting up cross-border and transnational pilot projects. The resolution also says that local and regional authorities can significantly help the circulation of cultural goods by organising, supporting and promoting cultural events.

The European Parliament also:

- calls on the commission to produce a better definition of cultural and creative industries, by analysing their impacts on long-term growth and international competitiveness, thus recognising the specific features of the sector;
- considers that the industries should be at the centre of a new European policy agenda that is in line with the sector's economic needs; and
- calls on the commission to foster a more elaborate system of cooperation among member states and EU institutions, based on the sharing of good practice, and recommends that the commission include local and regional authorities in the follow-up process of the green paper in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

The parliament's resolution is very much in line with EUROCITIES' position on the green paper. A European Commission communication that will explain the follow-up to be given to the green paper will be published in the coming months.

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES policy officer – culture:
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New EU stamp for urban heritage

From Riga to Rome, Europe's cities are recognised worldwide for their unparalleled archaeological, urban and cultural heritage. The EU has set upon capturing this uniqueness with a new distinct European brand, the European heritage label.

Approved by EU ministers of culture in May, the European heritage label is attributed to sites that have a strong symbolic, and not only aesthetic value for European historical and heritage sites. The label is intended to highlight those natural, archaeological, urban and cultural sites that promote the democratic values and human rights underpinning European integration. Almost 70 sites in 18 countries have already been earmarked. Among these are some EUROCITIES member cities' sites, for example the Gdansk shipyards and the Athenian Acropolis.

By introducing the label, the EU wants to raise



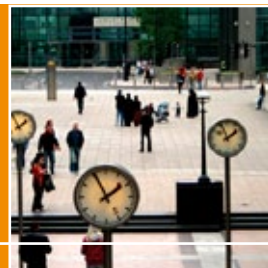
awareness of our common cultural heritage, enhance European identity and promote the sustainable development of regions through cultural tourism. The label will be used for those sites in particular that offer educational activities and a clear explanation of their European significance.

How will it work? Each EU member state will be able to pre-select up to two sites every two years. A panel of independent experts will then choose a maximum of one site per country that should receive the label. The first selection procedure will take place in 2013, with the first sites expected to be awarded the label in early 2014.

European heritage label:
www.ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc2519_en.htm

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES policy officer – culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Economic Development



Amsterdam and Barcelona win European enterprise awards

Barcelona city council, a EUROCITIES member, is the winner of the European Enterprise Awards 2011. The award scheme recognises the excellent work of public authorities in promoting entrepreneurship and small business at national, regional and local level.

The entrepreneurship centre of Barcelona Council, Activa, was selected for its innovative entrepreneurial support and training actions which has led to the creation of over 6,000 new businesses and nearly 12,000 jobs. Barcelona Activa is the city's successful local development agency which also received the 2010 EUROCITIES innovation award for 'Do it in Barcelona', an initiative which offers services to attract talented students, researchers, professionals and entrepreneurs from abroad.

Amsterdam, also a EUROCITIES member, was awarded in the 'investment in skills category' for its 'CASE' programme. This initiative targets young people and promotes entrepreneurship through real-life practice. Run by the city's universities together with public partners including the city council, CASE supports university students in setting up real companies.

Presenting the awards at a ceremony held during the Small Business Act conference on 24 May 2011 in Budapest European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani, responsible for industry and entrepreneurship said:



"Business is the key for job creation. Today's winners underline that public authorities can do a lot to improve the business conditions for SMEs. We need to multiply these concrete success stories and make Europe more business-oriented and business-friendly, as set out in the Small Business Act." ■

European Enterprise Awards: www.tinyurl.com/eea11

Marie Ranty, EUROCITIES policy officer - economic development: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

Breathing new life into Europe's single market

The single market, recognised as the core economic driving force of the European Union, is being given a new lease of life with twelve new projects that should deliver growth, competitiveness and social progress across the continent.

