

EDITORIAL

Member States must not forget the important role of cities!



Operational Programmes are currently being negotiated and finalised between the European Commission and the Member States. Cities are

hoping that Member states will do what they have been asked, so that cities can not only access the funds but also manage them in the most appropriate way.

The capacity and the resources to develop sound and comprehensive integrated projects at the local level are of course important for cities. This was the subject of the Conference "Local Partnerships in Urban Development" which took place in Leipzig on 26-28 April.

What is certainly as important in the long term is whether and how cities will be able to develop permanent cooperation mechanisms with their national governments so that local actions can be developed in a coherent policy framework.

Cities must be involved in, and share ownership of, the National Reform Programmes, the National Action Plans on Social Exclusion, the strategies developed by the national governments on energy efficiency and climate change, on demographic change and immigration.

The request for national governments to systematically involve cities in debates and decisions at national level is probably the main message that EUROCITIES will convey to the European Ministers' meeting on urban development in Leipzig on 24 May.

Cross-sectoral partnerships involving a wide variety of stakeholders are needed at national level, in order to develop more integrated approaches towards urban policies. Building ownership of national strategies among local stakeholders is essential in order to anchor the local projects, initiatives and creative ideas in a coherent overall context.

Wolfgang Tiefensee, the German Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, and a former EUROCITIES President, will discuss this with EUROCITIES Mayors and politicians at our Summit in Leipzig on 23 May, and he has invited our President, Gérard Collomb - Mayor of Lyon, to present EUROCITIES contribution to the objectives of the Leipzig Charter at the Ministers' Meeting on 24 May.

Catherine Parmentier,
EUROCITIES Chief Executive Officer

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

from p. 2

EUROCITIES members meet with Commission Vice-President to discuss sustainable urban mobility



Mayors and elected officials from around 20 of EUROCITIES member cities met with Jacques Barrot, the Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Transport Policy, to discuss the future of urban mobility in Europe. The policy paper 'EUROCITIES for Sustainable Urban Mobility' was presented to Vice-President Barrot by Gérard Collomb - Mayor of Lyon and President of EUROCITIES, and Klaus Bondam - Vice-Mayor of Copenhagen and Chair of EUROCITIES Mobility Forum.

see p. 2

EUROCITIES Mayors Summit: *Integrated Policies for Cohesive Cities*



Mayors and politicians from at least 15 Member Cities will take part in the EUROCITIES Summit in Leipzig on 23 May. The Summit will be jointly hosted by the President of EUROCITIES, Mr Gérard Collomb - Mayor of Lyon, and the Mayor of Leipzig - Mr Burkhard Jung. The time and place have been chosen to link-up with the European Meeting of Ministers responsible for Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion which will take place in Leipzig on 24 and 25 May.

see p. 3

EUROCITIES Awards 2007: Don't forget to enter!



Each year EUROCITIES recognises outstanding achievements in the delivery of local activities or practices which improve the quality of life for citizens. This is the idea behind the EUROCITIES Awards, which are presented each year at the EUROCITIES AGM. This year the EUROCITIES Awards will recognise cities' activities and practices which are outstanding in promoting solidarity and addressing the challenges of demographic change and social inclusion.

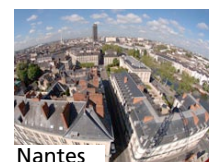
see p. 4

THEMATIC SECTIONS

- Culture p. 7
- Economic Development p. 8
- Environment p. 10
- Knowledge Society p. 12
- Mobility p. 14
- Social Affairs p. 16
- Participation & Cooperation p. 18

OTHER SECTIONS

- p. 20
- p. 21



Key developments



EUROCITIES members meet with Commission Vice-President to discuss sustainable urban mobility

Brussels, 19 April 2007

Mayors and elected officials from around 20 of EUROCITIES member cities met with Jacques Barrot, the Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Transport Policy, to discuss the future of urban mobility in Europe. The meeting took place at the new EUROCITIES offices in Brussels.

On this occasion, the policy paper "EUROCITIES for Sustainable Urban Mobility" was presented to Vice-President Barrot by Gérard Collomb - Mayor of Lyon and President of EUROCITIES, and Klaus Bondam - Vice-Mayor of Copenhagen and Chair of EUROCITIES Mobility Forum. This



Jacques Barrot - Vice-President of the European Commission (left) receives the policy paper 'EUROCITIES for Sustainable Urban Mobility' from Gérard Collomb - Mayor of Lyon and President of EUROCITIES (right), and Klaus Bondam - Vice-Mayor of Copenhagen and Chair of EUROCITIES Mobility Forum (centre).

document is EUROCITIES' contribution to an ongoing consultation process, leading up to the publication by the European Commission of a Green Paper on Urban Transport, expected later this year.

Speaking on behalf of EUROCITIES, Mr Bondam called on the EU institutions to "embrace the diversity of European cities, and ensure that local authorities are given the best support available to develop integrated solutions to local problems". He explained that European cities are faced with very different situations and capacities to act, and they must therefore be allowed the necessary flexibility to address their specific challenges by means of tailor-made solutions. At the same time, cities must be provided with the best possible framework for the implementation of efficient transport policies at local level. It is therefore important that the potential roles and contributions of the European, national and regional levels are clearly identified in the Commission's forthcoming Green Paper on Urban Transport.

Mr Bondam emphasised that urban transport should be approached from the perspective of sustainable urban mobility, and he said that it is essential to address urban transport within a broader framework that takes account of global challenges such as tackling climate

change, promoting energy efficiency and addressing demographic change. EUROCITIES President Gérard Collomb said that another important challenge was that of social inclusion, as in many cities the most deprived areas are also those with the poorest transport provision. To change this situation, local authorities need financial support from their national governments, Mr Collomb insisted.

Commission Vice-President Jacques Barrot said that he welcomes EUROCITIES' input to the debate on urban mobility. He emphasised that dialogue between the European and local levels was important in order to identify areas where a consensus exists and to develop joint solutions, while respecting the principle of subsidiarity. Mr Barrot also said that the forthcoming Green Paper would mark "the start of a process leading up to an Action Plan for sustainable mobility" ■

The policy paper 'EUROCITIES for Sustainable Urban Mobility' can be found on the EUROCITIES website: www.eurocities.eu (see publications-position papers).

European Commission (DG Transport): http://ec.europa.eu/transport/clean/index_en.htm

Barbara Bernardi, EUROCITIES Policy Officer-Mobility, barbara.bernardi@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES Energy Taskforce

Brussels, 16 May 2007

EUROCITIES Energy Taskforce brings together Forum and Working Group Chairs from the Economic Development, Environment and Mobility Forums. The meeting will follow-up on the discussions at the last meeting on 30 January. This will also be the occasion to prepare the EUROCITIES Conference on Energy, which will take place in Gothenburg (Sweden)

from 24 to 26 October and to discuss the results from EUROCITIES Energy Survey.

The Energy Survey, which was sent to member cities in February, has been a useful tool to collect information on cities experiences in terms of strategic planning and projects and will be the basis for deeper analysis.

The Survey results with responses and analysis are available in the Members Area of EUROCITIES website (Key EUROCITIES Documents - Annual Workplans - Annual Workplan 2007 - Energy and Climate Change - Energy Survey).

Mélanie Leroy, EUROCITIES Policy Assistant, melanie.leroy@eurocities.eu

Key developments



EUROCITIES Mayors Summit: *Integrated Policies for Cohesive Cities*

Leipzig, Germany, 23 May 2007



Leipzig, "Alte Handelsbörse" (Old Trade Hall)

Mayors and politicians from at least 15 Member Cities will take part in the EUROCITIES Summit in Leipzig on 23 May. The Summit will be jointly hosted by the President of EUROCITIES, Mr Gérard Collomb – Mayor of Lyon, and the Mayor of Leipzig – Mr Burkhard Jung. This event follows on from the Mayors' and Leaders' Summit in London on 29-30 June 2006, and the Mayors' Debate at the EUROCITIES Conference in Manchester on 23 November.

The time and place have been chosen to link-up with the European Meeting of Ministers responsible for Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion which will take place in Leipzig on 24 and 25 May. This will be the 4th European Meeting of Ministers responsible for

Urban Development, following those in Lille (2000), Rotterdam (2004) and Bristol (2005).

The German Presidency has invited Ministers from the 27 Member States of the European Union and also from the following countries: Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Turkey, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. The Ministers will be asked to approve the text of the "Leipzig Charter" which commits national governments to supporting sustainable urban development.

