



# EUROCITIES *FLASH*

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## FLASH CONTENTS\*

### EDITORIAL (page 2)

- Looking forward to another busy year in 2007

### GENERAL NEWS (from page 3)

- EUROCITIES Conference & Annual General Meeting 2006
- Mayor of Lyon is elected as new President of EUROCITIES
- EUROCITIES Awards 2006: Bristol, Dortmund and Vienna are recognised for their achievements contributing to the knowledge economy

### CULTURE (from page 6)

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (from page 8)

### ENVIRONMENT (from page 11)

### KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY (from page 16)

### MOBILITY (from page 18)

### SOCIAL AFFAIRS (from page 22)

### PARTICIPATION & COOPERATION (from page 24)

- URBAN MATRIX: An e-library for the EUROCITIES network!
- EU Funding Programmes 2007-2013: Europe for Citizens

*\* Please note that this is not a complete list of contents*

### Looking forward to another busy year in 2007

EUROCITIES final highlight in 2006, our Conference and AGM in Manchester, was a very successful event attended by more than 500 participants.

Following numerous possibilities for networking and exchanges among politicians and officers, it ended with a consensual and positive closed session, where members agreed EUROCITIES Work Priorities for 2007, together with the resources required to support their implementation. Our network is now ready to address the upcoming challenges in 2007.

I would like to thank here Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, who, under his very strong and committed two-year presidency of EUROCITIES, managed to reinforce the organisation substantially, making it increasingly focused and effective.

The calendar of upcoming high-level political activities for EUROCITIES in 2007 is both loaded and challenging.

EUROCITIES is now heavily engaged in active cooperation with the European Commission on issues such as climate change (a meeting between EUROCITIES members and Commissioner Dimas is planned for next spring), urban transport (a meeting between EUROCITIES members and Vice-President Barrot will take place on 19 April), and services of general interest (on which we hope to meet with President Barroso).

EUROCITIES also intends to organise in 2007 two major policy events, one on Demographic change and social inclusion, and one on Energy efficiency and climate change, which will both be opportunities for a whole range of EUROCITIES Forums and working groups to combine forces and address the issues from various perspectives in a cross-sectoral approach.

EUROCITIES is also contributing to the preparations for the informal ministerial meetings to be hosted by the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union in Leipzig in May 2007, notably to the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, and the Territorial Agenda.

Besides these high-level opportunities to make an increasing impact on EU policies, the time is now also ripe for exploring new avenues for EUROCITIES activities. This is certainly one of the ambitions of our newly-elected President Gérard Collomb, Mayor of Lyon. One of the key opportunities to exchange and discuss on the further development of our activities will be the annual meeting of EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform which will take place in Turin at the end of May.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very good end-of-year, and thank you for your commitment and involvement throughout this year, which has contributed to making EUROCITIES what it is today.

Catherine Parmentier  
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## GENERAL NEWS

### EUROCITIES Conference & Annual General Meeting 2006

Manchester, England - UK, 22-25 November 2006

105 cities were represented at the EUROCITIES Conference and Annual General Meeting 2006, hosted by the city of Manchester from 22 to 25 November. The main theme of this year's Conference was '**Knowledge Cities - Villes du futur**'. The 500 delegates agreed on a series of measures that European cities should take to be successful in the knowledge economy.

The event was an occasion for the members of the EUROCITIES network to adopt the **Manchester Declaration**, a document which sets out a series of guidelines for how cities can strengthen their position in the context of the knowledge economy, in which skills and innovative potential are the key resources for competitive advantage. While emphasising that cities have always been the main centres for ideas and innovation in Europe, the Manchester Declaration stresses that they must continue to ensure their position at the forefront of the knowledge economy by taking strong measures in the fields of education and business support, but also in the areas of the environment and social cohesion. Indeed, EUROCITIES members believe that the growth of the knowledge economy in Europe's cities should go hand in hand with the building of a more inclusive and sustainable environment for all citizens.

The Manchester Declaration will serve as a basis for the **Work Programme** that will be implemented by EUROCITIES in 2007. Specific activities will include the following: Develop actions to promote **Responsible Public Procurement** in local public administrations, and also to raise citizens' awareness about the social and environmental impacts of their own purchasing decisions; Develop the **European Day of the Entrepreneur** initiative; Continue to encourage member cities to sign and implement the **EUROCITIES Charter of the Rights of Citizens in the Knowledge Society**, whereby cities commit themselves to spreading the benefits of information technologies to all their citizens, for example by means of education and training measures (see page 17).

All AGM documents can be found in the Members Area of EUROCITIES website: [www.eurocities.org](http://www.eurocities.org)  
EUROCITIES Conference & AGM 2006 website: [www.eurocities2006.com](http://www.eurocities2006.com)

### Mayor of Lyon is elected as new President of EUROCITIES

This year's AGM marked the end of Manchester's 2-year presidency of the EUROCITIES network. Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, passed the baton to **Gérard Collomb, Mayor of Lyon**, who was elected as president of EUROCITIES for a mandate of one year (renewable once). The new Vice-President of EUROCITIES is the **Mayor of The Hague, Wim Deetman**.

The AGM formally approved and welcomed four cities into membership of the EUROCITIES network. From now on, **London (UK)** is a full member of EUROCITIES. The cities of **Bursa (Turkey)**, **Geneva (Switzerland)** and **Odessa (Ukraine)** are associate members of EUROCITIES.

The city of **Zaragoza (Spain)** was elected for the first time to EUROCITIES Executive Committee, taking over the seat vacated by the city of Seville. Three cities - **Genoa, Leipzig and Manchester** - were each re-elected to serve another 3-year term in the Executive Committee.

The AGM agreed that the City of **Turin (Italy)** should host the EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform for all EUROCITIES contact officers on 31 May and 1 June 2007. The AGM also agreed that the city of **The Hague** will host the EUROCITIES Conference & AGM 2008.

The next **EUROCITIES Conference & AGM** will take place in the historic city of **Gdansk** (Poland) from 21 to 24 November 2007. Please write these dates in your diary!

The AGM formally approved the choice of cities which had been elected by the members of EUROCIITIES' Forums as the new Forum Chairs for the coming year, as follows:

- The City of **Nottingham** (UK) will chair EUROCIITIES Culture Forum
- The City of **Budapest** (Hungary) will chair EUROCIITIES Economic Development Forum.
- The City of **Gothenburg** (Sweden) will chair EUROCIITIES Environment Forum.
- The City of **Bologna** (Italy) will chair EUROCIITIES Knowledge Society Forum.
- The City of **Copenhagen** (Denmark) will chair EUROCIITIES Mobility Forum.
- The City of **Rotterdam** (Netherlands) will chair EUROCIITIES Social Affairs Forum.

A EUROCIITIES Forum Chairs meeting will take place in Brussels on 18 January 2007. Both the new and former Chairs are invited in order to ensure a smooth transition between the two mandates.

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## **EUROCITIES Awards 2006: Bristol, Dortmund and Vienna are recognised for their achievements contributing to the knowledge economy**

On 22 November in Manchester, the cities of Bristol, Dortmund and Vienna received the three **EUROCITIES Awards 2006** for outstanding achievements in the field of the knowledge economy. The Awards were presented during the opening of the EUROCIITIES Conference & AGM 2006, which was centred around the theme of 'Knowledge Cities: Villes du Futur'.

The EUROCIITIES Awards 2006 honour projects implemented by members of the EUROCIITIES network which have contributed to maximising the social, economic and environmental benefits of the knowledge economy at the local level. The jury, chaired by Dr Cathy Garner, Chief Executive of the Manchester: Knowledge Capital initiative, had to choose among 32 projects submitted by EUROCIITIES members. And the winners were...:

The city of **Bristol** (UK), which won the EUROCIITIES Award for Participation for its '**Campaign Creator**' project. Under the motto "Don't complain... campaign", this initiative has managed to substantially increase the level of citizen participation in civic and community life in Bristol, notably through the development of an online platform from which citizens can easily generate campaigning tools such as community websites and blogs, online petitions, email contact lists, etc. Since the launch of the initiative seven months ago, more than 280 community campaigns have been started, using the tools made available by 'Campaign Creator' ([www.campaigncreator.org](http://www.campaigncreator.org)).

