



Digital Conference | Brussels, 30 September 2020

Building back better: A stronger social Europe What role for cities?

Hosted by MEPs



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DRAFT
PROGRAMME



#inclusivecities4all
#MySocialEurope

9.30 – 10.00 Technical check-in and videos

10.00 – 11.15 **SESSION I: How to move social Europe forward with cities as partners?**

The corona crisis offers an opportunity to build a more inclusive and sustainable society. The recovery is our chance to do more than just undo the effects of the pandemic crisis. It is time to 'build back better' by putting people first. Many cities are already doing this. The Eurocities campaign 'Inclusive cities for all: social rights in my city' shows how cities take action to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights to ensure a fair and inclusive recovery, leaving no one behind.

- **Welcome and opening remarks**
Anna Lisa Boni, Secretary General, Eurocities
Estrella Dura Ferrandis, Member of European Parliament
- **Launch of Eurocities statement on reinforcing social Europe with cities**
Sedat Arif, Deputy Mayor of Malmo, chair of Eurocities Social Affairs Forum
- **Announcement of new city pledges to the European Pillar of Social Rights**
Mayors and deputy mayors presenting their commitments and actions
- **Live chat with**
Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights (tbc)

Q & A with participants

11.15 – 12.15 **SESSION II: How to tackle rising urban poverty and inequalities? The role of EU policy and funding to support social investment in public social services**

The corona crisis has exacerbated pre-existing social inequalities. Poverty is rapidly rising in cities with new groups of people at risk of poverty - the 'new urban poor'. Territorial inequalities are also deepening, with people living in deprived urban areas being most heavily affected. Social cohesion is at risk. Tackling these social impacts will require considerable social investment at local level. Cities are already seeing an increasing demand for social services at local level, but municipal budgets are under pressure. These urban problems need European solutions.

High-level panel debate

Moderated by Ivo Banek, Director of Communications, Eurocities

Speakers:

- Agnes Jongerius, Member of European Parliament
- Brando Benifei, Member of European Parliament
- Katarina Ivanković-Knežević, Director of Social Affairs European Commission
- Dr. Rolf Schmachtenberg, Permanent State Secretary at Germany's Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (tbc)
- Katharina Niewiedzial, Commissioner of the Senate for Integration and Migration, Berlin
- Michiel Grauss, Deputy Mayor for poverty reduction, Rotterdam

Q & A with participants

Programme | Digital high-level conference

Building back better: A stronger social Europe – What role for cities?

30 September 2020 @ 10.00 – 12.30

12.15 – 12.30 **Key takeaways: What next for a stronger social Europe?**

- **Maarten van Ooijen**, Deputy Mayor of Utrecht and vice-chair of Eurocities Social Affairs Forum

Wrap up and launch of Eurocities website dedicated to #inclusivecities4all

- **Ivo Banek**, Director of Communications, Eurocities

12.30 – 13.30 Networking lunch online (*optional*)



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