

EDITORIAL

A manifesto for cities



As a new European Parliament is formed, EUROCITIES will be working hard to engage incoming MEPs. What is our message?

Cities are home to some 75% of Europe's population and account for 85% of the EU's GDP. But Europe's cities face big challenges – economic, environmental and social – to which city leaders have to be and are proactive in finding local solutions. EUROCITIES' ambition is that incoming MEPs understand the crucial role that successful, liveable cities must play in a prosperous and sustainable future for the European Union.

That means making sure that city governments are involved both in developing and delivering EU policy. After all, research by Eurobarometer shows that the local level is the most trusted sphere of government in Europe. We will make better EU policy if we draw in the knowledge and experience of those on the ground, and we will bring Europe closer to the citizen if we deliver EU policy through local government.

Of course if Europe's cities are to succeed economically, to manage social cohesion, to adapt to and mitigate climate change effectively, and to increase citizens' awareness of and confidence in the Europe Union, they need to be adequately resourced as well as empowered.

The forthcoming review of the European Union budget, for the period from 2014, is therefore a significant opportunity for the Parliament to punch its weight. We will be looking to MEPs to ensure that the principles of integration and multi-level governance are firmly embedded in how the EU spends our money in the future. And to ensure that European funding flows to cities in proportion to the contribution they make, and need to continue to make, to Europe's future success.

Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

Talk cities at EUROCITIES' online discussion forum!



EUROCITIES' online discussion forum is now open! The virtual forum offers members and partners more scope and opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas in addition to that which takes place at our regular on-site meetings held throughout the year.

[see p. 3](#)

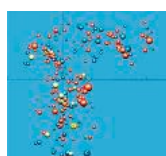
Re-launched: EUROCITIES' Working Group on Employment



Prompted by increasing unemployment rates as a result of the recession, EUROCITIES has re-launched its Working Group on Employment. The group's first meeting was held earlier this month in Genoa. Represented members agreed on the need to address both the needs of redundant workers and the long-term unemployed.

[see p. 9](#)

Clusnet: boosting city cluster development



Given the key role that local authorities play in the establishment and management of clusters, a new INTERREG-funded project, 'Clusnet', has been launched to improve the effectiveness of cluster support policies in larger European city-regions. EUROCITIES participated in the project's first meeting on 22-24 April.

[see p.3](#)

THEMATIC SECTIONS

- Culture p. 4
- Economic Development p. 5
- Environment p. 6
- Knowledge Society p. 7
- Mobility p. 8
- Social Affairs p. 9
- Participation & Cooperation p. 10

OTHER SECTIONS

- Key Developments p. 2
- Projects p. 11
- Events p. 12

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Key developments



Message to European Council: unlock local potential for real climate change action

EUROCITIES, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), Climate Alliance, Energie-Cités and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) Europe have called on national governments to formally recognise the role and contribution of local and regional governments in climate mitigation and adaptation policies.

This was the message delivered by the networks on 27 May to all EU Member States ahead of the next European Council meeting on the 18-19 June. The same message will also be sent by local and regional authorities to negotiators preparing the COP15.

Simultaneously, the networks' members – cities, local and regional authorities across Europe - are delivering the same message directly to their Heads

of State and Government. This joint action coincides with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP15 preparatory meeting in Bonn on 1-12 June and the past Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit which took place in Copenhagen on 2-4 June.

Speaking on behalf of the signatories at the Copenhagen Summit, Ronan Dantec, Vice President of Nantes Metropole, France, stated:

“Local and regional governments have shown their capacity to mobilise together on climate change issues. A real mitigation process cannot be achieved without the involvement of these two levels of governments”.

The June European Council will be an important opportunity for EU Member

States to demonstrate their support. They can give a clear signal that the role and commitment of local and regional decision-makers is taken seriously. An increasing number of local authorities are already committing to reduce their Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions beyond the targets set out in the EU energy and climate change package. This is especially important given that the UNFCCC's negotiating text makes no reference to local and regional governments in relation to mitigation.

The EUROCITIES Executive Committee Working Group on Climate Change and Energy is leading the network's input into this initiative ■

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

Media on EUROCITIES' message to MEPs

In an article published in Public Servant, EUROCITIES' Secretary General Paul Bevan, touches on some of the network's key messages to the newly elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs):

“...EUROCITIES' ambition is that incoming MEPs understand the crucial role that successful, liveable cities must play in a prosperous and sustainable future for the European Union. That means making sure that city governments are involved both in developing and delivering EU policy... We will make better EU policy if we draw in the knowledge and experience of those on the ground, and we will bring Europe closer to the citizen if we deliver EU policy through local government.”

