
UPDATE ON EUROCITIES ACTIVITIES

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Annex 1: Overview of working group activities 2014

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1. EUROCITIES FORUM MEETINGS

Forum	Venue	Date and themes
Environment	Birmingham	19-20 March 2014: (Joint with EMF) Sustainable mobility for cleaner air less noise and less CO2
	Malaga	11-13 June
	Copenhagen	17-19 September
Mobility	Birmingham	19-20 March: (Joint with EEF) Sustainable mobility for cleaner air less noise and less CO2
	Venice	2-3 October
Knowledge Society	Brussels	23 January 2014: WG meetings
	Barcelona	2-3 April: WG meetings and smart city field visits
	Tallinn	12-13 June
Culture	Belfast/Derry	26-28 March: Culture building bridges
	Strasbourg	22 - 25 October
Social Affairs	Barcelona	5-7 March: Building inclusive cities within the social investment package
Economic Development	Utrecht	26-28 February: Financing the local green economy
	Brno	September

2. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 2014

Withdrawals in 2013

Full members: Naples

Associate members: Nis, Parkstad Limburg

Associated partners: Sahinbey, Sintra,

Associated business partners: Sampas

Joiners in 2013

Full members: Essen

Associated partners: St Nazaire, Stavanger

Associated business partners: ERDF

Withdrawals in 2014

Associated partners: London European Partnership for Transport, Santiago de Compostela

Joiners in 2014

Full members: Cardiff

As always we are in contact with many prospective full and associate members, actively encouraging their applications for membership. If you have any information on cities whose membership may be at risk or who may be interested in joining EUROCIITIES please email david.preuss@eurocities.eu.

3. ANNUAL CONFERENCE MUNICH NOVEMBER 2014

How can we make our cities energy intelligent? At EUROCIITIES 2014 Munich we will explore ways to manage the demand for energy in growing cities without compromising economic and social concerns. Our citizens will be an important part of this journey, with greater sustainable energy supply, cleaner air, stable energy prices and improved transport promising a better quality of life. We believe that by sharing ideas now on mobility management, local renewable energy production and new technologies, our cities can make a crucial contribution to reducing CO₂ emissions in future.

This year's annual conference will take place in Munich from 5-8 November.

Draft programme & venues

Start	End	What	Venue
Wednesday, 5.11.14			
18:00		Start registration BMW Welt	BMW Welt
18:30	19:30	Welcome drinks / VIP cocktail	BMW Welt
19:30	21:30	EUROCITIES awards ceremony & culture programme	BMW Welt
21:30	22:30	Dinner	BMW Welt
Thursday, 6.11.14			
08:00		Registration Gasteig	Gasteig

08:00	09:00	Welcome coffee	Gasteig
09:00	10:30	Opening of EUROCITIES 2014 Munich	Gasteig
10:30	11:00	Coffee break	Gasteig
11:00	12:45	Mayors debate	Gasteig
12:45	14:00	Lunch	Gasteig
14:00	17:00	On-site workshops	
19:00	20:00	Welcome drinks	Hofbräuhaus
20:00	22:30	Special Bavarian dinner	Hofbräuhaus
Friday, 7.11.14			
09:00	10:30	Private political session	Town Hall
09:00	10:30	Speednetworking sessions	Gasteig
10:30	11:00	Coffee break	Gasteig
11:00	11:45	Closing of conference	Gasteig
11:45	13:00	Annual General Meeting (AGM)	Gasteig
13:00	14:00	Lunch	Gasteig
in the afternoon		Sightseeing tours (tbc)	

4. COOPERATION PLATFORM EDINBURGH MAY 2014

The purpose of the cooperation platform is to provide an opportunity, once a year, for the international or European contact officers from member cities to meet, to network with other members and to learn more about making the most of EUROCITIES membership. There is an overview of current policy issues and future funding programmes and a chance for contact officers to also do some informal networking with colleagues doing similar jobs in other member and partner cities.