Adopted by the European Commission last April, the projects were identified among 50 proposals as ones that could deliver the quickest and most significant tangible benefits in the next year leading up to the 20th anniversary of the original single market act.

A reinvigorated single market is central to dealing with the continued economic downturn. These actions will:

- ease legislation on the movement of venture capital across borders to boost SME growth;
- introduce a European professional card, thereby simplifying the recognition of professional qualifications across national borders;
- make the legislative framework for public procurement more innovative, greener and more open to SMEs; and
- introduce a Europe-wide patent, Europe-wide carbon tax, and improved infrastructure networks.

The commission will reflect on the progress of the 12 projects by the end of 2012 and devise a new programme for building on the single market act. Also, in the next two years an economic study will attempt to outline other potential sources for growth and job creation in Europe that have not been capitalised on. The results of this study will also be reflected in the next programme.

Twelve projects for the 2012 single market: www.tinyurl.com/3g77dua

Marie Ranty, EUROCITIES policy officer - economic development: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

Take part in European SME week!

Europe-wide | 3-9 October 2011

Following on from last year's successful European SME week, where more than 1,500 events were held across Europe, this year's edition offers city governments another opportunity to showcase what they're doing for future generations of entrepreneurs.

Coordinated by the European Commission, the European SME week aims to:

- inform entrepreneurs about support available for their businesses (e.g. financing, access to business partners, advice, business education, etc.) at European, national regional and local level;
- promote entrepreneurship so that more Europeans, particularly young people, seriously consider

becoming an entrepreneur as a career option; and

- give recognition to entrepreneurs for their contribution to Europe's welfare, job creation, innovation and competitiveness.

Most of the week's events will be held in the 37 participating countries - though the majority of European/international events will take place in Brussels. All 27 EU member states are taking part along with Albania, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Turkey.

Cities can register their events until 30 November 2011. Get involved!

European SME week: www.ec.europa.eu/sme-week



Public sector buildings to face new legislation

EUROCITIES is awaiting the publication of the European Commission's new proposal for an energy efficiency directive, which is likely to contain a precise target of refurbishing 3% of public building stock a year.

The suggested legislation will be central to the roll-out of the EU's energy efficiency plan, to which EUROCIETIES has reacted. In our position, we have confirmed the willingness of cities to contribute to the EU's goal of raising energy efficiency by 20% until 2020, albeit with conditions.

We have made it clear that any legally binding targets introduced must be realistic. In times of severe budget cuts at the national, regional and local level, cities need support now more than ever in order to contribute to the EU's green goals. Local government should not be weighed down by unnecessary legal or administrative burdens.

According to the European Commission, a legal obligation to renovate 3% of public building stock each year would double the current rate of renovation. Reacting to this forecast, EUROCIETIES has specified that for many cities, the increase could have damaging effects on overall budgets by reducing funds not only for other energy and environmental measures but also for other sectors, such as social services and public transport. Effectively, the net result for energy efficiency in cities may well be negative. We argue that efforts towards improving energy efficiency at local level should be voluntary. The EU should focus on supporting voluntary reforms, using and building upon initiatives such as



the Covenant of Mayors and the Smart Cities and Communities initiative.

None of this can happen without financial support. To this end, EUROCIETIES has appealed for sufficient funding from the public sector at the EU, national and regional level, as well as from the energy generation sector ■

EU energy efficiency: www.tinyurl.com/6ylsbub

EUROCIETIES statement on EU energy efficiency plan 2011: www.tinyurl.com/4yrhu4r

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MEPs want ambitious green targets

The European Parliament's environment committee has made an appeal for a binding goal of 30% greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction in the EU by 2020.

Outlined in a report adopted on 24 May, the appeal supports arguments made by EU climate commissioner, Connie Hedegaard, who will meet EUROCIETIES mayors on 22 June to discuss green growth.