The city of **Dortmund** (Germany), winner of the Award for Innovation for its '**MST.factory Dortmund**' initiative, which consists of a competence centre and incubator for SMEs and start-ups operating in the field of micro- and nanotechnologies. By providing local entrepreneurs with the infrastructure they need during the start-up and growth phase of their companies, this project has shown how a city can promote sustainable economic growth by reinforcing its knowledge and technology base and creating valuable opportunities for its citizens ([www.mst-factory.com](http://www.mst-factory.com)).

The city of **Vienna** (Austria), which received the EUROCIITIES Award for Cooperation for '**EcoBusinessPlan Vienna**', an ambitious programme aimed at helping companies implement environmentally-friendly, cost-saving practices. The success of this wide-ranging initiative relies on close cooperation between the city authorities and various partners including local businesses, as it is crucial to convince companies that ecological sensitivity can be combined with economic efficiency. Today, 40% of Viennese companies with more than 100 employees have adopted 'EcoBusinessPlan Vienna' ([www.magwien.gv.at/english/eco/index.htm](http://www.magwien.gv.at/english/eco/index.htm)) (see also page 13).

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## EUROCITIES Executive Committee meetings

### Manchester, 22 & 24 November 2006

The two last EUROCITIES Executive Committee Politicians meetings of 2006 took place in Manchester on 22 & 24 November - next to the Annual General Meeting.

On **22 November**, Participants discussed the latest preparations for the AGM. They approved two new Working Groups: Sustainable Urban Water Management in the Environment Forum and eRights in the Knowledge Society Forum. They also accepted Turin's offer to host the EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform in 2007 and agreed to recommend The Hague as host city for the EUROCITIES Conference & AGM 2008. The Executive Committee also accepted London (UK) as a new full member; Bursa (Turkey) as a new associate member; Beyoglu (district of Istanbul) as a new associated partner in the Culture Forum and Netwerkstad Twente (Netherlands) as associated partner in the Economic Development Forum. Finally, the President thanked the City of Seville for its contribution to the work of the Executive Committee during the past three years.

The **24 November** meeting was the first meeting of the Executive Committee under the Presidency of Lyon, The Hague being the new Vice-President. Vienna and Copenhagen stay in their current positions for another year, respectively as Treasurer and Secretary. Participants congratulated the new President and Vice-President and welcomed Zaragoza as a new member (Genoa, Leipzig and Manchester were re-elected). Participants briefly commented on the AGM and congratulated the former President and his team for an excellent organisation and an interesting conference.

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## EUROCITIES calls for a re-launching of the 'structured dialogue' between the European Commission and associations of local and regional authorities

**Brussels, 7 December 2006** - EUROCITIES participated in a meeting organised in the framework of the "structured dialogue" between the European Commission and the associations of local and regional authorities. Jean-Michel Daclin, Vice-Mayor of Lyon (representing the Presidency of EUROCITIES), intervened on the theme of solidarity and social cohesion, notably calling on the Commission to recognise the importance of initiatives implemented by cities in this area.

At the end of the meeting, Mr Daclin considered that the format used for the structured dialogue "did not allow sufficient time for the contributions of European associations of local authorities". Jean-Michel Daclin wishes that this dialogue, which currently takes place as part of the plenary sessions of the Committee of the Regions, would be "re-established on a new basis". For EUROCITIES it is essential that the structured dialogue should enable "a real, direct and mutually beneficial exchange between the European Commission and the associations of local authorities".

## EUROCITIES Staff News

**Eva Schultz**, who was working with EUROCITIES since January 2003, left the association at the end of November in order to go and work for the Office for Metropolitan Affairs at the Swedish Ministry of Justice, based in Stockholm. She will be replaced as **EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Governance and International Cooperation** from the start of January 2007 by **Bernardo Rodrigues**, who was previously working in this position on a temporary basis in the first half of 2006. Bernardo can be contacted via e-mail ([b.rodrigues@eurocities.be](mailto:b.rodrigues@eurocities.be)) or telephone (+32 2 5520 854).

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### Commission President wants culture to be 'at the top of the European agenda'

Brussels, 4 December 2006

Following the recent consultation on the role of culture in Europe, the European Commission (DG Education and Culture) organised a public hearing with stakeholders from the cultural sector. The hearing featured the participation of the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso; of the Commissioner responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism, Ján Figel; and of the Director General for Education and Culture, Mrs Odile Quintin. It gathered about 400 representatives from the cultural sector in Europe.

Commission President Barroso stated that culture is a central dimension of the European project and that the future of the European Union depends on culture. For him, "*culture needs more Europe and Europe needs more culture*".

EUROCITIES was represented at the hearing by Malcolm Wood from the City of Nottingham (UK), Chair of EUROCITIES Culture Forum. He said that culture has become an important catalyst for cities to improve the quality of life for their citizens. He stated that large cities have realized the importance of the cultural sector not only in terms of increasing the cities' competitiveness but also as a major source of employment and investment opportunities. To illustrate this, he quoted the example of the Nottingham Playhouse, which generates 62 euros of economic activity for every 1 euro invested by the City and County Councils. Councillor Wood also emphasised that European cities must play a major role in the **European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008**, and should be actively involved at all stages in the development of this important initiative.

In November 2006, EUROCITIES provided an answer to the consultation on the role of culture in Europe, published by the Commission in October. Answers to this consultation and the input gathered during this hearing will be used by the Commission to feed in a communication on the role of culture in Europe, an important and ambitious document that will be published in spring 2007.

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Culture, [j.herve@eurocities.be](mailto:j.herve@eurocities.be)

### New study on the economy of culture in Europe

On 15 November the European Commission presented a study on the economic impact of the culture sector in Europe. This study, a first at European level, highlights the direct and indirect contribution of the cultural and creative sectors towards the Lisbon Agenda. In economic terms, culture accounted for 2.6% of economic activity in the European Union in 2003. Some 6 million people are working in the cultural sector, which provides more than 3% of all jobs in the EU-25.

The study calls for a coherent strategy for the creative sector and contains recommendations aiming to stimulate and encourage the "Lisbon potential" of the culture economy: improving intelligence gathering of statistical evidence on the importance of the cultural sector in Europe; increasing its contribution to the Lisbon Strategy's goals through a more intensive use of existing EU support programmes; and reinforcing the internal market for creative people, products and services.

This study will be used to feed into the debates on Europe's "Growth & Jobs" Strategy at the Spring European Council in March 2007, and will also provide input to the European Commission's forthcoming communication on culture, to be published in the spring.

The study can be found on the European Commission's website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources\\_info/studies/economy\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources_info/studies/economy_en.html)

## **Conference: Intercultural Dialogue - Best practices at Community level**

**Brussels, 22-23 November 2006**

In preparation of the **European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008**, the European Commission (DG Education & Culture) organised a conference and exhibition which provided a platform for discussion on the best way to integrate intercultural dialogue into national, regional and European action. Among the participants were policy makers, stakeholders, young people and those responsible for education, training and culture from all over Europe.

On 6 October 2006 (the deadline was 13 October 2006), EUROCIITIES submitted its own contribution to the European Commission's 'Call for Ideas' on actions aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue throughout the European Year 2008. The final ideas will be used to prepare the guidelines for the Commission's call for proposals that is due to be released at the beginning of 2007. In its contribution, EUROCIITIES underlines the valuable role for the network as a key partner in the European Year 2008. According to EUROCIITIES, this Year could provide cities with the opportunity to raise citizens' awareness about the importance of intercultural dialogue, and to share views and experiences on how to deal with cultural diversity at the local level.

The importance of the local level for promoting intercultural dialogue was revealed throughout all of the three workshops into which the conference was divided: the workplace, education and daily life. Moreover, in his opening speech, Gerhard Stahl, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions, explicitly stressed that local and regional authorities possess major competences and capacities for the implementation of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

The European Commission is currently still busy analysing the contributions to its 'Call for Ideas', and will most likely make its feedback public in December 2006 or January 2007. We already know that the input from EUROCIITIES is seen as one of the most interesting contributions.

Conference website: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education\\_culture/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/index_en.html)

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## **EUROCIITIES Conference on the Creative and Cultural Economy**

**Nantes, France, 7-10 March 2007**

EUROCIITIES Culture Forum, EUROCIITIES Economic Development Forum, the city of Nantes and Nantes Metropole have decided to jointly organise a conference on the role of cities in developing the creative and cultural economy. One of the questions addressed by the event on 9 March will be how cities can encourage access to capital for creative business and support their development. Experts from the sector and from cities will also provide participants with examples of local policies encouraging forms of training which combine artistic creation and entrepreneurial skills.