The focus on this year's platform will be the new European Parliament and college of Commissioners in 2014 which represent opportunities to build new relationships, strengthen the profile of our network and move urban policies higher up the political agenda. Are members planning to engage with their new MEPs? What experience do members have from the last elections? Can we identify new urban champions in the Parliament and the Commission? Those are some of the questions we would like to debate during the plenary session. The outcomes of the discussions will feed into the work of our Taskforce 2014, who will develop a broader strategy for our engagement with the new institutions, ensuring a strong and coordinated approach.

The cooperation platform takes place in Edinburgh from 15-16 May

5. ANNUAL REPORT

We recently published our annual report 2013 and work programme 2014. Copies will be sent to every contact officer and city leader, together with our new infopack. You can find the annual report and infopack at the links below.

Annual report bit.ly/1bt7iQe

Infopack bit.ly/1bOBbOw

6. MAYORS CHALLENGE

155 cities apply for 2013-2014 Mayors Challenge

Responses to the second edition of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge have exceeded the inaugural US edition, with 26% of eligible European cities applying compared to 24% in the US. The competition is open to cities with over 100,000 inhabitants and rewards the most innovative solutions to pressing urban challenges, from addressing serious problems such as unemployment to improving government efficiency or better engaging with citizens. A total of €9 million in prize money is available: the grand prize winning city receives €5 million to help realise its idea, while a further four winners will get €1 million each.

The 155 applicant cities come from 28 countries and represent more than 71 million European citizens. Of the 155, nearly half are EUROCITIES members. Participating cities are spread across the continent, with 35% in southern Europe, 25% in western Europe, 19% in eastern Europe, 15% in the British Isles and 6% in northern Europe. They range in population size from 100,000 to over 500,000, with the majority (49%) between 100,000 and 250,000. Among the applicants are 19 capital cities, all EUROCITIES members.

The bulk of the applicants have generated ideas to address major social or economic challenges, including energy efficiency, obesity and ageing, while the remaining 30% focus on improving the overall effectiveness and efficiency of local government.

Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of New York City, said: “these dynamic city leaders are working to find new ways to tackle some of our most pressing and common urban challenges - from youth unemployment to obesity to civic participation”.

An independent panel comprising experts in innovation and urban policy is currently helping Bloomberg Philanthropies select the 20 finalists, to be announced in the spring. These will be invited to attend the Bloomberg Ideas Camp in Brussels on 29-30 April 2014 to refine and strengthen their ideas together with top policy, programme and innovation experts. They will then submit a final application by mid-summer, with the five winners to be announced in the autumn.

You can find out more about the Mayors Challenge at mayorschallenge.bloomberg.org.

7. POLICY WORK UPDATE

An EU urban agenda

The Commission's urban forum (CITIES: Cities of tomorrow, investing in Europe) on 17-18 February 2014 kicked off the discussions at EU level about an EU urban agenda. Ahead of the forum, DG REGIO published an 'issues paper' to stimulate discussions during the different sessions. The issues paper raises three main questions: Do we need an EU urban agenda? What should it be? And how should it be implemented?

In the paper, DG REGIO argues that the development of cities will determine the future economic, social and territorial development of the EU. However, sectoral policies impact on urban areas in a non-coordinated way and there is a lack of explicit objectives, targets and instruments for urban development in the EU. An urban agenda can be an umbrella to address urban development more effectively. DG REGIO suggests that an urban agenda could be a tool to improve the quality of EU policies impacting on cities as well as to strengthen cities role in implementing overall EU objectives.

Our Taskforce 2014 developed an initial short position paper with our first input to the debates, which was presented by our President, Mayor of Warsaw Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, at the forum. The position stresses that an urban agenda should help improve how policies with an urban dimension come together in a practical, more coherent and coordinated approach to EU policy-making. Also, it should set a framework for new ways of working together, for engaging cities directly in developing and delivering more joined-up policies.

The urban forum also gathered the urban development group (UDG), comprising the national ministries in charge of urban planning and development in the EU member states. This group started discussions about strengthening its work on an EU urban agenda during the summer 2013. The objective should be to improve exchanges on challenges related to urban development between member states and develop a better understanding of the common urban challenges. This should in turn feed into EU policy developments. Member states are considering taking this work forward by a rolling agenda where 2-3 urban challenges are researched, analysed and discussed in parallel over a period of 18 months. Initial suggestions from member states include intra-EU migration, urban poverty, energy efficiency and smart cities.

