

## Celebrating the 'look and feel'



In EUROCITIES we refer a lot to cities as economic motors. This is simply because we are making a case for investment in a context where growth is a priority. But Europe's urban model is a competitive asset in another way: in how our cities look and feel.

So the theme chosen by the Committee of the Regions for their fifth European summit of cities and regions is an important one: 'The European Urban Fabric in the 21st century'. The summit on 22 and 23 March is hosted by EUROCITIES president city Copenhagen, under the auspices of the Danish presidency: hence the urban focus. We are promised provocative contributions from high-profile architects, academics, renowned urban planners and mayors of large cities, many of them our members.

In contrast to the megacities driving economic growth in China, India and Latin America, Europe's urban areas are strikingly more contained, less sprawling, often polycentric. Urban fabric reflects the capacity of cities to constantly reinvent themselves. They are the physical expression of our economic and political systems over time: for example from religious and trading capitals, through market-led or centrally planned industrialisation, to centres of commerce and services. Technology has been critical throughout, particularly the impact of the car.

By embodying our history and our culture, urban form conveys meaning, has resonance. For this reason even the least pretty cities can have a powerful attraction. And it is to develop attractiveness that city mayors everywhere strive to enhance their city's distinctiveness. They know our cities need to remain attractive to the talented people Europe needs; attractive to the continuing investment our urban fabric demands; and attractive too to the visitors and tourists who endorse, or undermine, a city's reputation.



Paul Bevan  
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

## Connecting Europe should provide direct access to funding for cities

As one of the new funding instruments proposed by the European Commission, the Connecting Europe facility (CEF) provides the financial framework for the revised Trans-European networks (TENs). It is intended to fund €50 billion worth of investments to improve Europe's transport, energy and digital networks. It is the first time that the European Commission has proposed a single funding instrument for the three network sectors.

*Cities have a crucial role to play in all three sectors (transport, ICT and energy) to complete the single market and fill the gaps in the TENs.*



As cities, we are largely responsible for the construction and maintenance of infrastructure, especially with regard to 'the last mile'. Our latest statement presents general comments on the draft regulation and policy recommendations on the sectoral objectives. Published mid-February 2012, we state that:

- cities located on the TENs must be involved in the planning and delivery of strategic investments, in partnership with national authorities
- cities should have direct access to CEF funding, not only member states

We will continue to closely follow the upcoming discussions in the Parliament and Council, and ensure the voice of cities is heard until an approval on the CEF regulation is reached in early 2013.

EUROCITIES statement on the Connecting Europe facility: [bit.ly/wGZy2m](http://bit.ly/wGZy2m)  
Vanessa Holve, policy officer – mobility: [vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu](mailto:vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu)

### Also in this issue

- Urban Forum sets out strong role for cities 3
- Exchanging on ETC and subsidiarity 4
- Present your 'connectivity' project in Utrecht 5
- Council discusses draft procurement directives 6
- CASCADE in Genoa and Birmingham 7
- New GDC toolkit now available 8
- Commission appoints European ITS advisory group 9
- European Council promotes active inclusion 10
- Estonoesunsolar – thisisnotaplot 11
- EUROCITIES cooperation platform 2012 12

## MEPs discuss LIFE funding

On 1 March 2012, our environment forum debated future LIFE funding for the environment and the 7th Environment Action Programme with representatives from the Commission and Parliament.

Jo Leinen, MEP, whose report on the development of a 7th Environment Action programme (EAP) had been voted on the day before, declared that a new EAP would need a chapter on the urban environment. Citizens' wellbeing should be the ultimate goal of the programme, including improving health by tackling issues such as air and water quality and noise.

Commission Head of Unit, Astrid Schomaker, reminded participants that while the thematic strategy on the urban environment of the 6th EAP had stimulated environmental action in cities, there is room for improvement on urban issues in a new EAP. Paula Baker from the Committee of the Regions added that action needed to focus on emission sources first. There was broad agreement that the implementation of environmental legislation should be a focus for the 7th EAP.

European Parliament rapporteur Jutta Haug and Mette Quinn from the European Commission presented their views on the future LIFE funding programme for the environment. Both speakers underlined the importance of joining environmental projects with others. The new so-called integrated projects under LIFE are designed to help



Jo Leinen, MEP; Astrid Schomaker, EC; Roland Zinkernagel, Malmö; Paula Baker, CoR; Nicolas Hemeleers, Brussels Capital Region

combine funding from LIFE with other funding sources, for instance future funding programmes such as Horizon 2020 or structural funds.

The environment forum meeting also saw members share experiences on the use of green areas for climate adaptation, biodiversity, noise reduction and more, and included a visit to sustainable and energy efficient housing project, Bruyn Oest

## Green Digital Charter signatories up to 26 after Barcelona and Eindhoven sign

The number of signatories to our Green Digital Charter rose to 26 in February 2012 after Barcelona and Eindhoven signed up to the initiative.

Xavier Trias, Mayor of Barcelona, signed the Charter on 28 February in the presence of Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda. The signature ceremony took place in Barcelona, coinciding with the Mobile World Congress.



Commissioner Kroes & Xavier Trias, Mayor of Barcelona

"Barcelona is making a determined bid to become a smart city," explained Xavier Trias, "and the signing of the Green Digital Charter is an important step towards this."