On Wednesday 7 March the EUROCIITIES URBACT working group will hold a seminar with the aim to help cities to participate in the new programme URBACT II. On the morning of Thursday 8 March, the EUROCIITIES Economic Development Forum and the EUROCIITIES Culture Forum will hold plenary sessions in parallel. Some working groups will meet during the afternoon of the same day. On Saturday 10 March there will be technical visits presenting the "Ile de Nantes project" and the "Royal de Luxe ateliers".

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## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **European Parliament approves revised Directive on Services**

**Brussels, Belgium, 15 November 2006**

The European Parliament has finally adopted, with the votes of its three largest groups, the Services Directive. The final Directive reflects the Parliament's goal to find a way of opening up the internal market in services to cross-border competition without eroding the European social model. The Directive is intended to boost growth and jobs but also to ensure that Member States do not lose control of the market in services of public interest and that workers' rights are protected.

The Parliament's report was drafted by Evelyne Gebhardt MEP (Socialist Group), who said that: "Social and consumer rights are protected and the main principles of the Services Directive have not been undermined." The final agreement is quite close to the text voted in the Parliament at first reading in February 2006. The controversial "country of origin principle" has been dropped and in its place a clause on "freedom to provide services" has been introduced. The Parliament also limited the scope of the directive that now covers fewer services than the original text from the Commission. The Parliament expanded the list of reasons allowing Member States to restrict the freedom of a service provider from another Member State to provide services on their territory. The text also now clearly says that the directive does not affect labour law in the Member States.

The Directive will enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union, which is foreseen for early 2007. Then, Member States must bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive at the latest three years after the entry into force of this Directive. It should thus really be implemented in early 2010. This national transposition phase will be crucial as even if the final Directive is a lot clearer than the first draft of the Commission, some provisions still seem unclear to many stakeholders. Many organisations also argue that other steps are still necessary to ensure the most efficient provision of public services for European citizens.

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### **The winners of the European Enterprise Awards 2006**

**Brussels, Belgium, 7 December**

More than 400 projects from 28 countries participated in this first competition for the European Enterprise Awards, which awarded innovative and creative enterprise initiatives by local and regional authorities throughout Europe.

The **Y4 Committee**, which brings together 36 organisations from Central Finland, won the Grand Prize. The jury of the European Enterprise Awards explained that the Y4 has brought about a 'cultural change by spreading entrepreneurial thinking in all layers of society'. Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen, responsible for enterprise and industry policies, who presented the prizes, said: "The winners demonstrate how public institutions and business can work together to produce new ideas and create new jobs".

In addition to the grand prize, five other initiatives to support entrepreneurship were rewarded. The Responsible Entrepreneurship Award was awarded to Autopromozione Sociale, a project set up by the Municipality of Rome (Italy) to promote alternative economic activities.

European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/whatsnew.htm>

## Commission announces new tools for Cohesion Policy 2007-2013

The European Commissioner responsible for Regional Policy, Danuta Hübner, presented on 8 December the draft Implementing Regulation for the Structural and Cohesion Funds. The Regulation introduces the rules for the implementation of the more general rules set by the regulations on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund. The Commissioner pointed out that "it is now time for the national and regional authorities to deliver their strategic plans and programmes to make this happen". The Commission has officially received the National Strategic Reference Frameworks from 5 Member States, i.e. Austria, Latvia, Malta, Hungary and Denmark. It has also received 12 Operational Programmes from 3 Member States: Latvia, Denmark and Austria. The majority of a total of 330 operational programmes (related to ERDF and Cohesion Fund) is expected to be decided by mid-2007.

A new initiative **Regions For Economic Change** under the Territorial Cooperation objective was also launched by the Commission on 8 November 2006 and adopted by the Council of Ministers on 21 November 2006. The initiative aims to boost innovation by bringing European regions together into strong partnerships and helping them take advantage of experience and best practice. It will help to: identify priority themes that can contribute to the "Growth & Jobs" Strategy (such as bringing innovative ideas faster to the market, managing migration and facilitating social integration, moving to a low carbon economy and bringing e-governments to regions and businesses, etc.); develop a bridge between networks and regular programmes; and enhance communication through an annual conference and awards. The Commission also wants a 'fast track option' for rapidly testing innovative ideas on the ground, establishing volunteer networks around selected priority themes. An annual 'Regions For Economic Change' conference featuring innovation awards is planned in advance of the Spring European Council to further enhance communication and dissemination of best practice results. The first in the series will deal with questions related to technology transfer, eco-innovation and accessibility and will be held in Brussels on 7 and 8 March 2007.

European Commission website: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/newsroom/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/newsroom/index_en.htm) - [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/regionseconomicchange/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/regionseconomicchange/index_en.cfm)

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## Call for papers for the Sustainable Urban Areas International Conference

Rotterdam, Netherlands, 25-28 June 2007

The International Conference will take place in Rotterdam from 25 to 28 June 2007 and the call for papers is open until 1 February 2007 for abstracts and 1 May 2007 for the full papers.

The theme is Sustainable Urban Areas. The conference will highlight the many aspects of housing and urban issues in relation to sustainability. Attention will be given to all approaches and their interrelationships to a sustainable society: social, economic, spatial and environmental. Keynote speakers will address current debates in housing like the future role of social housing and the pros and cons of the demolition of housing estates. Items related to sustainability will also be discussed like transformation processes within the city and at the regional level: innercity development, city transformation, the sustainable environment/region (the metropolitan landscape) and tools to facilitate housing and urban processes (GIS, cadastres, planning games, etc.)

Conference website: [www.enhr2007rotterdam.nl](http://www.enhr2007rotterdam.nl)

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## **OECD international conference "What Policies for Globalizing Cities? Rethinking the Urban Policy Agenda"**

**Madrid, Spain, 29-30 March 2007**

This conference is co-organised by the OECD, the Madrid City Council in cooperation with the Spanish Ministry of Public Administration and the Club of Madrid. This event aims to identify pressing issues and recognise latent development opportunities faced by cities today. The objective of this conference is to engage a wide range of stakeholders, including city leaders and regional and central government representatives, in considering a broader approach to urban policy, understanding better the way globalizing processes are having impacts upon major urban areas.

Conference website: [www.rethinkingtheurban.org/english/introd.asp](http://www.rethinkingtheurban.org/english/introd.asp)

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## ENVIRONMENT

### Council welcomes Commission Action Plan on Energy Efficiency

At its meeting on 23 November the Council of Ministers welcomed the overall approach of the Commission's Action Plan for Energy Efficiency. The "Action Plan for Energy Efficiency: Realising the Potential" (adopted by the Commission on 19 October 2006) contains a package of 75 priority measures covering a wide range of cost-effective energy efficiency initiatives. These include actions to make energy appliances, buildings, transport and energy generation more efficient. The aim of achieving a 20% reduction in Europe's energy consumption by 2020 can be expressed in energy cost savings of more than €100 billion annually by 2020.

The Council, in its conclusions, confirms its commitment towards the aim of the Action Programme and notes that energy efficiency and energy savings contribute concurrently to the three main Community energy policy objectives relating to security of energy supply, competitiveness and sustainable development including climate change.

The Council identified five priorities as being of key importance for the Commission and Member States. During the six-year application period the Action Plan shall address these priorities:

- the huge energy-efficiency potential in **transport** (using measures such as voluntary agreements and legislation if necessary);
- the improvement of minimum efficiency requirements for energy-using *equipment*;
- the improvement of the energy-efficient and energy saving behaviour of all energy consumers (for example by enlarging the scope of the Framework Directive 92/75/EC on labelling and the resulting implementing Directives);
- the use of instruments at European, national and regional level in order to maximise the contribution of research and technological development towards energy efficiency;
- the development of the Framework of the Buildings Directive to realise the potential for further energy savings from buildings.

Energy Efficiency is a key issue for European cities and one of EUROCITIES work priorities for 2007. In order to contribute to this topic, some actions are currently being developed:

1. EUROCITIES has examined the Action Plan and sent a letter to Commissioner Piebalgs raising particular issues. EUROCITIES has expressed its willingness to cooperate with the Commission on the development of a campaign to raise public awareness and change citizens' behaviour.
2. EUROCITIES will also hold a joint seminar on energy in Autumn 2007, involving the EUROCITIES' Economic Development, Environment and Mobility Forum. This event could well be the framework to launch such an initiative. The seminar will be hosted by the City of Gothenburg.
3. EUROCITIES will host a first energy preparatory meeting on 30 January in Brussels with the Chairs of all the relevant EUROCITIES Working Groups interested in this dossier.

