



STATEMENT - 6 OCTOBER 2011 - BRUSSELS

EUROCITIES first reaction to draft Structural Funds regulations

EUROCITIES secretary general, Paul Bevan says:

"I welcome enthusiastically the strong urban emphasis in these draft regulations. The Commission clearly recognises that Europe has no hope of securing the recovery without economically dynamic and globally competitive cities. Europe's cities are already vying for trade and talent with mega-cities of the emerging economies in Asia and Latin America. Only investment in metropolitan Europe can lead us back into growth.

Our focus now must be to ensure Commissioner Hahn's rightfully ambitious urban agenda makes the final cut. There is much here to digest and discuss:

- Integrated Territorial Investments, for example, seem to promise cities a more coordinated and effective approach to regeneration and development. However, the 5% allocation foreseen for integrated sustainable urban development seems minimal against the scale of the challenge.
- We have pushed for the idea of each member state identifying the cities that will be partners in delivering Europe 2020 on the ground. But the proposal for a list of maximum 20 cities per member state without very clear guidelines for their selection looks arbitrary.
- We welcome the proposition for a direct working relationship between key cities and the EU level. This worked well with previous urban initiatives. We are intrigued by the idea of a new 'urban platform'. EUROCITIES already networks some 200 member cities, including all the biggest and most active European players, and enjoys a dialogue across all the relevant Commission directorates. So I am sure we have a lot to contribute to this proposal."

- ENDS -

Note to editors

- EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities: www.eurocities.eu
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