The European urban fabric in the 21st century
Welcome

It is my pleasure to present the programme of the 5th European Summit of Regions and Cities, to be organised by the Committee of the Regions in cooperation with the City of Copenhagen and the Capital Region of Denmark on 22 and 23 March 2012. Copenhagen is known for its high quality of life, its beautiful architecture, and its achievements and ambitious objectives in becoming ‘greener’ and more inclusive; it is therefore the ideal place to reflect on the European model for the “urban fabric”. As at previous summits, Mayors of cities and Presidents of regions are invited to voice their views on the many challenges they face and to present some of their practical solutions and innovative approaches, during various workshops and as part of the accompanying exhibition on best urban development practices. I look forward to meeting you in Copenhagen!

Mercedes Bresso | President of the Committee of the Regions

It is a great pleasure to welcome the Committee of Regions to Copenhagen. The Danish EU-Presidency places great emphasis on the green agenda and we will work hard to promote green growth through new initiatives in areas such as energy efficiency and renewable energy. We will do our utmost to ensure the most ambitious outcome at Rio+20. I sincerely hope we can reach an agreement at Rio+20 setting the frame for our continued efforts creating a global development paradigm where growth, social equity and a green economy are seen as mutually reinforcing. I very much welcome the inputs from the Committee of Regions in this important process.

Helle Thorning-Schmidt | Prime Minister of Denmark and President-in-office of the Council of the European Union

Copenhagen is determined to work with cities, regions, private companies, national governments and the European Commission in order to share and develop new innovative and sustainable urban solutions. Like many other cities, Copenhagen is growing these years. At the same time, we are set to become the world’s first carbon-neutral capital in 2025. This is a challenge, but also an opportunity - an opportunity to develop an even more liveable city and to generate economic growth. This is the reason why we are going green in Copenhagen.

Frank Jensen | Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, President of EUROCITIES

I am very pleased to welcome all participants to the Capital Region of Denmark. The Capital Region of Denmark is a very good example of coherent, smart planning that meets business development, transport and infrastructure needs. It is also a region characterised by beautiful green areas and by a high quality of life. I am very much looking forward to a fruitful 2012 Summit and to learning more about how cities and regions can design and implement sustainable models of development in the future.

Vibeke Storm Rasmussen | Chairman of the Regional Council, Capital Region of Denmark
Introduction

Following the success of previous editions in Amsterdam (1997), Wrocław (2005), Rome (2007) and Prague (2009), the 5th European Summit of Regions and Cities sets out to address the urban issue and to promote it as a crucial dimension in the debate on the future of European Union policies. The idea of an “urban fabric” takes account of the long-standing capacity of European cities and regions to re-invent themselves as places to live, with enhanced intellectual, cultural, economic and social exchanges thanks to innovative urban planning and architectural projects. Debates will be triggered by high-profile statements from architects, academics, renowned urban planners and mayors of large cities. They will highlight the importance of multilevel governance and the integrated approach to the “territorial dimension” of regional, urban and rural development.

Europe is one of the most urbanised continents, characterised by a unique polycentric structure of large, midsize and small cities. Approximately 75% of its population live in urban areas, and by 2020 this figure will reach 80%. While cities and urban areas play a central role in achieving the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, more sustainable and socially inclusive growth, they also concentrate nuisances such as urban sprawl, congestion, pollution, social exclusion and criminality that hamper the socio-economic performances of the continent. Whenever urban policies are discussed – at international, European, national and local level – broad agreement exists that they need to address these cross-cutting problems and promote sustainable development.

In the run-up to the United Nations’ Rio+20 conference in June 2012, the debate among urban and regional decision-makers on how to decouple economic growth from increasing consumption of resources is also addressing the economic and financial crisis and climate change. Urban development is one of the key topics arising in the context of the debate on the ‘green economy’. Cities are centres of innovation and can promote clean energy systems, sustainable transportation, waste management and spatial development strategies to reduce greenhouse gases. At the Summit, the Committee of the Regions will adopt a declaration both on the role to be played by urban development in each region and on urban sustainable development as part of the Rio+20 debates.
# The European urban fabric in the 21st century

