



European Committee  
of the Regions

**EURO  
CITIES**



Conference  
on the **Future**  
of Europe



Bringing Europe  
closer to its people

## Cities fostering democracy in the European Union

### *Urban perspectives for the Conference on the Future of Europe*

**14 October 2021 – 14:30 to 17:00**

Hybrid format: De Gasperi Room, European Commission Charlemagne Building, Brussels  
and online via Interactio (with translation) and YouTube (EN only)

Available translations: CZ, DE, EN, ES, FR, IT, NL, PL, PT

#### **14:30 Official welcome & setting the scene**

- **Aleksandra Dulkiewicz** (PL/EPP), Mayor of Gdańsk, Member of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Dario Nardella** (IT/PES), Mayor of Florence, President of Eurocities
- **Christoph Schnaudigel** (DE/EPP), President of the County of Karlsruhe, Co-President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions

#### **14:45 Panel debate I: Innovative participative solutions to strengthen democracy at city level**

Short inputs on the following topics, followed by a discussion and audience questions

- *Participatory methods for community consultation*,  
**Bernd Vöhringer** (DE/EPP), Mayor of Sindelfingen, President of the Chamber of Local authorities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- *Participative municipal budgeting*  
**Aleksandra Dulkiewicz** (PL/EPP), Mayor of Gdańsk, Member of the European Committee of the Regions
- *Promoting a values-based democracy from the bottom-up*  
**Théo Challande Nevoret** (FR/Greens), Deputy Mayor of Marseille

#### **15:45 Outlook**

- **Apostolos Tzitzikostas** (EL/EPP), President of the European Committee of the Regions

#### **15:55 Panel debate II: Learning by doing: experiencing/living democracy at urban level**

Short inputs on the following topics, followed by a discussion and audience questions

- *Solutions to climate change*  
**Ricardo Rio** (PT/EPP), Mayor of Braga
- *Integration and diversity*  
**Antje Grotheer** (DE/PES), Vice-President of the Bremen Parliament
- *Boosting local economy and jobs*  
**Pehr Granfalk** (SE/EPP), Mayor of Solna
- *Digital public services*  
**Juhana Vartiainen** (FI/EPP), Mayor of Helsinki

#### **16:55 Conclusions & wrap up**