The first part of the EUROCITIES Mayors Summit in Leipzig will be devoted to an in-depth political discussion of the issues at the heart of the Ministerial meeting – integrated urban development and urban regeneration, with a particular focus on deprived urban neighbourhoods. Participating Mayors will be invited to share ideas and develop proposals based on the experiences in their own cities.

The second part of the Mayors Summit will be the occasion for EUROCITIES to deliver its political message to the German Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Wolfgang Tiefensee, who is a former Mayor of Leipzig and President of EUROCITIES (2002-2004), and who will chair the Ministerial Meeting on behalf of the German Presidency. This will be

followed by an official reception at the historic Old City Hall of Leipzig.

The President of EUROCITIES has also been invited to take part in the European Ministers Meeting on 24 May, when he will have the opportunity to present EUROCITIES recommendations to all of the Ministers taking part in this meeting. This will be an important opportunity for EUROCITIES to strengthen its relationship with the national governments of the Member States in the framework of European cooperation in the field of urban policy ■

The final report of the Mayors and Leaders Forum "Leading Sustainable Cities" that took place in London on 29 and 30 June 2006 is available on the website of the United Kingdom Government Department for Communities and Local Government: www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1509348

German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs: www.bmvbs.de/-_2655_982998/Informal-Ministerial-Meeting-o.htm

German Presidency of the EU: www.eu2007.de

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EUROCITIES technical seminar on Joint Procurement initiative

Brussels, 21 May 2007

On 23 February, participants at the EUROCITIES Executive Committee political seminar on EUROCITIES' Joint Procurement initiative decided to organise a technical seminar as a follow up. This technical seminar will take place in the EUROCITIES Brussels Office on 21 May from 10.30 am until 5.00 pm and will be chaired by Lyon.

The first part of the discussion will be based on the results of a questionnaire on cities' policy and needs regarding the purchase of clean vehicles. The second part will feature presentations by European Commission officials on the political

context of the promotion of clean vehicles (DG TREN); the STEER, ALTENER and SAVE programmes (Intelligent Energy for Europe Agency) and the pre-commercial procurements of innovation (DG INFSO). A general discussion will follow. Participants will be invited to exchange on existing initiatives and the potential for developing new actions.

The technical seminar will be preceded by a meeting of the EUROCITIES Working Group on Responsible Consumption and Procurement from 9.00 until 10.30 am.

Jean-Pierre Ernotte, Assistant to EUROCITIES CEO, jean-pierre.ernotte@eurocities.eu

Don't forget to register for the EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform 2007!

**Turin, Italy,
31 May - 1 June**

See article about the Cooperation Platform on page 19, in the *Participation & Cooperation* section

Key developments



EUROCITIES Awards 2007: Don't forget to enter!

Deadline: 18 June 2007

Each year EUROCITIES recognises outstanding achievements in the delivery of local activities or practices which improve the quality of life for citizens. This is the idea behind the EUROCITIES Awards, which are presented each year at the EUROCITIES AGM. Since last year it was decided to define three permanent categories - Innovation, Participation and Cooperation - as well as fixed criteria by which the entries are judged.

The theme for the EUROCITIES Awards corresponds with the theme of the Annual Conference. This year the EUROCITIES Awards will recognise cities' activities and practices which are outstanding in promoting solidarity and addressing the challenges of demographic change and social inclusion.

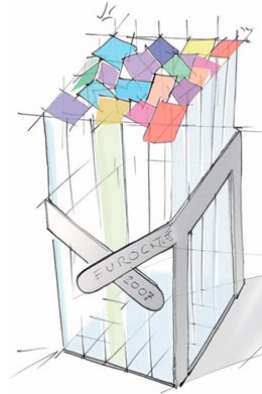
All full and associate members of the network are eligible to enter for the EUROCITIES Awards, with the exception of the President and Vice-President, the AGM host city, and the cities which won the previous year (i.e. in 2006).

The Awards jury will comprise five members, including representatives from the Union of Polish Metropolises, an EU institution, an NGO, an academic and a media representative.

The 3 categories for the EUROCITIES Awards 2007 are as follows:

EUROCITIES Award for Innovation will recognise innovative city approaches to addressing the new challenges cities have to face as a result of demographic changes in all spheres of life. Special attention will be paid to the promotion of human solidarity.

EUROCITIES Award for Participation will recognise local initiatives and actions which are outstanding in their promotion of active citizen participation. This year, special emphasis will be put on the integration of "new" (migrant) and "old" city communities.



EUROCITIES Award for Cooperation will recognise successful partnerships either within cities or with other cities, aimed at finding common solutions to issues of social inclusion. The initiatives should show clear practical benefits for all partners involved.

All EUROCITIES full and associate members should have received guidelines and an entry form for this year's Awards. For more information about the eligibility criteria and evaluation criteria, please see the Call for Entries. Please note that the final deadline for submitting your entry forms is 18 June 2007 ■

For any questions concerning the **EUROCITIES Awards 2007**, please contact Joanna Marczevska in the City Hall of Gdansk, awards@gdansk.gda.pl

FairProcura Conference promotes Responsible Procurement

Brussels, 19 April 2007

EUROCITIES activities to promote socially and ethically responsible procurement were presented at the final Conference of the FairProcura project in Brussels, which brought together some 130 registered participants.

Promoted by EFTA - the European Fair Trade Association, and supported by the European Commission, the FairProcura project encouraged policy makers and institutional buyers in Europe to contribute to sustainable development through including Fair Trade considerations in public procurement policies and practices.

At the FairProcura Conference, EUROCITIES was invited to join the panel discussion dealing with the introduction of social and ethical considerations in public buying procedures and decisions. The different building blocks of the EUROCITIES Campaign on Sustainable

Procurement & Consumption (Cities Make a Difference) were presented, including: the CARPE (Cities As Responsible Purchasers in Europe) project findings and Guide to Responsible Consumption; the EUROCITIES Responsible Procurement & Consumption Working Group activities; and the recently started RESPIRO project.

RESPIRO, standing for Responsibility in Procurement, is a 12-month project geared at establishing a platform for good practices exchange among experts, and deliver guidance documents on Socially Responsible Procurement in the Textiles and Construction sectors.

Supported by the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities), RESPIRO started with a mapping exercise that will identify all actors, organisations, and cities that are pioneering Responsible Procurement actions in both the Construction and

Textiles sectors. The project will list all standards and criteria that can be used by cities that would like buy responsible and need guidance on how to do it. After two rounds of experts' discussions, the project will produce two guidance documents, one focussed on Construction, and the other on Textiles & Clothing.

Should your city have introduced social and ethical criteria in the procurement of Textiles and Clothing, please contact the EUROCITIES Brussels office and get involved in the RESPIRO project.

CARPE website: www.carpe-net.org

FairProcura homepage: <http://european-fair-trade-association.org/FairProcura>

Francesca Crippa, EUROCITIES Senior Project Officer, francesca.crippa@eurocities.eu

Key developments



LIFE+ programme - Draft Regulations published

The unofficial text of the draft regulations for the new LIFE+ programme - the main EU Funding Programme focusing on the environment, has been published on the European Commission (DG Environment) website. This follows a conciliation agreement between the European Parliament and the Council that resolved a number of disagreements.

The European Commission will remain responsible for the selection of projects, according to a list of common criteria and priorities, aiming to ensure that at least 15% of the projects are transnational. The national governments will continue to carry out an indicative pre-selection; and will have the new possibility to define national priorities responding to specific environmental needs. The programme will also include indicative budget allocations per Member State.

LIFE+ will have a total budget of nearly €2 billion for the period 2007-2013 of which 78% will be spent in the form of project grants. It will address all four priority areas of the 6th Environment Action Programme (6EAP, running from

2002 to 2012): climate change, nature and biodiversity, health and quality of life, natural resources and waste - as well as the programme's seven Thematic Strategies (including the one on urban environment).

It is expected that the 2007 call for proposals will be published in September, with a deadline before the end of the

year. The Commission will co-finance up to 50%, assuming an average project budget of around €1 million. Transnational partnerships will be encouraged, but are not a requirement.

The draft multi-annual strategic programme for 2007-2010 defines a range of indicative priorities in different policy fields such as climate change, air, soil, waste and natural resources, and governance. Under Objective 6: Urban Environment, the current priority area of action is defined as "contributing to a better implementation of existing EU environment policies and legislation at the local level by supporting and encouraging local authorities to adopt a more integrated approach to urban management, including the transport and energy sectors." ■

LIFE+ Programme 2007-2013

The LIFE+ programme will have three main strands:

1. **Nature and Biodiversity:** with at least 50% of the total programme budget.
2. **Environment Policy and Governance:** covering the other priorities of the 6th Environment Action Programme (6EAP) as well as strategic approaches to policy development, implementation and enforcement (especially interesting for cities).
3. **Information and Communication** activities on environmental issues.

