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## Paris sets out commitment to migrant integration

The city of Paris has signed the EURO CITIES Integrating Cities Charter today. The charter reinforces the city's commitment to providing equal opportunities for migrants and to integrating them fully in city life.

Claudine Bouygues, deputy mayor of Paris responsible for human rights, integration and the fight against discrimination, said:

“Paris is home to some 300,000 migrants from 110 different countries, of which three quarters come from countries outside the European Union. They make a rich contribution to the city's diversity and dynamism. Totally committed to the recognition of this contribution, the city of Paris has signed a charter which will facilitate the exchange of its savoir-faire and innovative solutions in the area of integration with other cities.”

Pierre Schapira, deputy mayor of Paris, responsible for European and international relations said:

“Through the ‘Paris Co-Développement Sud label’ Paris supports international cooperation and co-development projects undertaken by Paris-based associations of migrants. The signature of this charter will encourage exchanges with other cities as well as discussions on integration between EURO CITIES and the European Commission”.

Cities are the frontrunners in managing the diversity brought in by migration. They play a central role in making integration work, as most migrants move to large cities in search of employment or to access public services. To support cities in this task, EURO CITIES and its members jointly developed the Integrating Cities Charter in 2010. It provides cities with common principles to apply in their integration policies as policy makers, service providers, buyers of goods and services, and as employers

Among the charter's commitments is the requirement to support equal access for migrants to services like language learning, housing, employment, health, social care and education. Cities also have to ensure that migrants' needs are understood and met by service providers, while pledging to understand and respect diversity and equality issues.

EURO CITIES Secretary-General Paul Bevan said:

“When a major city like Paris signs the Integrating Cities Charter, the initiative receives a real boost. The experience of a diverse city like Paris at integrating migrants will enrich exchanges between Charter signatories. It will also help migration policy at national and EU level which will be better informed by what is happening on the ground.”

The French capital is the 33rd European city and 15th EU capital to sign the charter.

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### Notes to editors

- Further information on the Integrating Cities Charter and the list of signatory cities: <http://goo.gl/aDpklq>
- Contact: Thomas Jézéquel, EURO CITIES project coordinator, [thomas.jezequel@eurocities.eu](mailto:thomas.jezequel@eurocities.eu)
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- EUROCITIES on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/eurocitiestweet](https://www.twitter.com/eurocitiestweet)
- The 'Paris Co-développement Sud label' is an initiative of the city of Paris which awards grants worth several thousand euros to organisations based in Paris that support migrants. The initiative's aim is to promote cultural diversity in the capital.

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.