

EDITORIAL

Urban champions



Plainly the European Parliament is one of the key institutions that EUROCITIES seeks to engage and influence. Following the recent elections our efforts inevitably will be focused on building relationships with new and changed political groups.

The Urban and Housing Inter-Group has been a hugely important channel for dialogue with Parliamentarians. Inter-groups are officially recognised cross-party forums that promote a focus on policy issues that fall outside, and across, the remits of the Parliament's formal Committees. Because only a limited number of inter-groups can be resourced there is strong competition for recognition. Our first task therefore is to ensure there continues to be an inter-group on the urban agenda.

Regrettably some of the key figures from the present Urban and Housing Inter-Group will be stepping down as MEPs. These colleagues, notably Jean-Marie Beaupuy and Gisela Kallenbach, have been great allies of EUROCITIES. Happily another leading light, Polish MEP Jan Olbrycht, has been returned to Brussels; but the search is on for new Parliamentarians to join him in championing the cause of cities.

We hope that new MEP Danuta Hübner, recently Commissioner for Regional Policy, will support our case. We are also approaching MEPs who have been active as mayors or deputy-mayors in our member cities.

But our push for an urban intergroup will be all the more effective if it comes as well from our member cities to their local MEPs. So a briefing note making the case for an urban inter-group is available on the EUROCITIES website; please use this to press your MEPs for their support. And do let me know where you find a positive response.

Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

Local responses to the crisis: which strategies for recovery?



On 2-3 July, EUROCITIES was represented at an OECD conference on 'Local Responses to a Global Crisis: international strategies for recovery'. The discussions held at the event will feed into work led by a new temporary EUROCITIES task force set up to provide a strategic steer on the network's next steps on the recession and recovery.

[see p. 5](#)

Watch this space on europartv



"How we do it: Urban mobility in Europe" – this was the focus of a panel debate in which EUROCITIES' Policy Director, Vanda Knowles took part in at the European Parliament last June. Other panellists included two key MEPs - Gilles Savary and Reinhard Rack. The debate was broadcast on the Parliament's TV channel, europartv.

[see p. 8](#)

Reaching out to Europe's young city officers



How can the active involvement of cities in European social policy processes be enhanced through young city officers? This question, among others, prompted EUROCITIES to hold an awareness-raising event tailored specifically for young officers working in social policy departments in city offices across Europe. The event took place on 16-17 June in Brussels.

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Key developments



Vice-mayor of Murcia addresses Green Week participants

Speaking at this year's edition of Green Week in Brussels, Murcia's Vice-mayor, Adela Martínez-Cachá Martínez, addressed the event's participants on the commitments that the City of Murcia has made towards tackling climate change.

"It is important to be aware that cities play an increasingly important role in fighting climate change. The Covenant of Mayors provides cities with the possibility of increasing their role in this agenda," said the vice-mayor.

The Covenant is a European Commission-led initiative which underlines the commitment of signatory cities to go beyond the objectives of the EU energy policy in terms of reducing carbon dioxide emissions through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner

energy production and use. The Covenant of Mayors is managed by a consortium of European networks representing local and regional authorities, including EUROCIITIES.

Ms Martínez-Cachá's speech was given at a networking session during the opening day of the four-day Green Week event held on 23-26 June at the European Commission. The week attracted around 4,000 participants from across Europe and beyond.

Green Week is held annually and aims to address environment-related topics through a series of workshops, seminars, exhibitions and networking cocktails.

Subscribe to the Covenant of Mayors' newsletter! You can now be kept up-to-date on all the latest developments



related to the Covenant of Mayors by subscribing to the Covenant of Mayors new bi-annual newsletter. Go to: www.eumayors.eu

Dion Wierds, EUROCIITIES Communications Officer – Climate & Energy: dion.wierds@eurocities.eu

Green Week 2009: <http://greenweek2009.alligence.com>

Green Streets: reducing carbon emissions from European urban transport

Brussels | 7-8 September 2009

Mark your calendar for the 'Green Streets' conference taking place on 7-8 September in Brussels!

Supported by EUROCIITIES, the Committee of the Regions, and media partner Regional Review, this conference is expected to gather around 100 participants including high level speakers, representatives from Europe's regional and local authorities and European Commission project leaders.

Participants will discuss matters held at the very centre of debates on the EU's future urban transport policy, most specifically:

- transport challenges facing Europe's urban spaces
- best practice in the field
- practical information about funding sources, suppliers and policy instruments
- how to develop greener, more sustainable transport networks fit for the 21st century

EUROCIITIES' Secretary General, Paul Bevan will attend as one of the event's keynote speaker. Also representing EUROCIITIES, the Mayor of Murcia and Chair of EUROCIITIES' Mobility Forum Miguel Ángel Cámara Botía, and Klaus Bondam, Vice-Mayor of

Copenhagen, have been invited to participate in a formal capacity.

New partnership with Regional Review:

Our involvement in Green Streets is one element of a partnership which we've recently formalised with Regional Review.

As part of this new arrangement, EUROCIITIES will also be represented on the magazine's new editorial board to ensure that cities, and in particular EUROCIITIES members, are given more visibility in the publication.