Public Servant is the UK public sector's national news magazine aimed at senior civil servants and other key public sector decision-makers.

www.publicservice.co.uk

The Information Portal for the Public Sector



EXCLUSIVE: MEPs face difficult decisions on Europe's cities

Tuesday, June 02, 2009

Prosperous cities are crucial to a competitive Europe but they also generate most greenhouse gases. Paul Bevan, secretary general of EUROCITIES, looks at the issues facing MEPs

June is election time all across the European Union. Voters in all 27 member states will have the chance – taken with various degrees of interest and turnout – to choose their representatives in the European Parliament. Alongside the European Commission and the Council, the Parliament is one of the key institutions of supra-national governance that sets strategic policy for a combined EU population of 500 million. This is important stuff, which is why Europe's major cities have, since 1986, been working together through EUROCITIES for a better and close dialogue with the European institutions; so that in particular the Parliament and the Commission understand fully the issues we face.

What then is the message from EUROCITIES to incoming MEPs?



RELATED FEATURES

The EU: a lot more local than you think

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

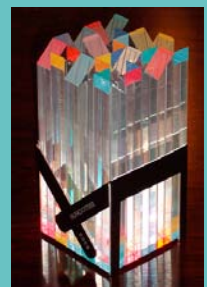
EUROCITIES Awards 2009: application deadline extended

The submission date for entries to the 2009 EUROCITIES Awards scheme has been extended until mid-September to allow more cities to participate; applications are welcomed from now until then.

If your city is shortlisted for an award, you will be asked to submit a short film about your project. This doesn't necessarily have to be a real film, but can be an animation of slides, photos, etc. The main point is to visually present your project and show it both to the jury and participants of the EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm conference.

The annual EUROCITIES Awards recognise outstanding achievements by EUROCITIES members in the delivery of local activities or practices which improve the quality of life for citizens.

Extended deadline for applications: **14 September 2009**



EUROCITIES Awards 2009: www.eurocities2009.eu/pages.aspx?page=8

Key developments



Clusnet: boosting city cluster development

Clusters are geographic concentrations of interconnected businesses, suppliers and institutions in a particular field, that represent an efficient way to concentrate resources and funding, achieve critical mass, and bring together knowledge and expertise. They therefore foster increased economic activity, faster innovation, more intense competition and new business formation, and are therefore critical to the competitiveness of cities and the EU as a whole. In recent years they have been the subject of both EU level policy and funding, as well as city level strategies, structures and partnerships.

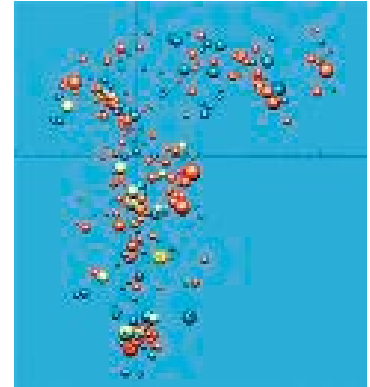
Given the key role that local authorities often play in the establishment, promotion and management of clusters, a new INTERREG-funded project, 'Clusnet', has been launched to improve the effectiveness of cluster support policies in larger European city-regions. EUROCITIES participated in the project's first meeting on 22-24 April.

Clusnet stems from work of the EUROCITIES Clusters Working Group (WG), where a core of member cities developed

the project proposal. By analysing cluster policies in large European city-regions, the project will produce highly operational policy recommendations targeting how each partner city can strengthen its cluster support policies, whilst providing transferable lessons for others – all aimed at improving cluster performance. The project will also facilitate the creation of links between clusters from partner cities, with staff exchanges strengthening the understanding of cluster policy tools of those involved.

The project partnership involves Grand Lyon as the lead partner, EUROCITIES, Barcelona Activa, Budapest, Business Region Gothenburg, Dortmund, Eindhoven, Helsinki, Leipzig, Manchester Enterprises, Munich, and Stockholm School of Economics.

EUROCITIES is a key partner in the project, and will seek to ensure that not only is the project informed by EU policy and developments, but also that project outputs are used to influence decision-makers and stakeholders in Brussels. EUROCITIES' Clusters WG chaired by Lyon, will develop close linkages to the



project, enabling the wider membership of the network to both learn from project outputs and undertake stand alone activities such as city cluster mapping and EU policy analysis, that draw on lessons learned from the project ■

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

Talk cities at EUROCITIES' online discussion forum!

As part of EUROCITIES' continuing strategy to improve networking opportunities between members and partners, we're pleased to announce the launch of EUROCITIES' new online discussion forum!

The virtual forum aims to offer our members and partners more scope and opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas in addition to that which takes place at our regular on-site meetings held throughout the year.

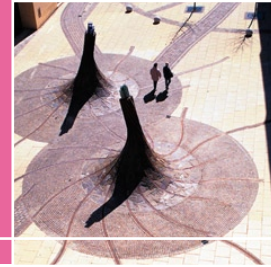
Built on state of the art software, the forum is divided according to EUROCITIES' Forum activities and offers a range of easy-to-use features such as notification of replies, uploading of documents and opinion polls. Every user can start a new discussion and/or 'subscribe' to receive information via email about the latest contributions to specific discussions.

Staff at the EUROCITIES' Brussels office will not be moderating discussion forums. Of course, the normal channels of communication remain in place for you to communicate with your staff contacts.



