

# **DECLARATION BY MAYORS AND LEADERS OF URBAN AREAS**

## **For an ambitious EU regional policy with a strong urban dimension in an enlarged European Union**

**We**, mayors and leaders of urban areas across Europe,

### **Taking into consideration:**

- that the forthcoming enlargement of the European Union will have a huge impact on the EU regional policy, post 2006
- that urban areas are key to achieving the EU objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion set in the EU Treaty, acting as the engine of economic development of wider areas surrounding them, but at the same time, being the places where the most acute social, economic and environmental disparities are found
- that urban areas play a central role for a geographically balanced sustainable development of the EU territory
- that, while one of the clearest trends in EU regional policy in recent years has been the recognition of the needs of urban areas, there remains much to be done to incorporate genuine urban development into current Structural Funds programming

### **Welcome:**

- the forthcoming enlargement of the European Union, which in addition to reunifying Europe, will ensure stability and peace, as well as increased prosperity for EU citizens
- the broad debate on the future of EU regional policy launched by the European Commission and its recognition of the "urban question" as one of the suggested priorities of the future regional policy

### **Affirm our commitment:**

- to an ambitious European regional development policy commensurate to the challenges faced by an enlarged European Union at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- to persuade our respective national governments to incorporate our concerns when agreeing the next EU financial perspective
- to promote the needs of urban areas at EU level to ensure that these are properly reflected in EU regional policy, at the programming and implementation level
- to co-operate as cities to exchange good practice and experience in order to play our full part in building an economically dynamic, socially cohesive and environmentally sustainable European Union

### **Put forward the following principles:**

#### ***A successful EU regional policy is more important than ever***

The EU regional policy has significantly helped to reduce regional disparities, contributing to economic development and social inclusion, as well as the regeneration of the most deprived areas across Europe. However, many disparities still remain between and within regions; and within urban areas these inequalities are the most acute of all.

Regional development effort required in most of the regions of the candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe, together with the persisting disparities within the current Member States mean that an enhanced regional policy ought to be one of the top priorities of the EU after 2006.

Moreover, this new policy should allow for increased flexibility and genuine partnership, as well as better arrangements for match funding.

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### ***An ambitious regional policy for an ambitious Union***

The European Union declared in Lisbon a vision of a competitive, knowledge-based economy linked to more and better jobs, greater social inclusion, equal opportunities and sustainable development. Cities will be essential in achieving this goal. They are the engines of the economy and the resources invested into them have a multiplier effect on the economic development of the regions in which they are located. Equally, cities suffer from the sharpest social inequalities and many of the worst environmental problems. If the EU wishes to fulfil these ambitions, it must utilise the cities as catalysts while addressing the shared problems from which they suffer. An appropriately ambitious EU regional policy with a strong urban focus is necessary to achieve this aim.

### ***The role of urban areas must be fully recognised***

While most of the EU population live in urban areas, only a very small proportion of the current Structural Funds is dedicated to cities and urban areas. Given that the most acute cohesion problems are found in cities and that is now a major preoccupation of Member States, we call for an enhanced commitment of the future EU regional policy to support urban areas - to at least an equivalent level of the support devoted to rural development. We call upon the Member States to agree a re-direction of Common Agricultural Policy monies in favour of a more equitable and effective regional development policy for the benefits of all.

Furthermore, we believe that EU legislation, state aids policy, loans as well as grant programmes should be mobilised to support national and regional efforts to promote sustainable urban development.

### ***A EU policy is necessary to achieve EU objectives***

We are extremely concerned that some Member States are considering reducing the scope of EU regional policy, removing a substantial part of the support received by current Member States, in favour of a policy almost exclusively covering the regions whose development is lagging behind. We think that this might generate negative citizens' perceptions of enlargement. We also believe that whilst there are understandable concerns about the budgetary implications of enlargement, to use these as a starting point for the debate is short sighted. We should instead be starting from our overall ambition for an economically competitive Union, based on the need for balanced development and social inclusion supported by a consistent policy taking into account all spheres of government.

Since these ambitious EU objectives need a coherent EU policy, which can by no means be replaced by a sum of different national policies, we regard any attempt to re-nationalise some elements of the EU regional policy as undesirable and counterproductive and we will press national governments to follow this line of action as discussions of post 2006 policy take place over the coming months.

London, 8 July 2002

## Mayors and Leaders of urban areas who have signed the Declaration

CITY OR URBAN REGION	NAME	FUNCTION
Amadora, P	Joaquim Raposo	Mayor
Amiens Métropole, FR	Gilles de Robien	Président de la Communauté d'Agglomération
Amsterdam, NL	Job Cohen	Mayor
Antwerpen, B	Tuur van Wallendael	Alderman
Athens, GR	Dimitris Avramopoulos	Mayor
Barcelona, E	Joan Clos	Mayor
Bari, I	Simeone di Cagno Abbrescia	Sindaco
Berlin, D	Peter Strieder	Senator, Senatsverwaltung für Stadtentwicklung
Birmingham City Council, UK	Albert Bore	Leader of the Council
Brindisi, I	Giovanni Antonino	Sindaco
Bristol City Council, UK	Diane Bunyan	Leader
Brussels Capital Region, B	François-Xavier de Donnea	Ministre-Président
Burnley Borough Council, UK	Stuart Caddy	Leader
Cáceres, E	José Maria Saponi Mendo	Alcalde
Carrara, I	Giulio Conti	Mayor
Caserta, I	Luigi Falco	Sindaco
Catania, I	Umberto Scapagnini	Sindaco
Cologne, D	Fritz Schramma	Lord Mayor
Copenhagen, DK	Bente Frost	Vice Mayor
Cordoba, E	Rosa Aguilar Rivero	Mayor

