



**YOU ARE
INVITED!**

MISSION

IN PROGRESS

**CLIMATE-NEUTRAL
AND SMART CITIES
CONFERENCE 2023**

**26-27
JUNE
2023**

**Maison de la Poste,
Tour et Taxis, Brussels**





PROGRAMME DAY 1

09:00-09:50

REGISTRATIONS, WELCOME BREAKFAST
& INFORMATION STANDS

09:50-09:55

CITIES MISSION KICK-OFF

09:55-10:00

WELCOME KEYNOTE SPEECH DELIVERED
BY **ANDRÉ SOBCZAK**, SECRETARY
GENERAL, EURO CITIES

10:00-11:00

NETZEROCITIES UPDATES

11:30-13:00

PEER-TO-PEER CITY
EXCHANGES

14:00-16:00

THEMATIC KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE

16:30-18:00

POLICY CHALLENGES
EXCHANGE

18:00-20:00

DRINKS



PROGRAMME DAY 2

MORNING

09:00 - 09:30

REGISTRATIONS, WELCOME
BREAKFAST & INFORMATION STANDS

09:30 - 09:40

KEYNOTE SPEECH DELIVERED BY
MARC LEMAÎTRE, DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION,
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

09:40 - 10:00

CITIES AS FRONTRUNNERS OF
THE CLIMATE TRANSITION

10:00 - 11:00

CLIMATE-NEUTRAL CITIES BY 2030:
A POLITICAL REALITY CHECK

11:30 - 12:30

THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL AT
LOCAL LEVEL: CHALLENGES & CO-
BENEFITS



PROGRAMME DAY 2

AFTERNOON



13:00-14:00

LUNCH

POLITICAL
TRACK

PRACTITIONER
TRACK

14:00-15:30

INVESTMENT
ROUNDTABLE

14:00-16:00

PILOT CITIES: IN
THE SPOTLIGHT

15:30-16:00

COFFEE &
NETWORKING

16:30-17:30

CITIES MISSION –
FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES
& PARTNERS

16:00-17:00

MEETING WITH THE
MAYORS & MEPS

17:30-17:45

CLOSING PLENARY

17:45-18:00

CONCLUSIONS FROM **FRANS**
TIMMERMANS, EXECUTIVE VICE-
PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION



PROGRAMME DAY 1: DETAILED AGENDA

Registrations, Welcome Breakfast & Discover the Information Stands

26 JUNE - 09:00 - 09:50 CEST

Registrations will take place during this time. There will be a space for coffees as well as some time to take a look at the Information Stands that will be available during the two days of the conference.

Cities Mission Kick-Off

26 JUNE - 09:50 - 09:55 CEST

Kick-off of the Cities Mission Conference with **Katharina Moser**.

Welcome Keynote Speech

26 JUNE - 09:55 - 10:00 CEST

Keynote speech to open the first day of the conference delivered by **André Sobczak**, Secretary General, Eurocities

NetZeroCities Updates

26 JUNE - 10:00 - 11:00 CEST

This session will provide an update on NetZeroCities by **Thomas Osdoba**, NetZeroCities Project Director, EIT Climate-KIC as well as reflecting on the Climate City Contract process and its evolution, and upcoming City Support for 2023 with opportunity for Q&A.

Peer-to-Peer City Exchanges

26 JUNE - 11:30 - 13:00 CEST

Peer-to-peer exchange sessions will provide participants with a space for sharing approaches, tools, and methodologies with fellow Mission Cities to overcome barriers you may be facing in the climate neutrality journey. More details to be shared soon!

Thematic Knowledge Exchange

26 JUNE - 14:00 - 16:00 CEST

These thematic knowledge exchange sessions are a valuable learning opportunity as part of a larger NetZeroCities Capability Building Programme that aims to support cities at various stages of their Climate City Contract design process. Multidisciplinary breakouts will cover the following topics: transition teams, portfolio co-design, investment plans, stakeholder engagement, pathways and indicators, and social innovation. Dedicated online spaces will be provided for each session to continue to allow exchange and learning in thematic areas. For **Mission City practitioners and politicians** attending the first day of the conference, please indicate your breakout session preference using [this form](#).