Get talking! Register now at www.eurocities.eu/forum

Miguel Rodriguez-Gorman, EUROCITIES Webmaster & IT Administrator: miguel.rodriguez-gorman@eurocities.eu



Culture and creativity: catalysts for city development, according to Ministers of Culture

European Ministers of Culture on 12 May adopted conclusions on culture as a catalyst for creativity and innovation that considers more must be done to boost creative industries which are catalysts of creativity and innovation.

Crucially, the Council noted that "culture and creativity are driving forces for the development of European regions and cities, as they enhance local attractiveness and help revitalise local economies, including through the clustering of cultural and creative industries at local and regional level". The Council has invited the European Commission to further support the networking of regions and cities and civil society organisations investing in creativity.

Additionally, the Council has invited Member States to reinforce synergies between all public authorities involved in the cultural and creative sectors and regional and local entities.

It has also invited Member States to stimulate networking and exchange of experience between regions and cities on creativity strategies, in particular with respect to connecting cultural actors with other sectors (clustering, partnership in public services, etc), with civil society stakeholders and actors in the wider economy.

In their conclusions, EU Member States agreed to further promote the potential of their respective cultural activities, to develop links between the cultural and creative sectors, to enhance synergies, and to promote networking and exchange of experience.

A green paper (consultation document) on unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries will be presented by the European Commission early 2010. EUROCITIES' Working Group on Creative Industries is currently preparing its recommendations for the Commission ■

Council report: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Heads up for EUROCIITIES' Culture Forum autumn meeting

Zaragoza | 6-8 November 2009



Gathering between 50-100 city representatives at each Forum meeting, the autumn meeting of the EUROCIITIES Culture Forum (ECF) is expected to be no different in terms of participant numbers.

The meeting's discussions will focus on the following themes:

- Mobility of artists, projects and cultural agents and art
- Architecture in the street...how culture redesigns the city

Participants will have an opportunity to take part in site visits in Zaragoza, Spain, the city which is set to host EUROCIITIES' annual conference in 2010.

Zaragoza City Council: www.zaragoza.es

Julie Hervé, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer – Culture:
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Call for entries - EU Prize for Cultural Heritage 2010

The call for entries for the 2010 edition of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards scheme has just been launched.

The EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards are granted annually to identify and promote best practices in the conservation of tangible cultural heritage, to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and experience throughout Europe, to enhance public awareness and appreciation of European cultural heritage, and to encourage further exemplary initiatives.

Applications are awarded in the following four categories:

1. Conservation
2. Research
3. Dedicated Service by Individuals or Organisations
4. Education, Training and Awareness-Raising

Entries will be assessed based on excellence in work executed and preliminary research conducted, as well as respect for artistic, cultural and social value, setting, authenticity and integrity. Special attention will also be paid to sustainability, interpretation and presentation, educational work, funding and management, and social responsibility. Entries can be on a scale ranging from small to large, local to international, and should display a standard of work considered outstanding in a European context.

Up to six entries will be awarded a prize, which includes a monetary award of €10,000 and up to 25 entries will be awarded a Europa Nostra medal.

The EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards were jointly launched in 2002 by the European Commission and Europa Nostra to celebrate extraordinary initiatives within the field of Europe's cultural heritage with the aim to promote high standards and high-quality skills in conservation practice.

Deadline for applications: **1 October 2009**

Europa Nostra: www.europanostr.org



Economic Development



Commission's second round of recession measures announced

The Commission has recently announced a second package of actions related to the recession, this time focused on supporting employment in the EU.

The actions draw mainly on the European Social Fund (ESF) and Globalisation Adjustment Fund (GAF), as opposed to European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and acknowledge that it is people that are hardest hit in the current period. The key proposals for future action include:

- Front-loading ESF EU reimbursement rates up to 100% for 2009-10, although this is not accompanied by extra funds so higher domestic co-financing should be expected later.
- Reallocating 100m to help set up a micro-finance facility for employment, aimed at developing micro-enterprises and the social economy. This will be used to leverage in extra funds, through partnership with international

institutions, in particular the European Investment Bank (EIB).

- Fast-tracking the procedure on agreeing amendments to ESF programmes.
- Setting up a 'New Skills for New Jobs Agenda', presenting a sector-by-sector analysis of emerging skills needs, and distributing a guide for training in SMEs.
- Help for EU Member States and their Social Partners to put in place 'rapid reaction' programmes that will focus ESF on key issues such as promoting entrepreneurship, matching skills and labour needs, providing support and opportunities for young and disadvantaged people, and helping workers and companies facing restructuring.