Cork, IRE	John Kelleher	Lord Mayor
Crotone, I	Ottavio Rizzuto	Assessore politiche urbane
Dortmund, D	Gerhard Langemeyer	Lord Mayor
Düsseldorf, D	Joachim Erwin	Oberbürgermeister
Echirolles, F	Renzo Sulli	Maire et 1er Vice-président de la Métro Communauté d'Agglomération grenobloise
Florence, I	Simone Tani	Deputy Mayor
Frankfurt, D	Petra Roth	Lord Mayor
Genova, I	Giuseppe Pericu	Mayor
Gera, D	Ralf Ranch	Lord Mayor
Glasgow City Council, UK	Charles Gordon	Leader
Gravesham, UK	Rosemary Leadley	Leader
Graz, A	Alfred Stingl	Mayor
Greater London, UK	Ken Livingstone	Mayor
Greater Manchester, UK	Peter Smith	Leader, Greater Manchester Authorities
The Hague, NL	Wim J Deetman	Mayor
Heerlen, Parkstad Limburg, NL	Alexander B. Sakkers	Mayor
Helsinki, FIN	Eva-Riitta Siitonen	Lord Mayor
Ile-de-France (Région), F	Jean-Paul Huchon*	Président de la Région Ile-de-France
Iraklion Crete, GR	Aslanis Kostas	Mayor
Kent, UK	Alex King	Cabinet member, Regeneration
Komotini, GR	Georgios Papadriellis	Mayor

La Louvière, B	Willy Taminiaux	Bourgmestre
Leicester City Council, UK	Ross Willmott	Leader
Lille, F	Martine Aubry	Mayor
Lille-Metropole, F	Bernard Delebecque	Councillor
Ludwigshafen am Rhein, D	Eva Lohse	Oberbürgermeisterin
Luxembourg, L	Paul Helminger	Mayor
Malmö, S	Ilmar Reepalu	Mayor
Madrid, E	José Maria Alvarez del Manzano	Mayor
Mola di Bari, I	Vincenzo Cristino	Mayor
Munich, D	Christian Ude	Oberbürgermeister
Napoli, I	Raffaele Tecce	Assessore
Nice, F	Brigitte Ferrari	Councillor for European affairs
Palermo, I	Giacomo Terranova	Assessore
Patras, GR	Evangelos Floratos	Mayor
Pescara, I	Carlo Pace	Mayor
Peristeri, Athens, GR	Theodoros Dimitrakopoulos	Mayor
Porto, P	Rui Rio	Mayor
Randers, DK	Michael Aastrup Jensen	Mayor
Renfrewshire Council, UK	Jim Harkins	Leader
Roma, I	Luigi Nieri	Assessore
Rostock, D	Arno Pöker	Mayor
Rotterdam, NL	Ivo Opstelten	Mayor

Saarbrücken, D	Hajo Hoffmann	Oberbürgermeister
Sabadell, E	Francisco Fernández Ortega	Deputy Mayor for Local Development
Sambreville, B	Marcel Fisenne	Bourgmestre
Seville, E	Alfredo Sánchez Monteseirin*	Mayor
Stockholm, S	Carl Cederschiöld	Mayor
Strasbourg, F	Fabienne Keller	Mayor
Taranto, I	Michele Tucci	Vice Mayor
Thessaloniki, Polichni, GR	Theodoros Papadopoulos	Mayor
Torino, I	Sergio Chiamparino	Mayor
Utrecht, NL	Annie H. Brouwer-Korf	Mayor
Vantaa, Fin	Erkki Rantala	Mayor
Valenciennes, F	Dominique Riquet	Mayor
Venice, I	Paolo Costa	Mayor
Vienna, A	Michael Häupl	Mayor and Governor
Volos, GR	Kyriakos Mitrou	Mayor
Zaragoza, E	José Atarés Martínez	Mayor
Zoetermeer, NL	Luigi Van Leeuwen	Mayor

\* Le Président de la Région Ile-de-France ainsi que le Maire de Séville ont indiqué qu'ils étaient signataires de cette déclaration, à la réserve expresse du paragraphe sur la PAC au motif qu'ils ne croient pas utile, en l'état actuel, de lancer aujourd'hui le débat sur le financement des politiques européennes et ainsi de risquer d'opposer monde urbain et rural. Il s'agit plutôt, pour eux, de définir au préalable une cohérence d'ensemble.

\* The President of the Ile-de-France Region and the Mayor of Seville have signed this declaration with a specific reserve concerning the paragraph on the CAP. They do not consider it useful, at the present time, to launch a debate about the financing of European policies and, therefore, to risk causing a confrontation between the urban world and the rural one. In their opinions, what should be done first is to define an overall coherence.