As things currently stand, the EU's target foresees a GHG emissions reduction by 20% compared to 1990 levels. According to the European Commission, emissions have already been reduced by more than 17% in 2009. The belief is that a 25% goal can easily be reached if the EU achieves its currently non-binding energy efficiency target of 20% energy savings by 2020.

Specifically, the parliament's environment committee has called for an unconditional 30% target to be set by the end of 2011 at the latest. They suggest that at least a 25% reduction be achieved within the EU while the remaining

5% could be met by funding emission reductions in other parts of the world.

Apart from the energy efficiency goal, the 20% increase in the share of renewables in final energy consumption is, according to the report, also of particular importance for meeting the greenhouse gas reduction target. In addition, the committee is proposing adjustments to the EU emission trading scheme and national measures such as innovation investment and tax breaks, to help lower emissions.

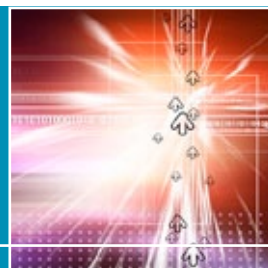
The report's adoption paves the way for a full parliamentary vote on 23 June. The vote will follow a meeting of EU environment ministers, who are also expected to address the question of a new EU target. Until now, member states concerned about the potential damage to industry, have been reluctant to move beyond the existing target. The report acknowledges this point but emphasises that a more ambitious target could create millions of jobs and provide other economic benefits as well.

EU unveils new biodiversity strategy

Acknowledging the failure of the 2006 action plan on biodiversity, the European Commission on 3 May 2011 unveiled a new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020.

Of interest to cities, the commission in this new strategy says that a mixture of EU and national, regional and local measures, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, is needed to deliver on the strategy. This is why the local level, and cities in particular, are asked to act as well to protect biodiversity by maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services and restoring degraded ecosystems. The strategy also mentions the importance of incorporating green infrastructure in spatial planning. By 2012, the European Commission is to develop a strategy to promote this.

Knowledge Society



Knowledge management in cities – hidden profits of EU services directive

Knowledge Society Forum | Dresden | 20-21 June 2011

Meeting in Dresden on 20-21 June, the EUROCIITIES Knowledge Society Forum will discuss the hidden profits of implementing the EU Service Directive for better organisation and knowledge management in cities.

The conference will highlight the potential of the EU services directive and related changes in front and back office operations in city administrations. The shared view is that the directive can help drive process reorganisation and knowledge management.

Representing global technology consultancy Capgemini, Dinand Tinholt will give a presentation on the status and findings from the SPOCS project, which deals with the development of cross-border online services in Europe.

Additionally, we have secured the attendance of a European Commission representative who has been directly involved in the implementation of the EU services directive. We are also currently in the process of confirming the attendance of an international researcher to present a city case study on knowledge management and process reorganisation ■

SPOCS: www.eu-spocs.eu

Programme and registration: www.ksfdresden2011.eventbrite.com

Jan Franke, EUROCIITIES policy officer - knowledge society:
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EU consultation: guidelines on public funding for broadband infrastructure

The European Commission has launched a consultation on the revision of EU rules on the public financing of broadband infrastructure, with a view to presenting new guidelines in September 2012.

Already in 2009, the commission consulted stakeholders on the first draft of what exists today. EUROCIITIES responded at the time. The current guidelines, adopted in September 2009 provide a comprehensive framework for furthering the deployment of high and very-high speed broadband in Europe. However, fast evolving markets and rapid technological progress may require adaptations. This is why the commission has set up a questionnaire on relevant issues, such as the development of very high speed broadband



technologies or how best to design the access conditions on subsidised next generation networks.

