

To SAF city politicians

02 March 2021

**Subject: Invitation to a political session to discuss opportunities from new private equity funds for social infrastructure investments in cities**

Dear deputy mayors of social affairs, dear colleagues,

I have the pleasure to invite you to a political session online on **'Addressing the gap in social infrastructure investments in cities – opportunities from private equity funds'** on **10 March 2021 from 15.30-17.00 CET**.

In 2018, the European High Level Task Force produced a report on boosting investment in social infrastructure which concluded on the need to urgently address the gap in social infrastructure investments. Social infrastructure plays a key role in the economic growth, social cohesion, and well-being of our cities. Boosting social infrastructure at local level is vital to ensuring an inclusive recovery of our cities as well as just transitions to green energy and digital transitions. With an existing investment gap of EUR 142 billion per year, this report encourages innovative solutions to mobilise public resources and sustainable private funding to fill in the gap of investment in social infrastructure. The ambitious strategy to boost long-term investment in social infrastructure can be supported through efficient blending of public and private funds. Lieve Fransen, one of the co-authors of the study and report, will briefly introduce our political session and present the recommendations from the study and how they are relevant for cities.

To help cities to address these challenges, Franklin Templeton - a private investment firm - has set up a dedicated equity fund for social infrastructure focusing on healthcare, education, housing, justice and emergency, civic (sports facilities, community & local government facilities). While aiming to work with cities to create better social value for local communities, the equity fund invests in social infrastructure for a dual return - impact achieved together with a financial return.

During the session, we will have the opportunity to ask questions directly to the private equity fund investors and share our current challenges and ideas for social infrastructure investments needed in our cities. This is a unique opportunity to further shape the focus and scope of this private equity fund as the investors are looking to tailor it to the concrete needs for investment in cities.

I hope you will attend the session, so that we can explore together the opportunities for public-private partnerships in investments in our cities' social infrastructure. Please find attached the programme for your consideration. We would be very grateful if your assistant could inform us about your availability and contact Eurocities policy advisor Patricia Couti at [Patricia.Couti@eurocities.eu](mailto:Patricia.Couti@eurocities.eu) or +32473828660.

Kind regards,



**Maarten van Ooijen**

Chair of Social Affairs Forum and Deputy Mayor of Utrecht

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