**European Commission website:** [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/index_en.htm)

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## Agreement on Infrastructure for spatial information in Europe (INSPIRE)

On 21 November the European Parliament and the Council reached agreement (under conciliation) on a Directive creating **INSPIRE - Infrastructure for spatial information in Europe**. INSPIRE will strengthen the knowledge base for environmental policy and make it more accessible to citizens, stakeholders and decision-makers. The EUROCITIES Environment and Knowledge Society Forums have been involved in the process at some stages. The Directive will cover a very wide range of spatial data ranging from basic mapping information, such as geographical names and administrative units, to key environmental information such as emissions, environmental quality and location of protected sites. At present, this type of data is not always available, nor is it always consistent enough for designing and implementing environmental policy.

The new Directive sets obligations on what the public authorities of the Member States will do with the data they collect. It was proposed by the Commission in 2004 but some Member States had difficulties with provisions requiring their public authorities to take a more open approach to the data they hold. The Directive will now be formally adopted early next year and the Member States will then have two years to transpose it into national law.

INSPIRE homepage: [www.ec-gis.org/inspire/](http://www.ec-gis.org/inspire/)

## EcoBusinessPlan Vienna wins EUROCITIES Award (see article on page 4)

The EcoBusinessPlan Vienna was launched in 1998 by the Vienna City Administration, Municipal Department for Environmental Protection. To date, more than 500 enterprises have participated in the EcoBusinessPlan, implementing more than 9,000 environmental projects and actions. Through appropriate environmental management practices, these enterprises have been able to generate substantial cost savings totalling about € 30 million. The success of the EcoBusinessPlan illustrates that voluntary moves to increase quality standards can bring significant financial benefits.

The EcoBusinessPlan Vienna is an example of working in partnership. The City administration cannot do these actions on its own alone. Public authorities, interest groups and enterprises all work together on the EcoBusinessPlan Vienna to implement precautionary and integrative environmental protection policies and actions that also support businesses' profitability. Public subsidies are granted for consultancy and training and capital investments are made by the private-sector companies, in some cases with support from additional public sources.

The major partners of the EcoBusinessPlan include the Vienna Chamber of Commerce, the Environment Ministry of the Austrian government, the Austrian Trade Unions Federation, the Vienna Business Promotion Fund, and various departments of the Vienna municipal government. Networking and cooperation among all partners helps to create a win-win situation for the environment and for businesses in Vienna. The EcoBusinessPlan (EBP) supports the environment while at the same time contributing to economic stability and job creation.

Also internationally the EBP is based on partnerships. Vienna is not the only city with a program like the EcoBusinessPlan - even if it is probably the most developed program. In the **EUROCITIES Working Group on Greening the local economy**, representatives of 13 cities exchange experience on these sort of activities. The Working Group is also developing further knowledge and preparing a manual or guidebook for other cities. Not only the experiences of Vienna, but also those of other EUROCITIES members will find a place in this manual. The next meeting of the Working Group on Greening the local economy will be in Sheffield (England, UK) on 8 and 9 February 2007.

For more information about **EUROCITIES 'Greening the local economy' Working Group** please contact Sabine Mitterer in Vienna, e-mail: [mit@m22.magwien.gv.at](mailto:mit@m22.magwien.gv.at)

EcoBusinessPlan Vienna homepage: [www.magwien.gv.at/english/eco/index.htm](http://www.magwien.gv.at/english/eco/index.htm)

## Meeting of EUROCITIES Working Group on Noise

Brussels, 27-28 November 2006

During this meeting the Working Group Noise discussed several points. Mr. Kortbeek of the Dutch Ministry of Environment initiated a discussion on EU limits for tyres and vehicles with his presentation about the progress that has been made during the last years. Cities are convinced that lowering the noise in urban areas is not only a responsibility of the local authorities but also of the EU by limiting the noise of new tyres and vehicles. The results of the projects within the CALM network and several reports, including the SILVIA report of 2006 and the so called FEHRL report, showed that a considerable reduction can be made in source reduction.

The Working Group decided that further actions are needed and is trying, in cooperation with the other working groups within the Environment and Mobility Forums, to convince the European Commission and other stakeholders, that tightening of these limits is needed. Local measures will give some relief on the short term but on the long term source reduction is needed to turn the increasing noise effects of a growing traffic in Europe. The Green Paper on Transport makes clear that in future we may expect more traffic in Europe and that the effect of the modal shift merely in urban areas will give some relief. EUROCITIES Working Group on Noise is convinced that neither local measures nor modal shift will be enough to suppress the noise in urban areas.

During the meeting, the WG discussed also about presenting the Noise Maps EU to the public. On the 5th of October a workshop has been held in London, organized by DEFRA, which was visited by the chair of the WGN. The workshop was presided by John Hinton, member of the WGN and chair of the WG-Assessment to Exposure of Noise (EU). Presenting the noise maps on a proper way to the public is a crucial phase in the trajectory of making and publishing Noise Maps.

During the 2nd day of the meeting a discussion was held about drawing up action plans. Alan Bloomfield of the Greater London Authorities presented the London Strategy Paper on Noise, called Souder City, which comprises a lot of useful ideas for making action plans. During this discussion the Working Group also looked into the Amsterdam Noise Action plan.

The Working Plan 2007 was discussed by the working group and established. Priority is given to the following issues: How to draw up a Noise Action Plan according to directive 2002/49/EC; How to raise political interest on noise?; Tightening EU limits for admittance (cars, HGV, trains, tyres etc.); Preparations due to the review of directive 2002/49/EC in 2009.

The next meeting of **EUROCITIES Working Group on Noise** will take place in Birmingham (England, UK) on 19 and 20 April 2007. For more information about this Working Group please contact Henk Wolfert in Rotterdam, [wol@dcmr.nl](mailto:wol@dcmr.nl)

## Meeting of EUROCITIES Working Group on Air Quality & Climate Change

Brussels, 12-13 February 2007

The main discussion points will include: the Communication of the Green Paper Adaptation to Climate Change to be adopted on the 21st February; and the final preparation of the political meeting of EUROCITIES Mayors with Commissioner Dimas; The preparation of the Eurocities seminar on energy with other Forums in Gothenburg early October 2007; The connections with the Noise WG, the Environment and Health Working Group and the Mobility Forum; Implementation of the Work Programme; Follow up of Proposal for the Directive on Air Quality.

For more information please contact Alfonse Finkers in The Hague, [a.finkers@dsb.den Haag.nl](mailto:a.finkers@dsb.den Haag.nl)  
Eva Baños de Guisasola, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Environment, [e.banos@eurocities.be](mailto:e.banos@eurocities.be)

## European Union Sustainable Energy Week

29 January - 2 February 2007

Under the umbrella of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign (SEE), the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, the European Institutions and major stakeholders concerned with sustainable energy are holding the first EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW). It will take place in Brussels, Belgium, and in other cities across Europe from Monday 29 January to Friday 2 February, 2007. The aim of the EUSEW is to become the key annual reference point for sustainable energy issues in Europe. The events organised during EUSEW cover key topics that highlight the multi-sectoral nature of sustainable energy development and stress the need for everyone to work together towards a common goal.

EU Sustainable Energy Week website: [www.eusew.eu](http://www.eusew.eu)

## EUROCITIES Working Group on 'Greening the Local Economy'

Sheffield, UK, 8 February 2007

The next meeting of the GLE Working Group will be held in Sheffield on Thursday 8 February 2007. On Wednesday 7 Sheffield will host a conference on tackling climate change with special guest Al Gore. On Friday 9 February Sheffield will launch their Eco-Business Project.

For further information please contact Jan Dictus in Vienna, [dic@m22.magwien.gv.at](mailto:dic@m22.magwien.gv.at)

## European Conference on "Adaptation to Climate Change"

Brussels, 21 February 2007

The 'Impacts and Adaptation' Workgroup was set as part of the European Climate Change Programme II in order to consider how climate change affects the environment, society and economy in Europe. This group also aims at identifying actions which the Commission should take in assisting Member States to adapt to adverse impacts of climate change. The Workgroup has covered various areas (marine resources, construction, urban and regional planning, among others), and has now contributed to drafting a 'Green Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change in Europe'.

The European Commissioner for the Environment, Mr Stavros Dimas, has announced that this Green Paper will be presented at a Conference in Brussels on 21 February 2007. This event will be the platform to gather input towards the implementation of the document's contents.