Deadline for responses: **31 August 2011**

Consultation guidelines on public funding to broadband networks:
www.tinyurl.com/3ooowp7r

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In-depth insights to open data, EU services directive and smart cities

KSF working groups | Dresden | 21 June 2011

Members are invited to take part in the following working groups meetings taking place alongside the EUROCIITIES Knowledge Society Forum's event in Dresden:

- **Open data:** expect presentations from Munich, Amsterdam, Berlin and Sunderland on so-called 'app contests'. App contests are where developers compete for the most creative, best implemented, and effective applications using public sector information. Participants will also discuss the results of an online survey that the working group conducted on existing open data initiatives in European cities.
- **EU services directive:** a review and discussion of case studies that show backoffice reorganisation that took place in some cities following the implementation of the services directive. To prepare this, the group is gathering input through an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/5JKJGYM
- **Smart cities:** led by Barcelona and Manchester, the group will review ongoing EU programmes in areas such as ICT, transport and energy efficiency that support smart cities.

If you are interested in attending any of the above working groups please check the draft meeting agendas and background material available from the EUROCIITIES members area.

Programme and materials: www.eurocities.eu/membersarea

Registration: www.ksfdresden2011.eventbrite.com

Jan Franke, EUROCIITIES policy officer - knowledge society:
jan.franke@eurocities.eu

Mobility



Getting from A to B with ICT

Intelligent transport systems (ITS) and mobility management are moving up the EU agenda as shown by the European Commission's new transport strategy that emphasises real-time information distributed from a range of sources as well as smart integrated ticketing.

Cities, in particular, want travel information policies that encourage greater use of public transport and a decrease in the use of private cars in urban areas. Here, there is room for improvement. A recent study by public transport operator Veolia has found that 20% of people do not use public transport because of a lack of information.

The European Commission is taking steps to address this shortcoming. Following the 2010 adoption of the ITS directive, it has set up two expert groups:

- **A European ITS advisory group** that will advise the commission on all ITS topics in the directive, including urban-related points.

- **An urban ITS expert group** involving EUROCITIES, which will deal exclusively with urban ITS and will focus on the ITS action plan.

In addition, new rules have just been announced for a pan-European online rail ticketing and information system. EU transport commissioner, Siim Kallas, who is particularly keen to make train travel the first transport choice for short and medium distances across Europe, says:

"We want to make it as easy to book a rail ticket from Barcelona to Brussels, or Berlin to Bratislava, as it is to book a corresponding flight."

The new EU regulation should standardise reservation procedures as well as information on timetables and fares. And while encouraging continued mobility, the approach should also promote a shift to other forms of transport.

Finally, the commission has launched a public consultation on the needs and feasibility of a multi-modal journey planner, which could give travellers access

to their complete journey information. The full implications of this approach, especially for local public transport, aren't yet clear.

To support the EU's policy goals, raising awareness through mobility management campaigns is crucial. Cities can refer to EU initiatives like CIVITAS, in which EUROCITIES is involved, which provides guidance on innovative information systems for public transport ■

ITS directive: www.tinyurl.com/3bxknj2

CIVITAS policy advice on innovative information systems for public transport: www.tinyurl.com/3jctvmq

Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES Policy Officer- Mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

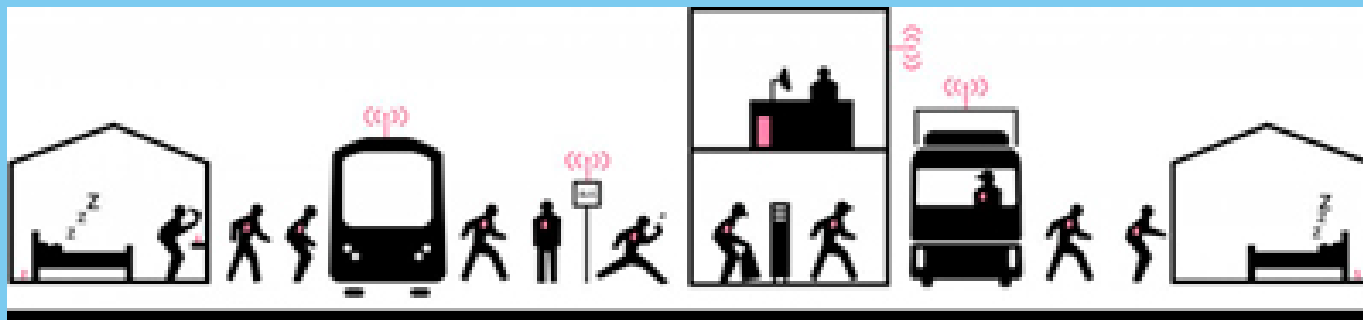
Points of view: technology for transport

