



PRESS RELEASE - 24 OCTOBER 2011 - WARSAW

## Investment in metropolitan Europe will drive recovery - Warsaw cohesion conference hears

Representing EURO CITIES in Warsaw at the Polish EU presidency conference on territorial cohesion, Tomasz Kayser, Deputy Mayor of Poznan, said:

"We welcome warmly the Commission draft regulations as a strong starting point for achieving an ambitious urban agenda in the future cohesion policy. There are clearly many innovations with the potential to strengthen the role of cities delivering integrated development on the ground. Investment in metropolitan Europe will drive smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for the benefit of all - not only for those living in cities."

Mr Kayser highlighted the concrete impact of cohesion policy in his city, where the cohesion fund is supporting investment in public transport and waste management. "This is how Europe directly benefits the quality of life of Poznan's citizens", he said.

Commenting on the involvement of partners in partnership contracts and operational programmes, Mr Kayser stressed that elected governments, and in particular the leaders of major cities, must be around the table. The direct involvement of local government is necessary to achieve coherent strategies, efficient spending and better value for money. As the political platform for Europe's major cities, EURO CITIES is also interested in the expanded EU dialogue promised by the Commission's proposal for an 'urban platform'.

On the minimum of 5% allocation for integrated urban development, Mr Kayser added: "if we agree that the integrated approach is the most effective, then we should be committed to resourcing it ambitiously. Nevertheless, this is a good start and we welcome the delegation of funds to cities".

EURO CITIES also welcomes the recognition that a focus on functional areas will assist territorial cohesion. EURO CITIES recently issued two reports linked to this variable geography.

Mr Kayser concluded: "As Europe's major cities, we look forward to working constructively with the European Parliament, national governments and the Commission to finalise a good set of regulations with effective instruments for cities."

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### Note to editors

- EURO CITIES is the network of major European cities: [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)
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*\*Beyond boundaries: functional urban areas matter, <http://tinyurl.com/6kly5us>  
A practitioner's view on neighbourhood regeneration: issues, approaches and experiences in European cities*