LIFE homepage:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/home.htm>

EU Funding Briefs

Here is a list of current funding briefs available from EUROCIITIES Projects Unit:

Europe for Citizens Programme

Measure 1.1: Support for citizens' meetings in the framework of town-twinning activities (next deadline: 1 June).

Measure 1.2: Thematic networking among twinned towns on issues related to European citizenship (next deadline: 1 December).

Public Health Programme 2007

Support for projects on e-Health, urban health planning and on promoting healthy lifestyles, etc. (deadline: 21 May)

Youth in Action Programme

Youth in the World: Supports cooperation in the youth sector with countries other than the neighbouring countries of the EU (Deadline: 31 May)

Silke Moschitz, EUROCIITIES Project Manager, silke.moschitz@eurocities.eu

Partner Searches

City of Modena (Italy):

Fighting obesity in children and young people. Partnership to promote the sale of healthy food products in schools and gyms. Proposal to Public Health Programme (Deadline: 21 May)

Cambridgeshire and Suffolk County Councils (UK):

Both local authorities are looking to join a consortium for CIVITAS+ (New deadline: 28 June).

Eindhoven: Boosting

advanced public transport systems. Project idea to be submitted to the future INTERREG IV programme (Expression of interest by end of May).

For more information and for signing up to the EUROCIITIES Projects mailing list please contact Silke Moschitz, EUROCIITIES Project Manager, silke.moschitz@eurocities.eu

Key developments



Commission launches "Europe for Citizens" programme



Ján Figel', the European Commissioner for Education, Training & Culture

The "new Europe for Citizens" programme was launched on 10 May with simultaneous events in Brussels and in Rhodes (Greece), where participants took part in debates on how to raise the level of civic participation and its importance for European integration.

Ján Figel', the European Commissioner for Education, Training & Culture, said: "By connecting two parallel activities via satellite, each one with a different character and with a different audience, this event is symbolic of European citizens joining forces to form the Europe of the future together. This is what we mean with *active European citizenship*".

The Europe for Citizens programme aims to promote 'active European citizenship' by encouraging civic participation in European issues by citizens across the EU. The programme will provide financial support to projects in the participating countries under four main headings:

1. Active citizens for Europe: this involves citizens directly, either through activities linked to town-twinning or through other kinds of citizens' projects;

2. Active civil society for Europe: this is targeted at Europe-wide civil society organizations;

3. Together for Europe: this supports high visibility events, studies and information tools, addressing the widest possible audience;

4. Active European Remembrance: this action supports the commemoration of the victims of Nazism and Stalinism.

The overall budget for the Programme between 2007 and 2013 will be €215 million ■

For more information see http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.html

European Summer University

Birmingham, England – UK, July 2007



The European Summer University (ESU) is a unique opportunity to improve your English Language skills, develop your specialist knowledge and meet people from different countries.

The ESU is organised by Birmingham City Council in partnership with the city's Universities. It is open to applicants of all ages, from all countries. Previous participants have included officials and politicians from local and regional governments - including EURO CITIES members.

Participants may choose to follow either a 3-week programme (from 9 to 27 July) or a 2-week programme

(from 16 to 27 July). Each morning there is 3 hours of English language tuition at different levels. In the afternoons, participants can choose from a wide range of specialist courses.

The specialist courses have a strong emphasis on current issues facing Europe, including: The Entrepreneurial Economy, Europe and the Wider World, Culture and Creativity, Environmental and Climate Issues, Active Citizenship, European Funding, Urban Planning and Regeneration.

The Hague Academy for Local Governance

The Hague Academy for Local Governance organises practically-oriented training programmes on local governance and decentralisation processes for people working for or with local government authorities worldwide.

Rooted in the Association of Dutch Municipalities and cooperating closely with municipal networks and training institutes worldwide, The Hague Academy is able to provide a wide variety of best practices and expert trainers with relevant experience.

In collaboration with the European citizens network R4R-Europe, two training programmes have been developed which are now open for application on the website.

For more info see www.thehagueacademy.com

European Summer University: www.birmingham.gov.uk/esu.bcc

Culture



EUROCITIES Culture Forum meeting

Dublin, Ireland, 14-16 June 2007



Dublin will host the next meeting of EUROCIITIES Culture Forum. The meeting will start with the presentation of the European Commission's Communication on

"A European agenda for culture in a globalizing world" by Vladimír Šucha, Director for Culture and Communication in DG Education and Culture.

A thematic session will focus on "Promoting cultural tourism and the profile and economy of cities". The session will include presentations of best practices by member cities, dealing with different aspects of cultural tourism (sustainable tourism, alternative tourism, innovative products, public-private partnerships, etc.).

There will also be meetings of the four Working Groups which have been set up under the umbrella of EUROCIITIES

Culture Forum: Resourcing of Culture; Agenda 21 for Culture; Young People and Culture; Cultural Access and Entitlement.

The City of Dublin will invite Culture Forum members to take part in the Dublin Literary Award Gala Dinner and a series of cultural visits ■

The Communication on a European agenda for culture in a globalizing world can be found on the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/communication/comm_en.html

Julie Hervé, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Culture, julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Calls for proposals - European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008

In order to achieve the objectives of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, the European Commission has launched two calls for proposals:

- Actions on a European scale (deadline 31 July 2007): The purpose of this call is to co-finance emblematic actions on a European scale aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue, involving and/or

reaching as many people as possible. This grant may cover up to 80% of total costs and will be awarded to approximately 8 to 10 projects.

- Actions on a national scale (restricted call for proposal, deadline 31 July 2007): This call will co-finance actions on a national scale with a strong European dimension, involving and/or reaching as many people

as possible. Eligibility is restricted to the national coordinating bodies in each Member State.

For more information, please see the European Commission (DG Culture) website: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/dialogue/calls_en.html

EUROCITIES Task Force on Intercultural Dialogue

Brussels, Belgium, 14 May 2007

The second meeting of the EUROCIITIES Task Force on Intercultural Dialogue will take place in the EUROCIITIES premises on 14th May. The objective of the meeting is to gather interested members in order to finalise a EUROCIITIES project proposal on intercultural dialogue that will take place in the framework of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and that will be submitted to the European Commission (please refer to the article above).

EUROCITIES is planning to propose a European wide campaign on intercultural dialogue. At the city level the basis required to participate would be the selection of one festival/event and one ongoing project that would be branded as the city's contribution to the EUROCIITIES campaign. Publications and conferences would spread examples of good practices of fostering intercultural dialogue at city level. This proposal will be further discussed and developed in Brussels on 14th May.

Consultation on sustainable tourism

The European Commission (DG Enterprise and Industry) has launched a public consultation on how to promote sustainable and competitive tourism in the European Union. This consultation is based on a report prepared by the Sustainable Tourism Group in which EUROCIITIES was represented.

Responses to the consultation will be used by the Commission to develop an "Agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism" that will be used to prepare potential new initiatives at European level. All relevant stakeholders are invited to contribute to the on-line consultation before 14 June 2007.

For more information see: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/services/tourism/sustainability_public_consultation.htm

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Economic Development



International Conference: Rethinking the Urban Policy Agenda

Madrid, 29-30 March 2007



The International Conference “What policies for globalizing cities? Rethinking the Urban Policy Agenda” was organised by the

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in partnership with the City of Madrid and the Spanish Government. The event was aimed at understanding how cities can manage and respond to the impacts of globalization, with the participation of various stakeholders including city leaders and representatives of regional and national governments.

The economic attractiveness and competitiveness of urban regions has become a major policy objective for local and national governments. The conference discussed several topics such as spatial planning in urban areas;

metropolitan competitiveness; cohesion; city governance and cooperation among different levels of government.

On this occasion, the city of Madrid published a Position Paper to describe its ambitions as well as the challenges it is facing, based on the recognition that “in the knowledge-driven economy, cities stand at the forefront of the productivity chain” ■

Conference website:
www.rethinkingtheurban.org

European Conference on Crafts and Small Enterprises

Stuttgart, Germany, 16-17 April 2007

The 4th European Conference “Challenges and opportunities for craft and small enterprises” was organised on the initiative of Günter Verheugen, the European Commission’s Vice-president in charge of Enterprise and Industry. The event followed two preparatory Conferences held in Warsaw (June 2006) and Budapest (November 2006). The discussions were structured around three themes: “skills for the future”, “developing new markets”, and “improving the business environment”.