The following day, Rob van Gijssel, Mayor of Eindhoven, confirmed his city's commitment to reducing emissions through ICT by also signing the Charter during a local ceremony in Eindhoven city hall.



Rob van Gijssel, Mayor of Eindhoven

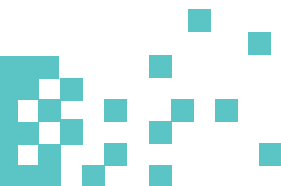
The mayor declared, "the ambitions [of the Green Digital Charter] fit with Eindhoven's strategy on energy consumption, and with the digital agenda, particularly when it comes to increasing the benefits for our citizens. To sign the Green Digital Charter is only the next logical step in furthering innovation and addressing the energy challenge we all face."

Giulia Campodonico, project officer – knowledge society: [giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu](mailto:giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu)

## Out now: our annual report 2011 and work programme 2012

The 2011 edition of our annual report, including our 2012 work programme, is now available in print and online. Copies will be distributed at forum meetings and all EUROCIITIES contact officers and politicians will shortly receive a print copy by post. If you would like to order additional print copies, please contact Sinead Mullins at our Brussels office.

Annual report and work programme online: [bit.ly/wURNwj](http://bit.ly/wURNwj)  
Sinead Mullins, communications executive: [sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu](mailto:sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu)



## Urban Forum sets out strong role for cities

We had a strong presence at the first European Commission Urban Forum, which sent a powerful message about the special role of cities in the future cohesion policy.

The forum saw the leaders of Europe's big cities exchange directly with representatives from the European Commission on how best to foster sustainable growth in the years ahead. We were represented by our vice-president, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw. Mayors and politicians from Amsterdam, Barcelona, Bratislava, Leipzig, Lille, Lisbon, Lodz, Manchester, Naples, Sofia and Turin also participated. The high-level discussions took place in the presence of two Commissioners, Johannes Hahn for regional policy and Connie Hedegaard for climate action, as well as Carsten Hansen, Danish Minister for housing, urban and rural affairs, Jan Olbrycht MEP and several directors from the Commission.

The outcomes of the meeting will contribute to the development of EU instruments for promoting integrated urban development and innovation in cities and urban areas. This support should ensure that cities are able to fulfill their potential to contribute to economic recovery in Europe.



Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw, Xavier Trias, Mayor of Barcelona, Sir Richard Leese, leader of Manchester City Council  
photo credit: Thierry Monasse

Speaking at the event, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz called for:

- cities to be full partners in the national processes that will establish investment priorities affecting them
- funding priorities that are flexible enough to allow cities to target the needs on the ground
- a clear urban dimension across all thematic priorities ■

EUROCITIES press release on the Urban Forum: [bit.ly/zYtf6X](http://bit.ly/zYtf6X)  
EUROPOLITICS – cities at the heart of economic recovery: [bit.ly/A17qtW](http://bit.ly/A17qtW)  
Photos from the Urban Forum: [bit.ly/x3oWCh](http://bit.ly/x3oWCh)  
Dorthe Nielsen, policy advisor: [dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu](mailto:dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu)

### Meeting in Brussels?

EUROCITIES offers meeting rooms in an ideal location, a stone's throw from the European institutions, with special prices for EUROCITIES members.

- capacity up to 75 people
- catering services
- interpretation booths
- projection facilities
- complimentary WiFi
- special conditions on request
- half day rentals accepted



Contact and reservation - Olivier Baeselen, finance, HR and office manager: +32 (0) 2 552 08 82  
[meetingrooms@eurocities.eu](mailto:meetingrooms@eurocities.eu)

### Improve our cities, improve the European economy

To coincide with the European Commission's Urban Forum on 16 February 2012, the European Voice published a joint article by our president, Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, and Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for regional policy. The article sets forth a number of suggestions to ensure that cities, the engines of growth, are fully supported in their potential role to drive European economic recovery.

You can view the full article on the European Voice website, below, or on our website where we have reproduced it with permission from the European Voice.



Commissioner Hahn & Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen

European Voice: [bit.ly/9Z2OD](http://bit.ly/9Z2OD)  
EUROCITIES website: [bit.ly/wyDEfp](http://bit.ly/wyDEfp)

### Celebrating 20 years of EUROCITIES in Brussels

The first EUROCITIES Brussels office was formally opened on 6 March 1992 by former Commissioner for regional policy and cohesion, Bruce Millan. Twenty years later, we invited our members and colleagues from the European institutions and other Brussels-based organisations to join us for a celebration. Around 90 guests joined us for a reception on 6 March 2012 at our Brussels office, in the House of Cities, Municipalities and Regions. Henk Kool, Deputy Mayor of The Hague, welcomed guests and spoke of EUROCITIES' achievements over the past two decades.

Guests also enjoyed the opportunity to have a look at our 'my city – my view' photo exhibition, launched last year to mark 25 years of EUROCITIES. The images are collected in our photo book, which is complemented by a history book documenting EUROCITIES' development from six founding cities in 1986 to the present day.

You can view the book online using the links below, or order a hard copy for €25, including postage. The exhibition is also available to hire. If interested, please contact Nicola Vaththauer at our Brussels office.