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) is developing an opinion on an urban agenda: "Towards an integrated urban agenda for the EU". Mr Bas Verkerk (NL, Mayor of Delft) is rapporteur. He calls for the Commission to develop a white paper on an integrated urban agenda for the EU. The white paper should consider how to develop a more integrated approach to policy development at EU level and how to strengthen the urban dimension of EU funding programmes, notably the structural funds. The white paper should also focus on how to move towards a new model of governance, with a stronger involvement of towns and cities in EU policy development.

Dorthe Nielsen, senior policy advisor, dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu

Cohesion policy

The new regulations on the European structural and investment funds were published on 20 December 2013 laying down the rules for spending the €325bn budget for 2014 - 2020.

The regulations strengthen in principle the involvement of stakeholders, including cities, in the programming phase through partnership agreements at national level, which should set out the overall investment priorities. The aim is to strengthen strategic planning, coordination between the different funds and multilevel governance. The partnership requirements in the regulations are backed by a European Code of Conduct on Partnership, setting out the main requirements for involvement of stakeholders in the development of partnership agreements.

The regulations require the main parts of the funds to be concentrated on a limited number of priorities: (1) research and innovation, (2) information and communication technologies, (3) competitiveness of SMEs, and (4) shift towards a low-carbon economy (minimum 20%). They also introduce new instruments promoting an integrated approach locally and allowing in principle to combine the use of ERDF and ESF funding. These include integrated territorial investments (ITIs) and community-led local development (CLLD).

The ERDF regulation includes a more visible urban dimension. This includes earmarking of minimum 5% of the ERDF funds in member states to be allocated to integrated actions for sustainable urban development. €330m have been allocated to a programme on innovative actions for sustainable urban development. The Commission will also set up an urban development network for the cities, urban communities and managing authorities implementing ITIs and innovative actions.

Minimum 23.1% of the overall cohesion policy funding is allocated to ESF. Of this, 20% is allocated to promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and discrimination. A new element is the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) which aims at supporting young people that have become unemployed or left school to find employment. The funding will amount to €6bn over the next seven years and will be delivered through the ESF programming.

The Pan-European programmes Interreg, Interact, Urbact and ESPON have been reinforced. Urbact's allocation has increased by 20%. New calls are expected around September 2014. Under the interregional cooperation objective, explicit references to the exchange of experience and best practices on urban development and urban-rural linkages have been added.

Next steps:

- The Commission will finalise the negotiations on partnerships agreements and operational programmes with member states and managing authorities for the funds to be deployed before the summer 2014 in most member states.
- A number of delegated and implementing acts will be adopted finalizing the details around the innovative actions, financial instruments and the code of conduct.
- Mr Luc van der Brande, special advisor on multilevel governance to Commissioner Johannes Hahn, is drafting a report on the implementation of the partnership principle for the Commissioner. Our Cohesion Policy WG has gathered evidence on the involvement of cities in the partnership agreements which will feed into the report.

Contact: Marie Ranty, policy advisor, marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

Smart cities - high level group

The President of EUROCITIES, the Mayor of Warsaw, participates in the HLG both as mayor and as the network president. We also participate in the Sherpa group that supports to HLG in its work. The Sherpa group is composed of representatives for each of the HLG members and others from cities, industry, universities and research organisations. The group was enlarged to include additional cities in December 2013.

The HLG was set up and tasked by Commissioner Kroes, Kallas and Oettinger to develop a strategic implementation plan (SIP) for the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on smart cities and communities. The objective is to accelerate full scale deployment of smart city solutions. The SIP was launched on 26 November. It includes recommendations for harnessing innovative technologies, funding mechanisms and public private partnerships. It focuses on sustainable urban mobility, districts & built environment and integrated infrastructures & processes. It also focuses on issues related to citizen involvement, open data and the development of new business models amongst others.

