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EUROCITIES 2012
NANTES 07-10 NOVEMBER

A NEW CITY POLITICS
innovation . inspiration . involvement

EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes

A new city politics

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City leaders from across Europe meet today in Nantes for the first day of the EUROCITIES annual conference. Local politicians will discuss how, through ‘a new city politics’, we can engage our citizens, particularly young people, more in the political process.

Around 400 participants, nearly 70 of them city mayors and senior politicians, are attending EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes, which runs until 10 November 2012.

Patrick Rimbert, mayor of Nantes, will open the conference together with EUROCITIES president Frank Jensen, lord mayor of Copenhagen. Discussions will begin with keynote speeches by two academic experts, drawing on their research into citizen participation, youth involvement and local democracy, followed by a debate featuring mayors and vice-mayors from Bratislava, Cologne, Malmo and Turin.

Frank Jensen looked forward to the conference:

“As city mayors, we are all looking for new ways to get citizens interested in local politics, and especially young people, the future of our cities. We need to focus on equipping citizens with the skills and confidence needed to take a more active role in city life.”

Through a series of workshops the host city, Nantes, will showcase examples of how its citizens are contributing to political renewal in a variety of policy areas - from cultural expression to urban regeneration and youth inclusion.

Patrick Rimbert, mayor of Nantes, explains:

“Today, involving citizens is taking on many new forms. We are focusing specifically on youth at this conference. We recognise that many young people in Europe can’t find their place in our societies. But all youth *is* a creative force. It is our responsibility as political decision makers to develop new ways of involvement.”

During a private political session, mayors will debate how to better engage with citizens and Europe and enhance their understanding of the benefits of belonging to the EU.

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Note to editors:

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