Craft and small enterprises represent some 98% of all enterprises in Europe and employ 40-65% of the workers in the private sector of the Member States. Moreover, some 80% of their activities are offered at local or regional level. Following recent enlargements, they

are facing major challenges to adapt to the European market standards, as well as an increased competition.

In the broader context of the EU Enterprise Policy, the conference aimed at setting guidelines to foster the competitiveness of the sector. The event ended with the adoption of recommendations to achieve a competitive craft and small enterprise sector in the European Union. These recommendations have been presented to the European institutions, and to national and regional authorities. The conference was also the occasion for the European Commission to launch its new internet portal for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

European Portal for SMEs: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sme/index_en.htm

Greens-EFA Symposium on Sustainable Urban Development

Brussels, 18 April 2007

The Greens-EFA (European Free Alliance) political group in the European Parliament organised a Symposium with the aim of allowing various stakeholders to give their ideas and input on several issues closely related to the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, which has been prepared by the German Presidency of the Council of the EU and will be presented for adoption at the Informal Ministerial Meeting in Leipzig on 24 and 25 May. EUROCITIES was represented at this Symposium by Marie Ranty, Policy Officer - Economic Development.

EUROCITIES welcomed the very open process initiated by the German presidency and the efforts to involve stakeholders

in developing the Leipzig Charter. In particular, positive aspects include the emphasis on developing cooperation between cities and among political representatives, the emphasis on allowing cities to have greater scope for action, and the need for a more integrated approach at the level of national policies. The main focus of EUROCITIES’ presentation was to insist on the need for a systematic follow-up and implementation of the Charter.

EUROCITIES’ contribution to the Ministers Meeting will be presented at the EUROCITIES’ Mayors Summit in Leipzig on 23 May (see page 3).

The Greens-EFA: www.greens-efa.org

Economic Development



EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum – next meeting

Turku, Finland, 11-13 June 2007



The next meeting of EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum will focus on entrepreneurship, linking up with the World Conference of the International Council for Small

Business (ICSB) and local events for the European Day of the Entrepreneur (EDE). Participants will discuss the contribution of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to job creation, the impact of demographic challenges upon the European labour market, and public policies in relation to entrepreneurship.

On 13 June, there will also be an “URBACT Day” with the aim of helping cities to participate into the new URBACT II programme in the framework of the European Union’s Structural Funds.

The host city, Turku has for many centuries been an important centre for

business and especially for trade with other cities around the Baltic Sea. Today, Turku is internationally recognised as a centre of biotechnological research, product development and business. The city’s success in knowledge-intensive sectors is mainly due to the ambitious cooperation between the region’s universities, enterprises and public sector ■

For more information see: www.turku.fi/Public/default.aspx?contentid=55976&nodeid=8917

Marie Ranty, EUROCITIES Policy Officer – Economic Development, marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

Sharing knowledge about spatial planning

Lille Métropole is the furthest north of all EUROCITIES members in France. The Urban Community of Lille Métropole brings together the city of Lille and 84 of its surrounding suburbs and towns, with a combined population of more than 1 million people.

In the framework of its Master Plan, the Council of Lille Métropole Urban Community has approved, in 2004, the Local Urbanism Plan (L.U.P.) which covers all 85 municipalities. The L.U.P. is an operational tool for managing and

planning the use of land, covering an area of more than 600 square kilometres.

After 3 years, and in order to prepare the next 6 years of elective mandate (2008-2014), Lille Métropole wants to consolidate its knowledge in particular by updating the diagnosis and by specifying the actions and measures to be taken. This commitment is in accordance with the European Directive of 27 June 2001, relating to the impact of certain environmental plans and programmes.

The responsible officers in Lille Métropole would like to make contact with colleagues in other cities in order to share experiences and knowledge, particularly with regard to the production of official urban planning documents.

The Local Urbanism Plan of Lille Métropole can be found (in French) on this website: www.lillemetropole.fr/index.php?p=133&art_id=

If you would like to share experiences and knowledge with colleagues in Lille Métropole, please contact Julien Coisne (jcoisne@cudl-lille.fr) or Jean-Baptiste Bononi (jbbononi@cudl-lille.fr).

Inter-institutional Conference on Public Services

Brussels, 19 April 2007

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) co-organised a conference on the follow-up of the European Commission’s White Paper on services of general interest (published in May 2004). The conference focused on how to promote high-quality public services within a European framework while at the same time safeguarding local autonomy and citizens’ rights.

The European Commission is currently examining the idea of an inter-institutional framework based on

8 principles to guide its sector-based approach to services of general interest. Nevertheless, it seems that the publication of the Commission’s Report on the follow-up of the White Paper will depend on many issues, such as the revision of the single market package.

The Conference gathered EU officials, Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the social partners and civil society. The President of the CoR, Michel Delebarre, stressed that public services are a crucial part of the European social model and this should be included

in any new version of the Constitutional Treaty. The European Parliament’s rapporteur on services of general interest, Bernhard Rapkay MEP, emphasised that the time for legal clarification has arrived. During the debate, participants reassessed that the internal market could not be concluded without a legal framework. It was also proposed that a European Commissioner should be given special responsibility for public services.

European Portal for SMEs: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sme/index_en.htm



Commission reviews 6th Environment Action Programme



On 30 April, the European Commission adopted its Mid-Term Review of the European Union's 6th Environment Action Programme (6EAP), which covers the period from 2002 until 2010. The 6EAP is the environmental pillar of the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy, launched in Gothenburg in 2001. It sets out objectives and actions in four priority areas: climate change; nature and biodiversity; health and the quality of life; and natural resources and waste.

The Commission's Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the 6EAP is included in the "2006 Environmental Policy Review" (COM(2007)195). In general terms, the Mid-Term Review confirms that the implementation of the 6EAP is on track, and the four priorities remain the most urgent environmental challenges. In this

context, the Commission has proposed a series of actions for the coming years.

Climate change: The Commission will develop a series of actions, including a Green Paper and public consultation on "Adaptation to Climate Change", as well as a Communication on water scarcity and droughts in the European Union.

Nature and biodiversity: The Commission will finalise the guidelines for implementing Natura 2000 in the marine environment and present additional options to combat illegal logging and keep illegally harvested timber off the EU market.

Environment and health: The Commission will present a mid-term review of the Environment and Health Action Plan, and will also present a new proposal to revise the National Emission Ceilings Directive and review existing legislation on industrial emissions.

Sustainable use of natural resources and waste: The Commission will prepare an Action Plan on sustainable consumption and production, propose targets for green public procurement, and report on the implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP).

EUROCITIES sent a letter to the Commission in September 2006 as a contribution to the MTR of the 6EAP. Many of the ideas that EUROCITIES put forward have been included in the Commission's proposals, including: a focus on "Adaptation to climate change", setting targets for implementation, greater integration approach of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies, recognising energy as a key challenge for the coming years, and the promotion of a life-cycle approach in the field of waste prevention and recycling. However, EUROCITIES will continue to push for a more systematic involvement of local authorities in all of the Member States ■

6th Environment Action Programme:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/index.htm>

2006 Environment Policy Review:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/policyreview.htm>

Eva Baños de Guisasaola, EUROCITIES Policy Officer-Environment, eva.banos@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES Working Group on Clean Cities

Belfast, Northern Ireland, 7 March 2007

Members of the EUROCITIES Working Group on Clean Cities gathered in Belfast to discuss the Work Programme for 2007, the Clean Cities Booklet and its launch.

The Clean Cities working document has been revised to incorporate the contribution of the Greening of Major Events subgroup and to clarify how the objectives of the

subgroup can successfully be achieved through the Clean Cities working group.

The next meeting of the Working Group will take place in Gothenburg on 24 October.

Caroline Briggs, Chair of EUROCITIES Clean Cities Working Group,
BriggsC@BelfastCity.gov.uk

Energy Efficiency – Shaping Tomorrow's World

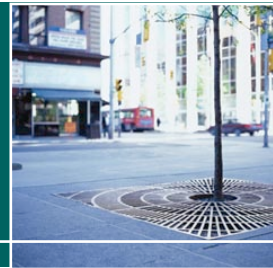
Berlin, Germany, 20 April 2007

During the last EU/G8 Conference on "Energy Efficiency – Shaping Tomorrow's World", the German Presidency of the EU Council proposed compulsory energy efficiency labelling for buildings. These labels would give prospective buyers and tenants information of the energy costs of the buildings they wish to live in.