The Commission also wants to encourage Member States to take up actions in the field of employment, by:

- Supporting Member States to provide young people with opportunities e.g. apprenticeships, strategies to reduce early school leaving, strengthening training and work opportunities for young unemployed.
- Encouraging Member States to use ESF to provide adults with opportunities to access training, apprenticeships or other measures after no more than three months of unemployment. Also lowering non-wage labour costs for employers to stimulate recruitment, stimulate demand for low-skilled labour demand, and promoting employment of vulnerable and older workers ■

Commission communication:
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/home.jsp?langId=en>

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

Call for input: EU funding instrument for integrated local development

In April, EUROCIITIES launched a debate on a future EU funding instrument for integrated local development, at which experts provided helpful insights on feasible and less workable options. EUROCIITIES has since produced an 'Options Paper' which outlines options for funding integrated local development and provides a break-down of the main elements and variables within the process. Options covered by the paper are as follows:

1. Level of intervention: is the appropriate level of intervention the region, a functional area or a neighbourhood?
2. Local partnership for delivery: should it be public sector-led, public-private partnership or multi-sectoral?
3. Multi-level governance arrangement: should the local authority, the region, or the national level lead, or should there be a formal partnership between all?

4. Planning and strategy: is a local development strategy best built on an incremental step-by-step approach, a comprehensive plan, or is a clearly focused stand-alone intervention more promising?

5. Which financial model: loans, grants or models involving private finance?

6. Which indicators: how should the integrated local development process be monitored and evaluated?

EUROCIITIES is inviting members to take part in a mapping exercise aimed at identifying which options are being used. Share your local experience with previous EU financed projects by filling in the matrix, and indicating which options have worked and haven't worked for your city. The matrix will be finalised as an 'Options Paper', presenting two or three possible options to be explored further.

Deadline for your contribution: 1 July 2009

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Social criteria needed in public sector procurement, says EUROCIITIES

At its last meeting on 3 June 2009 in Brussels, EUROCIITIES' Working Group (WG) Responsible Procurement discussed the European Commission's draft Guide on Social Considerations in Public Sector Procurement.

At the Commission's request, EUROCIITIES will be providing input on the draft guide at different stages of the production process throughout 2009.

EUROCIITIES members recognise the value of the guide but consider it necessary for the Commission

to also develop other initiatives encouraging EU Members States to expand the legal possibilities of having green, social, and ethical criteria in public sector procurement.

The overall objective of EUROCIITIES WG is to promote Responsible Procurement at city level with a focus on green, social and ethical procurement. In previous years, the WG has worked on responsible procurement guides notably through the RESPIRO projects in the textile and construction industries.

RESPIRO – Responsibility in Procurement:
www.respiro-project.eu

The WG's next meeting will take place in Zurich on 23 October 2009.

Christine Storry, Bristol City Council, Chair of EUROCIITIES WG on Responsible Procurement:
christine.storry@bristol.gov.uk

Environment



Financing for local climate change action: what's out there?

Around 700 representatives gathered in Copenhagen on 2-4 June 2009 for the Local Governments Climate Change Leadership Summit.

EUROCITIES used the occasion to organise a workshop on financing possibilities at the local level for climate change action. The workshop was managed by Klaus Bondam, Vice-Mayor of Copenhagen and Ronan Dantec, Vice-president of Nantes Métropole, both co-chairs of EUROCITIES' Executive Committee Working Group on Climate Change and Energy.

The workshop was attended by representatives of the OECD and the World Bank, as well as colleagues from Mexico and European cities. Within the context of these discussions, participants made the following recommendations:

- There is not one single financial mechanism, but several approaches. Innovative global action, not disseminated actions, is needed
- Potential integration of local authorities into the National Adaptation and Mitigation process

- It is not enough to think solely in terms of investment but also in terms of operating costs

- Stronger national frameworks are needed to enable cities to take cost effective mitigation actions

- Carbon financing at urban scale requires good data, sound financial, economic analysis and standardised tools ■

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Local Governments Climate Change Leadership Summit: www.kl.dk

Ensuring quality of life in Europe's cities and towns

Representatives of EUROCITIES' Environment Forum and associated Working Groups contributed to a report just published by the European Environment Agency on the quality of life in Europe's cities and towns.

The report aims to raise awareness of the various perspectives on, and perceptions of, quality of life with a specific focus on cities and towns. It stresses the challenges ahead to ensure quality of life in the long-run for all social groups, and the crucial importance of sustainability and the environment as our life supporting system. The report sheds light on certain aspects of the current quality of life discussions to illustrate how different conceptions of quality of life influence the quality of life of others, and provides ideas for ways to meet the challenges that lie ahead. It aims to support individuals and politicians to discover a balanced concept for quality of life compatible with sustainable development.

Ensuring quality of life in Europe's cities and towns: www.eea.europa.eu

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

Covenant of Mayors reaches 500th signatory!

Success continues for the Covenant of Mayors initiative launched earlier this year: last month it welcomed its 500th signatory city.

The Covenant of Mayors, a formal commitment by signatory cities to go beyond the EU objectives in terms of CO₂ emissions (reducing them by more than 20% by 2020), has an unexpected high number of signatories. Initially, roughly 150 subscribing cities were expected to sign up, however, the number of signatories has in the first months more than tripled. Today, the Covenant counts 527 signatory cities, among which 59 EUROCITIES members, from more than 30 countries across Europe. The Covenant of Mayors Office is very pleased with this support and the high number of signatories.