Photo book: [bit.ly/A20eQT](http://bit.ly/A20eQT)  
History book: [bit.ly/wGSLaI](http://bit.ly/wGSLaI)  
Nicola Vaththauer, communications director: [nicola.vaththauer@eurocities.eu](mailto:nicola.vaththauer@eurocities.eu)

## Exchanging on ETC and subsidiarity

The latest working group governance meeting took place in Brussels on 15 February 2012. Two important topics were on the agenda: European territorial cooperation and subsidiarity.

A former objective within the EU's cohesion policy, European territorial cooperation (ETC) has been singled out in a specific regulation, and as a goal for future cohesion policy in the recent draft package of regulations.

*A proposed budget increase of 30% for European territorial cooperation demonstrates a growing importance, even if it still remains the smallest share of all cohesion policy headings.*

A first exchange of views on this new regulation took place during the meeting and it was decided that a core group would comment on the ETC regulation and provide

input to the main analysis being carried out by the working group on cohesion policy.

A roundtable discussion on the Committee of the Regions' subsidiarity report took place in the second half of the meeting. We welcomed Juan Luis Ballesteros, administrator of the CoR's subsidiarity monitoring platform, to explain the purpose of this report. Under the Lisbon treaty, the CoR has been given an important role when it comes to subsidiarity; it now has the authority to bring a case in front of the European Court of Justice if a breach of the subsidiarity principle is detected. At the same time, the definition of 'subsidiarity' itself was refined by the Lisbon Treaty, which now recognises, for the first time, the sub-national level.

Other activities being organised by the subsidiarity monitoring platform were presented, including the opening of a web platform called Regpex, which will support the participation of regions with legislative powers in the early phases of the



EU legislative procedure: the 'early warning system'. Although it is only local authorities with legislative powers that are allowed to upload their statements on certain pieces of EU legislation, the information provided is open to all ■

Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant - cooperation & governance: [soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu](mailto:soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu)

### New opportunities to work with ESPON

The research programme ESPON will next month open new calls for proposals to set up a targeted analysis and scientific platforms for monitoring territorial development in Europe. The call will be open from 18 April until 13 June 2012. The proposed theme for the targeted analysis scheme is 'North Sea - spreading transnational results', and one of the three themes put forward for the more scientific tools will focus on developing a European urban benchmarking web tool.

ESPON is also organising an info day and partner café in Brussels on 10 May 2012. The purpose of the event is to inform and assist potential beneficiaries in preparing proposals for the upcoming calls. The registration deadline is 26 April 2012.

In addition, a conference entitled 'positioning urban Scotland in its European context – what can we learn about benchmarking?' to be held in Edinburgh on 30 March 2012.

More information about the conference: [bit.ly/A98FkP](http://bit.ly/A98FkP)  
More information about ESPON: [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)  
Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant – coordination & governance: [soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu](mailto:soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu)

### The European urban fabric of the 21st century Copenhagen | 22-23 March 2012

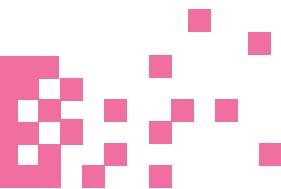
The Committee of the Regions hosts its 5th summit of regions and cities in Copenhagen on 22-23 March 2012. Over two half-day sessions, debates will take place between city mayors, architects, academics and other stakeholders. The issue of urban sustainability in the 21st century will be in the spotlight and a declaration will be issued to promote sustainability as a crucial dimension in future European policies. High-level speakers will include Martin Schulz, newly appointed President of the European Parliament, and Helle Thorning-Schmidt, Danish Prime Minister. The meeting also represents a key event on the Danish EU presidency agenda.



The meeting will be hosted by our president, Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen. Jensen has invited members of our Executive Committee to meet in Copenhagen, some of whom are also expected to speak at the conference. Participants will have the opportunity to view our 25 years photography exhibition, 'my city – my view', which premiered at our last annual conference in Genoa and an informal event will take place to gather elected representatives who are members of both EUROcities and of the Committee of the Regions.

Attendance to the summit is on invitation only, with priority given to members of the Committee of the Regions. For more information on the event, please visit the CoR website, below.

More information: [bit.ly/AEdKUG](http://bit.ly/AEdKUG)  
Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant – coordination & governance: [soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu](mailto:soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu)



## Present your 'connectivity' project in Utrecht

culture forum | Utrecht | 18-21 April 2012

The city of Utrecht is calling for proposals for presentations at the next Utrecht culture forum on 18-21 April 2012. In line with the main theme of the meeting, 'connectivity', presentations should focus on:

- the role of culture in urban development policies
- the various strategies developed to connect culture and creative industries to other aspects of city life
- a reflection on how cities manage to create an environment in which culture and creative industries can exist and flourish
- a reflection on the importance of connectivity and how cities manage to create partnerships (internal and external)

Colleagues from culture departments are encouraged to prepare their presentations in cooperation with colleagues from

other departments, such as planning, city development, economy, innovation or education, to offer different perspectives on the projects.

To submit a proposal, please contact Manuela Lageweg in Utrecht or Julie Hervé at our Brussels office before 16 March 2012 ■



photo credit: Jan Lankveld

Manuela Lageweg, project leader – culture, Utrecht: [m.lageweg@utrecht.nl](mailto:m.lageweg@utrecht.nl)  
Julie Hervé, policy officer – culture: [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)

## Open consultation - European charter for sustainable and responsible tourism

A stakeholder consultation on a European charter for sustainable and responsible tourism is now open until 20 April 2012. The charter, proposed by the European Commission, aims to create a common reference point for stakeholders promoting and supporting the competitiveness of the tourism sector. These include public authorities, destinations, businesses, tourists and other organisations.

