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