EUROCITIES took part in a recent stakeholder conference on the EU's strategic transport technology plan (STTP) organised as part of a European Commission consultation. Held in Brussels on 24 May 2011, participants were asked for input on the current status of the plan, which is the EU's framework for future transport research, innovation and deployment.

The STTP is based on a vision for an integrated, efficient and environmentally friendly European transport system by 2050. The commission foresees a transformation that promotes independence from oil, modern infrastructure and integrated transport assisted by improved information systems.

Among others, stakeholders present asked that future revisions of the STTP consider implications for small-to-medium-sized enterprises, the role of different transport modes, as well as environmental and social concerns. Participants came from the maritime, automotive, rail, infrastructure and intelligent transport sectors.

Discussions from the conference as well as from previous stakeholder hearings and an internet consultation will all be used to develop the STTP. The consultation process is scheduled to conclude by early July and the plan should be adopted by the commission in October 2011.



STTP: www.ec.europa.eu/transport/research/sttp/sttp_en.htm

Conference presentations: <http://tinyurl.com/3cxzjrv>

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Strengthen city role in European Social Fund, says EUROCITIES

In a statement on the future of the European Social Fund (ESF) sent last April to European policymakers, EUROCITIES has asked for

- the important role of cities in delivering ESF objectives to be recognised by
 - explicitly mentioning cities in the regulations governing the future ESF; and
 - introducing an obligation for member states to demonstrate that cities were involved in defining priorities and operational programmes;
- the creation of a dedicated financial instrument or mechanism to

enable cities to foster social innovation, territorial cohesion and integrated local development; and

- more discussions between cities and the European Commission on the monitoring and implementation of the ESF after 2013.

As reported in previous editions of Flash, current debates around the ESF offer cities a unique opportunity to influence the policy-making process and ensure that they have better access to the ESF in the future. We believe that the ESF should remain part of the EU's structural funds. We also consider that better integration between the ESF and the European Regional Development Fund

(ERDF) is necessary to help us deal with the EU's big economic, environment and societal issues. By combining these funds, we can more confidently provide physical renewal and economic development that effectively supports people.

EUROCITIES' task force on the future of the ESF met in Brussels on the 7-8 June to prepare a position paper to be published at the end of the summer. The paper will take into account the views of member cities collected in a survey carried out in April ■

Silvia Ganzerla, EUROCITIES senior policy officer – social affairs: silvia.ganzerla@eurocities.eu

Social innovation for social inclusion

Under the headline 'new ideas for tackling social exclusion', EUROCITIES' social affairs forum met recently in Grenoble Alpes Metropole, to look at social innovation in cities.

A timely choice of topic given that local authorities across Europe are still being challenged by migration and demographic change but now amid ever-growing budgetary constraints. Evidently, today's economic context has brought about added pressure for doing things differently.

The host city Grenoble, a unique example of France's urban policy, showed participants how they are applying their innovative spirit in practice. The city has developed regeneration projects that bring together 100 different actors, successfully combining hard regeneration with soft area-based social measures. One such example is 'Parler bambins', a project which builds up the language skills of children with special needs aged three and under.



During the meeting, participants took stock of both local and EU developments in the area of social innovation. As one of the key themes under the Europe 2020 strategy, the 'platform against poverty', which has been set up with ambitions to reduce social exclusion by at least 20 million by 2020, should play a role in exploring social innovation practice.