Energy is one of the priorities within EUROCITIES. The chairs of the EUROCITIES Forums and

Working Groups that deal with energy efficiency will meet for the second time on 16 May to discuss how to structure and organize the work on energy and climate change issues.

More info: www.eu2007.de/en/News/Press_Releases/April/0420MBVBSEnergie.html



EUROCITIES Working Group on Noise

Birmingham, England – UK, 19-20 April 2007



Birmingham, Bullring shopping center

Experts from 12 member cities took part in the last meeting of EUROCIDITIES Working Group on Noise. Members discussed the text of a letter addressed to the European Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen – responsible for Enterprise and Industry - urging him to strengthen the European legislation concerning noise limits for tyres and vehicles.

During the meeting all problems that cities had while producing Noise Maps were listed and discussed. It became clear that a lot of cities will not finish their Noise Maps on time. The Working Group also identified possible solutions. The document with this information can be found on EUROCIDITIES website (in the Environment section).

Some students of the Open University (UK) are investigating the experiences with making Noise Maps. They have done interviews with Dutch, English and

German cities and will analyse the findings. The findings will be reported around the summer 2007 to the Working Group Noise. The students will also draw up a questionnaire, which will be sent to all EUROCIDITIES member cities.

There was a presentation from the city of Amsterdam about neighbour noise and how this is being addressed in practice. The city drew up a policy document which is downloadable on the EUROCIDITIES site.

During the 2nd day, John Hinton presented a survey about quiet urban areas, that was carried out by the UK government (DEFRA). The final report will be published soon.

Stephen Turner of Veritas was invited to give an explanation on the data reporting system according to the END 2002/49/EC. During the meeting of the Expert Group on Environmental Noise EU, earlier this year, EUROCIDITIES had some comments on the proposed system.

The next meeting will take place in Utrecht and will include a joint session with EUROCIDITIES Working Group on Air Quality and Climate Change ■

Working Group homepage:
<http://workinggroupnoise.web-log.nl>

Henk Wolfert, Chair of EUROCIDITIES Working Group on Noise, henk.wolfert@dcmr.nl

EUROCITIES Working Group on Air Quality & Climate Change

Frankfurt, Germany, 4-5 June 2007

EUROCITIES Working Group on Air Quality & Climate Change will have its next meeting in Frankfurt. The group will discuss the results of the Survey on Air Quality, EUROCIDITIES work on energy and the preparations for the Energy Seminar in Gothenburg, and emissions from shipping.

The European Commission's forthcoming Communication on Adaptation to Climate Change (expected in May) will also be on the agenda together with other important issues.

Eva Baños de Guisasaola, EUROCIDITIES Policy Officer– Environment, eva.banos@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES Environment Forum

Tallinn, Estonia, 7-8 June 2007

The next meeting of EUROCIDITIES Environment Forum (EEF) will focus on the theme: "Innovative and sustainable solutions to environmental problems leads to economic growth in our cities".

The meeting will be opened by Kia Andréasson (Deputy Mayor of Gothenburg - Chair of EEF), Peter Myhre (Commissioner for Environment and Transport, City of Oslo - Vice Chair EEF) and Toomas Vitsut (Chairman, Tallinn City Council, City of Tallinn).

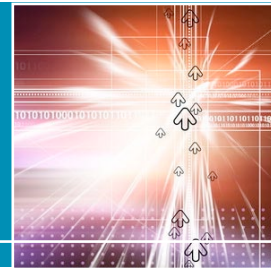
The main items on the agenda will be: adoption of the Work Programme for the Forum and Working Groups; a poster session on the main theme; the environmental Priorities of the forthcoming Council Presidencies; cities' experiences on Fair Trade and Green Procurement; green capital and innovation as a tool to improve the environment; Green Paper on market based instruments for environment and energy related policy purposes; adaptation to Climate Change and Energy Policy within EUROCIDITIES.

The Environment Forum agenda is available in the Members Area of EUROCIDITIES website.

The following EEF will take place on 24-26 October in Gothenburg, together with the Mobility and Economic Development Forums. The main focus of this seminar will be on ensuring a more efficient use of energy in cities.

Eva Baños de Guisasaola, EUROCIDITIES Policy Officer– Environment, eva.banos@eurocities.eu

Knowledge Society



EUROCITIES contributes to the i2010 Digital Local agenda

Hameenlinna, Finland, 16-18 April 2007



The National Urban Park of Hameenlinna

EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum, together with other representatives of regional and local governments, has contributed to the development of the i2010 Digital Local Agenda. This Agenda underlines the positive contributions that cities and regions are making to the Lisbon Strategy, identifies priority areas, lists possible

actions and recommendations in order to overcome barriers, and addresses the issue of how cities should be more involved in the policy-making procedures on different levels.

The i2010 Digital Local Agenda was developed at the European Information Society Conference (EISCO 2007), held in Hameenlinna near Helsinki. Since 1998, the EISCO conferences have become a fixed appointment for local and regional authorities in Europe to discuss eGovernment and Information Society strategies, to learn from each other and evaluate achievements in reducing the digital divide within the regions.

As part of the programme for EISCO 2007, EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum organised a session on Advanced Municipal and Local Services. The session was introduced by the Forum Chair

- Giuseppe Paruolo from Bologna, and a representative from the European Commission. The topic was developed in three parallel sessions, dealing with policy, content and technology aspects, with contributions from various cities including Helsinki, Oulu, Modena, Manchester and The Hague.

The i2010 Digital Local Agenda contains a large number of interesting suggestions and it will provide a useful basis for the future work of EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum ■

EISCO 2007: www.hameenliitto.fi/eisco2007

For more info about the European Commission's i2010 policy framework see: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/index_en.htm

Maurice Paulissen, EUROCITIES Policy officer - Knowledge Society, maurice.paulissen@eurocities.eu

Council of Europe Symposium on e-Democracy

Strasbourg, France, 23-24 April 2007

The Council of Europe's Ad Hoc Committee on e-democracy (CAHDE) and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities organised a Symposium on e-democracy.

E-democracy is often seen as a promising complement to traditional forms of representative democracy and can support and facilitate direct participatory and deliberative democracy, enhancing transparency and accountability in decision-making.

The Chair of the Knowledge Society Forum, Giuseppe Paruolo from Bologna made a presentation in which he raised a number of questions, starting from the observation that despite the potential of e-democracy little use of it is being made. This led to a discussion drawing on the lessons learnt from experiences in the 46 Council of Europe member states, while also identifying areas for future research and policy-making.

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities:
www.coe.int/T/Congress/Default_en.asp

European eGovernment Awards 2007

The European Commission has published a call for entries for the 3rd edition of the European eGovernment Awards. In previous years, several member cities have reached very high scores and honourable mentions.

The award winners will be announced on 20 September at a ceremony in Lisbon - part of a Ministerial eGovernment Conference being organised in the framework of the forthcoming Portuguese Presidency of the EU (second half of 2007).

This year there are five categories: Better public services for growth and jobs; Participation and transparency; Social impact and cohesion; Effective and efficient administration; Most inspiring Good Practice (to be voted by the public).



Entries will be evaluated by independent experts and a Jury, using these evaluation criteria: Impact; Evidence of, or potential for sharing good practice; Understanding of multi-channel aspects; Innovation and management efficiency; Overall impression and communications capacity.

Please note that the deadline for entries is 11 June 2007.

After the call closes, the submitted entries will be published on the new European eGovernment website. The European good practice exchange is a service for the professional community in eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth. It builds on the Good Practice Framework as well as on the IDABC eGovernment Observatory.

European eGovernment: www.epractice.eu

Knowledge Society



EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum – next meeting

Bologna, Italy, 28-29 June 2007



Bologna, Strada Maggiore

The theme of the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum – TeleCities Summer Event will be “Include, Connect, Keep It Safe. ICT for Safe Digital Cities”. The main issues addressed will include: inclusive e-Services, wireless networks, video surveillance and electromagnetic pollution.

The programme for the first day includes: a plenary session on the theme of “Safe technologies in safe digital cities”; parallel workshops on electromagnetic pollution

and video surveillance; a networking session focused on wireless network models. The second day will see the presentation of the HANDS project results (see separate article), followed by more workshops.

On 28 June, the city of Bologna will sign the Charter of Rights of Citizens in the Knowledge Society (e-Rights Charter), thereby confirming its commitment to the development of an inclusive Knowledge Society. Any other interested cities will also be welcome to take part in this signing ceremony ■

Maurice Paulissen, EUROCITIES Policy officer– Knowledge Society, maurice.paulissen@eurocities.eu

i2010 Lab: Information Society Conference

Treviso, Italy, 22 May 2007

The 2nd European Regions and Cities Conference “i2010 Lab - A Practical Guide to EU Information Society” is organised by the Province of Treviso in partnership with ERNACT EEIG as part of BRISE (Boosting Regional Information Society Expertise), an interregional European network project supported by the European Commission under INTERREG IIIC.

