



PRESS RELEASE - 30 September 2014 - BRUSSELS

EU urban agenda: how to make it work

If the EU is to deliver its strategic objectives for a smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe, it needs the support of its cities.

Speaking ahead of an event organised jointly by the Italian EU presidency and the mayor of Rome on an EU urban agenda on 1 October, Johanna Rolland, mayor of Nantes said:

“We want an EU urban agenda that empowers cities to drive smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for Europe. It can do this by promoting joined-up policies for cities, and by engaging us directly in the development of policies.”

EUROCITIES, the network of Europe’s large cities, believes that an urban agenda at EU level should be based on a practical and coherent approach that directly involves cities in EU policy making. A successful urban agenda should:

- **Respect subsidiarity** by developing a framework for better policy coordination and involvement of cities in policy and programme development, rather than creating new legislation for cities.
- **Get cities around the table** by involving them as partners in decisions at member state level on investment priorities, strategic policy development and programming related to Europe 2020 and the structural funds.
- **Maintain an urban dialogue** by hosting regular informal Council meetings on urban policy, and biennial urban summits at EU level gathering all government levels and urban stakeholders.
- **Better coordinate policies with an urban dimension** by appointing an urban envoy in the Commission to join up policies and different government levels.
- **Strengthen the involvement of cities in EU policy development** through genuine collaboration and partnership, rather than consultations.

Anna Lisa Boni, EUROCITIES secretary general, said:

“EUROCITIES will continue to support the shaping of an urban agenda working both with member states and the Commission, and with the Parliament as a key ally. With the direct contribution of cities, we can make sure that an urban agenda takes a practical and concrete approach, reflecting urban priorities on the ground.”

EUROCITIES was the only European network invited to attend the meeting in Rome. The event was preceded by a meeting of capital cities, during which regional and urban policy commissioner Johannes Hahn gave an overview of responses to the consultation on an EU urban agenda, which closed on 26 September.

ENDS

Notes to editors

- EUROCITIES policy paper on an EU urban agenda: <http://bit.ly/1qkWopK>
- EUROCITIES response to European Commission consultation: <http://bit.ly/1qQTaGI>
- Dorthe Nielsen, EUROCITIES senior policy advisor: dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu
- EUROCITIES: www.eurocities.eu
- EUROCITIES on Twitter: www.twitter.com/eurociestweet

EUROCITIES is the political platform for major European cities towards the European institutions. We network the local governments of over 130 of Europe’s largest cities and 40 partner cities that between them govern some 130 million citizens across 35 countries.