

## EUROCITIES 2014 Munich: what makes a city 'good'?

Speaking for the first time about the 'good' city, Professor Simon Anholt delivered the keynote speech at our annual conference in Munich on 5-8 November. He said:

"The most pressing problems facing cities today are borderless - climate change, energy security, poverty and inequality, amongst others. If cities are to cope with these challenges, and remain competitive, attractive places to live, they need to work together on common solutions. A successful city is a 'good' city, one that looks outwards, not inwards."

The event this year focused on 'energy intelligent cities'. Dieter Reiter, mayor of Munich, said:

"Reconciling the growing demand for energy with social and environmental issues is a challenge and at the same time an opportunity for cities. In Munich, we're coming up with creative solutions, like integrated mobility stations to make walking, cycling and taking public transport more convenient, and making the most of our natural resources to generate green electricity."

Mayors from Athens, Bristol, Dortmund, Kyiv, Oslo, Tampere, Vienna and Zurich discussed how cities can contribute to mitigating climate change and making the transition to sustainable energy. They were joined by representatives from the conference business partners, BMW and Siemens, and representatives from civil society.

Ahead of the main conference, three EUROCITIES members were recognised for their inspiring projects linked to this theme. Revealed at a ceremony on 5 November, the winners are:

- Cooperation - Liverpool, REECH initiative
- Innovation - Vilnius, interactive energy classification map
- Participation - Malaga, energy efficiency refurbishment in social housing through participation

Meeting for a private political discussion, some 60 politicians discussed how to better involve cities in European policy making by pushing for a city-led EU urban agenda.

The conference also marked the end of Warsaw's presidency of EUROCITIES. Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, mayor of Warsaw, officially handed over to Johanna Rolland, mayor of Nantes, who outlined her vision for EUROCITIES:

"A strong EUROCITIES position on an EU urban agenda will help to maintain the urban momentum into the next Commission. We are also looking forward to strengthening our dialogue with the European Parliament to ensure that cities have a greater say in the policies that impact on their citizens."

Ghent, represented by mayor Daniël Termont, becomes vice president.

ENDS

### Notes to editors

- EUROCITIES: [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)
- EUROCITIES 2014 Munich (including information on awards): [www.eurocities2014.eu](http://www.eurocities2014.eu)
- EUROCITIES on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/eurociestweet](https://twitter.com/eurociestweet)

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.