The Treviso Conference follows on from the First International Conference “i2010 for European Regions and Cities”, which took place in the city of Olomouc (Czech Republic) on 26-27 September 2006. The Conference brought about discussion regarding some of the most important Information Society issues in existence in light of the new European Commission programme “i2010”.

The i2010 Lab Conference will inform participants about the present situation of the European Programmes linked to “i2010”, including the 7th Framework Programme, the Framework Programme on Competitiveness and Innovation, and the Programmes of European Territorial cooperation. Project ideas will be developed through participative sessions and workshops.

International experts in the field of Information Society and representatives from the European Commission will attend the i2010 Lab Conference. Participants will include local and regional officers, companies, universities and others interested in learning about the European funding programmes for the Information Society.

i2010 homepage: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/index_en.htm

Conference website: www.focuslab.eu/europe

HANDS Project – Final Workshop

Bologna, Italy, 29 June 2007



HANDS (the Helping Answers Decision Service) is a project coordinated

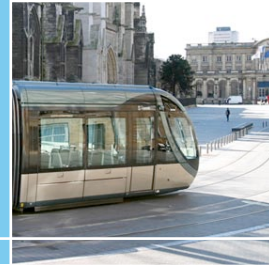
by Bologna, supported by the European Union’s eTen programme. The aim is to facilitate online communication between citizens and public bodies, making use of natural language processing (NLP) techniques.

The Final Workshop of the HANDS Project will take place in Bologna as part of the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum – TeleCities Summer Event. The workshop will include a short presentation of the project’s final results, live demonstrations of the HANDS tool, and a discussion about strategies to disseminate and exploit the HANDS application in public administrations.

Participants will be invited to evaluate the HANDS service and to analyse whether its adoption could add value to the services provided by local public administrations.

Maeva Zebrowski, EUROCITIES Project Officer, maeva.zebrowski@eurocities.eu

Mobility



City-Logistics Expo focuses on freight solutions

Padova, Italy, 18-21 April 2007



The City-Logistics Expo in Padova resulted from the need to foster a closer co-operation between the private sector - including transport and delivery companies - and public authorities from local level to European level. This was the first opportunity for the various stakeholders to get together and try to understand what needs to be done in the next years to move closer to a EU Freight Action Plan dealing with the final stages of goods delivery.

At the Expo, EUROCIITIES Mobility Forum organised a debate focusing on understanding the European dimension of logistics issues. During the first part there were presentations of the latest results from three European projects: START (presented by Mario Gualdi, ISIS), NICHES (Valérie Bénard, EUROCIITIES) and BESTUFS (Laetitia Deblanc, INRETS). Following these presentations, the participants agreed that despite the progress made in recent years - a lot still needs to be done. In particular, the issue of cross-border enforcement remains a problem that will require a Europe-wide solution. For example, the establishment of Low Emission Zones in cities will require better controls on foreign heavy goods vehicles entering cities. This is not always possible nowadays because of the lack of interoperability between the various controlling systems and the lack of common standards across the EU.

The second part of the debate focused on local authorities experiences. It became clear that across Europe there is a need for a better co-operation between public authorities and transport operators. This is the reason why EUROCIITIES welcomes the European Commission's initiative to hold a stakeholders' workshop in Brussels on 8 May in order to discuss the establishment of a Freight Logistics Action Plan. This event will touch upon the following subjects: E-freight and Intelligent Transport Systems, quality, simplification of the transport chains, vehicle dimensions, green corridors, the European Commission's Green Paper on Urban Transport ■

Barbara Bernardi, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer- Mobility, barbara.bernardi@eurocities.eu

Stakeholder Dialogue on Road Safety

Brussels, 26 April 2007

EUROCIITIES Mobility Forum was invited to participate in a stakeholders' dialogue organised by Toyota with the aim of discussing two of the most important aspects of road safety in the EU: protecting vulnerable road users, and education and promotion of road safety. This event provided a platform for representatives of public authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders to share best practices with regard to reducing the number of fatalities on Europe's roads.

On behalf of EUROCIITIES Mobility Forum, Steffen Rasmussen, Chair of the Road Safety Working Group, described the progress made in the City of Copenhagen in recent years, focusing on reducing risks for cyclists and

walkers. EUROCIITIES made several recommendations to the European Commission, in particular concerning the need to harmonise data collection. Nowadays, it remains difficult to compare data from different Member States because of the different methods and criteria. Last but not least, the European Commission was asked to foster a closer co-operation with EUROCIITIES, POLIS and the European Transport Safety Council.

EUROCIITIES Mobility Forum looks forward to working together with the European Commission in the coming months and helping to develop a monitoring and follow-up mechanism for the European Road Safety Charter.

Barbara Bernardi, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer- Mobility, barbara.bernardi@eurocities.eu

EUROCIITIES Mobility Forum - next meeting

Enschede, The Netherlands, 20-22 June 2007

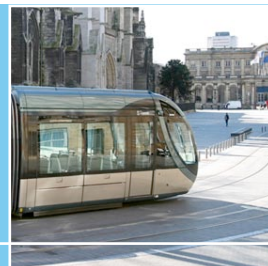
The next meeting of EUROCIITIES Mobility Forum will focus on the theme of "Crossing Borders: Transport and Traffic Challenges". The meeting will be hosted by Netwerkstad Twente, which is a conurbation of five neighbouring towns in the east of The Netherlands, close to the border with Germany, with a total population of around 350 000. Netwerkstad Twente is an associated partner of the EUROCIITIES Forums for Mobility, Economic Development, and Social Affairs.

Co-operation centres on such aspects as accessibility,

level of facilities, high-quality residential and commercial locations, the quality of life, and safety. In terms of traffic and transport, Netwerkstad Twente occupies a central position in the Trans European Network (TEN) and in European goods transport. The A1 and A35 motorways and the Berlin-Amsterdam railway line are international links with central and eastern Europe (i.e. the West-East Corridor). Completed by the Enschede Airport Twente and the Twente canal, Netwerkstad Twente offers a high level of cross-border accessibility.

Netwerkstad Twente: www.twentenetwerkstad.nl

Barbara Bernardi, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer- Mobility, barbara.bernardi@eurocities.eu



BESTUFS Conference: Vital cities optimise city logistics

Warsaw, Poland,
24-25 May 2007

Best Urban Freight Solutions (BESTUFS) is a network of experts, researchers, practitioners and policy makers focused on finding the best solutions to the problems and opportunities of freight distribution in the cities and towns of Europe. It is a coordination action funded by the European Commission under the 6th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Demonstration.

The BESTUFS Coordination Action invites you to its 7th Conference focussing on solutions for optimising city logistics at urban level. The movement of goods in urban areas is well organised by private companies whilst recently European municipalities have started to develop policies to change urban transport towards sustainable solutions. In this area of tension between established traditional transport structures and the objectives of cleaner, safer and more attractive cities there are many innovations taking place European wide. The interest in being informed about interesting solutions and experiences in city logistics is growing. The BESTUFS Conference will highlight recent innovative examples and will present main development directions and common problems faced as seen by transport operators, public bodies, retailers and domain experts ■

BESTUFS: www.bestufs.net

Valérie Bénard, EUROCITIES Senior Project Officer,
valerie.benard@eurocities.eu

New project proposal under FP7: NICHES+

Brussels, 5 June 2007

NICHES+ is a proposal for a Coordination Action to network actors engaged in developing innovative urban transport concepts. This proposal relates to the project NICHES, a CA with similar objectives, but different topics that was funded under the Sixth Framework Programme and will be completed within the next weeks NICHES+ will explore a new set of innovative concepts, to complete work started under NICHES. The project will work directly with cities, developing implementation scenarios for integrating innovative concepts in urban

policies and so help urban policy makers to move efficiently from the development of innovative mobility solutions to their practical implementation.

If your city is interested in becoming involved in the NICHES+ project, whether it be as a potential subcontracted champion city or as an expert, we kindly invite you to get in touch with EUROCITIES. The deadline for submission of this proposal has been extended until 5 June 2007 so we will accept letters of intent from cities until 15 May 2007.

