

HOW TO REGISTER:

Attendance at the Summit is on invitation only.

Registration and hotel reservation is managed by GUARANT Agency - Official Partner designated by Prague City. We have negotiated preferential rates which apply for participants from 5 to 8 March 2009 in the following official hotels. Please note that Prague City will provide transport from/to the airport and Žofín Palace from these hotels only. For on-line registration please visit the GUARANT Agency website: www.guarant.cz/PragueSummit2009

GUARANT International / Prague Summit 2009

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For online registration and hotel booking visit: www.guarant.cz/PragueSummit2009

1. Hotel Corinthia Towers*****



**Single room: 158 €*
Double room: 158 €*
Kongresová 1, Prague 4
www.towers.corinthia.cz/hotel/en/**

3. Hotel Holiday Inn PCC****



**Single room: 116 €*
Double room: 140 €*
Na Pankráci 15/1684, Prague 4
www.holidayinn.cz/en/home/**

2. Hotel Corinthia Panorama****



**Single room: 114 €*
Double room: 122 €*
Milevská 7, Prague 4
www.panorama.corinthia.cz/hotel/en/**

4. Hotel Majestic Plaza****



**Single room: 157 €*
Double room: 157 €*
Štěpánská 33, Prague 1
www.hotel-majestic.cz**

* Price (may vary depending on currency fluctuations between CZK and EUR) is per room, per night, including breakfast, VAT, fees and shuttle from/to the airport.



Praha

5-6 March 2009

European Summit
of Regions & Cities



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



Dear friends, distinguished guests at the European Summit of Regions and Cities,

It is a great honour for me to welcome you warmly to the Czech capital, to a city bathed in the legacy of its rich cultural and historical past and, equally, to a city which is also a modern, dynamic and rapidly developing metropolis. Welcome to a city which is open, and which extends a friendly welcome to scores of visitors from around the world. Welcome to Prague! I greatly value the fact that Prague will be host to the European Summit of Regions and Cities in March next year. And an event of such magnitude and importance could not take place anywhere else other than in the most lavish surroundings that Prague can offer, the Municipal House and Žofín Palace.

The central theme of the summit will be cohesion policy in Europe today and, above all, the future of the European Union. It is a policy whose effects are felt particularly by those of us at local and regional level on a daily basis. It is we who witness the concrete results of individual projects; we are the ones who are often forced to contend with the complex administrative procedures which the implementation of a given project entails. At this summit, we shall try to identify together the direction in which we want to move forward with this common European policy, whose primary aim is to bolster the least developed areas of Europe. Past experience has shown that a cohesion policy which is focused on effectiveness and specific objectives can bring results which benefit everybody, not just the least developed regions with high unemployment and low levels of competitiveness. Even so, it will be necessary to adjust this policy in the future, to change it in line with the changing world around us. I have a particularly high regard for the work of everyone who has played a role in implementing cohesion policy, as well as for the work of all those who are involved in the discussion on its future and who are thinking about how best to achieve its clear objective – improving people's standard of living.

What form should cohesion policy take after 2013? There is no doubt that it should continue to be an instrument of solidarity between the Member States, with the aim of improving conditions in the poorest regions and transforming them into more competitive places to live and work. We will certainly have to tackle a host of new challenges and search for common solutions to the problems of demographic change and the ageing population. We will definitely face greater demands in terms of environmental protection and natural resources, particularly in the energy field. We will undoubtedly have to tackle problems of unemployment and growing immigration. And there are new factors which we will have to take into account as we set about establishing a fresh set of rules and regulations for European cohesion policy. If we want EU cohesion policy to be successful, we will have to do more than just improve administrative procedures. An open, rational view is absolutely vital; an ability to focus on the crux of the problem, and not to overshadow the main objective by breaking it down into a thousand tiny unrelated measures so that everybody can take a piece of the cake for themselves. I am convinced that this is the only way in which we can all benefit from the end result. The purpose of the summit is to provide a forum for all those of you who want and have something to say about the cohesion policy of the future, and I am greatly looking forward to the findings and initiatives that will come out of this meeting.

In conclusion, I would like to invite you to take part in the programme of events which will be taking place on the streets of the centre of Prague over the two days of the summit, and which will acquaint both local residents and visitors alike with the most valuable resource we have – the cultural diversity of Europe's regions.

I look forward to seeing you in Prague,

Pavel Bém, Mayor of Prague



The Summit will take place just before the **Spring European Council**, to which Europe's Heads of State and Government are attaching particular importance this year, as a key forum in a series of measures for relaunching growth and creating jobs.

