



**MEDIA ADVISORY - 30 October 2013 -  
BRUSSELS**

**EUROCITIES 2013 Ghent**  
**Smart citizens**

Media contact: Sebastien Pant, public relations  
executive, EUROCITIES

Tel. +32 2 552 08 86; [sebastien.pant@eurocities.eu](mailto:sebastien.pant@eurocities.eu)

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**WHAT:** EUROCITIES, the network of Europe's major cities, will gather around 400 delegates including mayors, vice-mayors and local government leaders for its annual conference in Ghent, Belgium, on 27-29 November 2013.

The conference theme, 'smart citizens', will explore how innovation and new technology can be used to empower citizens and build more inclusive and more sustainable societies.

The conference will feature a mayors' debate with politicians from the cities of Amsterdam, Bologna, Karlsruhe, Stockholm and Tampere sharing their views and experiences of engaging with smart citizens. The event will also include thematic workshops and speed networking sessions.

In addition, Ghent will host the 2013 edition of the EUROCITIES awards ceremony on the evening of Wednesday, 27 November. This year, nine projects have been selected over three themes: smart governance, smart jobs, and smart living. Shortlisted cities include Edinburgh, Gijon, Helsinki, Birmingham, Brighton & Hove, Vienna and Ljubljana.

**WHO:** Interventions will be given by

- Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy
- Daniel Termont, mayor of Ghent
- Dan Hill, CEO of Fabrica

The panel debate will be moderated by Nick Conrad, a BBC journalist and writer.

**WHEN:** 27-29 November 2013

**WHERE:** Bijloke conference venue, Godshuizenlaan 2, 9000 Ghent

**PRESS RSVP:** registration for media is free. Contact Sebastien Pant for more information.

**EUROCITIES:** established in 1986, 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.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** [www.eurocities2013.eu](http://www.eurocities2013.eu) and follow us on Twitter, @EUROCITIEStweet and @eurocitiesGhent.

The hashtag for this event is #eurocities2013.

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