Regional Review examines the impact of EU investment in the regions and gives EU institutions and decision makers the opportunity to read about best practice and innovation in regional policy. Published five times a year, including the October OPEN DAYS special edition, Regional Review is written by and for decision makers in the EU institutions.

Green Streets: www.theparliament.com/greenstreets

Regional Review: www.theparliament.com/regional-review

Róisín Hughes, EUROCIITIES Information Officer: roisin.hughes@eurocities.eu



Offices to rent at our house!

Two office spaces are available on the ground floor of the House of Cities, Municipalities and Regions, which is located at the heart of Brussels' European quarter. The building is home to a range of organisations representing local and regional interests, including EUROCIITIES.

Each office, approximately nine metres square, is available to rent from G-4 (representative network of four Dutch cities). The G-4 provides internet, fixed phone, printing, and meeting space on the third floor, tea and coffee facilities and of course larger meeting rooms situated on the first floor.



Interested? Contact Edith van Rees: e.vanrees@G-4.eu; tel.: +32.2.737.1030

Key developments



Weathering the storm: Europe's cities and the recession

As part of a new series of 'Points of View' launched by EUROCITIES, Henk Kool, Deputy Mayor of The Hague and Chair of EUROCITIES' Economic Development Forum, shares his thoughts on the recession:

For the past 18 months, Europe has watched on as what started out as a US housing market problem developed into a banking and financial crisis, before finally evolving into a fully fledged recession. Across Europe GDP levels are lowering, unemployment is rising, and best

estimates show that we'll hit the bottom of a downward spiral in late 2009/early 2010. Yet such headline figures fail to tell the whole story either in terms of the recession's true impact, or the prospects for a workable recovery path.

Through ongoing research, evidence gathering, and sharing of knowledge EUROCITIES can highlight some fundamental issues related to the crisis...

To read the rest of the article, go to the economic development section of EUROCITIES' website.

EUROCITIES Points of View (PoV) aim to present the positions, reactions and responses shared by Europe's big cities on current affairs that are fitting to the priority policy areas covered by EUROCITIES Forums. The PoVs will be produced quarterly and distributed/advertised via EUROCITIES website, Flash, Urban Voice, and to members of the press wherever relevant ■



John Dodd, EUROCITIES Secondment - Economic Development: john.dodd@eurocities.eu

On the way to Cohesion Policy for 2014-2020

'Creative and innovative regions' is the theme of the 6th Progress Report on Economic and Social Cohesion adopted by the European Commission on 25 June. The report will feed into the Commission's 5th Cohesion Report planned for autumn 2010 which is set to give first concrete indications on the shape of future cohesion policy.

This latest Progress Report analyses how creativity and innovation boost regional development: More developed EU regions score well on most creativity and innovation indicators, such as core creative class, R&D and human capital intensity. Less developed regions outperform the rest of the EU on a few indicators, in particular on productivity growth. The report also outlines the results of last autumn's public consultation on the Green Paper on territorial cohesion, to which EUROCITIES responded.

Other discussions on cohesion policy planned this year include:

- **OPEN DAYS European Week of Regions and Cities on 5-8 October 2009:** This year's edition will feature the evaluation and future prospects of the EU's cohesion policy within the framework of discussions on the EU's political priorities and the review of its budget after 2013. Other themes include restoring growth; innovation in Europe's regions and cities; regions and climate change; and territorial cooperation.
- **Seminars on urban development:** organised by the Commission, the first of these should take place in October 2009. It will discuss past achievements and assess the results and shortcomings of all generations of Urban Pilot Projects, URBAN Community Initiatives, Urban Mainstreaming and urban networking programmes (URBACT).
- **Meetings under the Swedish Presidency of the EU:** The first of these scheduled for 10-11 November in Gothenburg will discuss regional and local implementation of the future Lisbon strategy. The second meeting set for 10-11 December in Kiruna will focus on cohesion policy and territorial development.

EUROCITIES' work on this issue includes a debate on a future EU funding instrument for integrated local development. Within this area, EUROCITIES will organise a conference in autumn to assess various options for the development of this instrument.

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

European press plugs gap in coverage of local government affairs

"City and regional news is too small for international media and too big for the local press", according to Lisbeth Kirk, founder and managing editor of the independent EU news website, EUobserver. And, it's exactly this gap in European press coverage that's prompted EUobserver to launch a new feature dedicated exclusively to regional and city affairs.

Speaking on behalf of EUROCITIES at the launch event on 23 June in Brussels, EUROCITIES' Senior Policy Officer Simon Guentner commented on the importance of the new project against the backdrop of 2009 European Parliament elections' dismal outcome.

"Around 50% of all legislation implemented by councils today starts off in Brussels. The media has a job to do in making sure that EU politics matter to citizens", said Mr Guentner.

Regional policy today accounts for the largest

share of the EU's budget. EUobserver's new section takes a closer look at regions and larger cities throughout Europe and reports on where EU money is being spent and how.

EUROCITIES will act as a facilitator between member cities and EUobserver journalists and reporters to ensure that the stories, positions and priorities of Europe's big cities are featured in the new section. If you'd like to receive a summary of the latest news featured on the section, go to the EUobserver website to subscribe to the 'Regions & Cities' newsletter.