NICHES: www.niches-transport.org

Valérie Bénard, EUROCITIES Senior Project Officer, valerie.benard@eurocities.eu

European Road Safety Day

Brussels, 27 April 2007

The first European Road Safety Day took place on 27 April, and was dedicated to the importance of educating young drivers about road safety. Young drivers account for more than 25% of driver fatalities across the EU, whilst the same age group represents only about 10% of the population.

Mr Jacques Barrot, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of transport, welcomed five youth associations as members of the European Road Safety Charter. These associations committed themselves to implementing specific actions targeted towards young drivers.

For more information see http://ec.europa.eu/transport/roadsafety/index_en.htm

Get ready for European Mobility Week 2007!

Your City, 16-22 September 2007

The European Mobility Week (EMW) 2007 will be organised around the theme 'Streets for People'. The initiative encourages local authorities to think about the key question of how road space is allocated. It provides a unique opportunity for local authorities to test and launch new sustainable transport measures. All of the participating cities are invited to implement permanent measures, to ensure that the campaign will have long-term positive impacts. These may include a reallocation of road space in favour of walking, cycling or public transport, lower speed limits and safer pedestrian crossings.

In order to help cities organise a successful EMW 2007, the European coordination, lead by EUROCITIES, has prepared several communication tools, which are available on the EMW website. The EMW image and tools have been updated to offer a new and innovative look to the campaign. All communication materials are available in English and French and a toolbox explaining how to use these tools is available online. The online registration system for the national coordinators and the participating cities to the European Mobility Week 2007 is available in several languages.

European Mobility Week: www.mobilityweek.eu

Valérie Bénard, EUROCITIES Senior Project Officer, valerie.benard@eurocities.eu

Social Affairs



Stakeholder Conference on Active Inclusion

Brussels, 15 June 2007

The European Commission (DG Employment) is organising a stakeholder conference on Minimum Income schemes and the integration of people excluded from the labour market. The Commission wants to promote the concept of *active inclusion* - a policy mix that combines three elements: a link to the labour market through job opportunities or vocational training; income support at a level that is sufficient for people to have a dignified life; and better access to services that may help some individuals and their families to

participate fully in society. While it is important to support as many people as possible to participate actively in the labour market, Minimum Income schemes remain essential for those who – for various reasons – are unable to work or to find a job.

Following a stakeholder consultation in 2006 and an impact assessment study, the Conference is a milestone in the Commission's elaboration of this concept and further policy decisions at the eve of the Portuguese presidency. It also aims at

promoting the political debate on these key issues of active inclusion in relation to the broader challenge of *flexicurity* which will be highlighted at the same time by a communication from the Commission ■

European Commission (DG Employment): http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/active_inclusion_en.htm

EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum – next meeting

Brussels, 25-29 June 2007



House of Cities

The next meeting of EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum – chaired by the City of Rotterdam - will take place in the new House of Cities, Municipalities and Regions in Brussels. The main theme will be the provision of Social Services in European Cities. Cities are invited to present case studies on local service provision focusing on issues such as procurement and cooperation with private sector and NGOs and how to ensure quality principles in social and health care.

Participants will also look at current policy developments on Social and Health Services at European level with the aim to identify

how the Forum can best contribute to these discussions. The second day of the meeting is being organised in partnership with PICUM - the European Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants- focusing on access to healthcare for undocumented migrants in Europe.

Simon Guentner, EUROCITIES Policy Officer- Social Affairs, simon.guentner@eurocities.eu

Seminar on Integration of People with Disabilities

Brussels, 16 May 2007

As part of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, the Greater London Authority holds a round table discussion on the "Integration of People with Disabilities". Hosted by David Morris, Senior Policy Adviser to the Mayor of London on disabilities, the event will be addressed by Inmaculada Placencia-Porrero, Deputy Head of the Integration of People with Disabilities Unit of

DG Employment of the European Commission and Carlotta Besozzi, Director of the European Disability Forum, who will present a project involving several member states on mainstreaming disability at local level.

Info and registration: european.office@london.gov.uk

Conference on Migrants' Access to Housing

Budapest, 3-5 June 2007

The European Network of Cities for Local Integration Policies for Migrants is holding a Conference on access to housing and housing segregation of migrants. The findings of a comparative report on access to decent and affordable housing for migrants and on housing segregation, based on information collected in 20 cities, will be presented and discussed.

Info and registration: hkr@eurofound.europa.eu

Social Affairs



Gender Equality Project: BRIEFCASE

Düsseldorf, Germany, 16-17 April 2007

The second meeting of the BRIEFCASE project took place in Düsseldorf. BRIEFCASE stands for "Bringing Equality in Employment and Family through Care Services". The project is coordinated by the City of Bologna and supported by the European Commission under the Gender Equality Programme. The project partners include EUROCITIES and the Cities of Amaroussion (Greece), Chemnitz (Germany), Craiova (Romania),

Düsseldorf (Germany), Madrid (Spain), and Plovdiv (Bulgaria).

The BRIEFCASE project starts with an in-depth analysis of public and private services dedicated to children and youth, based on qualitative interviews with educational experts, employers and families. These interviews are meant to assess the extent to which such services offer support to families and are accessible by specific groups, including single mothers and migrant women.

different cities. This assessment will lead to the identification of three best practices to be presented in the final publication.

There will soon be a BRIEFCASE website to support dissemination of the project's findings and activities. The next BRIEFCASE meeting will take place in Chemnitz (Germany) on 16-17 July 2007 ■



BRIEFCASE website: www.briefcaseproject.eu

Francesca Crippa, EUROCITIES Senior Project Officer, francesca.crippa@eurocities.eu

ECRE Policy Briefings on Integration

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) has launched six policy briefings on integration, which have been produced by the NGO Network of Integration Focal Points. The policy briefings address the following topics: housing, introduction programmes and language courses, assessment of skills and recognition of qualifications, vocational training and (higher) education, employment and employment support, civic and political participation.

The aim of the series is to inform policy and practice, and to support advocacy efforts in these six areas. Specific country information and recommendations on each topic are compiled in six corresponding booklets. These booklets are a compilation of national reports on 16 European countries. The documents can be downloaded from the ECRE website.

ECRE: www.ecre.org/resources/project_documents/812

2010: European Year on Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

The European Commission announced in the Social agenda 2005-2010 a proposal for designating 2010 as the European Year of combating poverty and social exclusion. Its intention is to reiterate the initial political commitment of the EU at the start of the Lisbon strategy, knowing that European Years have proven to be an efficient instrument in putting political issues on the top of the EU Agenda and in ensuring political commitment from the various EU actors.

Before issuing its formal proposal, the Commission is keen to hear the views of all relevant

stakeholders regarding the orientation and the implementation of the Year as well as the follow-up needed to ensure a lasting impact. The consultation is centred around issues such as: objectives of the European Year; involvement of stakeholders; overall design, framework and types of actions; lasting value of the Year. The EUROCITIES Taskforce on Social Inclusion is currently coordinating a response to this consultation.

Simon Güntner, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Social Affairs, simon.guentner@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES Workshop at Employment Week 2007

Brussels, 6-7 June 2007

The EUROCITIES Working Group on Employment will present its Best Practice Guide at the Employment Week event in Brussels. The Guide includes cases from Aarhus, Bologna, Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Gateshead, Helsinki, Malmö, Nantes, Newcastle, Rotterdam, Southampton, Stockholm and Turku. Based on this overview, EUROCITIES will host a Workshop "Innovative Cities" on the second day of the Employment Week.

Employment Week: www.employmentweek.com

Participation & Cooperation



European Cities and Citizens Congress: Local Partnerships in Urban Development

Leipzig, Germany, 26-28 April 2007



Representatives of the local, regional, national and EU level met in Leipzig to examine the role of local partnerships in integrated urban development. The Conference was organised by the City of Leipzig, in collaboration with other organizations, including EUROCITIES. Using successful practical cases as a starting point, participants discussed how local partnerships can support the development of successful integrated urban development policies.

Participants also discussed and supported the Leipzig Memo, which was the conference's contribution to the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, taking place in Leipzig on 24 May. The Memo stresses the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation at all government levels to develop

integrated approaches and achieve sustainable urban development in Europe.

As regards the EU Structural Funds, the Memo urges the responsible national and regional authorities to support integrated urban development within Operational Programmes by providing flexible resources without bureaucracy. It also calls for the involvement of the local level in the formulation and implementation of programmes. Finally, the document underlines the importance for the local level to work with a variety of local stakeholders including businesses, NGOs and the education sector ■

Conference website: www.leipzig-conferences.de

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Improving knowledge transfer between research and industry

In conjunction with the Green Paper on the European Research Area, the European Commission has also published a Communication on improving knowledge transfer between research institutions and industry across Europe as a means to support the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs. The document is a starting point for discussion on a common European framework for knowledge transfer.

