



CITIES Forum 2017

Working Together for Better Cities

Rotterdam, 27-28 November 2017

#citiesforum2017



3rd CITIES FORUM

Organised by the European Commission

**27 and 28 November in
the City of Rotterdam, the Netherlands**

Moving forward with the Urban Agenda for the EU towards a more sustainable urban development within cities all over the globe.

This two-day major event of the European Commission will bring together key stakeholders from European, national and local levels to debate the progress of the Urban agenda for the EU, the urban dimension of the Cohesion Policy, and the EU response to the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

On the first day, the partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU will touch base and organise a series of workshops throughout the city of Rotterdam. In addition a workshop will be organised on the Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda) and how cities can contribute to achieve these goals.

From there, the SS Rotterdam, a former ocean liner, will host the Cities Forum on the afternoon of the first day with welcoming words and introductions of high level speakers.

Day two will be dedicated to reflections on the progress made, current challenges and future direction of the Urban Agenda for the EU and its articulation with the 2030 sustainable development agenda and the New Urban Agenda. That day a new platform will be launched assisting cities in improving their investment capacities. Mayors, Ministers, Commissioners and other high level speakers will reflect on their current challenges and will share their visions on the way forward towards better urban policy making and urban investments.

Other workshops will focus on the Covenant of Mayors, innovative & inspiring city examples and the human rights perspective in the Urban Agenda for the EU. A small exhibition will also be open to participants where urban organisations and networks host stands and engage and provide information on urban programmes and initiatives.

SS ROTTERDAM

3e Katendrechtsehoofd 25 | 3072 AM Rotterdam





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Draft Programme

27 November

10:30 – 11:00 **Registration & Welcome coffee on different locations in the City of Rotterdam**

Workshops in the City of Rotterdam & Site visit

11:00 – 16:00

- Partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU – workshops & site visits
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its sustainable development goals and the New Urban Agenda – workshop & site visit

16:00 – 17:00 Transfer to the main venue SS Rotterdam

17:45 – 18:05 **Welcoming words and keynote by Ahmed Aboutaleb, the Mayor of Rotterdam**

18:05 – 18:15 **Welcoming words and introduction to the Cities Forum by the Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu, European Commission**

18:30 – 18:45 **Keynote by Joan Clos, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

18:45 – 19:00 **Keynote by Kajsa Ollongren, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Netherlands**

19.30 – 21:00 **Dinner**

21:00 - **Music & Networking**



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City of Rotterdam



28 November

09.00 – 09:45

Welcome coffee

09:45 – 10:00

Welcome word by the Moderator Eddy Adams

10:00 – 10:15

Keynote speech by Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President, European Commission - *global energy transition and on the results of COP23 and the role of cities*

10:15 – 11:20

The New Urban Agenda and the Urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda

Start of the video capturing the New Urban Agenda and the outcome of the workshop

Panel discussion

- Joan Clos, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- Emilia Saiz, Deputy Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Co-Chair of the Gender Programme of Cities Alliance
- Mr Jose Manuel Calvo, Deputy Mayor of Madrid for Sustainable Urban Development
- Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Mercè Conesa i Pagès, President Diputació de Barcelona

Interaction with the audience



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City of Rotterdam



11.20 – 12:30

The Urban Agenda for the EU

Start of the video capturing the Urban Agenda for the EU and its partnerships

Panel discussion

- Julien Denormandie, Secretary of State, attached to the Minister of Territorial Cohesion, France
- Karin Wanngård, Mayor of Stockholm, Vice president of EUROCITIES
- Katrin Lompscher, Minister for Urban Development and Housing, Berlin
- Joost van Iersel, President of the Section for Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion, European Economic & Social Committee (EESC)
- Kieran McCarthy, Councillor of the City of Cork and member of the Committee of the Regions
- Normunds Popen, deputy Director-General, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- Giorgos Kaminis, Mayor of Athens *tbw*

Interaction with the audience

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00

Improving the investment capacities of cities

14:00 – 14:05

Video message Vice-President Katainen, European Commission

Debate on the Advisory and Investment platform for cities

14:05 – 14:45

- Corina Țețu Commissioner for Regional Policy, European Commission
- Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President, European Commission
- Vazil Hudák, Vice President, European Investment Bank
- Tanja Wehsely, Chair of the Committee on Financial, Economic and International Affairs of the Vienna City Council and Chair of the Economic Development Forum of Eurocities, Vienna
- Saskia Bruines, deputy Mayor of the city of The Hague

Interaction with the audience

14:45 – 14:50

Launch of the Advisory and Investment platform for cities, by Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič and Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina Țețu from the European Commission and by Vice President Vazil Hudák from the





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European Investment Bank

15:00 – 15:30

Press conference on the Advisory and Investment platform for cities and the Report from the Commission to the Council on the Urban Agenda for the EU

15.00 – 16.40

Parallel Workshops

- The Covenant of Mayors: EU and global climate and energy objectives with and within cities
- Innovate, inspire and exchange; City examples that pave the way towards the future
- Human rights perspective in the Urban Agenda

16:50 – 17:45

The urban dimension of the Cohesion Policy

Panel discussion:

- Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the Committee of the Regions
- Jan Olbrycht, Member of the European Parliament
- Denitsa Nikolova, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria
- Furio Honsell, Mayor of Udine and representative of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions

Interaction with the audience

17:45

Closing speech by Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu, European Commission