Established in 2000, EUobserver has over 60,000 readers and is the second most read EU-related news source used by journalists after the Financial Times.

EUobserver: <http://euobserver.com/886>

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Culture



Creativity and the city

Fostering creativity in cities was central to discussions at the latest meeting of EUROCITIES' Culture Forum held in Dortmund on 12-14 June. Over 90 representatives from 40 EUROCITIES member cities took part.

Dortmund was a fitting choice of host for this meeting: the city is currently preparing for Essen and the Ruhr European Capital of Culture 2010 to which the city is associated, together with 52 local authorities of the area.

Dortmund has seen enormous change in recent years. The post-industrial city has developed into a modern and cosmopolitan metropolis, gaining recognition in Europe as a good location for technological development. Today, a high proportion of the city's activities

stem from the knowledge and services sectors.

The meeting's plenary session presented a balanced mix of theoretical and practical interventions. Keynote speakers focused on how cities can foster a creative environment and gave a sneak preview of the European Commission's study on the contribution of culture to creativity.



City representatives considered the extent to which their respective city was 'creative' and shared methods being used to develop citizens' creativity to enhance the attractiveness of cities ■

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES Policy Officer – Culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

EU Swedish Presidency: young at heart

During the Swedish Presidency of the EU, the Education, Culture and Youth Council will focus on the following three main priorities:



1. **Youth policy cooperation:** The Council will adopt a new framework for youth policy cooperation in the EU as of 2010. The framework will be based on the Commission's communication, 'An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering', which aims to promote good living conditions and increased participation among people in Europe by means of better cooperation.

2. **Promoting a creative generation in the culture and media area:** The Council will focus on access of children and young people to culture and opportunities to be creative and will

highlight different ways of promoting a creative generation, both at national and EU level. Council conclusions focusing on measures that contribute to promoting a creative generation will be adopted by the Council in November.

3. **Education:** The Presidency will focus on issues such as the professional development of teachers, the role of school management and the role of higher education institutions in promoting cooperation within the knowledge triangle (education-research-innovation). Discussions will also take place on issues related to the role of education in enabling migrants to become integrated into society.

Swedish Presidency of the EU: www.se2009.eu

Get ready for Culture in motion and European Culture Forum

Brussels | 28-30 September 2009

On 28 September the Culture Programme conference will present past and ongoing projects (funded by Culture 2000 and the Culture Programme 2007-2013), encouraging exchange of experience and good practice between cultural operators.

On 29-30 September the second European Culture Forum will bring together around 600 participants from culture civil society, stakeholders from the culture sectors, Member States and European institutions to take stock of progress in implementing the European Agenda for Culture and its three main objectives: cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue; culture as a catalyst for creativity; and culture as a key component in international relations. Keynote speeches, panel discussions and workshops will all feed the debate.

European Culture Forum:
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news1904_en.htm

Economic Development



Local responses to the crisis: which strategies for recovery?

On 2-3 July, EUROCIITIES participated in a conference on 'Local Responses to a Global Crisis: international strategies for recovery', organised by OECD and The Work Foundation. Cities from the EU and beyond gathered with stakeholders including European networks, national governments and development agencies to discuss not only the impacts of the recession on cities, but also ways in which administrations are responding to the challenges created by the recession.

Outlining the key outcomes of EUROCIITIES' work on the recession's impacts, Tomasz Kayser, Vice-chair of the network's Economic Development Forum pointed out the vital role that entrepreneurship will play in future competitiveness. He stressed that cities

should look beyond SMEs and recognise the value of investing in individuals, and look also towards bringing the private sector into policy debates.

The conference discussions connect well with EUROCIITIES' ongoing work on the recession and recovery. A new city task force, to be established for a limited period only, will meet for the first time in Brussels on 28 July to provide a strategic steer on the network's next steps in this area. EUROCIITIES is considering various activities including a detailed research on the tangible impact of the recession on labour markets, city budgets, population levels and other quantifiable elements.

Members are asked to provide the EUROCIITIES Brussels Office with any information, plans and strategies related

to the recovery, to contribute to the development of a best practice knowledge base, and an online discussion forum for sharing intelligence, ideas and views on the recession ■



EUROCIITIES' Recession Forum:
www.eurocities.eu/forum

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New funding through URBACT II

A new URBACT Call for Proposals is now open for the creation of 12 new Thematic Networks and 3 new Working Groups.

Projects must focus on fostering exchange and learning among cities and other key urban stakeholders, as well as disseminating good practices in the field of integrated and sustainable urban development.

URBACT II projects must also seek tangible outcomes that will impact on Structural Fund Operation Programmes. Critically they must set up local support groups consisting of key local stakeholders, and produce local action plans outlining future activities.

URBACT: www.urbact.eu

This call aims to support European cities dealing with two current major challenges: the economic crisis and its consequences; and climate change and its effects. All project proposals must refer to one or both of these challenges, in addition to addressing one of the 16 Priority topics defined for this Call.

Deadline for proposals: **25 September 2009**

Check out the funding brief on this call available from EUROCIITIES' members area.