The following topics will be dealt with during the conference: an overview of impacts and vulnerability in Europe and the cost of inaction; climate change adaptation within the European dimension; knowledge gaps and how to address them; risk management: early warning systems and long-term forecasting of extreme events and how to address the recovery phase; and what economic instruments should the Commission devise to encourage adaptation measures?

EUROCITIES has been actively involved in the preparatory phase of the Commission Green Paper through its Air Quality and Climate Change Working Group and through the 'Global Warming, Local Warning' Group, of which EUROCITIES is the Secretariat. The network will organise a political meeting with Commissioner Dimas after the publication of the Green Paper's contents in order to discuss how the actions outlined can be taken further.

European Climate Change Programme: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/eccpii.htm>

Eva Baños de Guisasola, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Environment, [e.banos@eurocities.be](mailto:e.banos@eurocities.be)

## **Meeting of the EUROCITIES Working Group on 'Clean Cities'**

**Belfast, Northern Ireland, 7 March 2007**

The next WG Clean Cities will meet in Belfast on 7th March. This meeting will discuss, among other topics, the new work dimension of the group on greening major events. The group will also discuss the implementation of the Work Programme 2007.

For more information please contact Judith Greene in Belfast, [greenej@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:greenej@belfastcity.gov.uk)

## **Meeting of EUROCITIES Environment Forum**

**Belfast, Northern Ireland, 8-9 March 2007**

The next Eurocities Environment Forum will be hosted by the City of Belfast next 8-9th March. The main theme will be on "Health and the environment: integration of health, planning and transport". The main discussion points will be: particulate matter, links to health organisations, new technology on climate change and energy, the London adaptation Strategy, the energy directive, energy savings trust in the UK, GIS systems linked to social-health, poster session on Air Quality and the Aalborg Commitments among other points.

Other meetings will also be held in Belfast before the EEF: the Matrix project on 6-7th March (lunch time) and the Clean Cities WG on the 7th March (all day).

The next Environment Forum meetings will take place in Tallin in June 2007, Gothenburg in October 2007 (jointly with other Forums and focusing one day to energy) and Sheffield in March 2008.

Eva Baños de Guisasola, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Environment, [e.banos@eurocities.be](mailto:e.banos@eurocities.be)

## **International Final Congress - FINE Dust-Free. Into the Future**

**Klagenfurt, Austria 29-30 March 2007**

The City of Klagenfurt as project leader of 'Klagenfurt's Anti-PM10 Action Program with Graz and South Tyrol' (KAPA GS) hosts this congress with the aim to provide all those interested in reducing fine dust or particulate matter with a timetable into a fine-dust-free future. Klagenfurt is a member of the Eurocities EU-Integaire Platform on Air Quality Experts which was set up after the Integaire project was completed last year. KAPA GS is a demonstration project co-financed by the EU in the framework of LIFE-Environment. In the period from 2004 to 2007, initiatives launched in Klagenfurt, Graz and South Tyrol to reduce particulate emission at local level are simulated in a computer model, tested on site and then adapted for permanent application.

For more information see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/news/events.htm>

## **Conference on Sustainable City Development**

**Malmo, Sweden, 12-14 September 2007**

The Sustainable City Development conference in 2007 is aimed at those working with sustainable urban development in private sector, universities and public bodies in Europe. A regional Sustainable Building 07 conference will be included in the event and there will also be opportunities for exhibitions connected to the Sustainable City Development conference.

Sustainable City Development Conference website: [www.malmo.se/sustainablecity](http://www.malmo.se/sustainablecity)

### Ten cities sign up to the Charter of Rights of Citizens in the Knowledge Society

On the occasion of the EUROCITIES Annual General Meeting in Manchester, ten cities signed the Charter of Rights of Citizens in the Knowledge Society: Berlin, Birmingham, Lyon, Malmo, Porto, Saint Etienne Metropole, Skopje, Southampton, Utrecht, Zaragoza.

The European Charter of Rights of Citizens in the Knowledge Society - also known as the Charter of e-Rights - is a Europe-wide initiative to promote wider access to the internet and spread the benefits of new technologies to the whole population. It provides cities with a blueprint to set or to reconfirm their commitment to the development of an inclusive knowledge society.

The promotion of the Charter of Rights of Citizens in the Knowledge Society is one of the actions identified within the framework of the Manchester Declaration (see article on page 3).

The European Charter of e-Rights was officially launched on 7 July in 2005 at Manchester Town Hall. Since then, more than 30 cities have signed up to the charter: Amaroussion, Berlin, Birmingham, Chemnitz, Frankfurt, Gijon, Glasgow, Leeds, Linköping, Lodz, Lyon, Malmo, Modena, Ostrava, Oulu, Porto, Prague, Ronneby, Saint Etienne Metropole, Salerno, Siena, Skopje, Southampton, Stockholm, Tampere, The Hague, Terrassa, Tranås, Turku, Utrecht, Zaragoza.

Cities that have signed the charter and those with in interest to sign the charter are invited to take part in the activities of the working group on eRights which is chaired by the city of Lyon.

### New EUROCITIES Working Group on eRights

Within EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum a new working group is established on the Charter of Rights of Citizens in the Knowledge Society, also known as eRights charter. The main objectives of the working group, chaired by the cities of Lyon and Siena, are: to promote the charter as an instrument to contribute to the development of an inclusive knowledge society and to provide cities that have signed the charter and cities that are interested in doing so, with a platform for cooperation. The working group invites all EUROCITIES members with an interest to join in the activities of the working group. The working group will meet on the occasion of the the Knowledge Society Forum - TeleCities Spring Event in Barcelona on 15 and 16 March 2007.

Maurice Paulissen, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society, [m.paulissen@eurocities.be](mailto:m.paulissen@eurocities.be)

### Seminar on of Open Source software development by public administrations

Brussels, 28 November 2006

The OSSI (Open Source Software Impact) workshop presented the results of the study assessing the potential impact of public administrations making their own software available as open source. Commissioned by the European Commission (DG Information Society and Media) the study was carried out by EUROCITIES together with its partners MERIT and Unisys. It examined the barriers that would have to be overcome, and the positive benefits in terms of amplifying the adoption and use of information society technologies. The study addresses recommendations and options for actions that could be taken by the public and private sectors at the local, national and European

Public Sector and Open Source website: [www.publicsectoross.info](http://www.publicsectoross.info)

Maeva Zebrowski, EUROCITIES Project Officer- Knowledge Society, [m.zebrowski@eurocities.be](mailto:m.zebrowski@eurocities.be)

## EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum - TeleCities Winter Event

Brussels, Belgium, 19 January 2006

EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum - TeleCities invites all EUROCITIES members to its annual Winter event, which will be hosted by the Bavarian Representation in Brussels on Friday 19 January. The Winter event is a one-day event with thematic seminars on European Policy issues and funding opportunities. It also allows for members to discuss the work programme of the forum and other issues more in detail. The Knowledge Society Forum - TeleCities especially wishes to invite Brussels representatives of EUROCITIES members that are not yet active within the KS Forum, in order for them to learn more about the activities of the Forum.

Maurice Paulissen, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society, [m.paulissen@eurocities.be](mailto:m.paulissen@eurocities.be)

## Wireless Cities Summit 2007

Toronto, Canada, 23 & 24 January 2007

Wireless Cities Summit 2007 is the pan-European congress for municipal authorities planning, evaluating or deploying wireless networks. We have received 2 free tickets for this event in return for the contribution from the forum Chair during the event. Should you be interest in attending this event, please contact Maurice Paulissen, [m.paulissen@eurocities.be](mailto:m.paulissen@eurocities.be)

Conference website: [www.strategyinstitute.com/012307\\_wireless\\_cities/dsp\\_wireless\\_cities.php](http://www.strategyinstitute.com/012307_wireless_cities/dsp_wireless_cities.php)

## EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum - TeleCities Spring Event

Barcelona, Spain, 14-16 March 2007

The City of Barcelona will host the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum - Telecities Spring Event, focusing on the theme "Beyond e-Government: time for delivery". The conference will look at cities' strategies and practices to provide integrated ICT-based services to citizens.

All EUROCITIES members and partners will be welcome to attend this event, which will also include contributions from invited speakers from North America, Latin America, and Asia.

The main topics of the conference will be as follows:

**E-Governance: from vision to execution.** It's time to deliver better e-Services, to move more efficiently from vision to realisations. We need to focus on how different strategies and visions could be translated into real and effective implementation.