**Programme**  
**Venue:** Tivoli Congress Center, Copenhagen

## Thursday 22 March 2012

**14:30 – 15:30 Opening session**

**Welcome addresses**  
**Mercedes Bresso**, President of the Committee of the Regions  
**Frank Jensen**, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, President of EUROCITIES  
**Vibeke Storm Rasmussen**, Chairman of the Regional Council, Capital Region of Denmark  
**José Manuel Barroso**, President of the European Commission

## 15:45 – 18:00 Parallel workshops

**Strand A: Urban dynamics and European governance**  
**Congress Hall**  
**Interpretation:** All official EU languages  
**Moderator:** Alex Taylor, Euronews

The urban phenomenon is an integrated part of European identity but there is still a lot of work to do to implement successful and sustainable urban development policies. Despite noticeable progress in some sectors, the EU has until now failed to propose a coherent and integrated policy framework for urban areas. There is still a wide range of national approaches and a high degree of path dependency. However, the Leipzig Charter and current proposed cohesion policy regulations point to an encouraging trend. To what extent do European cities benefit from belonging to the EU, and how can they make their way in a multi-level governance system?

**Introduction:**  
**Claude Jacquier**, National Center for Scientific Research, Grenoble, France

**Speakers:**  
**Antonio Costa**, Mayor of Lisbon, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Portugal  
**Allessandro Cosimi**, Mayor of Livorno, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Italy  
**Burkhard Jung**, Mayor of Leipzig, Germany  
**Marek Woźniak**, Marshall of Wielopolska Region, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Poland

**Conclusions:**  
**Jan Olbrycht**, Member of the European Parliament, Poland

Almost all European cities face the challenges of social inclusion and the need to better engage with their citizens: partnerships and bottom-up participatory processes can increase people's awareness and support for local democratic institutions, as well as ensuring ownership and more efficient public investment to create cities of the future. How can we help the EU multi-level governance system encourage the dissemination and scaling-up of local and regional best practices to foster democracy?

**Introduction:**  
**Simon Güntner**, Professor at the University of Hamburg for Applied Sciences, Germany

**Speakers:**  
**Georgios Kaminis**, Mayor of Athens, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Greece  
**Hanna Zdanowska**, President of the City of Łódź, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Poland  
**Milan Ftáčnik**, Mayor of Bratislava, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Slovakia  
**Daniel Termont**, Mayor of Ghent, Belgium

**Conclusions:**  
**Zita Gurmai**, Member of the European Parliament, Hungary
**Parallel workshops 15:45 – 18:00**

**Workshop B.1:**
How can we develop innovative funding for tomorrow’s green urban economy?

**Workshop B.2:**
Urban development as a major environmental challenge: what kind of sustainable mix of urban, rural and natural spaces should we be aiming for?

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**Strand B: Greener urban strategies: Rio+20 and the role of cities and regions**

Carstensen room


**Moderator: Annette Riedel**, Deutschland Radio, Germany

The transition to a green economy will be at the heart of the Rio+20 Earth Summit. But this will require substantial funding, and the development of innovative financial schemes involving local partners, banks, private companies, and civil society with EU support, in order to have a significant leverage effect while applying market-based instruments. What lessons can be learnt from the cities and regions that have successfully managed the financial shortfall?

**Introduction:**
Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

**Speakers:**
- **Andres Jaadla**, Mayor of Rakvere, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Estonia
- **Javier Maroto Aranzábal**, Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
- **Paul Tisley**, Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council, United Kingdom
- **Graziano Delrio**, Mayor of Reggio Emilia, Italy

**Conclusions:**
Karl Falkenberg, Director-General for Environment, European Commission

Uncontrolled urban development and the spread of urban lifestyles have a disastrous environmental impact (the pressure of urban sprawl on natural land, faster consumption of natural resources, traffic congestion, etc.). However, strict conservation is no longer seen as a long-term solution, and it is not compatible with European land use practices. In building green cities of the future, can we develop a holistic and integrated approach based on carbon neutrality, minimal use of natural resources, closed economic cycles and social inclusion, thus turning density and urban systems into resource efficiency?

