



PRESS RELEASE - 10 July 2013 - BRUSSELS

Strong support for urban development in European Parliament

The European Parliament's regional development committee (REGI) today voted in favour of stronger support for urban development from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The agreement backs sustainable urban development through ring fencing a minimum of 5% of ERDF funding, by providing a specific programme for innovative actions in urban areas, and through promoting tools for integrated development in cities. The agreement still needs final approval from the Council and in the European Parliament plenary.

EUROCITIES secretary general Paul Bevan said:

“With today's vote, MEPS have shown that they understand the urgent need to invest in urban Europe. The new instruments are modest in terms of the scale of funding but they are a step in the right direction. It is recognition of the role that cities play in driving economic growth and job creation. Targeted structural funds investments in our cities will help give the return on investment that the EU needs in terms of meeting the objectives for Europe 2020. But it is a disappointment and a missed opportunity that the Commission's proposals allowing cities to take charge of funding directly could not be fully supported, potentially hampering cities' capacity to address local challenges effectively.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

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