**America, Asia and Europe: comparing strategies for transforming the government.** All governments want to improve services for their citizens, but there are wide differences in organisational and cultural visions which also affect eGovernment strategies.

**E-Government Models: strategies of European Cities for integrated public services delivery.** The EUROCITIES e-Government Working Group presents a survey about the different models which European Cities adopt in the delivery of public services: from take up to implementation, from organisational change to services' promotion. Examples of local e-Government (Barcelona, Vienna, Munich, Stockholm, The Hague and Turin) will be presented in a round table.

There will also be thematic workshops on e-Care, Broadband, e-Rights, and e-Government.

Maurice Paulissen, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society, [m.paulissen@eurocities.be](mailto:m.paulissen@eurocities.be)

### EUROCITIES Mobility Forum seminar on influencing travel behaviour

London, 8-10 November 2006

More than 100 participants took part in the recent meeting of the EUROCITIES Mobility Forum, which was jointly organised with the London European Partnership for Transport (LEPT). The event comprised a wide range of case study presentations, policy workshops and seminars all focussing on how to influence travel behaviour across Europe.

Amongst the various themes tackled, a central slot was devoted to the discussion on the forthcoming European Commission's Green Paper on Urban Transport where Maria Alfayate, representative from the Commission's Directorate General for Energy and Transport, confirmed that urban transport is currently a central part of EU transport policy. Members of the EUROCITIES Mobility Forum took this exceptional opportunity to communicate their vision of the Green Paper, to be published in September 2007. The details of this vision will be further developed during 2007 and presented to the Commission.

EUROCITIES members discussed some of the biggest challenges facing today's urban areas, and possible solutions to tackle them - from soft mobility measures such as travel demand management tools to hard measures such as congestion charges and Low Emission Zones. Patrick Allcorn of Transport for London emphasized the importance of mainstreaming soft measures within travel demand management and within engineering projects as well.

The Forum also placed a high priority on the challenges posed by urban freight logistics, the Mid-Term Review of the EU Transport White Paper and subsequent Action Plan on Logistics.

Finally, the event played host to the elections of the new Mobility Forum's Chair and Vice Chair. After two years of commitment and sustained contribution to the urban mobility debate in Europe, Vienna and Reykjavik gave way to the new Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum, Copenhagen and the Greater London Assembly (via Transport for London) respectively. Klaus Bondam, Mayor of Copenhagen, welcomed the possibility offered by his colleagues of the Mobility Forum and underlined his city's commitment towards the Forum: *'To become the Chair of the EUROCITIES Mobility Forum is a great responsibility and also a great opportunity to achieve Copenhagen's ambitions as a European metropolis. We want to improve the efficiency of our knowledge sharing, and also to ensure that our voice is clearly heard and well received in policy discussions.'*

On 8 November, there was also an Information Seminar aimed at providing local authorities with a clear overview of the role and activities of EUROCITIES. Valérie Bénard, EUROCITIES Project Officer, gave an overview of EUROCITIES, clearly highlighting the potential benefits for members and main priorities for 2007 in the field of Mobility. Mr. Karolis Dekeris from the City of Kaunas (Latvia) then presented the different European projects in which his city is involved. The seminar ended with the presentation of Ms. Maria Alfayates from the European Commission (DG Transport and Energy) who gave an overview of the next CIVITAS call to be expected by beginning of 2007. Following this seminar, several potential new members already approached the EUROCITIES secretariat.

Barbara Bernardi, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Mobility, [b.bernardi@eurocities.be](mailto:b.bernardi@eurocities.be)

## Briefing on the European Commission's Transport priorities for 2007

Brussels, 14 November 2006

The European Commission's Director-General for Energy and Transport, Mathias Ruete informed the participants of the workshop organised by the European Policy Center (EPC) on Commission next year programme on transport. Following the criticism coming from several stakeholders underlying the break with the past of the Mid Term Review of the Transport White Paper, Ruete insisted that the review ""sustainable mobility for our continent"" focuses on a ""triangle"" of transport issues, encapsulated by three cities which 'symbolise' these issues: Lisbon for competition, Kyoto for the environment, and New York (post 9/11) for security and safety.

Ensuring a continuity with the past, the Director General pointed out the need for a changed perspective of the EU transport policy. First, Europe has not become as economically competitive as foreseen in the ""heydays of Lisbon"", and transport must play a role in rectifying this situation. Secondly, transport policy concentrated in the past on the only Western Europe.

Concerning the concrete policy lines and actions for the future Mr. Ruete said that the most interesting part of the White Paper review is its ""Workbook"", which outlines the Commission's main plans for future actions. This sees Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) as an important element in future policy, and a Directorate for Intelligent Transport Systems has therefore been created to examine how this can help integrate Europe's transport systems. Mr Ruete pointed to several successful developments in this field: the Galileo project, Integrated Traffic Management Systems (ITMS) and the CAESAR project for air traffic management.

Looking ahead, Mr Ruete said 2007 would be the ""year of rail freight"". The planned liberalisation of freight networks, moves towards cross-acceptance of rolling stock in all EU Member States, and a proposal for mutual recognition on dedicated rail freight 'corridors' should all encourage more extensive use of rail freight transport across Europe. On this topic, he briefly mentioned the need to develop a city dimension within the logistics debate.

The last major element of transport policy is the development of 'Trans-European Networks (TENs), covering transport, energy and telecommunications. Here the aim is to ensure that regional and national networks are linked by modern and efficient infrastructure to facilitate the growth of the internal market. Mr Ruete's assessment of the results of this work, which began in 1994, to date was that the ""glass was half full, rather than half-empty"".

During the discussion, being asked how DG Tren would ensure that efforts to meet the EU targets for cutting CO2 emissions in the transport sector did not affect employment and competitiveness, Mr Ruete said transport generated 50% of Europe's CO2 emissions and had ""eaten up"" some of the gains made from reducing emissions in some other areas. To offset this, the Commission is looking at 'green propulsion'; i.e. transport which does not produce greenhouse gases.

As you might notice the urban dimension is missing from the generous panorama of policies and actions underlined by the Transport Director General. In the framework of the incoming publication of the Green Paper on Urban Transport this looks odd. Rephrasing Mr. Ruete's words and talking about the urban transport dimension we can admit with no doubt that the review did not mean a break from the past. Following the citizens network Kinnock Green Paper the urban dimension has been dealt within the framework of the surface and land transport. The Green Paper will mark a definite new urban transport approach putting cities again at the centre of the decision making process involving as well regional and national actors.

European Commission Transport homepage: [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/index_en.html)

Barbara Bernardi, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Mobility, [b.bernardi@eurocities.be](mailto:b.bernardi@eurocities.be)

## Excellence in Road Safety Awards 2006

Brussels, 29 November 2006

M. Jacques Barrot, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Transport presented the Excellence in Road Safety Awards in recognition of the most innovative and effective initiatives carried out by the signatories of the European Road Safety Charter.

In the category for cities and regional entities, the winner was the London Borough of Sutton, which has established road safety educational programmes for children between 6-7 years old and 11-12 years old. The Council also offers "new driver" seminars for teenagers in all schools of the Borough and provides a safe driving training campaign for young 2-wheel motor-vehicle riders.

Commission Vice-President Barrot stressed the need to develop the Road Safety campaign throughout Europe and underlined the commitment of the Commission in helping raise awareness and encouraging the active participation of all the different actors.

European Commission: [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/roadsafety/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/roadsafety/index_en.htm)

European Road Safety Charter: [www.paueducation.com/charter/index.php](http://www.paueducation.com/charter/index.php)

Barbara Bernardi, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Mobility, [b.bernardi@eurocities.be](mailto:b.bernardi@eurocities.be)

## European Parliament's Transport Committee amends Report on Road Safety

On 22 November, the Transport and Tourism Committee of the European Parliament discussed its Draft Report on the mid-term review of the European Road Safety Programme. A number of amendments were passed by the Committee with the effect of weakening the report, against the wishes of the rapporteur Ewa Hedkvist Petersen MEP (Socialist Group, Sweden). For example, the call to establish a European Road Safety Agency has been removed from the report. Likewise, the final version of the draft report does not invite the European Commission to bring forward a directive setting maximum blood alcohol levels for all drivers in the EU.

The report, which will be tabled before the assembly's January plenary session in Brussels, urges the Commission to act on a series of fronts to improve safety on European roads. It calls, for example, for European standards on the certification of driving instructors and calls on the Commission to consider use of rear facing child seats for children up to three or four years. Other proposed initiatives include a European action plan on education and driving instruction.