One point made by the Commission when referring to the role of EU cohesion policy in this matter is that the proximity of research institutions and firms often facilitates knowledge transfer,

which emphasizes the crucial role which regional and local authorities can play. It also calls on Member States to support cooperation between the different parties, so as to strengthen the regional dimension of the knowledge economy.

European Commission (DG Research): http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/index_en.htm

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Consultation on European Research Area (ERA)

The European Commission published in April a Green Paper entitled "The European Research Area: New perspectives". This Green Paper addresses 6 main objectives: adequate flow of competent researchers; world class research infrastructures; excellent research institutions; effective knowledge sharing; well coordinated research programmes and priorities; and opening the European Research Area to the world. The document is accompanied by guidelines to help research institutions improve their links with industry.

The aim of the Green Paper is to help the Commission prepare the ERA-related initiatives being launched in 2008. The public consultation will remain open until August 2007. Contributions will be used in the design of concrete actions for the development of the ERA.

European Commission (DG Research): <http://ec.europa.eu/research/era>

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Participation & Cooperation



EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform

Turin, Italy, 31 May - 1 June 2007



The 3rd EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform will provide an opportunity for all EUROCITIES contact officers to meet, exchange, discuss and learn from one another as well as receive an update on current activities from the Brussels Office.

In this year's plenary session, participants will be invited to discuss ways to develop and finalise strong and sharp EUROCITIES policy papers while ensuring all different views within the network are taken on board. Speed-networking sessions will provide opportunities for exchanges on the work of EUROCITIES Forums, Project opportunities and Communication tools.

Workshop sessions will focus on: the role of EUROCITIES in public relations in an European context; linking EUROCITIES knowledge and local action; different possibilities to cooperate within the network; and project development opportunities through EUROCITIES. More information on the content of the workshops is being distributed to registered participants.

This year each member city may send either one or two representatives to participate in the EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform. If you have not already registered - please do it now! ■

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Working Group on ENP & EU Enlargement

Turin, Italy, 30 May 2007

The next meeting of EUROCITIES Working Group on European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) & EU Enlargement will take place on the day before the EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform in Turin (see article above).

Among other issues, the Working Group will discuss the organisation of a high-level political and expert seminar on opportunities for city cooperation under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). This Seminar will be held in Ljubljana on 8-9 November, with the participation of cities from EU candidate and potential candidate countries.

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Final Conference of METROGOV City-Region Project

Birmingham, England - UK, 25 May 2007

Over the last 18 months, the cities of Birmingham, Budapest, Cologne, Frankfurt, Glasgow, Lille, Malmo and Milan have worked together under the auspices of the URBACT programme on a project to examine how city-regions are developing in practice across Europe and how these experiences relate to the different theories of city-regions which are currently being put forward.

This conference will present the conclusions of this work and a series of recommendations and learning points for the future. It will cover issues such as governance, strategic planning and decision-making, resource allocation and partnership working.

METROGOV:
<http://urbact.eu/projects/metrogov/home.html>

For more info contact Dave Howl in Birmingham:
dave_howl@birmingham.gov.uk

EUROCITIES EuroMed Working Group

Brussels, 5-7 June 2007

EUROCITIES Working Group on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation will hold its next meeting in Brussels.

In addition to being informed on latest developments and future funding opportunities, participants will have the opportunity to discuss EuroMed partnerships and the future of decentralised cooperation with officials from the European Commission and Members of the European Parliament.

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Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
20-23 May 2007 Vienna, Austria	CORP Conference on Urban Planning in the Information Society Organised by the Competence Center of Urban and Regional Planning	www.corp.at
20-24 May 2007 Helsinki, Finland	UITP World Congress and Public Transport Exhibition Organised by UITP – the International Association of Public Transport	www.uitp.com
31 May - 1 June 2007 Turin, Italy	EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform 2007 Organised by EUROCITIES and the City of Turin	bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu
5-6 June 2007 Brussels, Belgium	Employment Week – European Conference & Exhibition Supported by various European Union institutions	www.employmentweek.com
11 June 2007 Brussels, Belgium	SILENCE: Reducing Road Transport Noise in Urban Areas Organised in partnership with POLIS	www.silence-ip.org
12-15 June 2007 Brussels, Belgium	Green Week – European Conference & Exhibition Organised by the European Commission (DG Environment)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html
13-14 June 2007 Gateshead, England	European Confederation of Locally Elected Representatives First Annual General Meeting hosted by Gateshead Council	www.ecler.org.uk
13-15 June 2007 Freiburg, Germany	European Conference on Local Renewable Energy Organised by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	www.local-renewables2007.org
12-18 August 2007 Stockholm, Sweden	World Water Week – International Conference Organised by Stockholm International Water Institute	www.worldwaterweek.org
12-14 September 2007 Malmo, Sweden	Sustainable City Development 2007 Supported by the European Union's Intelligent Energy programme	www.malmo.se/sustainablecity
2-4 October 2007 Lisbon, Portugal	WaterfrontEXPO 2007 – Conference & Exhibition Organised in partnership with the Greater Lisbon Region	www.waterfrontexpo.com
9-14 November 2007 London, England	5th Creative Clusters Conference Organised by Creative Clusters Ltd.	www.creativeclusters.com



Nantes: putting culture at the centre of urban renewal

Nantes is a port city, built on the banks of the River Loire, some 30 km from the Atlantic coast. With 289 000 inhabitants, Nantes is the 6th largest city in France. Its strategic location made the city a centre for international commerce in the 18th Century, and then shipbuilding and other heavy industries in the 19th and 20th Centuries. The shipbuilding industry was closed down in 1987, and since then Nantes has actively pursued a strategy of economic development which includes promoting the cultural sector as one of its most important dimensions.



Since he was first elected as Mayor of Nantes in 1989, Jean-Marc Ayrault has sought to strengthen cooperation with the surrounding suburbs and towns. In 1992 he created the District of the Nantes Conurbation, which officially became an 'Urban Community' in 2001. Today, the Urban Community of Nantes Métropole groups together the City of Nantes and 23 towns and villages in the surrounding metropolitan area, which a total population of some 581 000 people. As well as being the Mayor of Nantes, Jean-Marc Ayrault is also the President of the Urban Community.

Nantes became a member of EUROCITIES in 1997, with the aim of cooperating with other cities on issues of common interest, and gaining knowledge and know-how at the European level. Nantes Métropole is currently a member of EUROCITIES Executive Committee, having taken over from Porto in June 2006. This follows an agreement that was made at the EUROCITIES AGM in November 2004, when the two cities received the same number of votes.

For many years, Nantes Métropole has used its membership of EUROCITIES Mobility Forum (formerly Access) as a means of presenting its projects and policies in the field of public transport, including actions co-financed by the European Commission. In this way, Nantes Métropole has gained recognition as a positive example, and was mentioned by the Commission in its Communication proposing a Thematic Strategy for the Urban Environment (January 2006).

In the framework of the EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum, Nantes was an active member of the working group "Development Strategies in major European cities" (1999-2000). The group looked at different tools for governance and territorial cooperation supporting the realisation of major urban regeneration projects. This enabled Nantes to compare its development strategy with those of 15 other large cities as part of a genuine benchmarking process.

"The EUROCITIES network allows us to share our experiences, our plans, and our desire to build strong links with other major European cities and to deepen the dialogue with the European institutions. It also provides the possibility to strengthen our links with cities in the countries which have become members of the European Union more recently."

Jean-Marc Ayrault, Mayor of Nantes,
President of Nantes Métropole

Comparing experiences with other member cities and identifying examples of good practice is an important source of added value for cities participating in the EUROCITIES network. In 2003, Nantes Métropole was very pleased to receive the EUROCITIES Award in the category "Green Spaces in disadvantaged neighbourhoods", recognising its achievements in this area.

In March 2007, Nantes hosted a joint meeting of the EUROCITIES Forums for Culture and Economic Development, which included a one-day Conference on how culture contributes to the economic development of European cities. This was an opportunity for EUROCITIES members to see for themselves the cultural *renaissance* which has been realised in Nantes during recent years, and to compare it with the experiences of other cities including Budapest, Lyon, Leipzig and Nottingham.

In its own administration, Nantes Métropole has taken steps to ensure that as many colleagues as possible can contribute to the city's participation in EUROCITIES activities. The Nantes Métropole intranet site includes a discussion forum, with a special section dedicated to EUROCITIES-linked topics, allowing for a continuous exchange of information and ideas among colleagues from different departments ■

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