The overwhelming interest is not limited to Europe, as the Covenant of Mayors is open to any city willing to commit to its conditions and to contribute to the joint effort of cities and local authorities. Among the non-European cities are Buenos Aires in Argentina and Christchurch in New Zealand.

Covenant of Mayors: www.eumayors.eu

Dion Wertz, EUROCITIES Communications Officer – Climate & Energy: dion.wertz@eurocities.eu

Green Week 2009 - changing our behaviour

Brussels | 23-26 June 2009

The biggest annual conference on European environment policy turns the spotlight this year on the multi-faceted challenges of climate change. What are the prospects for reaching a new global deal to control climate change at the crucial Copenhagen conference in December? How can we best 'climate-proof' our economies against the impacts of present and future climate change? How can we create a carbon-free society by 2050? How can we ensure action to address climate change best serves conservation of the ecosystems that support life on Earth?

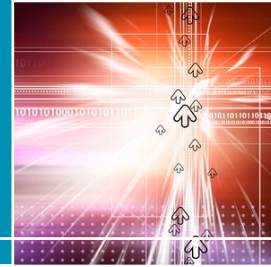
These are some of the many questions Green Week 2009 will be examining in three days of discussion and debate between high-level speakers from Europe and beyond.

Green Week is a unique opportunity for exchanges of experience and good practice.

Some 3,500 participants are expected from EU institutions, business and industry, non-governmental organisations, public authorities, the scientific community and academia.



Green Week 2009: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html>



'Green Digital Charter': centre-point of EUROCITIES' response to Commission consultation

Responding to the Commission's consultation on mobilising Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for a low carbon economy, EUROCITIES has presented the rationale and background for the development of its 'Green Digital Charter'. The Charter will outline the role and contribution of public authorities in fostering low-carbon, energy efficient behaviour.

Currently being developed by a core group of EUROCITIES members, supported by the network's Working Group ICT & Energy Efficiency, the Green Digital Charter will eventually include proposals for actions to reduce emissions from ICTs and, more significantly, on the restructuring role that ICTs can play in generating energy efficiency gains and reducing the overall carbon footprint. Through this initiative cities will agree on key principles and contribute significantly to the energy targets set out by the European Union.

In presenting its response, EUROCITIES has highlighted in particular the following roles that cities can play in this area:

- **Cities as digital platforms:** cities can provide essential platforms to maximise economic, social and environmental well-being, and to enable change towards more sustainable behaviour amongst businesses, city administration, end-users, and the broader community.
- **Integrated approaches and large-scale solutions:** cities can provide a critical mass of users, infrastructure and policy support for piloting services and innovative approaches. Doing this on a large-scale will accelerate take-up, and demonstrating the economic benefits of large-scale, real-life situations will foster investment trust, which will lead to more widespread adoption.
- **New partnerships:** new Public-Private Partnerships at city level are essential to an integrated approach to enable transformation. At the local level, this will also need shared ownership of key leaders and stakeholders, both in the public domain and business, to demonstrate the highest possible level of public commitment to the 'green digital agenda'.



- **Cities can lead by example:** the public sector, especially urban municipalities where the majority of citizens work or live, can support the transition to a low-carbon future by serving as examples for both the private sector and for individuals.

The outcomes of the Commission's consultation will form the basis of its Recommendation to EU Member States which will be presented at the end of 2009 ■

Interested in contributing to EUROCITIES' work in this field?

Contact Jan Franke, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society: jan.franke@eurocities.eu

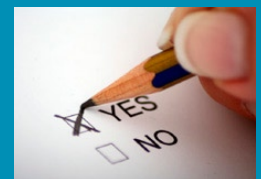
EUROCITIES recommendations for Broadband state aid guidelines

EUROCITIES' Working Group (WG) Broadband has just finalised its comments in response to the European Commission's consultation on its draft Broadband state aid guidelines.

The guidelines, which the Commission intends to publish within the next year, are of major importance to cities as they will outline the framework for public interventions in financing any Broadband infrastructure for at least the next three years. For the first time, the Commission has outlined state aid guidelines for so-called Next Generation Access (NGA) networks, such as fibre.

In its comments on the draft guidelines, EUROCITIES identified the following points of concern:

- **Insufficient definition of NGA networks:** The definition of NGA networks provided is inconsistent and limited as it excludes certain technical standards and alternatives.
- **Out-dated distinctions prevail:** The document maintains a traditional distinction between rural and urban areas when assessing state aid eligibility. This distinction is increasingly unsuitable for application to investments in fibre networks. Instead, the main barrier to deployment of fibre networks is the high initial cost associated with the civil work needed, which can prevent investment in both rural areas and urban neighbourhoods, where take-up might not be ensured and operators may not be guaranteed a return.
- **Zones excluded:** The draft guidelines only allow state aid for connecting new homes and buildings. This risks leaving behind certain urban neighbourhoods, where there are high levels of economic and social deprivation, and where it might not be economically attractive for Telecom operators to roll-out high-speed networks. Laying connections to existing homes and buildings, including in such areas, should be included in the guidelines.
- **Rules on investments:** The draft guidelines seem to consider a mere announcement of investments as sufficient proof of actual investment made. Such an announcement could potentially prevent any government investment for a period of up to five years. Rather, it should only be possible for operators to pre-empt government initiatives through actual business, rather than by mere investment announcements. The draft guidelines do not provide any detailed catalogue of requirements that would be considered sufficient proof of investment



European Commission's public consultation: <http://tinyurl.com/lbhm38>

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Intelligent Transport Systems: technology for safer EU roads

Convinced about the benefits that Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) can bring to European citizens, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have given their overwhelming approval for the European Commission's proposal to implement ITS in the EU road transport sector.

