



Ministry of the Interior and
Kingdom Relations



Together towards an EU Urban Agenda

Urban Intergroup
26 November 2015

Nicolaas Beets
Dutch Urban Envoy

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The EU Urban Agenda aims to realise the full potential and contribution of urban areas towards achieving common European and national objectives.

To achieve this aim:

- Improve coordination of EU and national policies with an urban impact.
 - involve cities in the design of policies and mobilise them in implementation of national and EU policies.
- Not Council-driven, not Commission-led, but genuine multi-level governance between EU, Cities and Member States

Building blocks for an EU Urban Agenda

- Council Conclusions about EU UA (IT Pres)
- Riga Declaration
- EP Report Westphal
- Committee of the Regions Report Verkerk
- Staff working document EC



Goals for the Dutch EU presidency

Launch of the EU Urban Agenda:

1. **Pact of Amsterdam**
2. **Launch first partnerships**
3. **Council Conclusions on EU UA**



The Pact of Amsterdam

- Operational Framework
- Objectives of the EU UA
- Priority themes
- Coherent set of actions
- Working method Partnerships
- Multi-level governance

Themes- Process

- Consultation by the Commission (2014)
- Survey UDG by the NL (July 2015)
- Three Workshops by the Commission (September 2015)
- Expert Urban Development Group (September 2015)
- Extended Urban Agenda Working Group (October 2015)

Themes- Selection process

1. Clearly supported by MS, COM and cities
2. Address the major challenges faced by cities
3. Require integrated action at EU-level +multi-level cooperation
4. Have the potential to generate concrete results in a reasonable timeframe.
5. Promote smart, green and inclusive cities

Themes- List

1. Jobs and skills in the local economy
2. Urban poverty
3. Housing
4. Inclusion of migrants and refugees
5. Sustainable use of land and Nature-Based solutions
6. Circular economy
7. Climate adaptation
8. Energy transition
9. Urban mobility
10. Air quality
11. Digital transition
12. Innovative and responsible public procurement



Themes- Cross-cutting issues

1. Good urban governance
2. Governance across administrative boundaries and inter-municipal cooperation
3. Sound and strategic urban planning
4. Integrated approach
5. Innovative approaches
6. Impact on societal change, including behavioural change
7. Challenges and opportunities of small- and medium-sized cities;
8. Urban regeneration
9. Adaptation to demographic change
10. Availability and quality of public services of general interest
11. International dimension

Partnerships- Rationale

- Integrated approach requires:
 - Multi-level cooperation
 - Horizontal coordination
 - Involvement of all relevant urban stakeholders
- Added value: multi-level and multi-sectoral cooperation through partnerships between MS, cities, EC
- Ownership is needed for continuity

Partnerships- Focus

- **Better regulation:**
better adapted to local action; EU rules that hinder local action (state aid and social housing), urban impact assessment
- **Better funding:**
cross-sectoral financial instruments, simplify funds, combine funds, involve cities in SIP, technical assistance
- **Better knowledge:**
improve knowledge and data (exchange), guidebooks, try and exchange innovative actions



Better coordination:
formulate policy orientation(s); mapping potential synergies EU programs, involve cities

General elements of the Partnerships

- Focus on a limited number of themes agreed by the Commission and Member States
- Concrete, case based approach -> result oriented
- Membership: member states, cities, EC, other European stakeholders
- Requires clear commitment of resources
- Exploratory phase -> action plan
- NL will facilitate first 3-4 partnerships -> launch during NL presidency
- EC to facilitate other partnerships

Partnerships- Deliverables

- Step n°1: Stocktaking
 - Existing work (avoid duplication, create synergies)
 - Identification of the sources of funds
- Step n°2: Identify bottlenecks and potentials
- Step n°3: Define the objectives and deliverables
 - Action Plan
 - To be done in the first 6-12 months (meet every 2 months)
- Step n°4: Implementation of the Action Plan
 - Meet at least 2 times per year

Council Conclusions

- Formalise commitment MS to EU UA
- Endorsement of Pact of Amsterdam

Possible role of the EP in EU UA

- Dialogue about the results and recommendations of the Partnerships
- As co-legislator, consider the recommendations of the Partnerships when discussing relevant new and existing EU legislation

Next steps

- Start of the first Partnerships:
 - Housing
 - Inclusion of migrants and refugees
 - Urban poverty
 - Air quality
- First draft of Pact of Amsterdam: mid December 2015
- 30 May 2016 Informal ministerial meeting:
-----> Amsterdam Pact and launch action plans partnerships