Policy Challenges Exchange

26 JUNE - 16:30 - 18:00 CEST

This session aims to focus on the urban climate action initiatives that require collective policy action. We will hear from Mission Cities **Copenhagen, Lisbon, Helsinki, Oslo, Paris, and Stockholm** who will share local climate action initiatives that, to be effective, need policy coordination at the European level. Through a world café format, participants will discuss policy needs, implementation challenges, and desired outcomes in groups using these climate action initiatives as examples. Takeaways from this session will be a stronger understanding of shared EU-level policy needs among Mission Cities and proposed next steps for Mission Cities to work through the showcased (or similar) policy challenges.

Drinks

26 JUNE - 18:00 - 20:00 CEST



PROGRAMME DAY 2 MORNING: DETAILED AGENDA

Registrations, Welcome Breakfast & Discover the Information Stands

27 JUNE - 09:00 - 09:30 CEST

Registrations will take place during this time. There will be a space for coffees as well as time to take a look at the Information Stands that will be available during the two days of the conference.

Keynote Speech

27 JUNE - 09:30 - 09:40 CEST

Marc Lemaître, Director-General DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

Cities as Frontrunners of the Climate Transition

27 JUNE - 09:40 - 10:00 CEST

Impulse statements will spotlight the views and contributions of different stakeholders to the Mission and will provide food for thought for the day's discussions. *Confirmed speakers:*

- **Barbara Trachte**, State Secretary for the Economic Transition and Scientific Research, Brussels Capital Government
- **Kim Jørgensen**, Director General and Permanent Representative Office of the EIB to the EU Institutions, European Investment Bank

Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030: A Political Reality Check

27 JUNE - 10:00 - 11:00 CEST

One year after the selection of cities for the Cities Mission, local authorities and their partners are working hard on their Climate City Contracts, while facing new challenges including an acute energy crisis. This panel is a political exchange on how the Cities Mission has already impacted Mission cities and how its high ambition can hold up in real life. *Confirmed speakers:*

- **Patrick Child**, Deputy Director-General DG Environment | Cities Mission Manager (*Moderator*)
- **Anders Almgren**, Mayor of Lund
- **Minna Arve**, Mayor of Turku
- **Emil Boc**, Mayor of Cluj Napoca
- **Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz**, Chair of the Cities Mission Board
- **Karen van Dantzig**, Dutch Urban Envoy

The European Green Deal at Local Level: Challenges and Co-benefits

27 JUNE - 11:30 - 12:30 CEST

This panel will focus on the local and wider impacts of the Mission. Panellists will discuss how cities, citizens, and businesses can get the most benefit out of the Mission and how to best address both challenges and co-benefits. *Confirmed speakers:*

- **Rosalinde Van der Vlies**, Director Clean Planet, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission | Deputy Mission Manager (*Moderator*)
- **Tanya Hristova**, Mayor of Gabrovo
- **Olivera Injac**, Mayor of Podgorica
- **Anna Lisa Boni**, Deputy Mayor of Bologna | Coordinator of the Italian Mission Cities
- **Allan Pilgaard-Jensen**, Deputy Director, ProjectZero Sønderborg
- **Giorgia Rambelli**, Director, Urban Transitions Mission of Mission Innovation



PROGRAMME DAY 2 AFTERNOON: DETAILED AGENDA

BOTH TRACKS

Lunch

27 JUNE - 13:00 - 14:00 CEST

POLITICAL TRACK

Investment Roundtable

27 JUNE - 14:00 - 15:30 CEST

One of the biggest challenges for cities in their transformation towards climate neutrality is funding and finance. All Mission cities are developing and implementing Climate City Contracts, which include a Climate Neutrality Action Plan and a Climate Neutrality Investment Plan. Climate Neutrality Investment Plans are a new tool to compile cities' financial needs and ways to address them. At this roundtable, high-level speakers and Mission cities' Mayors will discuss how financial institutions, philanthropies, investment funds and other partners can mobilise funding and finance to help make the climate transformation happen and how the Climate Neutrality Investment Plans can be made most useful both for cities and investors. *Confirmed speakers:*