Supporting innovation for recovery

Tallinn | 8-9 October 2009

Following discussions held in Nuremberg in June on the impact of demographic change on the economic development of European cities, EUROCIITIES' Economic Development Forum (EDF) will turn its attention to the role of cities in supporting the development of innovative jobs, products and services. This will be the subject of the EDF's next meeting in Tallinn on 8-9 October 2009.

To tackle the current recession, Tallinn, the business centre of Estonia which is well-known for its use of innovative ICT solutions, invites EUROCIITIES members to discuss creative ways to move towards economic recovery. Specifically, the meeting will look at fostering new entrepreneurial behaviour; innovating in the delivery of services through ICT; and developing new jobs in ICT, as well as the cultural and creative industries, among other areas.

The EDF meeting in Tallinn will also be the opportunity for the EDF and associated Working Groups to discuss their work priorities for 2010.

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2010 European Enterprise Awards

More than 350 local and regional authorities from all EU Member States competed in the national round of the 2008/09 European Enterprise Awards. Now, the European Commission has opened its 2010 edition, offering you another chance to submit your initiatives which promote entrepreneurship. This year, there are five categories for entries: promoting the entrepreneurial spirit; investing in skills; improving the business environment; supporting the internationalisation of business; and responsible and inclusive entrepreneurship.

EUROCIITIES promotes the EEA to foster the exchange of best practices in promoting entrepreneurship.



EEA:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/smes/awards/index_en.htm

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Council gives seal of approval on EU climate change adaptation strategy

Meeting on 25 June in Luxembourg, the Environment Council approved conclusions on the European Commission's White Paper, 'Adapting to Climate Change: Towards a European Framework for action'. The Environment Council is composed of environment ministers who meet about four times a year. It decides by qualified majority in co-decision with the European Parliament.

EUROCITIES welcomed the Commission's paper as the basis for developing a more strategic approach towards adaptation, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. The

initial development phase which will last until 2012 should lay the foundations for a comprehensive EU adaptation strategy to be in place as from 2013.

As an outcome of the June Council, ministers have called for increased action across all levels of governance in order to achieve effective progress. They also underlined the key role that awareness-raising plays in both combating and adapting to climate change.

An important outcome for EUROCITIES, lies in the Council's official recognition that most adaptation measures are needed at the national, regional and

local level and should be based on best practice and circumstances specific to each Member State. The Council also recognised the value of an integrated approach at EU level to support and strengthen those measures, in particular where effective adaptation to climate change requires cross-border cooperation across several policy sectors.

The ministers also held an exchange of views on the form and content of the future Copenhagen agreement. The Council will make a short Presidency summary of the discussion available shortly ■

June 2009 Environment Council - conclusions: www.consilium.europa.eu

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

A new European website for energy efficiency in buildings



A new website launched recently by the European Commission aims to provide an interactive platform for local authorities, building professionals and building occupants to share activities and knowledge on cutting energy consumption in buildings. By promoting the exchange of best practices, tools and technologies available throughout Europe, 'BUILD UP' stimulates an effective implementation of energy-saving measures in buildings.

A wide range of topics, regarding good practice cases in energy reduction and information on the relative legislation, will be covered on this website. Given that buildings are responsible for about 40% of the total energy consumption in Europe, improvements in buildings' energy performance are important to achieving EU energy-savings targets and combating climate change.

BUILD UP: www.buildup.eu

Looking ahead: post-COP15 climate actions in cities

At their last meeting held in Malmo on 24-25 June, members of EUROCITIES' Environment Forum (EEF) focused on actions that European cities are planning and implementing beyond the Copenhagen United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP15) in December.

Opening the event, the Mayor of Malmo, Ilmar Reepalu, highlighted the progress Malmo has achieved over the last 10 years in the environmental field which has led to its reputation as a 'sustainable city'. The city has implemented a range of effective sustainability strategies with citizens' participation and involvement at the core. One such example was presented in the technical visit to Malmo's Western Harbour organised as part of the event.

Also attending, Magnus Schönning, Councillor at the Swedish Embassy in Copenhagen, provided an overview of Sweden's plans towards COP15 as the European country holding the EU presidency during occasion.

Interventions from Christer Ljungberg, Chief Executive Officer of Trivector Traffic AB, Anders Nylander from Skane Energy Agency and also Secretary in the Swedish Commission against oil dependency focused on traffic and energy issues which will still be on the table after COP15.

Lars Reuterswärd, Director of the Global Division of UN-HABITAT in Nairobi looked at long-term strategies within the period 2020-2050 which will affect mainly non-urban areas.

Also discussed was EUROCITIES' Green Digital Charter. This forms part of EUROCITIES' new "Green Shift Europe" initiative, which aims to add value to work on climate change by creating a new framework to support cities in using ICT to facilitate emissions reductions.

Participants also reviewed the European Environmental Agency's Quality of Life report, to which EUROCITIES contributed.

Three EEF Working Groups - Greening the Local Economy; Water; and Clean Cities – also convened during the event. The cities of Ghent and Tbilisi participated as new members.