Katarina Lindahl representing the European Commission, spoke of the role of cities in promoting social innovation and highlighted in particular their expertise, credibility and involvement in EUROCITIES on this topic.

Dirk Gebhardt, EUROCITIES programme officer - social affairs: dirk.gebhardt@eurocities.eu

Winning work ethic



The Cities for Active Inclusion Bulgarian workshop took place on 30 May 2011 in Sofia. The event focused on the active inclusion of young people, particularly how to successfully integrate those with disabilities into the labour market.

Representatives from the European Commission and the Bulgarian national ministry for labour and social policy were present during the meeting. Officers from the city of Sofia and EUROCITIES presented the findings from the latest Cities for Active Inclusion research, highlighting good practice and challenges identified by the project partners. An overview report on this latest research will be available by this summer.

Cities for Active Inclusion: www.eurocities-nlao.eu

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Cooperation



Lunch with Barroso

European Commission President Barroso will meet with EUROCITIES president Frank Jensen, Mayor of Copenhagen, together with heads of associations representing local and regional authorities and the president of the Committee of the Regions. This meeting will take place on 16 June at the European Commission in Brussels.

This lunch-time get-together with the commission head is becoming an annual event for us to effectively channel local views into EU politics. Meeting with Barroso in the same setting last year, the main concerns we raised then related to the

involvement of local authorities in the Europe 2020 strategy, the implementation of the EU objective of territorial cohesion and initial thinking on the future of cohesion policy. Although the European policy context has evolved since then, these issues remain the life-blood of our work and will therefore be brought up again.

Discussions should also focus on financial planning for the EU ■

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From Budapest to Warsaw: bridging EU presidencies

Brussels | 28 June 2011

Budapest and Warsaw will celebrate together the changing of the EU trio presidency with a seminar and a festive event on 28 June in Brussels.

European Union's eastern capital cities function as bridges to the eastern partners. They concentrate know-how and experience in the relations with the European eastern neighbours, house specialised institutions and are main hubs for contacts, exchange and cooperation.

At the moment of handing over of the EU presidency from Hungary



to Poland, the Mayors of their capital cities, István Tarlós and Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz will discuss city-to-city cooperation within the eastern partnership during a short seminar at the Committee of Regions in Brussels. MEPs and professionals will contribute to this exchange. A concert and a reception will follow the seminar.



EU presidency event 2011: www.tinyurl.com/3jquz77

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Giving support to neighbours

The EUROCITIES working group dealing with European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and enlargement met on 30 May – 1 June 2011 in Osmangazi, Turkey.

Under the title, 'cities' dialogue for European enlargement and ENP', the meeting aimed to identify the specific features and needs of cities in candidate countries and EU neighbouring countries that should be considered in view of the EU's community law. In particular, participants reviewed ways and means for encouraging the faster development of core EU democratic values and mechanisms among citizens and local governments of EU neighbouring countries.

Given the group's mix of cities from both EU and non-EU countries, great value is placed on the opportunities for exchange and cooperation, not least what can be learned from those cities that are at a later stage of development. During this recent meeting, particular attention was paid to the meaning and importance of neighbourhood policy and to strengthening the relations between EU and ENP cities through the EU's support structures.

Lately, the European Commission made an offer of an extra €1.24 billion for the ENP. This financial support, seen as a commitment to reform in partner countries, was announced by European Commission President José Manuel Barroso on 25 May to coincide with the publication of its progress report on implementing the ENP. This latest financial boost brings EU support to partners in the South and the East to nearly €7 billion over the next two years.

European neighbourhood policy: www.ec.europa.eu/world/enp/documents_en.htm#3

Projects



New focus, format and features at 2011 ECOMM

Over 350 delegates from 27 countries convened in Toulouse last May for the 15th edition of the European Platform on Mobility Management, ECOMM.

