



PRESS RELEASE - 28 JANUARY 2011 - COPENHAGEN

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## Cities on the agenda of future EU cohesion policy

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European cities must be prioritised in the future cohesion policy. Today, cities account for nearly 85% of the EU's GDP and are therefore important players in increasing the economic growth and employment of Europe.

This point was a part of the common understanding today, when the commissioner for regional policy, Johannes Hahn, and president of EUROCITIES, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, Frank Jensen, met in Copenhagen.

*"I am very pleased that the commissioner acknowledges the role of cities in the future cohesion policy. 75% of Europe's population lives in cities. It is my strong belief that Europe's cohesion and growth can be pushed forward by the cities' capacity to create growth, manage social inclusion and promote integration. It is inconceivable that the 2020 innovation and jobs targets can be met without successful and prosperous cities,"* says the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, Frank Jensen.

Commissioner Johannes Hahn continues:

*"Cities and urban zones are the main driving factors of our economy. To keep the European Union competitive, we need to pay extra attention to them, as well to realise the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. With over 70 per cent of carbon emissions occurring in cities, huge gains in energy efficiency and pollution reduction can be made by smart investments in our cities. This will be to the benefit of all, including more rural regions."*

### Facts

- Established in 1986, EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities. EUROCITIES brings together the local authorities of 140 large cities in 34 European countries. Based on the EU's three key challenges, EUROCITIES' present policy priorities are climate, recovery and inclusion. EUROCITIES: [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)
- Cities account for 75% of the EU's population, 80% of energy use and 85% of Europe's GDP.
- An average 50% of EU citizens trust local government before other levels according to a 2009 Eurobarometer survey.
- At least 50% of regulation affecting local government originates from EU legislation: If Brussels wants to gain the confidence of its citizens and achieve results, then local government must be more involved in EU policymaking and deliver; cities are best-placed to identify on-the-ground problems and deliver solutions.
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