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Cities key to meeting Europe 2020 goals

The EU risks missing its 2020 goals unless it works in close partnership with Europe's cities and recognises their full potential.

Some 60 city leaders meeting yesterday during EUROCITIES 2014 Munich called for strategic and effective partnerships between cities and the European Commission and Parliament. Involving cities more closely in the formulation of the policies that impact on their citizens would mean they are better suited to the real needs on the ground.

The discussions took place as the new European Commission begins work in Brussels to get the EU back on track to deliver on its Europe 2020 objectives.

Speaking as Nantes takes over the presidency of EUROCITIES, its mayor, Johanna Rolland, said:

"We have seen an impressive level of engagement from city leaders here in Munich. They are committed to tackling some of Europe's major challenges, many of which are the same as those we face in our cities on a daily basis, around social inclusion, climate and economic development. The solutions we are developing in our cities can benefit Europe as a whole."

Cities are where 75% of European citizens live, they are where challenges are concentrated and opportunities arise. EU initiatives in areas such as air quality, transport and youth unemployment all come together in cities. To fully capitalise on the expertise available it is therefore essential that our cities are closely involved in the development of these policies.

Anna Lisa Boni, EUROCITIES secretary general, said:

"The call for an EU urban agenda is gathering speed. EUROCITIES is proposing a practical and coherent approach that directly involves cities in designing and implementing policies that impact on their citizens. Under the leadership of Nantes, we look forward to working with member states, the new European Commission and the Parliament to maintain this 'urban' momentum."

ENDS

Notes to editors

- EUROCITIES media contact - Rose Montgomery: rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu
- EUROCITIES policy paper on an EU urban agenda: <http://bit.ly/1qkWopK>
- EUROCITIES: www.eurocities.eu
- EUROCITIES on Twitter: www.twitter.com/eurocitiestweet and #eurocities2014

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.