**Introduction:**
Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency

**Speakers:**
- **Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz**, Mayor of Warsaw, Poland
- **Ilmar Reepalu**, Mayor of Malmö, CoR Rapporteur on "Contribution of the EU’s local and regional authorities to the UN Conference on sustainable development 2012 (Rio+20)", Sweden
- **Jean-Jack Queyranne**, President of the Rhône-Alpes Region, France
- **Sten Nordin**, Mayor of Stockholm, Sweden

**Conclusions:**
Connie Hedegaard, Member of the European Commission in charge of Climate Action

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**Exhibition “Beautiful, green, smart and inclusive: Colourful cities”**

Speeches by **Mercedes Bresso** and **Vibeke Storm Rasmussen**

**Reception in the Copenhagen City Hall**

Welcoming address by **Frank Jensen**
Friday 23 March 2012

9:00-11:30 Plenary session
Congress Hall
Interpretation: All official EU languages
Moderator: Kim Bildsøe Lassen, Danish Broadcasting Corporation, Denmark

9:00-10:15
The challenges and good practices of global European cities

Global European cities are not necessarily the biggest or the richest but those that actively try to position themselves in the global arena. They are at the forefront of global competition to develop highly innovative or simply effective solutions to the challenges faced today by many other European cities. How can urban planning, architecture and governance help to enhance the attractiveness, creativity and connectivity of cities that ensure economic prosperity and social cohesion, and create jobs?

Statement by Jan Gehl, GEHL Architects ApS, Denmark

Speakers:
Michel Delebarre, President of the Commission for territorial cohesion policy of the Committee of the Regions and Mayor of Dunkirk, France
Alija Behmen, Mayor of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Hella Dunger-Löper, Berlin State Secretary for European Affairs, CoR Rapporteur on "Future cities: environmentally and socially sustainable cities", Germany

10:15-11:30
The city in its environment: Synergies between cities, towns, villages, regions and rural areas

The typical European city is of medium size and creates economic wealth, social cohesion, a good quality of life and cultural and technological innovation only through interaction with the cities or towns that surround it and in association with higher administrative levels, particularly regions. What is the best way to organise peri-urban spaces to ensure mobility, shared responsibility, funding and the best use of resources?

Statement by Alfonso Vegara, Architect, Fundación Metrópoli, Spain.

Speakers:
Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions and President of Murcia Region, Spain
Wolfgang Schuster, Mayor of Stuttgart, Germany, President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions
Enrico Rossi, President of the Tuscany Region, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Italy
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:45-12:45</td>
<td><strong>Closing session</strong></td>
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<td>12:45-13:00</td>
<td><strong>Final declaration</strong></td>
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<td>13:30-16:00</td>
<td><strong>Study tours</strong> by bus to 'green projects' organised by the City of Copenhagen and State of Green</td>
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Congress Hall
Interpretation: All official EU languages

**Martin Schulz**, President of the European Parliament
**Helle Thorning-Schmidt**, Prime Minister of Denmark and President-in-office of the Council of the European Union
**Mercedes Bresso**, President of the Committee of the Regions

**Helle Thorning-Schmidt** and **Martin Schulz**
The Copenhagen metropolitan region is planned according to an urban “Finger Plan”, an example of sustainable development and controlled growth with green urban design. The plan develops the region along different “fingers” with an urban rapid transit and suburban rail network (S-train and Metro), connecting the city centre with the suburbs and affecting around 2 million inhabitants and 34 municipalities.

The project focuses on urban renewal and creates green wedges for agriculture and recreation. The housing and business relocation requirements concentrating in the suburbs lead to a growing need to think across the “fingers”. A partnership between the Region, the State and the Municipalities will permit the construction of a new light rail line in the Ring-3 corridor. The new light rail will connect all 5 “fingers” and improve accessibility for many commuters.

Recently an extra “finger” was developed to include the Amager-island. The opening of the bridge to Malmö in Sweden lead to joint efforts to establish the Øresund region as a Scandinavian hub connected to an international airport and a European high speed train network.

In the coming years, Copenhagen will experience an extraordinary population growth. At the same time, the city has the ambition of becoming the world’s first carbon-neutral capital by 2025. This provides an excellent opportunity for creating a sustainable city in terms of both environmental and economic growth.