The recommendations of the SIP have been developed into an Operational Plan (OIP) and a corresponding invitation for commitments (IfC) on smart city actions, expected to be launched mid to end-February. The OIP will detail example actions/initiatives in the priority areas of the SIP with the aim of inspiring stakeholders to respond to the IfC. The IfC is an invitation for stakeholders to propose measurable and concrete engagement/initiatives in support of one or more focus areas. It is important to note that there will be no EU funding related to the IfC. Funding for smart cities projects is available under Horizon 2020. This is in parallel to, but separate from, the EIP process and the IfC.

Contact: George Niland, policy advisor - Knowledge Society: george.niland@eurocities.eu

Public procurement and concessions

On 15 January 2014, MEPs voted in favour of two procurement and one concessions directive. The new rules on procurement (general and utilities directives) will give cities the freedom to make more strategic procurement choices. As we had requested, cities will be able to select bids based on environmental and social merits, quality and innovativeness, or the experience of staff.

The new directives reduce the amount and complexity of paperwork by introducing a standard 'European Single Procurement Document' form, making it easier for SMEs to bid.

Cooperation between public entities or between a related undertaking and a public entity is excluded from the scope of the directives. The texts endorse the principle of control by the public authority over the related undertaking provided that at least 80% of activity is carried out for the public authority and that they are bound by a clearly established public service mission.

The concessions directive excludes water from its scope, as we had pushed for, respecting the way in it is managed differently according to local context. The directive also confirms the autonomy of contracting authorities so local authorities can choose the best way to provide services based on their citizens' needs. The text also includes the possibility for the concession provider to award a concession based on environmental, social, or innovation-related criteria.

EUROCITIES policy publications (since November 2013 - all available on website)

- Statement on reducing rail freight noise
- Response to the Commission consultation on a green action plan for SMEs
- Statement on extended producer responsibility (sustainable waste management)
- Contribution to the first 20 years of the CoR
- An EU urban agenda - for and with cities
- Statement on heavy good vehicles (HGV) - weights and dimensions directive

For full update on current and future policy and other activities, see table attached at end of document.

8. EU PRESIDENCIES UPDATE

Greek EU Presidency January-June 2014

- Greece took over the EU Presidency from Lithuania on 1 January. Their six months at the helm of the EU will be marked by the start of a new multiannual financial framework 2014 - 2020, the midterm review of the Europe 2020 strategy in March and the European elections in May.
- The main areas of priority for the Greek Presidency are 1)Growth, jobs and cohesion; 2)Euro zone; 3)Migration, borders and mobility. Maritime policy is a cross-cutting theme that will run through all Presidency activities.
- Greece will host a meeting of the national territorial cohesion contact points (NTCCP) and the urban development group (UDG) on 27-28 February. They want to focus attention on social exclusion in urban areas and urban poverty. The NTCCP/UDG directors general will meet on 3-4 April, back-to-back with a meeting the directors general in charge of cohesion policy.
- The Presidency will organise an informal ministerial meeting on territorial cohesion and urban development on 24 April. It will follow up on the debates on social exclusion in urban areas from the UDG meetings. The Presidency will also hold an informal ministerial on cohesion policy on 25 April, focusing on the implementation of the new structural and investment funds.
- We are otherwise generally focusing on our relations with the Greek Presidency through its representation to the EU in Brussels. The Greeks are in charge of kicking off discussions on the Commission's proposals for a reviewed EU air quality legislation and the urban mobility package. Progress on those might be limited though, in view of the European elections in May.
- The Committee of the Regions (CoR) will hold its biannual conference of Europe's cities and Regions in Athens on 7-8 March 2014 on the midterm review of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Italian EU Presidency July-December 2014

- Italy will take over the EU Presidency in July, starting the work of a new trio of member states: Italy, Latvia and Luxembourg. The trio has stated that in the area of urban policy they want to focus on the role of small and medium sized cities.
- The Italian Presidency will take place during the last semester in office for European Commissioner for Regional and Urban Policy, Johannes Hahn. Italy is working with the Commission to establish plans for an informal ministerial meeting on urban policy during the presidency. We will seek political representation at the ministerial once plans are confirmed.