The charter will define clear objectives and key principles to be followed in order to face up to the sustainability challenges of the sector, including a set of guidelines for the implementation. Significant impacts are expected on:

- tourism policies at national, regional and local level
- management of tourist destinations
- performance of all businesses within the industry
- choices made and actions taken by tourists

A European prize will be established for those stakeholders who respect the values set out in the programme.

Consultation: [bit.ly/A2HbJU](http://bit.ly/A2HbJU)

## EU-China year of intercultural dialogue

This year has been named the EU-China year of intercultural dialogue.

*The year aims to reinforce cooperation between the EU and China, promoting a better knowledge exchange between European and Chinese citizens.*



The programme is focused on all forms of people-to-people contact and mobility, as well as international exchanges in the fields of culture, education and youth.

Several events and projects will be hosted both by EU member states and China in order to strengthen civil society intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding.

A label has been developed to identify the events which are part of the official calendar of the year. Eligible events must take place before 30 November 2012, and involve partners or participants from two or more EU member states.

More information: [bit.ly/ypT67f](http://bit.ly/ypT67f)

## The European Creative Industries Alliance goes online

Launched in 2011 and supported by DG enterprise and industry, the European Creative Industries Alliance (ECIA) is an integrated policy initiative that combines policy learning with concrete actions on innovation vouchers, better access to finance and cluster excellence and cooperation. It brings together partner organisations including cities such as Amsterdam, Berlin, Lille, Nantes, Tampere and Warsaw.

The overall aim is to shape a community in Europe that actively supports creative industries as a driver for competitiveness, job creation and structural change, by developing and testing better policies and tools for creative industries.

ECIA's website is now live and provides useful information on the initiative.

ECIA website: [www.howtogrow.eu/ECIA](http://www.howtogrow.eu/ECIA)

## Council discusses draft procurement directives

Member states have backed the European Commission's proposals to modernise and clarify the rules governing public procurement, but debate continues over the degree of flexibility to be introduced. During a first public debate at the competitiveness Council, on 20 February 2012, ministers discussed the softening of rules, as suggested in the two texts proposed by the Commission on 20 December 2011. The two main points under discussion are flexibility and improved dialogue between parties, and the relaxing of rules for certain types of services.

The proposal allows for more cases in which member states can authorise a competitive negotiation procedure. The Commission believes that improved dialogue between contractors and providers could contribute to improving public purchases, making them more innovative and reducing costs.

The second issue was the proposal for more flexible rules for certain services, which are currently grouped together as 'list B', with others classed as 'list A'. The Commission has proposed to remove this distinction. It has also proposed the application of uniform rules to all services except social, cultural, education and health, which if their value is less than €500,000 are exempt from any procedural demands, while if it is greater, they would benefit from a simplified procurement regime.

The Council working group on public markets will produce political conclusions before the next Council in May.

We are developing a position on these procurement directives to be finalised in April ■

Itxaso Gomez, interim policy officer - procurement:  
[itxaso.gomez@eurocities.eu](mailto:itxaso.gomez@eurocities.eu)

## Completion of EU single market to improve economic growth



The competitiveness Council on 20 February 2012 concluded the following factors are all central to putting the European economy back on the road to growth: the completion of the single market, as proposed by Commissioner Barnier; better access to finance for SMEs; and the modernisation of public administration.

Ministers approved measures to ensure transparent, effective and quality public services, and more specifically, to review the impact of EU legislation and regulations, to improve the legal framework applicable to electronic signatures, identification and authentication, and the use of electronic public procurement.

*Our politicians will meet Commissioner Barnier this spring to discuss cities' role in the EU single market, public procurement and concessions.*

Marie Ranty, policy officer – economic development:  
[marie.ranty@eurocities.eu](mailto:marie.ranty@eurocities.eu)

## Erasmus for entrepreneurs – call for proposals!

On 20 February 2012, DG enterprise and industry published a call for proposals for local contact points and intermediary organisations as part of the new Erasmus for entrepreneurs programme.

The call aims to help new entrepreneurs in Europe enrich their experiences, network with and learn from experienced entrepreneurs. New entrepreneurs will gain experience in enterprises run by experienced entrepreneurs in other member states and in other countries participating in the Competitiveness and Innovation programme. The current call is for organisations to enhance and facilitate the mobility of new entrepreneurs.

Eligible organisations include:

- public entities responsible for, or active in, the fields of economic affairs, enterprise, business support or related issues
- business support organisations, start up centres and incubators
- public and private entities offering business support services
- chambers of commerce and industry

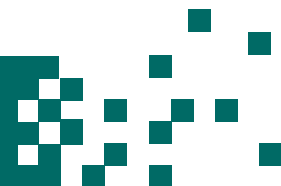


Interested parties may apply individually or as part of a consortium. The total budget for the call is €3.1 million, providing funding for 17-20 projects. The maximum funding per partnership is €180,000, with a funding cap per individual applicant of €150,000. Eligible costs can be co-financed up to 90%. Actions should start in February 2013 and last for two years.