ITS use information and communication technologies to make transport safer and cleaner and reduce traffic congestion. They can be applied to all transport modes - road, rail, air, water - in both passenger and freight transport. ITS require relatively small investments and can allow for a better use of existing infrastructure. Examples of ITS applications include electronic tolling systems on motorways, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), traffic supervision systems and warning systems such as the automatic 'e-call' which alerts emergency

services if a driver falls unconscious after an accident.

On the same proposal, the Parliament's recommendations to the Commission are to:

- Enhance compatibility between new ITS and with previous applications and systems;
- Increase the focus on vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, disabled people and people with limited mobility);
- Ensure respect for data protection and privacy, so the collection, storage and processing of personal data must be carried out in accordance with EU rules;
- Clarify liability issues by involving experts and stakeholders.

The EU Action Plan and draft directive on ITS also proposes a strong European



coordination of ITS and services in various member states to accelerate the deployment of these systems across Europe. Ultimately, the Action Plan aims to speed up market penetration of rather mature ITS applications and services in the EU.

The European Council will now discuss the draft directive. A first reading decision is expected for the second half of 2009 ■

EP resolution on Transport Systems Action Plan: <http://tinyurl.com/lofzqq>

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Equal passenger rights on all modes of transport

Bus, coach and boat passengers are set to gain new rights similar to those set out in the EU air passengers' rights regulation: two regulations backed recently by the European Parliament provide for stricter rules on compensation for delays and cancellations, payments in the event of accidents, and assistance for disabled passengers.

Following the introduction of European legislation on the rights of passengers travelling by air, including those who are disabled or have reduced mobility, the Commission decided to extend current rules to additional transport sectors and put forward two separate proposals on bus and coach travel and maritime transport in December 2008.

In fact, the liberalisation of transport services in Europe has not always been accompanied by adequate measures to protect passenger rights. Passengers have thus faced difficult situations, including cancellations, overbooking, loss of luggage and delays, etc.

With this in mind, the Commission proposed to establish a set of rights for bus, coach and boat passengers to improve the attractiveness of the sector and in order to achieve a level playing field between carriers from different Member States and between the various modes of transport.

More specifically regarding bus and coach transport, the proposal foresees unlimited liability of bus undertakings for the death or injury of passengers. Passengers are also entitled to receive advance payments in order to address immediate economic difficulties that they or their families may suffer as a consequence of an accident.

Furthermore, the proposed Regulation provides for compensation and assistance in the event of cancellations or delays. Companies would be obliged to provide passengers

with adequate information and reasonable alternative services or otherwise pay compensation.

The proposal also forbids any discrimination on grounds of disability and reduced mobility with regard to booking a journey and boarding a vehicle and lays down rules obliging undertakings to provide free assistance to disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility.

However, a number of provisions in the Commission proposal do not appear to be suitable for urban, suburban and regional transport. Therefore, MEPs agreed that for bus and coach transport, Member States should be allowed to exclude urban, suburban and regional services, arguing that these systems, which are usually public services, have distinctive features such as no advance reservations, use of daily, weekly and monthly tickets.

MEPs nevertheless insist that special measures to guarantee passengers' rights on these services must be taken by individual Member States.

European Parliament press release: <http://tinyurl.com/mxxw84>

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Towards a European Year of Volunteering?

On 3 June, the European Commission proposed to make 2011 the "European Year of Volunteering". A total budget of €8 million is foreseen with €2 million for the preparatory actions starting in 2010. Through this proposal, the Commission intends to generate awareness of how voluntary participation at community level can be furthered through an EU-wide movement. To this end, the 'Youth in Action Programme' which is targeted at all levels - European, national, regional and local, and other EU action programmes with a strong voluntary dimension will be promoted. As part of the preparatory actions for the programme, the "European Year of Volunteering 2011 Alliance" (a group of European networks)

will soon launch a website devoted to European Year of Volunteering 2011. The European Council and the European Parliament are expected to endorse this proposal by the beginning of next year ■



European Year of Volunteering 2011: www.eyv2011.eu

Re-launch of EUROCIITIES' Working Group on Employment

At a meeting in Genoa on 4-5 June, EUROCIITIES' members from eight local authorities gathered to discuss the increasing rates of unemployment in their cities. Focusing on how their administrations could respond to this trend, the debate raised several questions, including among others:

- How can job centres build mutually beneficial relationships with small and medium sized enterprises?
- What can city administrations do to initiate and support partnerships with all relevant agencies and actors?