9. PROJECTS UPDATE

EC-LINK project on EU-China cooperation

We are involved in a new project, EC-LINK, which was launched at the EU-China Urbanisation Forum in Beijing on 21 November 2013. EC-LINK will establish bilateral urban low carbon partnerships between Chinese and European cities. Chinese cities will be able to draw on the knowledge of experts in European cities, while our members will have access to results from ongoing projects in China. We are responsible for peer-to-peer learning activities and visibility events between European and Chinese cities.

European Mobility Week tender 2014-2016

In December 2013, DG MOVE awarded us the 2014-2016 contract for the coordination of European Mobility Week (EMW). We will continue cooperating with our two EMW partners, ICLEI and REC (Regional Environment Centre). This new service contract started on 1 January 2014, and was officially launched on 9 January at DG MOVE in the presence of officials from DG ENVI, DG COMM and DG MOVE.

Third Covenant of Mayors' Office

In December 2013, together with Energy Cities (as coordinator), Climate Alliance, CEMR and FEDARENE (as partners), we won the call for tender to operate the Covenant of Mayors' Office 2014-2016. While previous Covenant office contracts have focused on promoting the initiative and supporting the preparation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs), the next stage aims to consolidate the Covenant into an effective and sustainable movement. This third contract for operating the Covenant of Mayors' Office started on 1 January 2014, with an official launch event on 15 January in Brussels.

Funding opportunities in 2014 and 2015

With a view to preparing the new EU programming period 2014-2020, we consulted our members on the themes on which they would like to focus their projects in 2014 and 2015. The aim of this consultation was to provide our members with tailored funding intelligence services, so that they are well-equipped to develop project proposals together. Following the recent publication of several calls for proposals, we carried out an analysis to identify new funding opportunities that could correspond to project ideas and themes that were discussed in the forums and working group meetings.

A document listing the projects ideas and themes with the relevant calls for proposals was produced and can be found [here](#).

2014 - Overview of our working groups activities

Culture	Creative industries (CIs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIs in new funding programmes • CIs policies at local level • CIs and Culture 	Cultural access and entitlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated vision of accessibility • Promoting access to culture in deprived areas 	Culture and young people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good practices in cultural education • European Youth Capital 	Resources for culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond finance: resources; human capital; natural resources etc. 	Mobility of artists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artists mobility strategy • Charter on sustainable and responsible cultural mobility 		
Economic development	Cohesion policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of cities in programming • Monitor new instruments (ITIs, CLLD, Innovative actions...) • Urban development network 	Entrepreneurship and SMEs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurship 2020 action plan • Internationalisation of SMEs • Inclusive entrepreneurship 	Metropolitan areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning • Urban-rural issues • Governance • Transport and flows 	Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities innovation systems in Europe • Impact of programmes like Horizon 2020 on innovation in cities 	Integrated local development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILD in funding • Carbon neutral design of urban areas • Smart cities for strategic development 	International economic relations* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can cities benefit from trade relations outside the EU? • What is the role of the municipality? 	City attractiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing public promotion • Inclusive branding policies • Connect with other local services
Environment	Air quality - Climate change - Energy efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU air quality policy review • Financing climate and energy action in cities • EU strategy for climate adaptation 	Clean cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness/citizens behaviour on illegal depository of litter • Engaging organisers of mass events 	Green areas & biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban biodiversity and ecosystem services • Impacts of densifying cities 	Greening the local economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special focus on SME support: green growth, PPP with an ecological footprint • Greening events project 	Noise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of environmental noise directive • Vehicle noise directive • Good practices on acoustic comfort in the city 	Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface and ground water issues • Adaptation to climate change and water 	Waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU waste legislation review • Municipal waste management • Food waste • Waste to energy
Knowledge Society	eInclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local digital agenda • eInclusion as part as wider social inclusion • eInclusion and service delivery 	Smart Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic definition of the Smart City • Diversity of Smart Cities • Development of a guide for cities to implement a Smart City 	Open Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public service information and public data for citizens • Data sets and standards • Open Data guidebook for cities 	Cyber-security* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing responses to internet security threats • Directive on attacks against information systems 			