The deadline for applications is 31 May 2012. You can find out more at the link below.

Erasmus call for proposals: [bit.ly/y4lv7C](http://bit.ly/y4lv7C)

Julie Hervé, policy officer – culture (and entrepreneurship): [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)



## CASCADE in Genoa and Birmingham

Last month Genoa and Birmingham hosted the first two CASCADE peer learning visits. The Genoa visit focused on how the city is promoting renewable energy and distributed energy generation at local level. City experts from Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Gateshead, Gijon and Venice interviewed representatives from all levels of the city council as well as local stakeholders. The second peer learning visit looked at Birmingham's Energy Savers programme, an initiative aimed at promoting energy efficiency in buildings and districts. City experts from Eindhoven, Malmö, Mannheim,

Milan, Tampere and Warsaw met with the stakeholders involved in this large-scale building refurbishment programme.

These visits follow the peer learning methodology which involves examining how cities are implementing local energy policies based on common principles (benchmarks). Upcoming CASCADE visits will take place in Amsterdam, Nantes, Sunderland and Tampere.

Janice Pauwels of Edinburgh Council participated in the Genoa event:



*"I wasn't sure what to expect from the peer learning process before Genoa but I can see real potential as a tool for improving policy and practice across a range of themes."* ■



CASCADE: [www.cascadecities.eu](http://www.cascadecities.eu)  
Jorgina Cuixart, project officer – environment: [jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu](mailto:jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu)

### Energy committee supports renovation of 2.5% of public buildings per year

On 28 February 2012, the European Parliament's energy committee (ITRE) voted on the draft report on the energy efficiency directive by MEP Claude Turmes. While the vote in plenary is still due, this is an important step towards defining the Parliament's position on the dossier.

The committee supports an annual renovation target of 2.5% for public buildings larger than 250m<sup>2</sup>, as of 2014. The renovations should lead to at least 75% energy savings. The 2.5% renovation target should be calculated on the basis of the heated and/or cooled floor area of the buildings concerned. Public bodies, such as cities, would have some flexibility in achieving the objective. Renovations taking place four years either side of the year in question could be counted towards the annual target. According to the Committee text, historic buildings and churches, as well as temporary buildings, can be exempted from the obligation to renovate.

Member states could also opt for alternative energy efficiency strategies to replace the public building renovation, as long as these strategies achieve the same level of energy savings.

When public authorities buy products, systems, services and buildings, MEPs in ITRE would like them to be able to consider not only energy efficiency, but also health impact, cost effectiveness, and economic feasibility of their purchase.

Parliament is expected to vote on the directive on 11 June 2012.

European Commission – proposal for an energy efficiency directive: [bit.ly/A3e6k1](http://bit.ly/A3e6k1)  
European Parliament draft report by MEP Claude Turmes: [bit.ly/xunfLg](http://bit.ly/xunfLg)  
Michael Klinkenberg, policy officer – environment: [michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu](mailto:michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu)

### The Bristol example: green and digital

A short video produced by the Covenant of Mayors Office investigates the change that has taken place in Bristol since signing the Covenant of Mayors on 3 February 2009.

Each signatory of the Covenant voluntarily commits to ambitious CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction targets. Barbara Janke, Leader of Bristol City Council, says of Bristol's targets: "Our most ambitious target is a 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020. Joining the Covenant helps us with our reputation for being a testbed for new technology and for wanting to push back the barriers and explore new frontiers."

Stephen Hilton, Bristol's Futures director explains: "Bristol Futures is a new grouping of different teams within Bristol's city council helping to achieve our climate change ambitions. It is about creating a place where low-carbon businesses are taken for granted and about creating a city that has a real quality of life."

The video explores how this is translated into reality. Visits to a shopping centre, a community centre, a household and the traffic control centre, show how these plans are implemented and have become part of the every day lives of local communities in Bristol.

Get inspired by Bristol's example and watch the video at the link below.

The Covenant of Mayors Office also supports the development of case studies, publishing one per EU member state. Covenant signatories can send information on projects or actions that have been implemented within the framework of the Covenant. A description, facts and results, timeline and contact details are required. Published case studies are available at the link below.

Bristol video: [bit.ly/ztl6k2](http://bit.ly/ztl6k2)  
Case studies: [bit.ly/zlOPRC](http://bit.ly/zlOPRC)  
Dion Wierts, project officer – climate and energy: [dion.wierts@eurocities.eu](mailto:dion.wierts@eurocities.eu)

## New GDC toolkit now available

To support the implementation of the Green Digital Charter, the NiCE project has developed a set of tools to support cities in the reporting and implementation of their activities. The first set is now available online.

Three reporting tools have been designed to assess cities' statuses and compare their performance around Charter activities. A reporting tool provides cities with an initial set of qualitative and quantitative indicators for assessing the progress towards the Charter goals. The tool for reporting ICT footprint provides access to existing standards and methods to enable cities to measure, compare and report on ICT's direct carbon footprint at city level. A reporting tool on Green Digital Charter and Covenant of Mayors offers recommendations enabling cities to highlight the ICT dimension of their progress towards Covenant commitments, without creating an extra burden through separate processes.

A set of action tools also provides cities with an early catalogue of resources, and will be made available in the future development of the document.