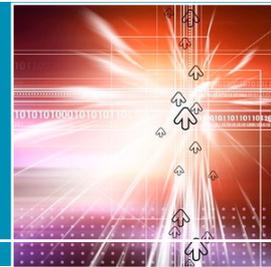
Save the date!

'Transforming together, transition management and private public partnerships'

EUROCITIES' Environment Forum:
Rotterdam | 5-6 October

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

Knowledge Society



EUROCITIES' Secretary General speaks at IBM SmarterCities Congress

Constituting the first of three worldwide Forums, IBM convened around 340 leaders from 130 cities in 30 European countries in Berlin on 24-25 July to discuss how to create truly 'smart' cities, making use of available and emerging technologies across all sectors.

EUROCITIES' Secretary General Paul Bevan took part in a panel discussion together with the Mayor of Almere (The Netherlands) Annemarie Jorritsma, and Harald Wolf, Senator of Berlin responsible for Economics and Technology. The panellists agreed that building smarter cities is one of the most crucial imperatives for our planet in the 21st century. Their discussions focused on creating a vision of a smarter city, and they identified a couple of key steps towards achieving this.

Mr Bevan called for a more inclusive approach to technology. When designing

the city of the future using new tools for urban planning, it should be a clear priority to make a city's systems and structures not only interconnected but also accessible for all citizens. A smart city must not only use technology to work more efficiently and more sustainably, but it should also allow all inhabitants to benefit from the economic, social and environmental opportunities that new technology brings.

On the increasing interconnectivity of devices in daily life, ranging from food products to household equipment, via emerging technology such as radio frequency identification (RFID), Mr Bevan called for a "risk-averse approach". The various means of communicating with each other via new technology holds huge potential, but it also carries risks with it e.g. on questions of data protection and ownership. Panellists agreed that in whatever context personal data is



being collected, stored or processed, its ownership must remain with the citizen in question ■

Watch the event:
www.ibm.com/ibm/smartercities/us/en/berlin09.shtml

Members explore green ICT in Reykjavik

Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, was the host city of the latest EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum (KSF) held in May. The conference brought together representatives from around 40 cities and KSF associated partners from the business sector to discuss the theme of sustainable urban development through technology.

Around 98% of all Iceland's energy comes from renewable sources, and information and communications technologies (ICT) plays an increasing role in the city's production, distribution and consumption systems.

The conference's plenary session saw contributions from the Mayor of Reykjavik, Hanna Kristjansdottir, Iceland's Minister for Industry, Energy and Tourism,

Katrin Juliusdottir, and Colette Maloney, Head of Unit within the European Commission responsible for ICT and sustainable growth, among others.

Participants took part in two workshops on simple ICT solutions to increase sustainability and urban policies on digital innovation and sustainable growth. A speednetworking session was also organised as part of the event.

A dinner reception held at the biggest Icelandic geothermal powerplant rounded up the first part of the conference. KSF Working Groups also met during the meeting. The event closed with a site visit to the environment department of Reykjavik's city administration.

KSF Reykjavik 2009: www.reykjavik.is/eurocities

EU's ICT investments to double over next decade

The Committee of Regions (CoR) has invited EUROCITIES to feed into to its position on the EU's new strategy for information and communication technologies (ICT) research and development (R&D) and innovation.

Published in March 2009, the Commission's Communication, 'A Strategy for ICT R&D and Innovation in Europe: Raising the Game', will form part of a major European plan on research and Innovation, which is expected to be presented at the end of this year. The goal is to make Europe more attractive for ICT investments and skills, and ensure that its economy and society benefit fully from ICT developments.

The new strategy aims to establish Europe's industrial and technology leadership in ICT, doubling investments in CIT research within a decade.

Annual commitments to EU-level ICT collaborative R&D under the seventh Framework Programme (FP7) will increase from €1.1bn in 2010 to €1.7bn in 2013. To speed up the achievement of specific societal goals, the Commission intends to support the development of modern pan-European service infrastructures including innovative ICT solutions for sustainable healthcare. Furthermore the document announces to finance, through the Commission's Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), a series of pan-European pilots to test and validate innovative ICT solutions for public services.

If you'd like to be involved in EUROCITIES contribution to the CoR position, contact Jan Franke, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society: jan.franke@eurocities.eu

Commission Communication:
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/index_en.htm

Mobility



City matters in EU's vision for transport

EUROCITIES welcomes the analysis of urban challenges within the transport sector as laid down in the European Commission's communication on the future of transport presented on 17 June.

The Communication presents the Commission's vision for an integrated, technology-led and user-friendly sustainable transport system after 2010 and is the culmination of several external studies, evaluations of past policies and future scenarios as well as stakeholder consultations, to which EUROCITIES contributed.

The document will be followed by concrete policy options to be outlined in a White Paper next year. Stakeholders may provide input into this until 30 September; interested cities may do so individually or via EUROCITIES.

The document identifies six main trends and challenges that will shape the future of transport policy over the coming decades: aging; migration and internal mobility; environmental challenges; the availability of energy resources; urbanisation; and globalisation.

According to the Commission, technological innovation will be the main contributor to resolving the challenges shaping up in the transport sector. It will provide more comfortable services for passengers, increase security and safety and reduce the sector's impact on the environment in the long run.

