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## Urban Forum sets out strong role for cities

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EUROCITIES members were among the several hundred participants at the Commission's first Urban Forum, which sent a powerful message about the special role of cities in the future cohesion policy.

The forum saw Europe's city leaders exchange directly with the European Commission on how best to foster sustainable growth in the years ahead. Outcomes will contribute to the thinking around EU instruments designed to promote integrated urban development and innovation in cities and urban areas. This support should ensure that cities are able to contribute fully to recovery in Europe.

Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw and Vice-President of EUROCITIES, called for:

- cities to be full partners in the national processes that will establish investment priorities affecting them
- funding priorities that are flexible enough to allow cities to target the needs on the ground
- a clear urban dimension across all thematic priorities

Speaking at the forum, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz said:

*"The proposal to dedicate at least 5% of the European Regional Development Fund to integrated actions in cities is a minimum only. Were all member states to apply just this minimum rate, urban areas will lose out compared to the current programming period. That is not the aim of an ambitious urban agenda for Europe.*

*We need urban priorities across all programmes. Since the greatest potential impact for Europe 2020 goals lies in metropolitan Europe, each thematic priority should have a clear and strong urban dimension."*

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### Note to editors

- EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities, [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)
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