They will be tested and validated by the NiCE reference cities group in three steps, with the final versions published June 2013.

You can download the first version of the tools on the Green Digital Charter portal using the link below ■



Green Digital Charter tools:  
[www.greendigitalcharter.eu/resources/green-digital-charter-toolkit](http://www.greendigitalcharter.eu/resources/green-digital-charter-toolkit)  
 Giulia Campodonico, project officer – knowledge society:  
[giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu](mailto:giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu)

## International workshop on open data Nantes | 25 May 2012

The first international workshop on open data will be held in Nantes on 25 May 2012. It is one of the first events focusing on new and exciting challenges offered by the emerging issue of open data. It aims to facilitate new trends and ideas from a broad range of topics within the open data movement and will have a special focus on the role of municipal governments.



More information: [sites.google.com/site/opendata2012](http://sites.google.com/site/opendata2012)  
 Hervé Jaigu, innovation project manager, Nantes Métropole:  
[hervé.jaigu@nantesmetropole.fr](mailto:hervé.jaigu@nantesmetropole.fr)

## Knowledge society forum meets in Berlin this month

### knowledge society forum | Berlin | 20-21 March 2012

Berlin will host the next knowledge society forum meeting on 20-21 March 2012. The meeting will allow time for working groups to meet and discuss activities. Individual invitations will be sent by the separate working groups to brief members on their sessions.

A detailed programme, registration and information on recommended hotels are all available at the link below. Registration closes on 19 March 2012.

Event information: [www.eventbrite.com/event/2767284021](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2767284021)  
 Jan Franke, policy officer – knowledge society:  
[jan.franke@eurocities.eu](mailto:jan.franke@eurocities.eu)

## IREEN – a new project led by Manchester

Manchester is the project coordinator for the IREEN (ICT Roadmap for Energy Efficient Neighbourhoods) FP7 project.

IREEN is a coordination and support action project funded under the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. It will deliver a comprehensive strategy and uptake in the field of technology for energy efficiency. The project began on 1 September 2011 and will run for two years.

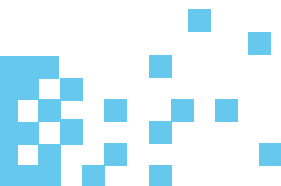
The aim of IREEN is to examine how ICT for energy efficiency and performance in individual households can be extended to cover neighbourhoods and communities.

Manchester will publish four newsletters over the duration of the project, keeping partners up to date with the activities, outcomes and events related to the project. Manchester invites other



EUROCITIES members to join its network of contacts.

More information: [www.ireenproject.eu](http://www.ireenproject.eu)  
 Registration for project news: [www.ireenproject.eu/sign-up-for-the-ireen-newsletter](http://www.ireenproject.eu/sign-up-for-the-ireen-newsletter)  
 Martine Tommis, principal digital development officer, Manchester Digital Development Agency: [m.tommis@manchesterdda.com](mailto:m.tommis@manchesterdda.com)



## Commission appoints European ITS advisory group

Following the adoption of an EU directive and action plan on intelligent transport systems (ITS) in 2010, on 27 January 2012 the European Commission created a European ITS advisory group. Twenty five members (see link below) from relevant ITS service providers, associations of users, local authorities, transport and facilities operators, will provide the European Commission with advice on the business and technical aspects of the deployment and use of ITS in Europe.

In 2010, the European Commission moved its focus to urban ITS, setting up an urban ITS expert group with local authorities and their main partners to promote the deployment of urban ITS up until the end of 2012. It develops guidance on travel information, traffic management (including urban logistics) and smart ticketing. Three of our members participate in this group: Vienna, Oslo and London.

The deployment of ITS will be the main theme of the next mobility forum meeting in Helmond on 27-28 March 2012, where participants will debate the role of local governments in the deployment of ITS and on their expectations in implementing these new solutions.



*Cities have a central role to play in helping to move towards the implementation of, and development of a market for, ITS ■*

Advisory group members: [bit.ly/y5CWGI](http://bit.ly/y5CWGI)

More information: [bit.ly/zOYXnf](http://bit.ly/zOYXnf)

Vanessa Holve, policy officer- mobility: [vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu](mailto:vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu)

### MEPs exchange on new TEN-T guidelines

On 27 February 2012, the European Parliament's transport committee held a first discussion on the proposal for the revision of the TEN-T guidelines, put forward by the European Commission last October.

MEPs Koumoutsakos and Ertug, co-rapporteurs on this dossier, request a clearer definition of the roles of coordinators responsible for ensuring good coordination between the various funding instruments. MEPs also wish to see more commitment from member states in the financing of the new TEN-T. Funding was presented as the most important aspect of the new TEN-T strategy, and the Parliament will work closely with the co-rapporteurs on

the Connecting Europe facility regulation. MEPs will hold a first exchange of views on this on 27 March 2012.

The Parliament will present a draft report on the new TEN-T guidelines at the end of May 2012, with a final vote in plenary by the beginning of 2013. A Parliament hearing on the corridors methodology and TEN-T requirements will take place on 8 May 2012.

We have contributed to the consultation leading up to the revised TEN-T guidelines and recently produced two statements on these guidelines and on the Connecting Europe facility (see front page).

