



MEDIA ADVISORY - 15 February 2012 - BRUSSELS

EUROCITIES Integrating Cities V conference - Amsterdam

Making integration work in Europe's cities

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WHAT: EUROCITIES, the network of Europe's largest cities, will gather around 200 mayors, vice-mayors and local government leaders for its fifth Integrating Cities conference, taking place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 8 - 9 March 2012.

The conference will focus on cities as areas for social cohesion and intercultural dialogue, addressing the strategic partnership between Europe's cities and the European Union to implement the EU migrant integration agenda.

The Integrating Cities V conference explores how local authorities address the challenges of integrating migrants into the host society through policies and projects which respond to the needs of citizens.

Taking part in the high-level policy dialogue will be representatives from the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the cities of Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen, Helsinki, and Nantes. There will be workshops, masterclasses and site visits. The cities of Rennes and Riga will sign the Integrating Cities Charter, adding to the 24 cities that signed since 2010.

WHO: the conference will feature keynote addresses by:

- Stefano Manservigi, Director General for Home Affairs, European Commission;
- Ricard Zapata-Barrero, Professor of Political Science, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain;
- Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology, Columbia University, USA;
- Eberhard van der Laan, Mayor of Amsterdam;
- Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of Rotterdam.

WHEN: 8 - 9 March 2012.

WHERE: Felix Meritis, European Centre for Art, Culture and Science, Amsterdam.

PRESS RSVP: To register or for interviews and related enquiries, journalists should contact Caroline Greene (details above). Registration for the media is free.

EUROCITIES: established in 1986, EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities. It brings together the local authorities of 135 large cities in 34 European countries.

Integrating Cities is a policy dialogue between EUROCITIES and the European Commission's DG Home Affairs to promote the implementation of the Common Basic Principles on Integration at local level and the Integrating Cities Charter. It is based on a series of conferences and work programmes. Visit: www.integratingcities2012.eu.

Amsterdam is home to 780,000 inhabitants with 180 different nationalities, making it an ideal background against which to discuss integration, diversity and citizenship.

Additional information: Follow us on Twitter, @EUROCITIESweet via #IntegratingCities2012.

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