



MEDIA ADVISORY - 15 October 2012 -  
BRUSSELS

## EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes

### A new city politics

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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 Nantes, France on 7-10 November 2012.

The conference theme, 'a new city politics', will explore innovative ways that cities can, and are, better engaging citizens in public policy and planning.

The theme will be addressed through a mayors' debate, offering concrete examples from mayors across Europe, as well as thematic workshops and speednetworking sessions. Participants will be able to see first hand how Nantes is tackling the challenge of citizen engagement and hear directly from local politicians what is happening in their cities.

Nantes will also host the 2012 edition of the prestigious EUROCITIES awards ceremony. The shortlist for the three award categories was announced in August: Glasgow (UK), Oulu (FI), The Hague (NL) - innovation; Ghent (BE), Konya (TR), Oslo (NO) - cooperation; and Berlin (DE), Glasgow (UK), Sunderland (UK) - participation ([bit.ly/RrZzlr](http://bit.ly/RrZzlr)).

**WHO:** keynote addresses will be given by:

- Joan Font, expert on local participation and political abstention
- Cécile Van de Velde, expert on public youth policies
- Patrick Rimbart, mayor of Nantes
- Frank Jensen, lord mayor of Copenhagen and president of EUROCITIES

The panel debate will be moderated by Max Cotton, a British journalist and broadcaster with 20 years of experience as a political reporter in London.

**WHEN:** 7-10 November 2012

**WHERE:** La Cité Nantes Events Center, Nantes

**PRESS RSVP:** registration for the media is free. Contact Nicola Vatthauer for more information, details above.

**EUROCITIES:** established in 1986, EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities. It brings together the local authorities of 135 large cities in 36 European countries.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** [www.eurocities2012.eu](http://www.eurocities2012.eu) and follow us on Twitter, @EUROCITIEStweet via #EUROCITIES2012

*Situated on the river Loire, Nantes is home to 600,000 inhabitants and has a thriving economy based on both traditional and modern industry, from shipbuilding to biotechnology. Under the leadership of former mayor Jean-Marc Ayrault, who has handed over the role to Patrick Rimbart having been named prime minister of France, Nantes has been focusing closely on relationships with its citizens and ways to further engage its inhabitants in public activities and planning. Nantes' policy focuses on*

- *innovation and investment in cultural creativity*
- *social cohesion*
- *environmental protection (European Green Capital 2013)*
- *a commitment to Europe*

*Nantes has been a member of EUROCITIES since 1997; Nantes is a member of the EUROCITIES executive committee, where they currently hold the post of treasurer.*

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