- How can training schemes be tailored both to the specific needs of vulnerable groups and to the demands of the job market?

Beyond these challenges, the Working Group agreed that they must find a balance between supporting people who were made redundant because of the recession and reaching out to the long-term unemployed. These challenges, among others, will inform their activities over the coming year or so.

Membership to the group is open to all EUROCIITIES' members. A next meeting will take place in early autumn. Until



then, the group will be chaired jointly by the cities of Genoa and Rotterdam.

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Get involved in Inclusive Cities for Europe 2010!



EUROCIITIES is undertaking work for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The aim of our activities is to raise awareness of the urban dimension of social exclusion and to promote innovative solutions to tackle poverty and exclusion in cities. Between February and July 2010, five thematic events will be organised, in close cooperation with the chairs of relevant EUROCIITIES' Forums and Working Groups. Each event will be

accompanied by a research paper on a specific theme, leading to a set of policy recommendations. The work will also see the development of a database of good practice examples. The results of the thematic events will be summarised during a final conference in September 2010 and submitted to the Social Protection Committee. You can get involved in these activities through hosting an event, contributing to the research papers or submitting a good practice example.

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EUROCIITIES develops databank on local inclusion policies

The EUROCIITIES Working Group on Social Inclusion has started to develop a database on local inclusion strategies. Soon to be available on EUROCIITIES' website, it will contain documents on local inclusion policies and studies and reports related to cities' social policies.

Submit your city's strategy to the databank!

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Participation & Cooperation



Laying the groundwork for Sweden's EU Presidency

Sweden is set to take over the EU presidency as of 1 July and for the remainder of 2009 has pledged to deliver on a dynamic programme labelled "3E": Employment, Enlargement and Environment.

The political context in which the Presidency enters is one of change. A newly elected European Parliament is simultaneously taking office and a new European Commission will arrive next autumn.

In terms of policy challenges, the Presidency will be faced also with the ongoing process of ratifying the Lisbon Treaty. The next six months will also be marked by international negotiations on climate change held at Copenhagen COP15 in December 2009 where Sweden will represent the EU's position on the post-2010 Lisbon strategy.

Continuing the 18-month 'Trio' work programme established together with fore-running EU presidencies, France and the Czech Republic, Sweden will focus on several key issues: climate, environment and energy; employment, growth and competitiveness; a more secure and open Europe; the Baltic Sea region and relations with neighbours and EU as a global actor and further enlargement.

The presidency will hold a number of events and high-level conferences. Of specific interest to cities are the following:

- Renewable Energy and Clean Tech: Ostersund on 20-21 July
- European Cities and the Global Climate Challenge: Stockholm on 14-15 September
- Territorial Cohesion and Structural Funds: Kiruna on 10-11 December

- Expert meeting on incentives for integration of newcomers in labour markets: Malmö, 14-16 December



According to the Swedish Minister for EU Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, who launched the presidency's website on 1 June, the Swedish government aims to make the EU presidency "transparent, efficient and results oriented", as exhibited by the breadth of information available from the current EU Presidency website ■

Swedish EU Presidency: www.se2009.eu

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Commission launches strategy to boost development of Baltic Sea Region

The European Commission has presented its proposal for an EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) with the aim of maximising the development potential of those EU Member States and regions in the Baltic Sea area.

The BSR is home to nearly 100 million people and faces several challenges including the deteriorating state of the Baltic Sea, poor transport links, barriers to trade and energy supply concerns. This strategy aims to make the BSR:

- Environmentally sustainable (e.g. process waste water);
- Prosperous (e.g. promoting innovation in small and medium enterprises);
- Accessible and attractive (e.g. improving transport links);

- Safe and secure (e.g. better accident response).

This is the first time that the EU has developed such a comprehensive strategy at macro-regional level and it is expected to inspire similar approaches in areas such as the Mediterranean or Danube basin. In particular, it constitutes a first step towards the regional implementation of the EU integrated Maritime Policy.

Under the scheme until 2013, the BSR will benefit from more than €50 billion of investment support under the Cohesion Policy and other EU funding, including €27 billion for improved accessibility, nearly €10 billion for the environment, €6.7 billion for competitiveness and €697 million for security and risk prevention.

The strategy is one of the main priorities of the Swedish EU Presidency in the second half of 2009.

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic/

Leipzig to lead on Leipzig Charter

As recently approved by the URBACT Monitoring Committee, the City of Leipzig will lead a new working group responsible for implementation aspects of the Leipzig Charter. The Leipzig Charter for Sustainable Cities was adopted by all EU Member States in 2007 with the aim of pointing the way for a future European urban policy based on sustainability and integrated solutions.

Other than Leipzig (Germany) the new working group will initially rely on the participation of local authority representatives from Rennes Métropole (France), Szekesfehervar (Hungary), Kirklees Metropolitan Council (United Kingdom).

