



## Building back better: A stronger social Europe - What role for cities?

Co-hosted by



MEP Agnes  
Jongerius



MEP Estrella  
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MEP Brando  
Benifei

**Programme**  
**Digital Conference**  
**Brussels, 30 September 2020**

[#inclusivecities4all](#)



9.30 - 10.00 Technical check-in and videos

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10.00 - 11.20 **SESSION I: How to move social Europe forward with cities as partners?**

The corona crisis offers an opportunity to build a more inclusive and sustainable society. The recovery is our chance to do more than just undo the effects of the pandemic crisis. It is time to 'build back better' by putting people first. Many cities are already doing this. The EUROCITIES campaign 'Inclusive cities for all: social rights in my city' shows how cities take action to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights to ensure a fair and inclusive recovery, leaving no one behind.

- **Welcome and opening remarks**  
**Anna Lisa Boni**, Secretary General, EUROCITIES  
**Estrella Dura Ferrandis**, Member of European Parliament
- **Launch of EUROCITIES statement on reinforcing social Europe with cities**  
**Sedat Arif**, Deputy Mayor of Malmo, chair of EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum
- **Announcement of new city pledges to the European Pillar of Social Rights**  
**Mayors and deputy mayors presenting their commitments and actions**
- **Live chat with**  
**Nicolas Schmit**, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights (tbc)

**Q & A with participants**

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11.20 - 12.20 **SESSION II: How to tackle rising urban poverty and inequalities? The role of EU policy and funding to support social investment in public social services**

The corona crisis has exacerbated pre-existing social inequalities. Poverty is rapidly rising in cities with new groups of people at risk of poverty - the 'new urban poor'. Territorial inequalities are also deepening, with people living in deprived urban areas being most heavily affected. Social cohesion is at risk. Tackling these social impacts will require considerable social investment at local level. Cities are already seeing an increasing demand for social services at local level, but municipal budgets are under pressure. These urban problems need European solutions.

**High-level panel debate**

Moderated by **Ivo Banek**, Director of Communications, EUROCITIES

Speakers:

- **Agnes Jongerius**, Member of European Parliament
- **Brando Benifei**, Member of European Parliament
- **Katarina Ivanković-Knežević**, Director of Social Affairs, DG EMPL
- **Susanne Szech-Koundouros**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the EU (tbc)
- **Elke Breitenbach**, Senator for Integration, Labour and Social Services, Berlin
- **Michiel Grauss**, Deputy Mayor for poverty reduction, Rotterdam (tbc)
- **Léa Filoche**, Deputy mayor in charge of solidarities, the fight against inequalities and exclusion, Paris (tbc)

**Q & A with participants**

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## Programme | Digital high-level conference

### Building back better: A stronger social Europe - What role for cities?

30 September 2020 @ 10.00 - 12.30

12.20 - 12.30 **Key takeaways: What next for a stronger social Europe?**

- **Maarten van Ooijen**, Deputy Mayor of Utrecht and vice-chair of EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum

**Wrap up and launch of EUROCITIES website dedicated to #inclusivecities4all**

- **Ivo Banek**, Director of Communications, EUROCITIES

Final poll with participants

12.30 - 13.30 Networking lunch online (*optional*)



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