



PRESS RELEASE - 16 JUNE 2011 - BRUSSELS

“Pull together to pull through”, says EUROCITIES

The road to Europe’s economy recovery will be long enough, but even longer without the political involvement of Europe’s cities and metropolitan centres. This was EUROCITIES’ main message to European Commission president Barroso at a meeting in Brussels today.

EUROCITIES has been repeating this appeal both to the commission and EU heads of state since the Lisbon Treaty came into force in 2009. The treaty signalled a clear ‘upgrade’ of multi-level governance in the EU, raising expectations of greater involvement of cities and regions in shaping and delivering strategic priorities, such as Europe 2020, cohesion policy and the future EU budget. Two years on however and little has changed.

EUROCITIES president, Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, called for a response to cities’ demands which are long overdue:

“We want a practical partnership with Europe, not a paper one. We are demanding full recognition of our right of place. The sooner we pull all levels of government together to take concerted action for economic recovery, the sooner Europe’s economy will pull through. We believe our citizens deserve that chance.”

On EU regional policy, Jensen urged president Barroso to stand by the commission’s own ambitions to support Europe’s cities more strongly in future:

“If we want Europe to compete globally, to deliver a high quality of life for all of our 500 million Europeans wherever they live, we must invest more in our cities. All of us need Europe’s cities to really perform - economically, socially and environmentally, driving the development of their regions and countries.”

For future cohesion policy to be effective, efficient and enduring, EUROCITIES is advocating an ambitious urban agenda that includes:

1. Strong support for cities in regional programmes
2. Applying cohesion policy across the whole EU
3. Involving key cities in decision-making and delivery of regional policy
4. Integrating actions through partnership across functional areas
5. Streamlined access to resources

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Note to Editors

- EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities. Visit: www.eurocities.eu
- EUROCITIES opinion on future cohesion policy: www.tinyurl.com/3ec2yxe
- Róisín Hughes, PR officer: tel: +32 2 552 0886; email: roisin.hughes@eurocities.eu