Focusing on opportunities for mobility management brought on by the economic crisis, this year's meeting looked at the following four areas:

- **New jobs and training:** for some years now, the hiring of mobility advisors has become more popular in countries such as France and Belgium. The reason being that the function helps to develop local actions, implement company travel plans and ensure good cooperation between companies and public transport providers.
- **Public space, road safety and related to these, awareness-raising, developing infrastructures and soft modes of transport:** as an example, London's 'Better Bankside' case was presented. It provides support for businesses building offices, coordinating funding for improving streets and public places and promoting mobility management options to employees with cycle super highways for example.
- **Urban planning and reducing reliance on cars:** the integration of transport planning, land use planning and mobility management have proven successful as shown from a nation-wide survey carried out in Denmark on transport behaviour and the localisation of businesses.
- **Economic and commercial activities:** teleworking and smart working present many economic and social benefits, which should be further promoted in the current context of the economic crisis and of growth of digital economy.

In addition, this year's new presentation formats and social media features were well received. Through a speed-dating format, the 'rendez-vous toulousain' gave delegates a more



deliberate and organised opportunity for exchanging know-how and practice. ECOMM 2011 also saw the introduction of the Japanese 'Pecha Kucha' method, which offered up inspiring ideas. Delegates were obliged to present no more than 20 slides in just less than seven minutes. We also entered the realm of social media this year. Using the increasingly popular microblogging service, Twitter, participants could react to the sessions in real-time throughout the event.

The 'rendez-vous' will be repeated for ECOMM 2012 taking place in Frankfurt on 12-15 June; pre-registrations are already open ■

Register for ECOMM 2012: www.ecomm2012.eu

CLUSNET in Eindhoven: bringing down barriers for exchange

The city of Eindhoven hosted the latest CLUSNET policy seminar on 18-20 May, offering the project's partners an in-depth policy analysis on the relevance of shared facilities for the further embracement of open innovation on regional innovation strategies. The shared facilities are seen as a basic support structure for the city's five interrelated clusters.

The city is at the heart of Brainport, the Netherlands' top technology region that is a breeding ground for innovation and the home base for many companies. During the seminar, the project's partners were able to learn about the general profile of the Brainport region, and its structural economical characteristics.

Munich will follow with workshops on universities and R&D centres as sources of knowledge, innovation and catalysts on 8-9 September. The CLUSNET project will finish at the end of the year with a final seminar in Lyon on 13-14 October.



CLUSNET is an INTERREG IVC funded project that brings major cities, EUROCITIES and the Stockholm School of Economics together to analyse and improve cluster support policies.

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Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
15-16 June 2011 Barcelona, Spain	BIZ BARCELONA Supporting entrepreneurship, innovation and SMEs in Barcelona	www.diaemprenedor-barcelona.cat/en/
23-25 June 2011 Copenhagen, Denmark	Cities without limits Organised by European Urban Research Association	www.eura.org
27 June – 1 July Edinburgh, United Kingdom	Contributing to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth INSPIRE conference 2011	www.inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu
7-9 July 2011 Amsterdam, The Netherlands	Dealing with diversity in 21st century urban settings Annual RC21 conference 2011	www.rc21.org/conferences/amsterdam2011
12-14 September 2011 Brussels, Belgium	Cities in Europe 2020 – Enhance sustainability now! ICLEI European Convention 2011	www.convention2011.iclei-europe.org
12-16 September 2011 Berlin, Germany	Urban education conference Organised by European Educational Research Association	www.eera-ecer.eu
28-30 September 2011 Delft, The Netherlands	28th urban data management symposium UDMS at 40 years: making contributions to the future	www.udms.net
29 September 2011 London, United Kingdom	Public sector reform Opening up services	www.publicserviceevents.co.uk
10-13 October 2011	OPEN DAYS 2011 Regions and cities delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth	www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2011/index.cfm
27-28 October 2011 Lisbon, Portugal	How to make sustainable transport easy to use by all? Organised in the framework of the START Project	www.start-project.eu
2-5 November 2011 Genoa, Italy	EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa Planning for people	www.eurocities2011.eu

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