



MEDIA ADVISORY - 22 February 2016 - BRUSSELS

Big city mayors meet two key commissioners on
Europe's employment crisis

WHAT: Mayors of major European cities are meeting European Commissioners Thyssen (employment, social affairs, skills and labour mobility) and Bieńkowska (internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs) on 22 February to discuss the crucial role played by cities in addressing Europe's employment crisis and how they should work in closer partnership with the European Commission.

WHO:

- Marianne Thyssen, European commissioner for employment, social affairs, skills and labour mobility
- Johanna Rolland, mayor of Nantes and EURO CITIES president
- Daniël Termont, mayor of Ghent and EURO CITIES vice president

Will all be available to speak to the media from 15.15 to 15.45.

WHY:

- **Jobs and growth are top of the Juncker Commission's agenda:** Three quarters of Europe's population lives in cities. Cities have the knowledge, experience, insight and expertise to shape better European employment policies.
- **The European Commission is set to launch its Agenda on Skills:** This is an opportunity to tap into cities' knowledge and insights into closing the skills gap.
- **Youth and long term unemployment are pressing European challenges:** Cities have plenty of experience in dealing with these challenges and are willing to contribute to the EU initiatives in this field.
- **Our cities need Europe, and Europe needs our cities:** Europe's competitiveness depends on our urban economies being dynamic, innovative, inclusive and creating new jobs.

WHEN: 22 February 2016, 14.00-17.45

WHERE: Martin's Brussels EU Hotel, Boulevard Charlemagne 80, Brussels

CONTACT: If you would like to arrange an interview, please contact Rose Montgomery, communications executive: rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu; +32 495 298 594

EUROCITIES: established in 1986, EURO CITIES 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. www.eurocities.eu

BACKGROUND: We launched the EURO CITIES Declaration on Work in February 2015 as a commitment by the mayors of major European cities to work with the EU institutions in their efforts to create jobs and inclusive labour markets. EURO CITIES politicians are in Brussels on 22 February to meet Commissioners Thyssen and Bieńkowska as part of the implementation of this declaration. 'Jobs and skills' is one of the priorities of the EU urban agenda.

On 22 February, we will launch a website on work at www.citiesatwork.eu.

ENDS