



PRESS RELEASE - 19 December 2013 - BRUSSELS

Commission adopts urban mobility strategy that supports cities

The Commission's Urban Mobility Package is a useful and non-binding strategy that encourages best practice exchange and guidance for tackling urban mobility challenges.

The package will support city authorities in developing Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs), but will do so without setting mandatory conditions - something that EUROCITIES had always opposed. Neither is European harmonisation proposed for urban access restrictions and pricing schemes.

Christian Specht, deputy mayor of Mannheim and chair of the EUROCITIES mobility forum, said:

“With this package, the Commission is recognising that urban mobility decisions need to be taken at city level. City mayors face the double challenge of improving mobility while making urban transport more sustainable. To meet these objectives in a local context that varies from city to city, mayors need to develop and deliver transport plans in a flexible way without having strings attached.”

EUROCITIES also fully supports the Commission's proposal for a European platform where city authorities, planning experts and stakeholders can share knowledge on urban mobility planning. This should promote a more holistic approach to SUMPs by integrating aspects such as Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), urban freight and road safety, as is the case in many cities already.

Importantly, the Urban Mobility Package also encourages more involvement in urban mobility by member state governments. The national level is expected to work more closely with city authorities in the future. A member states' expert group on urban mobility, to be set up by the Commission in 2014, should help coordinate efforts in the field of SUMPs, urban freight, road safety, access restrictions, ITS and data collection. This is an element that was missing in the Commission's Action Plan on Urban Mobility and the White Paper on Transport. Governments sharing such best practice internationally should help ambitious cities that are being held back by a lack of strategic perspective on urban mobility in their own countries.

ENDS

Notes to editors

- EUROCITIES position paper on the Urban Dimension of the EU Transport Strategy: <http://bit.ly/ZAURfn>
- EUROCITIES position paper on Mandatory SUMPs Audit, Certification and Funding Conditionality: <http://bit.ly/1hpff0x>
- Contact: Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES policy advisor, Vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu
- EUROCITIES: www.eurocities.eu
- EUROCITIES on Twitter: www.twitter.com/eurocitiestweet

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.