Some 600 mayors and presidents of local and regional government will meet in Prague to send a message to Europe's Heads of State and Government about how territorial cohesion could help regional and local authorities to master the challenging economic climate ahead.

Europe is currently feeling the full force of the financial crisis and its effects on the economy, which require it to restore confidence in a better regulated, more transparent banking system and prove that it is capable of relaunching economic growth and job creation by making it easier for SMEs to obtain credit.

In the short term, Europe has proved that it can adapt and respond to the new challenges presented both by this crisis and the destructive effects of globalisation. In the long term, coping with these challenges will require much constancy, clear-sightedness and courage on the part of decision-makers within the institutions. Europe is on the right track for playing its proper role on the world stage.

In these efforts to rally all these political, economic and financial players and institutions, the support which can be provided by cities and regions, which are themselves feeling the effects of the global crisis in their economic and social fabric, should not be forgotten.

Cities and regions are also best placed to stimulate the economy and businesses and to ensure social cohesion and mobilise Europeans to support the European political venture, on the condition that Europe does not impose itself on them but is built from the bottom up, from people and the areas where they live, work and interact with one another, in all their cultural diversity.

For it is through balanced, harmonious regional development that Europe will attain sustainable growth and generate more jobs.

It is also through sound rules on partnership-based governance – in other words, by ensuring a division of powers and responsibilities between local, regional, national and Community levels – that Europe will find the most effective economic solutions.

Europe begins with its regions and cities.

In economic and social matters, Europe is not the enemy, but the solution, as long as Europe becomes stronger politically, and gives tangible signs of doing so.

The City of Prague is the perfect place to celebrate next year's 20th anniversary of the fall of the "Iron Curtain" that once divided our Eastern and Western Europe. Our summit will go some way to showing the world that Europe has overcome its painful divisions. Today, Europe offers freedom to move, growth and work, but also the freedom to choose where to live. Tomorrow, Europe must assure every region and city a chance to be competitive worldwide.

Lastly, in the European Parliament elections next June, strong public participation in the cities and regions will provide the best indication of Europe's democratic and political vitality. It is up to all Europeans to ensure that their votes count.

In this connection, the Prague Summit will allow the voice of the regions and cities to be heard.

Luc Van den Brande, CoR President



Programme

On 5 and 6 March 2009, 600 mayors and presidents of local and regional governments from all over Europe will meet in Prague for the "European Summit of Regions and Cities". Their mission: to send a message to Europe's Heads of State and Government about how to master the economic and political challenges facing the European Union:

"Europe begins with its regions and cities"

Organised jointly by the Committee of the Regions and the City of Prague and part of the programme of the Czech Presidency of the EU, the event will take place in the neo-renaissance Žofín Palace, located on the Slavic Island and with a view on the historic centre of Prague.

The Summit will begin on Thursday, 5 March 2009, in the afternoon followed by a concert and reception for the participants in the city's municipal house in the evening. On 6 March, the audience will be addressed by the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, Mirek Topolánek, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic on behalf of the Presidency of the EU, Luc Van den Brande, President of the Committee of the Regions, and Pavel Bém, the Mayor of Prague. Following the adoption of the declaration of the Summit, a life TV debate on the upcoming elections to the European Parliament will close the event.

Thursday, 5 March 2009

Between 14:00 and 18:00, the programme will consist of two conferences on **"global challenges and territorial policies: which is the way ahead?"** The conferences offer the opportunity to representatives of the European Commission, European associations and international organisations to discuss questions related territorial cohesion and multi-level governance in a global perspective.

As of 19:00, the participants will be invited to a concert in the city's municipal hall, "Obecní dům" (see photo on the front page), followed by the Official Reception.

Friday, 6 March 2009

- **09:00 - 09:45 : Opening Session** including keynote speeches by
 - **Pavel Bém**, Mayor of Prague
 - **Luc Van den Brande**, President of the Committee of the Regions
 - **Mirek Topolánek**, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic on behalf of the Presidency of the EU
 - **José Manuel Barroso**, President of the European Commission
- **09:50 - 11:05 : "Europe will grow with its regions and cities"**
- **11:05 - 12:25 : "Sharing responsibility, making partnership concrete"**
- **12:25 - 12:30 : Conclusions of the Summit**
- **13:00 - 14:00 : TV debate: "Voting for Europe: The challenge of the European elections"**



Slavic Island with Žofín Palace



Charles Bridge and Prague Castle