2014 - Overview of our working groups activities

Mobility	Developing a new mobility culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up to the Urban Mobility Package and the White Paper on Transport Transport funding/financing and internalisation of external costs 	TransEuropean Transport Networks (TEN-T) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the implementation of the TEN-T and CEF legislation Expand good relations with DG MOVE, (the new) EP, the high level EU corridor coordinators 	Road safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Road Safety targets for 2020, with longer term target of a zero vision. Promote the 4th Road safety Action Plan at city level 	Transport and energy efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further advocacy work on Clean Power for Transport Package Further contributions to Smart Cities strategy Explore joint project opportunities 	Barrier-free city for all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Disability Strategy 2020 demographic change and planning transport European Accessibility Act. European Standardisation Mandate 420 "Accessibility in the built environment" 		
Social affairs	Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackling early school leaving Linking labour market and vocational training at local level Partnership working at local level Delivery of advice and guidance services 	Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative policies to tackle youth unemployment Youth Employment Package and its implementation in cities 	Health inequalities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active and healthy ageing Healthy environments Public-private partnerships 	Housing** Affordable housing policies Densification in growing cities Homelessness** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different approaches and models of housing and tackling homelessness 	Migration & integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asylum and migration fund Integrating Cities toolkits EU mobility & integration Innovation on integration and non-discrimination 	Roma inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DG Justice progress report on implementation of Roma strategies East-West cooperation Charter on Roma inclusion Peer review early childhood 	Smart social inclusion* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smarter ways to finance social inclusion Maximize budget and generate innovation
Cooperation	Taskforce 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU urban agenda European elections New European Commission Liaison with the CoR 	European Neighbourhood Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Networking with cities in the European Neighbourhood & Enlargement Area Focus on cultural programmes of cooperation 	Public services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State aid and housing horizontal legal framework on SGEIs 				

Overview of what's coming up: February-April 2014

Date	Meeting/activity	Notes	Contact
February			
6-7	European Conference on ESF	Launch conference for the new programming period of the European Social Fund organised by the European Commission, together with the Greek Presidency of the European Council.	Silvia.ganzerla@eurocities.eu
11	EU conference on impact of intra-EU mobility at local level	DG Justice and Committee of the Regions	Ana.feder@eurocities.eu
11-12	Work-based learning and apprenticeships conference	The official launch event of the Thematic Network Work-based Learning and Apprenticeships (NetWBL), which is one of the actions supporting the European Alliance for Apprenticeships. Organised by the European Commission.	Anna.drozd@eurocities.eu
17	An EU urban agenda for an with cities seminar	Joint EUROCITIES-CEMR side event to urban forum	Dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu
17-18	CITIES: Cities of tomorrow, investing in Europe	European Commission's urban forum	Dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu
17-18	WG Migration & Integration meeting	Integrating Cities developments and process and exchange of practices among cities working on migrant integration.	Ana.feder@eurocities.eu
19	WG Cohesion policy	Focus on multi-level governance and partnerships in the context of Luc Van den Brande's report for Commissioner Hahn	Marie.ranty@eurocities.eu
19	URBACT III seminar	Consultation with stakeholders on the priorities of the new Urbact programme	Nathalie.guri@eurocities.eu
25	ENIGMA training on pre-commercial procurement (PCP) in Eindhoven	The third ENIGMA project PCP training session will focus on discussing how cities can translate their needs into concrete functions that can be included in a pre-commercial call for tender.	denisa.naidin@eurocities.eu
26-28	EDF in Utrecht	+ WG Innovation + joint WG meeting Greening the local economy and WG Entrepreneurship+ WG Metropolitan areas + WG International economic relations + WG Integrated urban development	Marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