**Our plan towards carbon neutrality is:**

- To reduce energy consumption through smart grids, retrofitting and sustainable construction methods.
- To de-carbonise the energy production by increasing the share of wind power, biomass, waste, geothermal power and solar energy.
- To increase the use of bikes, e-mobility and intelligent traffic systems.
- Furthermore, the plan for adaptation to climate changes includes pilot projects and models for financing.

**Partnering into carbon neutrality**

In the further development of the smartest and most climate-friendly solutions, Copenhagen is inviting cities, knowledge institutions and enterprises to collaborate on an international scale. Our solutions should not only be applicable in Copenhagen but relevant to cities all over the world.
At the Summit, the Committee of the Regions inaugurates a thematical exhibition entitled “Beautiful, green, smart and inclusive: Colorful Cities”. It showcases best practice:

- in the fields of architecture and town planning;
- as regards innovation and smart specialisation strategies;
- with respect to energy efficiency, transport and sustainable development;
- promoting inclusion, social innovation and employment.

The exhibition will also be put up at the Committee of the Regions’ premises in Brussels in May 2012.

To complete the exhibition, the participants can see the ‘best of’ of the EUROCITIES photo competition ”My city - my view” organised to celebrate the 25 years of EUROCITIES.

Exhibition partners:

**BEAUTIFUL CITIES**
- Attica Region
  Athens: The field of Mars
- City of Helsinki
  Helsinki Horizon 2030
- Gdynia
  Functionalism in Europe, functionalism in Gdynia
- Lorca
  New Lorca: Recovering from the earthquake
- North Rhine-Westphalia
  The new Emscher valley: Water management meets urban renewal
- Vienna
  Aspern: Vienna's urban lakeside

**GREEN CITIES**
- Basque Country
  EcoEuskadi 2020: A successful process built from the bottom-up
- Capital Region of Denmark
  From an industrial to a green urban design
- City of Copenhagen
  Global challenges, Copenhagen solutions
- City of Malmö
  Making sustainability reality
- Kavala
  Kavala on the Mmove
- Lisbon
  Local Lisbon: Towards a green and resilient city
- Sète
  An eco-system town which conserves and recycles its natural resources
- Sofia
  Sofia's integrated urban transport project

**SMART CITIES**
- City of Gent
  Gent 2020
- City of Westminster
  Electric vehicles in urban europe
- Groningen
  City of talent!
- European Environment Agency:
  Environmental virtues of the Compact City
- Lodz City and Region
  Lodzkie speeds up
- Rakvere
  Smart house and intelligent building competence centre
- Rhône-Alpes Region
  Integrated urban projects

**INCLUSIVE CITIES**
- Colwyn Bay
  Creating a town to be proud of
- Dublin
  Civic participation of new communities through local authorities
- Emilia Region
  Citizens of Reggio Emilia, for example
- Rotterdam
  Inhabitants of Rotterdam do it themselves
- Salzburg
  Winner of the Access City award 2012
- Tuscany region
  Young and sustainable cities
- Uszka
  Housing and social integration model-programme
On Friday, 23 March between 13:30 and 16:00, study tours by bus to 'green projects' will be organised by the City of Copenhagen and State of Green, the official brand for energy, climate adaptation and environmental activities in Denmark. Delegates can register via the Summit website and will be confirmed according to available places. Following the tours, busses will transfer participants to the conference centre or to the airport.

**Study tour 1: Waste-to-Energy**
Visit to Amagerforbrænding, where waste is converted into electricity and district heating for 100,000 households.

**Study tour 2: Green Building, Green City**
Visit the prize-winning 8 House (8-tallet) and get an introduction to the municipality of Copenhagen’s strategy for becoming carbon neutral in 2025.

**Study tour 3: Boat tour to Middelgrunden offshore wind farm**
Visit to the Middelgrunden Offshore Wind Farm, which supplies about 3% of the electricity consumption in Copenhagen.

**Study tour 4: Avedøre Powerstation**
Visit to a combined heat and powerplant whose combined parts can achieve a record-high 94.5% use of energy in fuels, making it one of the most efficient in the world.

The event will be covered by euronews, the media partner of the event. Radio and TV journalists will find the necessary production facilities at the conference venue. Journalists who wish to attend the Summit can find more information and updates on the event website.