EUROCITIES is preparing a position paper on Road Safety that will be published soon.

Barbara Bernardi, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Mobility, [b.bernardi@eurocities.be](mailto:b.bernardi@eurocities.be)

## Local freight network representatives participate in START workshop

Bristol, England, UK, 30 November 2006

The aim of the START-project (STEER Intelligent Energy Europe) is to make goods transports in cities more energy efficient. In the partner cities (Bristol, Göteborg, Ljubljana, Ravenna and Riga) the project activities are carried out in close co-operation with the transport sector and in all cities, local freight networks are being established to secure the involvement of private actors.

The workshop was an opportunity for transferring knowledge between different local freight networks. Participants could learn from the experiences in other cities and at the same time broaden their views on similar work at a European level. The participants will now be able to further develop the level of collaboration in their own cities.

START project website: [www.start-project.org](http://www.start-project.org)

## **NICHES Policy Seminar: Today's Urban Transport at Tomorrow's Crossroad - Innovative Solutions Meeting Local Challenges**

**Brussels, 12 December 2006**

Over the last few years, a wide range of innovative measures for making urban transport more efficient, competitive and sustainable have been developed in Europe. However, despite their potential, these innovative solutions have not been deployed yet on a wider scale. The mission of NICHES is to stimulate a wide debate on innovative urban transport and mobility between relevant stakeholders from different sectors and disciplines across Europe.

The aim of this policy seminar was to illustrate how the innovative transport measures that NICHES is exploring can contribute to meeting local policy goals. Representatives from several European cities spoke about how the NICHES measures can help to make local mobility more sustainable and come to a cleaner, safer and more efficient transport system in European cities.

**NICHES project website:** [www.niches-transport.org](http://www.niches-transport.org)

Valérie Bénard, EUROCITIES Project Officer - Mobility, [v.benard@eurocities.be](mailto:v.benard@eurocities.be)

## **Mobility Management initiatives promoted by the European Mobility Week**

**Brussels, 7-8 February 2007**

More than 1300 local authorities from 38 countries were involved in the **2006 European Mobility Week** campaign. Through their actions, these local authorities actively contributed to combating climate change and promoting sustainable modes of transport. In order to disseminate these best practices and provide a platform for all actors in the European Mobility Week to gather and exchange ideas, the European Commission (DG Environment) together with EUROCITIES, Climate Alliance and Energie-Cités is organising an interactive workshop.

This two-day workshop will gather all actors of the European Mobility Week. The aim is for local politicians, local and regional associations and other interested stakeholders to exchange best practice experiences and learn from each other expertise on how to achieve sustainable mobility. Participants will also be invited to attend the **European Mobility Week Award Ceremony** to be presented by Stavros Dimas, European Commissioner responsible for the Environment.

**European Mobility Week website:** [www.mobilityweek-europe.org](http://www.mobilityweek-europe.org)

Valérie Bénard, EUROCITIES Project Officer - Mobility, [v.benard@eurocities.be](mailto:v.benard@eurocities.be)

## **ECOMM 2007 European Conference on Mobility Management**

**Lund, Sweden, 9-11 May 2007**

The City of Lund will be hosting the 11th ECOMM on the theme 'Future and Mobility Management'. ECOMM 2007 is the European conference for Mobility Management professionals: practitioners, researchers, academics, specialists and students. It will provide a perfect platform for these stakeholders to exchange their views on the future of cities as regards climate change, increased car use, governance, workplace travel, congestion, air pollution and health, amongst other themes.

ECOMM 2007 invites papers and posters on all topics related Mobility Management. The call for abstracts is open until the end of December. Papers should be submitted to [ecomm2007@lund.se](mailto:ecomm2007@lund.se)

**EPOMM website:** [www.epommweb.org](http://www.epommweb.org)

**ECOMM 2007 Conference website:** [www.lund.se/ecomm](http://www.lund.se/ecomm)

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### **EUROCITIES Contribution to Good Governance concerning Health and Wellbeing**

The EUROCITIES Contribution to Good Governance concerning Health and Wellbeing, which was drafted by the Working Group on Health and Wellbeing, was presented to the EUROCITIES AGM in Manchester (22-25 November). The document starts with the recognition that although there have been significant improvements in health and life expectancy over the last century in Europe, there are still unacceptable inequalities in health and wellbeing. Following a broad definition of health and wellbeing, as provided by the WHO, the document identifies a framework for city action building on multi-dimensional health determinants and focusing on priority groups which need special attention. It gives recommendations for key actions with regard to deprived neighbourhoods, lifestyles, socio-economic determinants of health and environmental determinants.

**EUROCITIES Contribution to Good Governance concerning Health and Wellbeing** can be found in the Publications section of the EUROCITIES website (under 'Charters'): [www.eurocities.org](http://www.eurocities.org)

For further information please contact Chris Hawker ([Christopher.Hawker@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Hawker@southampton.gov.uk)) in Southampton or Ron Pullen ([r.pullen@eindhoven.nl](mailto:r.pullen@eindhoven.nl)) in Eindhoven.

### **EUROCITIES publishes 'Cities' Strategies Against Homelessness'**

EUROCITIES Working Group on Homelessness has published its first report on homelessness policies in European cities named: **Cities' Strategies Against Homelessness**. The report presents cities' strategies against homelessness and includes the following case studies: Copenhagen, Genoa, Glasgow, Helsinki, Newcastle, Oslo, Riga, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Utrecht, Vienna, and Warsaw.

The report shows that homelessness cannot be reduced to housing shortage, but often has multiple causes and arises from complex individual problems. Whilst there are no simple and general solutions, "integrated chain" strategies and a holistic perspective are identified as the most successful way to combat homelessness. The "integrated chain" approach entails a coordinated strategy supporting people's progress to the optimum level of independence and integration. The report and its conclusions are the result of intense cooperation and mutual learning of the members of the WG Homelessness who will further strive for recognition of this approach in National Action Plans on Inclusion.

The EUROCITIES Report on **Cities' Strategies Against Homelessness** can be found in the Publications section of the EUROCITIES website (under 'Reports'): [www.eurocities.org](http://www.eurocities.org)

For further information please contact Gerhard Eitel in Vienna: [gerhard.eitel@fsw.at](mailto:gerhard.eitel@fsw.at)

### **Initiative to improve civil dialogue on Migration and Integration**

**Brussels, 11 December 2006**

The European Commission has announced the launch of a European Integration Forum for 2007, but so far no details have been publicized. Therefore, various Brussels based NGOs, led by Solidar, have taken the initiative to launch a dialogue between representatives of the civil society and the European Commission about future forms of cooperation in this field. The EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum is involved in this initiative through its Working Group on Migration and Integration.

Simon Guentner, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Social Affairs, [s.guentner@eurocities.be](mailto:s.guentner@eurocities.be)

## Next meeting of EUROCITIES Working Group on Migration and Integration

Brussels, February 1-2 2007

The main topics of the meeting will be the Work Plan for 2007, activities within the INTI Framework, further cooperation with the European Commission and the follow-up to the Integrating Cities Conference ("Rotterdam-Process"). As Rotterdam has become chair of EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum, it is necessary to discuss potential new candidates for chairing the Working Group.

For more info please contact Harrie van Onna in Rotterdam: [hjf.vanonna@sozawe.rotterdam.nl](mailto:hjf.vanonna@sozawe.rotterdam.nl)

## Gender Equality: Publication of NewFaces Final Guidebook in 7 languages

Sofia, Bulgaria, 13-14 November 2006

NewFaces, New Fatherhood concepts in European Cities, is a recently ended EUROCITIES project supported by the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities), within the Equality for Women and Men programme. The NewFaces guidebook is now available in 7 languages: English, Danish, German, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Italian and Spanish. It gathers examples and good practices, and gives recommendations for how cities can encourage new fathers to use their rights to take parental leave. The guidebook is a valuable tool for cities that want to organise workshops and implement policies to help parents reconcile work and family life.

In the final project meeting in Sofia, NewFaces partners drew the lessons from what they learnt through the project, particularly with regards to preparing and organising workshops. Different partners emphasized some elements such as focusing on emotional needs, organizing pre-workshops with fathers to prepare the questions that will be answered by specialists in a final workshop, contacting fathers directly through their work or the civil society rather than through public institutions, keeping workshops for fathers only. More generally, partners re-affirmed their conviction that the local level has today a major role to play in support of reconciliation policies and work-life balance, and that they have to work with trade unions and employers.

