



January 2019 - 25<sup>th</sup> issue

# NEWSLETTER

<http://urban-intergroup.eu>

## URBAN events and meetings

### A EUROPE CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS?

## The Urban and Territorial Dimension of Cohesion Policy post-2020

The URBAN Intergroup together with EURO CITIES and CEMR hosted an event on the urban and territorial dimension of cohesion policy post-2020 on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. The meeting was organised with regard to the current negotiations of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 and was designed in two main panels.

The first one discussed possible ways of the new cohesion policy framework that would stimulate a truly integrated, place-based development. The latter reflected on improving the delivery of sustainable development strategies within the urban dimension of post-2020 cohesion policy.

The President of URBAN Intergroup, **Jan Olbrycht** opened the meeting by stating: "Today we will not discuss technicalities but the way we make policy." Later, he emphasised the main objective: to build Europe, through cohesion policy that is closer to its citizens.

The European Commission representative (DG REGIO) shared a view of a simplified and feasible cohesion policy that would be adaptable to the needs of key beneficiaries.



The URBAN Intergroup, EURO CITIES & CEMR meeting was organised with regard to the current negotiations of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027.

The Secretary General of EURO CITIES **Anna Lisa Boni** stated: "We want to deliver faster and better results from cohesion policy for the people."

### Using the SDGs as guidelines

Similarly, **Lambert van Nistelrooij**, Vice-President of the URBAN Intergroup, drew attention to the need of decreasing the gap between citizens living in different parts of Europe and creating an optimised strategy for the regions through cohesion policy.

Further debate pondered some benefits as well as risks of empowering local institutions in executing the objectives going in line with the cohesion policy and dis-

tributing the funds available. CEMR representatives suggested the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as guidelines for the implementation of cohesion policy by regional authorities. Similarly, several challenges have been highlighted on the urban-rural dimension, as well as the need for cross-border cooperation in relation to the cohesion policy.

In his concluding remarks, **Jan Olbrycht** stressed the importance of attracting a wider audience to the debate on cohesion policy for more effective results. He added that in order to establish a successful framework, European institutions should use clearer language understandable for citizens.

## URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU

### Discussion with the Partnership for Urban Mobility



The representatives of the Partnership presented to MEPs and the members of the URBAN Intergroup the results of their work ahead of the adoption of their Action Plan.

Members of the URBAN Intergroup had a chance to discuss with members of the Partnership for Urban Mobility of the Urban Agenda on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October at the European Parliament in Brussels. This breakfast meeting was an occasion for the representatives of the Partnership to present the results of their work ahead of the adoption of their Action Plan. Members of the Partnership called for the reinforcement of multi-level cooperation and governance and better uptake of sustainable urban mobility planning.

In the area of public transport, an evaluation of best practices in facilitating access to public transport and a scaling up of innovative clean busses were underlined. The Partnership advocated for the development of active modes of transport and the use of public space: it prescribed to develop guidelines on infrastructure for an active mobility supported by relevant funding, by promoting sustainable and active mobility behaviour and finally by reducing the diversity of Urban Vehicle Access Regulations.

Moreover, members of the Partnership argued that there is a need to explore the development of New Mobility Services and to

set up a European framework for fostering urban mobility innovation.

“What surprises me is that your actions are very concrete! You are, as practitioners, a part of the European project and you deal with the core problems that the EU cities must tackle” - said during the discussion **Lambert van Nisterlooij** (EPP, the Netherlands), Vice-President of the URBAN Intergroup. Dr **Frank Mentrup**, Lord Mayor of Karlsruhe, underlined that “urban mobility is not only about tackling climate issues but has an important social impact” by pulling out people from poverty.

**Peter Simon** (S&D, Germany), member of the Intergroup, noted that local authorities need to have a serious debate with representatives of industry in order to plan new mobility services and different types of interconnections within urban areas. **Jan Olbrycht** (EPP, Poland) added in this context that other cities can learn how to deal with industry thanks to the best practices collected by the Partnership.

**More information about this Partnership:** <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-mobility>

The **Partnership for Urban Mobility** is one of 12 partnerships set up in the framework of the Urban Agenda for the EU. This partnership is **coordinated by the City of Karlsruhe (Germany) and Czech Republic**.

Other members are:

- the **cities** of Bari (Italy), Bielefeld (Germany), Burgas (Bulgaria), Gdynia (Poland), Malmö (Sweden), Nijmegen (the Netherlands), Torres Vedras (Portugal)
- the **regions** of Skåne (Sweden), Wallonia (Belgium)
- **Member States:** Cyprus, Finland, Romania, Slovenia
- **Other participants:** the European Commission (DG REGIO, DG MOVE, DG ENV), CEMR, EUROCITIES, EIB
- **Stakeholders:** the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF), POLIS, the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), Walk21
- **Observers:** URBACT, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands.

## CONFERENCE

### How emerging technologies and real estate can help European cities

The recent conference 'Innovation, Technology and Real Estate: building cities for Europe's future' was organised by the URBAN Intergroup and INREV. It took place on Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of December in Brussels.

In his opening speech, **Jan Olbrycht**, President of the URBAN Intergroup, emphasized the importance of integrated, rational urban planning if we are to meet the challenges facing cities. "It's not possible to have long-term real estate investment without a stable legislative and political system" - said **Olbrycht**. It was followed by several presentations explaining the role that technology and real estate can play in improving the quality of life in cities.

The first presentation made by a representative of ULI (the Urban Land Institute) explained the challenges facing cities such as increasing density, congestion and aging populations and underlined some of the growth trends in urban areas.