For transport in cities, the European Commission proposes a modal shift towards more environmentally sustainable transport and that policies developed should be re-assessed and regularly adjusted in the future to ensure for this. The Commission further suggests strategies for better up-keep and coordination to reduce the incidence of accidents, as well as operational costs, pollution, congestion and noise.

The Commission hasn't presented new financing sources with its Communication, other than the strategy for internalising external costs of already existent public means and transport. In the context of the financial crisis, the Commission considers it difficult to make additional funding sources available and therefore recommends greater self-financing for the sector. Additional revenue could be found

through better tax collection on energy (fuel taxes) or on vehicles as well as the developing a strategy for internalising external costs for all modes of transport.

The Communication goes on to say that the same strategy could be implemented when it comes to financing infrastructure, mainly through application of levies for congestion. More specifically on pricing, and based on the ideas underpinning the revised proposal for a directive on the taxation of heavy goods vehicles (Eurovignette II), the objectives listed in the document call for the introduction of differentiated and incentive tariffs depending on the use of less polluting modes of transport or infrastructure outside peak hours. The new tariffs should be conceived in such a way that citizens can choose the most competitive and affordable mode of transport that suits them best ■

Future of Transport:
http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2009_future_of_transport_en.htm

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Watch this space on europartv

"How we do it: Urban mobility in Europe" – this was the focus of a panel debate in which Vanda Knowles, EUROCITIES' Policy Director, took part at the European Parliament in June. The debate was broadcast on the Parliament's TV channel. Also present were two key MEPs namely Gilles Savary (PSE, France) also Rapporteur for the European Parliament's own initiative Action Plan on Urban Mobility, and Reinhard Rack (EPP, Austria), Rapporteur for the Green Paper on Urban Mobility last year.

Supported by two reportages on mobility issues in Athens and Budapest, the discussion focused on key topics such as the principle of subsidiarity and the need for an EU framework in this field, as well as financing of urban mobility.

Although the European Parliament recommends the exchange of best practice as a path towards more and better transport

solutions, Ms Knowles underlined the need for EU guidance on the development of urban mobility plans and encouraged further modal shift towards softer modes of transport and a change in citizens' behaviour.

This TV intervention provided an excellent visibility opportunity to highlight the position of EUROCITIES and member cities on current and future urban transport issues

Urban mobility debate on europartv: <http://tinyurl.com/mgh66u>

Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu



Funding available for small-scale transport projects!

Funding opportunities for small-scale projects is available through the 'CIVITAS Activity Fund', which enables the exchange and transfer of experiences between CIVITAS Cities and other cities interested in the CIVITAS approach to sustainable mobility; the CIVITAS Initiative is targeted at cities and towns interested in achieving a more sustainable urban transport system.

Under the CIVITAS Activity Fund's latest call, financing is available for preparatory and follow up activities e.g. studies, conferences, workshops and seminars; and staff exchanges of

expertise and knowledge between staff of a host CIVITAS city and an applicant city.

Deadline for applications: **11 September 2009**

Check out the funding brief on this call available from EUROCITIES' members area.

CIVITAS: www.civitas-initiative.org

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Reaching out to Europe's young city officers

What role can young city officers play in strengthening their city's administration? How can the active involvement of cities in European social policy processes be enhanced through their young officers?

These questions, among others, prompted EUROCITIES to bring together junior city officers working in social policy departments across Europe to learn about European social policy, EUROCITIES' activities in policy development and EU funding opportunities. Around 20 young officers from cities in Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the UK, took part in the EUROCITIES awareness-raising event held on 16-17 June in Brussels.

Equally important to the success of the event was the strength and diversity of interventions. Michele Calandrino, a policy analyst at the European Commission Directorate General (DG) Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, presented the Commission's strategy to promote social inclusion. Doreen Huddart, a councillor of the city of Newcastle and member of the Committee of the Regions, outlined how her work as a

councillor has been enhanced due to her increasingly active role in EUROCITIES, not least because of the network's links to the European Institutions.

Complementing these interventions were representatives from the Social Platform and the European Roma Information Office, who highlighted the importance of civil society's engagement in the European Social Agenda.

The event showed that young officers, through deepening their individual understanding of social Europe, can strengthen the capacity of city administrations to participate in the EU Social Protection and Social Inclusion Process. EUROCITIES intends to build on this initial success by hosting a similar event in 2010 ■

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Political dialogue exposes recession's impact on local social policies

Aware of the challenges met by city administrations in the wake of the economic recession, EUROCITIES brought together leading politicians and city officers on 18 June for the first in a series of political dialogues on local social policies.

At the initiative of Ulf Kristersson, Vice-mayor of Stockholm and Chair of EUROCITIES' Social Affairs Forum, this new series of debates will increase the scope of the Forum's political work. With Paul Tilsley MBE, Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council, as well as politicians from Gothenburg, The Hague, Malmo, Newcastle, Southampton and Vilnius, and other experts, the event saw a series of interventions on the local impact of the economic downturn, and specifically its consequences for cities' social policies.

