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## EU cohesion policy on the right track

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Reacting to the fifth cohesion report issued today, EUROCIITIES' finds the European Commission's main assessments to be a step in the right direction.

Crucially, the paper proposes a wider involvement of cities in the design and implementation of the EU cohesion policy. This is an approach that EUROCIITIES has advocated heavily during the past year based on the fundamental premise that 75% of the EU's population is urban.

Commenting on this stage of the cohesion policy debate, EUROCIITIES secretary general, Paul Bevan said:

"This report represents huge progress and achievement not just for cities but for the EU as a whole. But we are only at the start of a process. EUROCIITIES will continue to support the commission to ensure that these recommendations are taken up by member states."

EUROCIITIES also views positive the commission's recommendation to establish a comprehensive funding framework. On this matter of financing, EUROCIITIES lobbied vigorously against initial suggestions made this year regarding the separation of the European social fund from the European regional development fund. We believe that what the commission has come up with in its latest report has the potential of ensuring the best possible investment impact for people at home.

The fifth report marks the launch of the commission's consultation on the future cohesion policy, to which EUROCIITIES will of course be contributing. Our main message is, and remains, "more urban, more impact".

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### Note to Editors

- Established in 1986, EUROCIITIES is the network of major European cities. It brings together the local authorities of 140 large cities in 34 European countries. [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)
- EUROCIITIES position: More urban, more impact: the future of cohesion policy: <http://tinyurl.com/eurocitiesmoreurbanmoreimpact>