27-28	NiCE study visit in Birmingham	The study visit will focus on smart ways to save energy in public infrastructures	Nikolaos.Kontinakis@eurocities.eu
28	Brokerage event on smart cities invitation for commitment (IfC) (The call for Commitments is expected to be published ahead of the event)	Organised by the Commission in the context of the European Innovation Partnership on smart cities	George.niland@eurocities.eu
What else are we expecting in February?			
EU Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTCCP-UDG meetings 27- 28 February, Athens 		
EU Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary votes on 4th railway package + clean power for transport package • Plenary vote 2030 climate & energy framework (5 February) 		
March			
3	Environment council on air quality	First exchange of views on the air quality package	Michael.klinkernberg@eurocities.eu
5-7	SAF in Barcelona	+ WG employment and WG smart social inclusion	Anna.drozd@eurocities.eu
7-8	CoR summit on job-rich recovery in Athens	Event organised by the Committee of the Regions, together with the Region of Attica. The objective of the Summit is to take stock of the efforts made at European, national, regional and local level to deliver job-rich recovery.	Soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu
10-11	Innovation convention	Organised by the European Commission, the event will focus on innovation-related topics such as open data and e-inclusion. The inaugural winner city of the European Capital of Innovation will be rewarded.	George.niland@eurocities.eu
13	National seminar of the EU project CASCADE in Zabrze (PL)	Transmission of the project main learning points to a wider national audience. It targets regional and local decision makers, and technical officers.	Ioanna.tsalakanidou@eurocities.eu
19-20	Environment and mobility joint forum meeting in Birmingham	Including joint meeting WG Air Quality/Climate Change/Energy Efficiency and WG Transport and Energy Efficiency + WG Clean Cities	Michael.klinkernberg@eurocities.eu Vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu
20-21	European Council	Exchange of views on the EU 2030 climate and energy targets	Michael.klinkernberg@eurocities.eu
24-25	WG Barrier-free city for all meeting in Barcelona	Focus on accessibility in public transport, culture, sport,	Vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

		employment	
24-25	European Mobility Week and SUMP award ceremony in Brussels	DG MOVE, awareness campaign + acknowledgment of cities actions to promote low carbon transports	peter.staelens@eurocities.eu
28	ENIGMA training on pre-commercial procurement (PCP) in Brussels	The training will focus on assessing cities' needs for PCP and exchanging practices on innovative procurement methods.	denisa.naidin@eurocities.eu
26-29	Culture Forum in Belfast and Derry	Main topic: 'Culture building bridges' + WG access to culture, WG young people and culture, WG mobility of artists and WG resources for culture	Julie.herve@eurocities.eu
31	Taskforce 2014 meeting	Continued discussions on an EU urban agenda and strategy around the European elections	Soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu
Other activities	Roma taskforce meeting		Ana.feder@eurocities.eu
What else are we expecting in March?			
EU Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission's spring assessment of member states' Roma strategies • Proposal on EU waste targets (tbc) • LIFE call (late March; tbc) 		
EU Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EP committee vote on weight and dimensions directive (road safety) 		
April			
1-3	Urban Nexus dialogue café in Bristol		denisa.naidin@eurocities.eu
2-3	KSF meeting in Barcelona	The KSF spring event will comprise WG meetings and a site visit.	George.niland@eurocities.eu
3-4	WG creative industries in Barcelona	Focus on how to attract and retain young creative talents	Julie.herve@eurocities.eu
3-4	WG metropolitan areas in Terrassa	Conferences on Terrassa Urban System and Barcelona Metropolitan Area. Presentation of examples of other collaborative territorial polycentric projects (TBC).	Dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu
4	Roma Summit 'Going local on Roma inclusion'	DG Justice and Committee of the Regions	Ana.feder@eurocities.eu

9-11	WG Education in Gothenburg	Advise and counselling for young people	Anna.Drozd@eurocities.eu
10-11	CIVITAS MIMOSA study visit in Bologna	The study visit will focus on the use of new technologies to encourage more sustainable forms of mobility.	anja.decunto@eurocities.eu
29 April or 6 May tbc	WG Public services in Brussels	Focus on state aid, public procurement and concessions, and the future of services of general interest after the EP elections and the appointment of the new Commission.	Marie.ranty@eurocities.eu
What else are we expecting in April?			
EU Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTCCP-UDG Directors general meeting on 3-4 April, Athens • Informal ministerial meeting on territorial cohesion and urban policy 24 April, Athens • Informal ministerial meeting on cohesion policy 25 April, Athens 		
EU Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIFE call (tbc) • National Reform Programmes submitted to the EC (tbc) 		
EU Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote on Asylum and Migration Fund regulations • Plenary vote on reducing cost of broadband rollout (April) • Plenary vote on weight and dimensions directive (road safety) (tbc) 		