More information: [bit.ly/y9yeCh](http://bit.ly/y9yeCh)  
Vanessa Holve, policy officer- mobility:  
[vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu](mailto:vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu)

### Transfer sessions: a tool for in depth best practice exchange

As part of our work within the EPOMM-PLUS project, we are organising a new format of meeting: the 'transfer session', aimed at promoting effective exchanges and developing the simple presentation of good practices. It is designed to bring city representatives together to exchange in detail on measures and actions, as well as building a transfer action plan together.



The transfer session will bring together two main actors: an 'exporting city', teaching a measure, and an 'importing city', wishing to implement this measure. The transfer is a three-part process focusing on the presentation of the measure, a series of questions set by the importer to build a discussion, and an action plan built up together. When the transfer roadmap is finished, the complete document serves as an aid for the importing city and for any other city wishing to work on the same measure.

In order to develop these transfer sessions, we are looking for volunteer cities willing to exchange in depth on policy, legislation, governance and implementation measures on environmentally-friendly transport projects, such as campaigns for promoting cycling to school or tools to deal with traffic during major road works.

Our member cities are invited to express their interest in:

- becoming an 'exporter city': if you have a successful project related to environmentally-friendly transport or mobility management in your city and are eager to share your experience
- becoming an 'importer city': if your city and/or your mayor is keen to develop environmentally-friendly transport or wishes to know more on this issue
- If interested, please contact Yannick Bousse at our Brussels office.

Yannick Bousse, project support officer – mobility: [yannick.bousse@eurocities.eu](mailto:yannick.bousse@eurocities.eu)  
EPOMM-PLUS: [bit.ly/zuBDxk](http://bit.ly/zuBDxk)

## European Council promotes active inclusion

The implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy in the field of employment and social policy was an important issue for February's employment, social policy, health and consumer affairs European Council meeting in Brussels.

The Council confirmed that in the current challenging economic and social climate, tackling youth unemployment should be a priority. It also acknowledged a number of reports illustrating that the EU is not on track to achieve its 2020 employment and poverty reduction objectives. The reports, drafted by the employment and social protection committees, paint a worrying picture of high unemployment rates and poor employment prospects combined with an increasing number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion. They also note an increase in people living in severe material deprivation, the 'working poor', with increased dependency on social benefits and higher risks of debt.

The ministers adopted very general conclusions entitled 'priorities for action in the areas of employment and social policies: political guidance in 2012'. They urge member states to push forward the implementation

of growth and structural reforms, as recommended by the European Commission, to build sustainable conditions for employment. These reforms would include tackling poverty and exclusion through active inclusion strategies that combine adequate income, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services.

*Research findings from last year by our nine Cities for Active Inclusion show that coordinated active inclusion policies, especially when applied locally, are best suited to responding to these challenges.*

Active inclusion programmes which link employment and social services with government, NGOs, education and training providers and the business community have proven to be particularly effective ■



Mirte Kortbeek, social policy researcher:  
[mirte.kortbeek@eurocities.eu](mailto:mirte.kortbeek@eurocities.eu)

### Cities for Active Inclusion – what's coming up in 2012

During the 2012 European Year of active ageing and intergenerational solidarity, our Cities for Active Inclusion will continue researching on the topic of demographic change and its different dimensions. Findings will be published later this year on the territorial aspects of demographic change, active inclusion of elderly people, family friendly policies and how to adapt local services.

Over the period May to October 2012, each of the nine cities – Birmingham, Bologna, Brno, Copenhagen, Krakow, Lille Metropole Roubaix, Rotterdam, Sofia and Stockholm – will organise a national workshop to inform national, regional and local stakeholders of EU developments on active inclusion, and present the main findings and good practices identified in their research activities.

Study visits looking at two good practice examples will also take place. The first will be hosted by the city of Bologna looking at the important role of social economy, local associations and their relationship with the institutions in the implementation of active inclusion policies. The second will take place in Rotterdam looking at a territorial active inclusion initiative targeted at The Netherlands' most deprived large urban area.

More information on the meetings will be published on the Cities for Active Inclusion website.

Cities for Active Inclusion: [www.eurocities-nlao.eu](http://www.eurocities-nlao.eu)  
Susana Forjan, project officer- social affairs: [susana.forjan@eurocities.eu](mailto:susana.forjan@eurocities.eu)

### EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum meeting

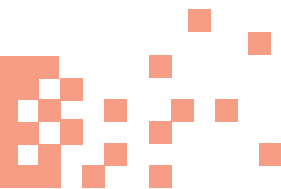
*social affairs forum | Brussels | 27-28 March 2012*

The first social affairs forum meeting of 2012 will take place in Brussels on the 27-28 March 2012. The meeting, co-organised with the Brussels Capital Region, will focus on active ageing and how cities can adapt their services and infrastructure to ageing populations.



Participants will discuss European initiatives on active ageing, and the meeting will provide a platform for cities to present what is already happening in local employment policies, barrier-free design of housing and public spaces or social service provision during speednetworking sessions. On the afternoon of the 28th, site visits around Brussels will provide further insight into concrete projects around active ageing.