Although the NewFaces project has now ended, partners believe that actions have to be followed up. Innovative partnership between municipalities and with the civil society (in particular with trade-unions) could be launched. Contributing to the continuation of this work, some partners presented projects to prolong their activities: PLESES (Parental Leave, Experiences & Skills for Enterprises and Society, VbFF) and GELSO (Gender, Work and Occupational Segregation, University of Trento). The Cultura Animi Foundation proposed to organize an important campaign about fathers and parental leave in Bulgaria. A range of actions that could be linked to the Charter for Equality of women and men in local life adopted this year by the CEMR.

The NewFaces guidebook should have a particular impact during the **European Year of Equal Opportunities for All 2007**. This initiative launched by the European commission aims at promoting equal opportunities for all and conveying a positive message about diversity. Within this framework, four main themes will be addressed: rights, representation, recognition and respect.

**NewFaces project website:** [www.newfaces-project.org](http://www.newfaces-project.org)

If you would be interested in receiving the final NewFaces Guidance Book, please contact Maeva Zebrowski, EUROCITIES Project Officer, [m.zebrowski@eurocities.be](mailto:m.zebrowski@eurocities.be)

**European Year of Equal Opportunities for all 2007 homepage:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/equality2007/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/equality2007/index_en.htm) .

## **PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION**

### **URBAN MATRIX: An e-library for the EUROCIITIES network!**

URBAN MATRIX is a FP6-funded research project designed to facilitate the dissemination of good practices and research outcomes, and to support European local authorities in addressing Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) in all its complexity and many dimensions.

The first steps undertaken by this EUROCIITIES-led project, in cooperation with 10 partner cities and the research partners aimed at producing a picture of knowledge needs in the cities of Europe through the use of a survey. The survey, developed under the lead of the University of the West of England (Bristol) and carried out last summer, collected 126 responses coming from 64 cities.

The results of this survey indicate the interest of cities in learning more about a wide range of elements related to sustainable urban governance. According to the responses received, despite overarching pan-European and global issues (e.g. climate change), overall local authorities select their priorities on the basis of what is specifically impacting upon them, in their day-to-day operations and their aspirations for future development.

European cities are calling for more information first and foremost on urban planning and sustainability process-related keywords (benchmarking; evaluation; citizens' participation; private-public partnerships). The hotspots for urban governance appear to be related to social cohesion; transport systems; and urban competitiveness; and spatial planning.

Cities have a strong desire for knowledge based on actual practice, meaning pilot measures or policy choices that have been already tested and assessed. They are also looking for research outcomes. Officers at the city level want to share their experience and learn from what has already been tested elsewhere.

On the basis of the analysis of the survey results, a twofold strategy has been developed by the URBAN MATRIX project to answer cities request for information and knowledge on Sustainable Urban Development.

Firstly, starting from the knowledge gaps indicated by the survey, the URBAN MATRIX launched an e-library that is publicly available at the project website. The e-library, linked into the wider European Urban Knowledge Network, collects and displays tested practices and research outcomes from the EUROCIITIES members and other cities and towns in Europe.

You can search the library on the project website and easily ensure that your cities' actions are displayed there too by following the instructions given in the 'Share Your Knowledge' section.

Secondly, URBAN MATRIX will hold thematic workshops to address the thematic needs emerged in the survey. Workshops will have a concrete focus and offer transferable examples of tested practices in way that attendees can take home with them. The first workshop will be held in March 2007 in Belfast, and will cover the theme of Spatial Planning. Participation is open to all cities that have a specific interest in the theme and can contribute with their own knowledge.

URBAN MATRIX creates a knowledge exchange community targeted on the needs of the EUROCIITIES network. Join the MATRIX by contacting the project team and participate in the knowledge exchange activities!

**URBAN MATRIX Website & E-library:** [www.urban-matrix.net](http://www.urban-matrix.net)

**URBAN MATRIX Project Coordinator:** Francesca Crippa (EUROCIITIES), [f.crippa@eurocities.be](mailto:f.crippa@eurocities.be)

## Projects@EUROCITIES: EU Funding Briefs

Please find below a list of current funding briefs:

- **Culture 2007-2013 - Support to Cultural Actions (Conditional Call for Proposals)**

(Deadline: 28 February 2007).

The aim of this programme is to strengthen European cultural cooperation through promotion of transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector; encouraging the transnational circulation of artistic and cultural works and products; and encouraging intercultural dialogue with the intention of introducing the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008

- **Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013 - Measure 1.1.Citizens' Meetings**

(Deadlines 2007: 10 January; 1 April; 1 June 2007)

The overall aim of this programme is to promote the involvement of citizens in the process of European integration. This particular measure supports citizens' meetings in the framework of town-twinning activities. Please also refer to the extensive article on the Europe for Citizens programme below.

For more information and for signing up to the mailing list please contact:  
Silke Moschitz, EUROCITIES Project Manager, [s.moschitz@eurocities.be](mailto:s.moschitz@eurocities.be)

## EU Funding Programmes 2007-2013: Europe for Citizens

This article is the second of a series that will present in brief new European Union funding programmes in different policy fields. It follows up on a EUROCITIES Funding Information circulated to members in November 2006.

**Europe for Citizens** promotes active European citizenship by supporting actions that involve citizens and civil society organizations in the process of European integration. The programme has an overall budget of € 215 million and is structured into 4 different actions:

### **Action 1: Active Citizens for Europe** (at least 45% of overall budget)

This is the most relevant action for EUROCITIES members.

Under Measure 1.1.: Town-twinning Citizens Meetings, meetings between citizens of twinned towns are supported - 2007 deadlines: January 10 (for meetings between May and July); April 1 (August-September); June 1 (October-December). Under Measure 1.2., thematic networks of twinned towns are supported - deadline March 15 (events between August 2007 and March 2008).

Measure 2: Citizens' projects and support measures will, from 2008 onwards, provide support to innovative approaches to citizen's debates on European issues as well as to partnerships with relevant organizations, providing support services to all projects carried out under Action 1.

### **Action 2: Active Civil Society for Europe** (approx. 31% of overall budget)

This action will provide structural support to civil society organizations and public policy think-tanks as well as transnational projects of civil society organizations.

### **Action 3: Together for Europe** (approx. 10% of overall budget)

This action will promote high-visibility events, studies, and dissemination tools and will be implemented by the European Commission through procurements.

### **Action 4: Active European Remembrance** (approx. 4% of overall budget)

This action will provide support to preserving the main sites and archives commemorating the victims of Nazism and Stalinism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Several significant changes to the management of the programme have been implemented that should make it easier to apply for funding. These include:

- **The publication of a comprehensive Programme Guide** that contains all the necessary information for submitting an application under any of the four actions. The Programme Guide provides details on the structure and priorities of the programme; on financial and legal rules; and details on the content, rules and deadlines for the different actions and measures. The Programme Guide is valid for the full programme period; but will be complemented with short-term annual priorities and related specific calls.
- **The definition of permanent priorities across all four actions** including: Future of the EU and its basic values; Participation and democracy in Europe; Intercultural dialogue; employment and Social Cohesion; Impact of EU policies in societies. These are complemented each year with annual priorities, for 2007 these are: European Year of Equal Opportunities for all; and Enlargement: Getting to know the two new EU member States.
- **Recurring deadlines:** The Programme Guide already contains dates for most of the calls and deadlines for the full programme period. From 2008 onwards, the deadlines will follow a streamlined rhythm for each measure every year.
- The traditional grant contract will be replaced by a **unilateral grant decision** on awarding a subsidy to a beneficiary. This should speed-up procedures as beneficiaries will not need to sign the decision but can immediately start their project.
- **Grants for town-twinning citizen's meetings** (Measure 1.1.) will be awarded as flat rates which are calculated on the basis of number of participants, duration of meeting, country-specific daily rates and kilometres travelled. Payments will be made after the meeting on the basis of a report and a certified list of participants. No other accounting will be necessary.

Local authorities as well as networks of local authorities obviously have a high relevance for promoting the permanent themes of the programme and there is considerable interest from the European Commission in supporting activities proposed by EUROCITIES members as well as in developing an ongoing strategic cooperation with the EUROCITIES network.

**The Europe For Citizens Programme Guide** can be found on the European Commission website: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/citizenship/index.htm> (please note: pending the official approval and launch of the programme, this document remains provisional).

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