By most accounts, the situation facing cities differs from one to the next. Dublin and Vilnius, for example, have been hit from the outset, while others, such as Malmo, which benefits from its proximity to Copenhagen, has yet to feel the full force of the recession. In contrast, the diversified economies of Stockholm and Birmingham have proved a robust safeguard against the onset of urban decline.

Councillor Ivan White from Southampton touched on a common concern of all cities, when he emphasised the need to bring forward capital spending to fund major developments in the absence of private sector investment. Several representatives also remarked that better, more accurate information about apprenticeships and training programmes was essential to facilitate school leavers' transition into the labour market. This concern is part of a growing awareness among city administrations of the need to see social services as an investment into cohesion and productivity despite expected cuts in municipal budgets.

Clearly there is no panacea to the economic crisis, but politicians stressed that their capacity to respond to such challenges could be improved in various ways, for example through partnerships with NGOs and cost-effective service delivery. A common view is that simplified rules to access European Structural Funds are essential if cities are to develop innovative projects that bring about social change. The results of this dialogue will shape the future direction of EUROCITIES' Social Affairs Forum.

The next political dialogue will be held in Warsaw on 8 October 2009.

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European Commission's five year framework on Justice and Home Affairs

As part of a package of texts on migration and integration, the European Commission has published a Communication on the new five-year European framework programme on justice and home affairs.

The Communication, 'An area of freedom, security and justice serving the citizen', represents the basis for the EU Swedish Presidency and European Institutions to develop the 'Stockholm Programme' until December 2009.

Two main principles of the Communication refer to the strengthening of solidarity with EU Member States that face bigger inflows of migrants, and to further integrate immigration into the EU's external affairs, to control migration flows.

The ambition to align national governments to a common European approach on asylum, immigration and integration is explicitly laid out, though the specific role of cities and the local level, less so. Responding to this gap, EUROCITIES will this month submit its position to the Commission on the common framework.

Commission' Communication:
<http://tinyurl.com/mauees>

Participation & Cooperation



Committee of the Regions wants multi-level governance back on EU agenda

A new White Paper on multi-level governance calls on the EU institutions and Member States to step up the involvement of local and regional authorities in preparing and implementing EU policies. By adopting a White Paper for the first time in its history, the Committee of the Regions (CoR), as a consultative EU institution, is trying to persuade relevant EU institutions – the Commission and Parliament – to address gaps in the EU multi-level governance structure; since the 2001 adoption of the European Commission White Paper on European Governance, little to no progress has been made on this.

The CoR's initiative is a significant political reaction to the outcomes of the recent European elections and a proactive move just before the renewal of the European Commission.

The Paper points to findings of the recent Eurobarometer survey which

showed that local and regional authorities were the level of government most trusted by the general public. The results would suggest therefore that local and regional government could help overcome public distrust of Europe.

With its White Paper, the CoR is proposing to establish a real culture of cooperation, guaranteeing that the EU operates legitimately, transparently, efficiently and most important, promoting involvement in European affairs.

The Paper covers a range of areas of the EU multi-level governance structure where local and regional authorities should have a more prevalent role. Among other things, the document calls for:

- Stronger involvement of local and regional authorities in EU policy-making in general
- Additional tools for supporting participatory democracy

- Reinforcement of the partnership principle

- Reforming the Open Method of Coordination, making it more inclusive of local perspectives

- Standardising the practice of analysing the local impact of EU legislation

- Establishing territorial pacts bringing together all tiers of government on implementing major policies

One of the measures announced in the White Paper is a CoR-led consultation process on all these issues, which will eventually lead to a 'European Charter on Multi-level Governance'.

Deadline for contributions to consultation: **30 November 2009** ■

Less bureaucracy for more cooperation, say Eastern cities

Tbilisi, Georgia's capital and largest city, welcomed 100 participants from 35 cities for the EURO CITIES conference held on 25-26 June. The event was opened by Tbilisi's Mayor Giorgi Ugulava (pictured here) and looked at the role of cities in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

Participants representing EU and eastern ENP cities, associations of local authorities from the region, and local NGOs gathered to discuss specifically current and future opportunities under the European Commission's ENP and the new Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiatives.

Although there was a general consensus that cities should not wait for EU funding to begin or intensify working relations with EU cities and within regional networks, the feeling was that additional and less bureaucratic EU funding would provide an important boost towards not only better, but also more exchanges and joint initiatives.

Cities from the eastern region identified the following areas where valuable learning opportunities could be gained through cooperation with western cities:

- How to build the professional capacity of city administrations
- How to develop city infrastructures and management
- How to improve the provision of social services at local level
- How to make local level and central governments work better together



This last point raised considerable interest. Institutional arrangements in the Eastern region tend to be considerably more centralised than those witnessed in the European Union 27 Member States. The eastern based arrangement is considered by concerned cities as a major obstacle to local autonomy and development.

At the meeting, representatives from western and central European local governments also provided insights into their experiences of cooperation with cities in the target region and made some suggestions on making the most of networks such as EURO CITIES.

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Projects



And the winners are...

Pictured here are the winners of the Pan-European Workplace Travel Award (PEWTA) 2009, recognised for their efforts in reducing CO₂ emissions in urban areas by having successfully implemented workplace mobility plans.