Anna Drozd, programme officer social inclusion – PROGRESS:  
[anna.drozd@eurocities.eu](mailto:anna.drozd@eurocities.eu)



## Estonoesunsolar – this is not a plot

The city of Zaragoza took home the participation award at our last annual conference, EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa, for its 'estonoesunsolar' ('thisisnotaplot') project. The initiative began as an employment scheme to reintegrate people back into the labour market in the wake of the economic crisis. Workers were recruited, via the National Employment Institute, to help clear up disused plots of land in the historic city centre. Soon enough, the city began to recognise the potential for these empty plots, deciding to transform them for new urban uses.



To ensure that the new plots would meet the needs of local residents, the city established 'municipal district boards'. The boards were made up of residents from all backgrounds, and belonging to various different organisations, from school associations to cultural centres. This created a participatory process by which local residents were able to

decide the proposed uses for the plots over a series of meetings, with all participants required to meet a unanimous decision.

So far, plots have been transformed into children's playgrounds, basketball courts, urban gardens and squares. The project has the double advantage of reviving run down areas and bringing local citizens together, fostering a sense of cohesion and ownership in the local community.

The project has proven so successful that other districts of the city wanted to get involved. It began in the historic centre in 2009, but by 2010 the budget had been increased and the project was being replicated across the whole city.

For the full case study, please visit the link below ■



Estonoesunsolar – thisisnotaplot: [bit.ly/AaP5lt](http://bit.ly/AaP5lt)  
Rose Montgomery, communications assistant: [rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu](mailto:rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu)

## Mapping urban vulnerability in Spain

Spain's Department of Architecture, Housing and Land Development has created a new tool for mapping urban vulnerability in its regions

The new 'Atlas of Urban Vulnerability', available in Spanish and English, allows users to map particularly vulnerable areas of the country according to various indicators. The online map features interactive filters – 21 'urban vulnerability indicators' – grouped into four chapters: socioeconomic vulnerability, sociodemographic vulnerability, housing vulnerability and subjective perception vulnerability. Out of the 21, three of these indicators are considered to be 'basic indicators of urban vulnerability': percentage of unemployed, percentage of illiterate and percentage of population without adequate sanitary facilities at home.

The interactive map also allows for comparison of urban vulnerability between regions and within the national context. The map covers all the municipalities in Spain and is currently based upon information from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, but is expected to be updated shortly with information from the 2011 Census.



Atlas of urban vulnerability: [atlasvulnerabilidadurbana.vivienda.es](http://atlasvulnerabilidadurbana.vivienda.es)

## Underconstructions – an observatory of innovative architectural and urban processes

Underconstructions, established by the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP), is an observatory of innovative architectural practices. The idea behind the observatory is to bring together a collection of research, experiences and observations from a variety of stakeholders, and to serve as a means of exchanging and disseminating information and good practices in the field of innovative architectural and urban processes.

Stakeholders, from architects to artists, residents and politicians, are invited to submit a paper of up to 3,000 words to the observatory. A selection of papers will be published in a book which will be launched during the 2012 Venice Biennale of Architecture.

For more information about Underconstructions and the call for papers, please visit the link below.

Underconstructions: [bit.ly/z1JYrt](http://bit.ly/z1JYrt)

If you have some news about your city you'd like to share, contact Rose Montgomery ([rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu](mailto:rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu))

gijón

10-11 May 2012

## EUROCITIES COOPERATION PLATFORM 2012



An opportunity for EUROCITIES members and contact officers to network and find out how to get the most out of EUROCITIES membership

Register: [cooperationplatform2012.eventbrite.com](http://cooperationplatform2012.eventbrite.com)

(cities can register up to two participants, subject to venue capacity)

photo credit: Alba García Álvarez

<b>5th summit of Europe's regions and cities</b>	<b>Copenhagen, Denmark</b>	<b>22-23 March 2012</b>
The European urban fabric in the 21st century		<a href="http://bit.ly/AEdKUG">bit.ly/AEdKUG</a>
<b>European Commission conference on smart energy and sustainable ICT</b>	<b>Brussels, Belgium</b>	<b>3-4 May 2012</b>
Smart grids, sustainable ICT and smart cities		<a href="http://bit.ly/AiOEF5">bit.ly/AiOEF5</a>
<b>Stockholm summit for top level school leaders</b>	<b>Stockholm, Sweden</b>	<b>28-30 May 2012</b>
International conference for school superintendents		<a href="http://bit.ly/yVPp8e">bit.ly/yVPp8e</a>
<b>Universal Design 2012 Oslo</b>	<b>Oslo, Norway</b>	<b>11-13 June 2012</b>
Dismantling physical and social barriers		<a href="http://www.ud2012.no">www.ud2012.no</a>
<b>ECOMM 2012</b>	<b>Frankfurt am Main, Germany</b>	<b>12-15 June 2012</b>
European conference on mobility management		<a href="http://bit.ly/y02UVW">bit.ly/y02UVW</a>

More events at: [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)

EUROCITIES Flash is published by EUROCITIES Brussels office.

© EUROCITIES 2012

Please send any contributions and comments to: [members@eurocities.eu](mailto:members@eurocities.eu)

**Publisher**  
Paul Bevan, Secretary General

**Editor**  
Rose Montgomery

**Layout**  
Rob Harris Productions

EUROCITIES

1 Square de Meeûs  
1000 Brussels  
Tel: +32 2 552 0888  
Fax: +32 2 552 0889  
e-mail: [info@eurocities.eu](mailto:info@eurocities.eu)

[www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)