- **Kirsten Dunlop**, CEO, EIT Climate-KIC (*Moderator*)
- **Caspar Boendermaker**, Specialist Business Development and Sustainability, Bank Nederlandse Gemeenten
- **Paweł Chorąży**, Managing Director for EU Funds, Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego
- **Emmanuelle Nasse Bridier**, Executive Director Urban Resilience Initiative, Meridiam
- **Matiss Paegle**, Investment Director BaltCap | Member of Cities Mission Board
- **Werner Schmidt**, Director Urban and Territorial Development Department - Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank
- **Sergio Urbani**, Director General, Fondazione Cariplo
- **Venera Vlad**, Associate Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Group, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Coffee & Networking

27 JUNE - 15:30 - 16:00 CEST

Meeting with the Mayors and MEPs

27 JUNE - 16:00 - 17:00 CEST

- **Patrick Child**, Deputy Director-General DG Environment | Cities Mission Manager (*Moderator*)
- Additional Members of the European Parliament of the Urban Intergroup (*TBC*)



PROGRAMME DAY 2 AFTERNOON: DETAILED AGENDA

PRACTITIONER TRACK

Pilot Cities: In the Spotlight

27 JUNE - 14:00 - 16:00 CEST

Pilot Cities: In the Spotlight will give each of the selected Mission and non-Mission Pilot Cities the opportunity to present their pilot activities in a short, sharp, and pithy 'pitch*'. Participants will be encouraged to take note of opportunities and synergies to engage with Pilot Cities in this first cohort, following their curiosity and eagerness to connect with colleagues in other cities. In the same spirit of this platform for sharing with each other, this session will also introduce the Pilot Cities Programme's learning and sense-making activities and, at its conclusion, take the opportunity to launch the next Call for Pilot Cities under NetZeroCities!

*Creativity will be encouraged!

Cities Mission – Funding Opportunities & Partners

27 JUNE - 16:30 - 17:30 CEST

This session is for institutions and initiatives to present concrete funding and partnership opportunities for cities.

- **Jennifer Wendelius**, Driving Urban Transitions (DUT)
- **Vasileios Tsanidis**, European Innovation Council (EIC)
- **Kathleen McCarron**, Urban Innovative Actions (UIA)
- **Giorgia Rambelli**, Urban Transitions Mission (UTM)
- **Hiro Ito**, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- TBC, European Investment Bank (EIB)

BOTH TRACKS

Closing Plenary

27 JUNE - 17:30 - 17:45 CEST

- **Patrick Child**, Deputy Director-General DG Environment | Cities Mission Manager
- **Natalia Chueca**, Mayor of Zaragoza
- **Dovydas Kaminskas**, Mayor of Tauragė

Conclusions from Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President, European Commission

27 JUNE - 17:45 - 18:00 CEST



PROGRAMME: INFORMATION STANDS

The information stations are dedicated stands where you can speak to representatives from Cities Mission projects, the Covenant of Mayors, the European Investment Bank and more!

Live station times:

Day 1	Day 2
08:30 – 10:00	08:30 – 09:30
11:00 – 11:20	11:00 – 11:25
13:00 – 14:00	13:00 – 14:00

The Urban Transitions Mission

The Urban Transitions Mission Centre (UTMC) is a Horizon Europe-funded project supporting the implementation of the UTM. Building on the European Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, UTMC supports the activities of the Urban Transitions Mission, and it enables a wide international knowledge and practice network of cities and urban stakeholders that will help drive transitions globally.

The Urban Transitions Mission (UTM) mobilises decision makers across all levels of government to prioritise climate-neutral and net-zero pathways enabled by clean energy and systemic innovation across all sectors and in urban governance. By accelerating capacity-building and closing the gap between research, development and deployment, the Mission empowers cities to adopt innovative solutions and help reach tipping points in the cost and scale of those solutions for urban transitions. The UTM is co-led by the European Commission, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) and JPI Urban Europe. It has been launched in the framework of Mission Innovation - a global initiative of 23 countries and the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union) catalysing a decade of action and investment in research, development and demonstration to make clean energy affordable, attractive and accessible for all.

Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy – Europe is an initiative supported by the European Commission bringing together thousands of local governments that want to secure a better future for their citizens. By joining the initiative, they voluntarily commit to implementing EU climate and energy objectives.

DUT Partnership

The DUT partnership is a public-public partnership, co-funded by 28 European countries and the European Commission under Horizon Europe. DUT aims to contribute significantly to the European and global mission on climate-neutral cities, the European Green Deal, and the Urban Agenda for the EU by developing and implementing a transformative research and innovation (R&I) programme. In order to enhance the impact of the R&I investments for local action, a comprehensive programme management is established including capacity building measures and creating evidence with and for cities and urban actors.



PROGRAMME: INFORMATION STANDS

CrAft

CrAft - Creating Actionable Futures. We help cities to make their journeys to climate neutrality and resilience beautiful, inclusive and cooperative. Come and visit our booth to get involved in our NEB Impact Model and CrAft Cookbook, join our CrAft Cities and NEB Policy Support Alliance, and learn more on our work with arts & culture, student STEAM teams and more!

Cities Mission projects – Urban Planning and Design Cluster

The 'Urban Planning and Design Cluster' is represented by projects **CLIMABOROUGH**, **Re-Value** and **UP2030**. The objective of the Cluster is to support a diverse range of urban areas in cities across Europe to identify, plan, design, implement and replicate solutions to significantly reduce emissions across the most relevant sectors in cities and achieve climate neutrality, sustainability and resilience by 2030. Each project has developed a specific approach to achieve this. Re-Value focusses on re-valuing the cities' connection to their waterfronts, strengthening co-benefits and mitigating potential adverse impacts. CLIMABOROUGH concentrates on co-developing solutions together with innovative SMEs, start-ups and user communities to showcase the benefits and impacts of these demonstrations in cities across Europe. UP2030 will support cities in driving the socio-technical transitions required to meet their climate neutrality targets by leveraging urban planning and design and putting inclusive participation at the centre of their approach.

Cities Mission projects – Public Transport Cluster

The 'Public Transport Cluster' aims to strengthen the role of public transport as the cornerstone for decarbonising urban mobility in cities by promoting sustainable, accessible and inclusive public transport. Projects **UPPER** and **SPINE** represent this cluster and they will implement a combination of measures looking to push people out of private cars and to pull them closer to public transport in cities across Europe. Both projects will engage in active contributions with both Mission Cities and CIVITAS communities.

These projects build on the previous projects focused on public transport (e.g. ELIPTIC, CIPTEC, DESTINATIONS) which were also part of the **CIVITAS Initiative**. CIVITAS is a network of over 340 cities dedicated to achieving ambitious mobility and transport goals, such as those of the 'European Green Deal' and the 'Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy'. The initiative launched by the European Commission in 2002 and it aims to increase the collective expertise and political commitment for the development and roll-out of 'green' and sustainable urban mobility measures. Since its launch, the CIVITAS Initiative has had five funding phases in which more than 80 demonstration cities have tested, implemented and evaluated integrated packages of urban mobility measures and solutions as part of the CIVITAS Living Lab projects. The CIVITAS Initiative is currently led by the coordination and support action CIVITAS MUSE, which delivers a wide range of services supporting the replication, take-up and deployment of sustainable urban mobility measures and solutions in cities.

Cities Mission projects – Positive Clean Energy Districts

The 'Positive Clean Energy Districts Cluster' aims to test large-scale Positive Clean Energy Districts under real life conditions. Projects **ASCEND** and **NEUTRALPATH** will analyse the main aspects of the successful conception and roll-out of Positive Energy Districts; explore combinations of demand and supply measures at district scale to identify the best cost-effective mix; and develop synergies between the built environment, energy communities, e-mobility, smart grids and energy storage. These projects will contribute to the Cities Mission and build on the experiences and knowledge gains in previous smart cities and communities projects which continue to collaborate through the Scalable Cities initiative.