#### Using buildings more efficiently

A leader of the URBAN Air Mobility (UAM), within the Sustainable Urban Mobility Action Cluster of the EIP-SCC (European Innovation Partnership, Smart Cities and Communities), illustrated their vision of smart cities and how urban air mobility and electric fly-



The role that technology and real estate can play in improving the quality of life in cities was explained during the conference with INREV.

ing vehicles, which are developing rapidly, can help address some of these challenges. As there is a significant disconnect between urban planning and new technology, a strong call was made for a more integrated approach. Moreover, the need for urban planners to take into account the "fourth" dimension of urban mobility (not only walk, ride, bike but also fly) was underlined.

The next speaker from Parkbee concentrated on more efficient use of parking spaces in existing buildings, which can significantly reduce congestion by getting cars off the street and opening up room for more green

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## Office

**75%** of millennials in the global workforce by 2025

**10-47%** of jobs automated by early 2030s



Growing demand for new type of spaces



Long-distance collaboration enhanced by VR



Flexible, connected, collaborative & personalised workspaces with short-term leases

## Retail

Online retail growing worldwide but remains **≤ 10%**

Physical & online retail increasingly merge



Shift of physical retail functions towards experience, entertainment, display & delivery



Increase use of technology in retail stores (VR & MR headsets, 3D printed products customised on-demand)



**80%** Delivery cost reduction from last-mile shipping efficiency with AI-based drones

## Industrial

**44** ZETTABYTES the amount of worldwide data by 2020

**10%** via Internet of Things



Internet of Things



Drone hubs & electrical car charging stations as new types of real estate



Increased demand for sophisticated high-tech industrial space



Production & delivery moving closer to consumer allowing off-shore manufacturers to on-shore

Blockchain

Artificial Intelligence



# THE IMPACT OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES ON EUROPEAN LISTED REAL ESTATE

3D printing



Virtual, Augmented & Mixed Realities



Harness the power of emerging technologies with this **5-step approach**

**1**

BEWARE OF THE HYPE

**2**

CHOOSE YOUR POWER

**3**

GATHER YOUR ALLIES

**4**

KNOW YOUR COMPETITORS

**5**

USE YOUR POWER WISELY



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space in cities. He explained how a mobile application already implemented in Amsterdam and London helps find unused parking spaces available in commercial buildings. This innovation addresses the general need to use buildings more efficiently, such as using roofs to generate electricity and other ideas, which building owners and investors are exploring and rapidly embracing.

A representative of the European Commission, DG MOVE, gave a presentation about the importance of mobility in cities and explained the essence of "responsible design". An integrated approach to urban policy developed between different DGs in the European Commission it is an important initiative

that embraces developing technology and could lead to innovative solutions for the challenges facing cities.

The meeting ended with a discussion panel that allowed the participants to share their thoughts on the issues presented. **Jan Olbrycht** concluded the event by emphasizing that developing new technologies can be very costly. However, he stated that urban planners and politicians need to start by analysing urban problems and only look for solutions after understanding the problems. If the technologies help solve those problems better, it is worth investing in them. However, he warned "we should have enough courage not to use it if it is not needed!"

## Looking ahead



# 2<sup>ND</sup> MAYORS SUMMIT ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE



PEOPLE



PLACES



POLITICS

20-21.03.2019 | BRUSSELS

The second EUROCITIES mayors' summit on the future of Europe will take place on 20-21 March 2019 at the Charlemagne building in Brussels. EUROCITIES mayors are committed to a positive future for the EU and believe that cities can provide a vital link in bridging the gap between EU institutions, member states and our citizens.

The summit will bring together mayors from all over Europe in a dialogue with national and European leaders, and mark the launch of EUROCITIES manifesto: 'The city leaders' agenda for the EU'. The manifesto will outline the views of our cities on the EU and the future of Europe ahead of the European Parliament elections in May.

At the summit, EUROCITIES will also present results from a series of 'citizen panels' on the future of Europe that are currently being organised in 20 European cities, in cooperation with the European Commission (DG COMM). The citizen panels build on our 'Cities4Europe – Europe for citizens' campaign launched by EUROCITIES in May 2018 and that has already involved over 90 European cities.

### **For more information:**

[http://www.eurocities.eu/eurocities/calendar/events\\_list/Second-Mayors-Summit-WSPO-B4YG4M](http://www.eurocities.eu/eurocities/calendar/events_list/Second-Mayors-Summit-WSPO-B4YG4M)

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# Others about us

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## INREV, the European Association for Investors in Non-Listed Real Estate Vehicles



INREV | 15  
2003  
2018

Future proofing our industry together

As Europe has evolved in recent decades, cities have grown and changed in ways that were unimaginable even a few ago. People increasingly choose to live in urban environments and, at the same time, the way they raise their families, work and enjoy their free time is changing. As a result, how buildings serve their needs has to change.

INREV represents investors in the built environment, primarily pension funds and insurance companies that pool their real estate investments through institutional funds. While investing to generate returns needed to meet their obligations to pensioners and policy holders, as long-term investors, they are also deeply concerned about the role

they play in creating vital, sustainable, live-able environments where Europe's citizens can thrive.

The URBAN Intergroup is a valuable forum for bringing together the different stakeholders concerned about the future of Europe's cities. It is able to gather their knowledge and experience and engage them in important discussions with European policy makers about how we can create workable, thriving cities for the future. INREV is pleased to be a part of the URBAN Intergroup and to help address the challenges facing Europe's cities.

**For more information:** [www.inrev.org](http://www.inrev.org)



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