The winners were awarded at an official prize ceremony held at the European Conference for Mobility Management (ECOMM) hosted by the city Donostia – San Sebastian on 13-15 May 2009. Over 400 delegates attended the event.

Within the following award categories, the successful candidates included:

Public Authorities: Westtrans, London

Employers: Traffic & Public Transport Authority, City of Gothenburg

Networks: Geneva International Airport

As well as these three main categories, a Special Jury Prize was awarded to the Romanian company Siveco, for its state-of-the-art approach and promising initial results.

The award prize includes an expenses paid trip to a city of choice to learn from a pioneer public authority, organisation or network in workplace mobility plans, plus a cash prize of €1000 to further develop mobility plan measures

The award process was organised by EUROCIITIES ■



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ECOMM Conference 2009: www.epomm.org

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Leeds kicks off DIVE Peer Review visits

Leeds City Council on 15-18 June hosted the first in a series of peer reviews which will be organised under the EUROCIITIES DIVE project over the coming year. Peer review visits are

a core element of the DIVE project and valued for their facilitation of knowledge sharing among European cities on approaches to integration strategies.

Representatives from Amsterdam, Berlin and Tampere, as well as EUROCIITIES, MPG and Ethics etc. convened in Leeds for an in-depth analysis of Leeds City Council's policies and practices in promoting diversity and equality issues in the integration field.

The review involved a series of interviews with city council staff and political leaders, as well as insightful workshops with participation from external stakeholders, all of which contributed to a productive visit.

As part of the exercise, Leeds City Council carried out a self-assessment of its own progress against a set of benchmarks on the promotion of diversity and equality management as defined by DIVE, and provided peers with an initial report based on this. Leeds' progress in implementing diversity and equality policies has been positive: since January 2009 for instance, Leeds has introduced a staff training scheme on intercultural awareness and has observed that demand for such training among its staff is growing and that some are putting it to use. The city will receive a final feedback report from the DIVE peer review team in the coming weeks offering a more detailed breakdown of findings.

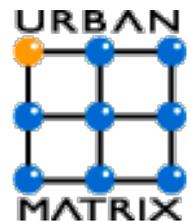
The next DIVE peer review visit will take place in Berlin in July.

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URBAN MATRIX Surveys' Report: finding out cities' knowledge needs

Based on the results of three on-line surveys, the URBAN MATRIX project has just finalised and published its overall analysis of the knowledge needs of European cities on Sustainable Urban Development (SUD).



The report is based on the results of survey responses from 2006, 2007 and 2008. Responses were provided by over 250 individuals from more than 80 cities in 23 European countries. EUROCIITIES members were invited to take part in the exercise to help identify the knowledge gaps that may limit effective action on SUD.

The survey covered a range of areas including integrated approaches to sustainable development; energy and climate change; urban transport; sustainable economic growth and social cohesion; all of which EUROCIITIES members identified as key drivers of SUD. The persistence of those core issues, consistent with the overall EU agenda on SUD reflects a need for more support and better coordination between knowledge exchange initiatives targeted towards European cities.

This report was produced by Rob Atkinson and Eileen Lepine of the Cities Research Centre at the University of West of England.

URBAN MATRIX provides a knowledge transfer platform designed to support European local authorities in addressing SUD.

URBAN MATRIX surveys and final report: www.urban-matrix.net

Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
24-26 June 2009 Paris, France	International Conference on Sustainable Urban Transport & Environment Organised by the Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology	www.waset.org
28-30 June 2009 Marseille, France	5th Urban Research Symposium Cities and climate change: responding to an urgent agenda	www.urs2009.net
6-9 September 2009 Berlin, Germany	Urban technology for urban sustainability: Climate change and energy efficiency IFHP World Congress	www.ifhp2009berlin.de
7-8 September 2009 Brussels, Belgium	Green Streets – Reducing carbon emissions from European urban transport Supported by EUROCITIES, the Committee of the Regions together with Regional Review	www.theparliament.com/greenstreets
7-9 September 2009 Leipzig, Germany	International conference on megacities Focus on risk, vulnerability and sustainable development	www.megacity-conference2009.ufz.de
8-9 September 2009 Manchester, United Kingdom	Metropolitan Desires Cultural Reconfigurations of the European City Space Organised by Manchester European Research Institute	www.hlss.mmu.ac.uk/news/article.php?id=309
14-15 September 2009 Stockholm, Sweden	European Cities and the Global Climate Challenge Organised under the Swedish Presidency of the EU	www.se2009.eu
16-18 September 2009 Stockholm, Sweden	World Bioenergy - Clean Vehicles & Fuels 2009 Organised by Stockholm City Council and others	www.elmia.se/en/wbcvf
16-22 September 2009 Brussels, Belgium	European Mobility Week: Improving City Climates Annual campaign on sustainable urban mobility coordinated by EUROCITIES	www.mobilityweek.eu
24-26 September 2009 Lidköping and Gothenburg, Sweden	Urban Policies and Social Capital Aims to increase knowledge on importance of social capital for development and growth	www.dynamicgrowthcapital.com

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