The project will review the current status of implementation related to integrated sustainable urban development in the following areas:

- Socially e.g. integration, labour market, skills development
- Economically e.g. mobility, cities as engines of regional growth
- Environmentally e.g. climate change and physical renewal

Based on the experience of partner cities and on existing instruments e.g. monitoring systems, a common understanding about a necessary tool set for integrated urban development according to the Leipzig Charter will be established during the project's life-span.

The group will cooperate with another recently formed working group comprising expert representatives from EU Member States and the EU Institutions, as well as representatives of EURO CITIES, whose objective is to build a common European reference framework for Sustainable Cities by mid-2010.

URBACT: www.urbact.eu

Projects



Local authority observatories launched across Europe

City partners of the EUROCITIES Network of Local Authority Observatories (NLAO) on active inclusion are currently organising the project's launch events at national level.

On 26 May 2009, Prague hosted a seminar to launch the EUROCITIES-NLAO project in the Czech Republic. About 25 stakeholders representing the Ministry of Regional Development, the City of Ostrava, service providers, NGOs as well as community groups from Prague, gathered to set out the agenda of the LAO Prague for the coming 16 months and to discuss

the development of national social housing services.

The launch of the EUROCITIES-NLAO project in the UK organised by Southampton on 1 June 2009 also gathered around 25 key stakeholders from city councils including Newcastle, Edinburgh and Manchester, national government representatives, service providers and NGOs. The event, which was held at the Local Government House, London, engaged participants in discussions on the project's linkage to UK policy and ways in which it can contribute

to and benefit from different agendas on active inclusion in the UK.

The next national events will take place in Stockholm on 15 June, Rotterdam on 30 June and in Bologna on 23 September 2009.

If your city is interested in participating in the EUROCITIES-NLAO, get in touch! ■

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Drive towards a cleaner climate

European Mobility Week I
16-22 September 2009

Take part in this year's European Mobility Week (EMW) and have the chance to be in the running for the EMW Award 2009. EUROCITIES' member, Budapest, took the winning prize in last year's award scheme.



The 2009 EMW will be held on 16-22 September and will focus on urban transport's contribution to climate change. The theme considers the effects of transport on the overall atmosphere in cities, encompassing concerns such as quality of life, quality of public space and social cohesion. The theme is also open to a wider interpretation and activities.

Local authorities are encouraged to organise awareness-raising activities around the critical effects of climate change and how citizens can change their day-to-day travel behaviour to mitigate its effects. Municipalities are encouraged to launch and promote permanent measures that will facilitate the reduction of CO2 emissions at local level and that will encourage citizens to consider cleaner and more sustainable modes of travel, for example cycling, walking, public transport, car sharing and car pooling.

If your city is interested in participating in the EMW 2009, get in touch!

European Mobility Week: www.mobilityweek.eu

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NICHES+: promoting innovative urban transport through 'Champion cities'

Applications from 25 local and regional authorities were received in response to the NICHES+ call for candidate 'Champion cities', launched in 2008.

NICHES+ is an EU-funded project which aims to mainstream innovative urban transport solutions focusing on accessibility, infrastructure and interchanges, traffic management centers and automated and space efficient transport systems. Through the involvement of Champion Cities, NICHES+ wants to demonstrate how urban transport innovation can move from theory to practice. By hosting national take-up seminars, the cities will play an important role in disseminating and promoting the project outcomes.

Taking into account quality of applications, mix of concepts, level of commitment, geographical spread and urban scale, the NICHES+ jury selected the following:

- For innovative concepts to enhance accessibility: Artois-Gohelle (France) and Burgos (Spain)
- For their efficient planning and use of infrastructure and interchanges: Worcestershire (UK) and Skopje (Macedonia)
- For their urban traffic management centres: Trondheim (Norway) and Cork (Ireland)
- For automated and space efficient transport systems: Daventry (UK)

After having contributed to the selection and transferability of innovative transport concepts, the identification of user needs and stakeholder analysis, the Champion Cities will now start developing implementation scenarios through a continuous dialogue with dedicated experts and practitioners, working group meetings, interviews and site-visits. By April 2011, each of the seven champion Cities will have integrated innovative urban transport solutions into their local transport policy.



NICHES+: www.niches-transport.org

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Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
14-18 June 2009 Edmonton, Canada	Connecting Leaders – Advancing Local Action for Sustainability ICLEI World Congress	www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009
22-23 June 2009 The Hague, The Netherlands	Regions and cities implementing sustainable energy strategies The added-value of Satellite Information and Services	www.eurisy.org
24 June 2009 Lille, France	Local governance in Central and Eastern European countries Organised by the Observatory on Local Autonomy	www.ccre.org
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 Organised by Regional Review, supported by EURO CITIES	www.theparliament.com/greenstreets
7-8-9 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, UK	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
16-18 September 2009 Stockholm, Sweden	World Bioenergy - Clean Vehicles & Fuels 2009 Organised by Stockholm City Council and others	www.elmia.se/en/wbcvf

EUROCITIES Flash is published by EURO CITIES Brussels Office.

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