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**Building the Directorate General for Urban Affairs in European Union.
*A proposal for the European Commission.*¹**

1. - Place of the cities as major development resource
2. - The urban dimension of European policies
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The present document gathers reflection elements that allow sustaining the irreversibility of the process that leads to the creation of a Directorate General for Urban Affairs

The present text is based essentially on political documents on urban affairs elaborated in the extent of the EU.

1. -Place of the cities as major development resource

1.1 - The cities are more and more the place of the great challenges of Europe. *“Towns and cities in Europe present a paradox – be aware that half the population live in urban areas with more than 50,000 inhabitants. On the one hand, they are the motors of growth in an increasingly global economy, concentrating wealth, knowledge and technical capacity. They are also centers for the provision of public services, such as education, healthcare and transportation. At the same time, however, many of the worst problems society faces today are concentrated in urban areas, including economic and social exclusion, degradation of the natural and built environment, congestion, crime, intolerance and racism, and loss of local identity”.*²

The Ministerial Meeting Urban Policy ‘Cities Empower Europe’ Rotterdam 30 Nov 2004 recognized that *“In achieving the goals of the Lisbon and the Gothenburg agendas, ministers acknowledge that linking economic competitiveness to social inclusion and environmental quality is a crucial challenge*

¹ Document prepared by Luda’ team at the Centro de Estudos de Socio-urbanismo – Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias-Lisbon and presented in Luda’s workshop at Florence 28-06-2004. Also presented at the Lisbon meeting of the European research project TECHNOLANGUE: *Intégration entre les langages de la planification et de l’information en vue de l’élaboration de cartes interactives d’espace Medocc-Meda et des systèmes de transport correspondants* .31/03-1/04-2005,

² Directorate General – Regional Policy, Europe’s cities, the Structural Funds and the URBAN Community Initiative Partnership with the Cities, 2003

*on the urban policy agenda in all European countries. Ministers acknowledge that policies need to focus both upon economic opportunities in cities as well as the social needs of cities in order to achieve success in urban development. Therefore Ministers promote strongly the role of cities in local, regional, national and European policies in achieving sustainable urban growth”.*³

1.2 - In the last years it is possible to identify changes of attitudes in national, regional and local policies that tend for the adoption of common ideas such as: partnership, integration, foresight, town planning quality, qualification and innovation in the professional profiles.

Moreover, the urban subjects are widely integrated and accepted in European policies as is reflected in the Declarations of Lisbon and of Gothenburg.

The vast bibliography produced in the EU, from the Green Paper on the Urban Environment, testifies the place and the importance of the urban affairs in the territorial and social structuring of the whole Europe.

In fact, the objectives of European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) have been “summarized freely as the intention to use a spatial framework for coordinating a broad number of policies concerning the continent, all of which have an impact on the condition and use of the European territory. In this sense, the ESDP breaks new ground, as its approach is trans-sector and integrating, but also proactive. This should be contrasted to the traditional physical planning approach - still prevalent in many parts of Europe - which tends to be reactive and regulatory, and looks at the spatial dimension mainly on physical and technical terms. It is, therefore, an initiative to be commended and strongly supported by all those concerned about a better future for the European Union and its people.”⁴

Looking at these questions in the frame of a new awareness of urban affairs in Europe it is clear that urban development and spatial organization on sustainable development have at the frontiers

2. - The urban dimension of European policies

It is verified however that the urban dimension is in the aim of many European sectorial policies and it wins sense just in the context of those policies. The European dimension of the urban affairs in the development of Europe has not been recognized as sufficiently relevant matter, to base the definition for European urban politic.

This fact it is verified in the recent Declaration of Vienna

“Although, when talking about urban policy in the EU, reference is usually made to Regional Policy, there are quite a number of other European policies that are having a significant impact on cities and urban development throughout the EU. These include policies in relation to the Environment, Employment and Social Affairs, and Transport.

Despite the recognition over the past decade of the need for a more integrated approach towards urban issues at European level, the situation up until now is still very fragmented, with a limited number of small-scale and short-term initiatives”.⁵

We know that the European Union urban policy has been laid down in several documents, particularly in Commission Communications “Towards an Urban Agenda in the European Union” (1997) and “Urban Sustainable Development in the EU: a Framework for Action” (1998). These documents mainly focus on four policy aims: strengthening economic prosperity and employment in towns and cities; promoting

³ Ministerial Meeting Urban Policy ‘Cities Empower Europe’ Rotterdam 30 Nov 2004

⁴ The European Spatial Development Perspective (E.S.D.P.) Comments and recommendations from the European Consultative Forum on the Environment and Sustainable Development 1999

⁵ EUROCITIES Vienna Declaration *final version* For an Integrated Approach towards Urban Issues and Reinforced Cooperation with Cities in the European Union, Vienna 12-Nov-2004

equality, social inclusion and regeneration in urban areas; protecting and improving the urban environment: towards local and global sustainability; contributing to good urban governance and local empowerment.

But in the meantime, the Urban affairs are still distributed or, better said, spread among the different EU Institutions: European Commission, Directorates, Advisory bodies such as the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions with their own commissions (Territorial Cohesion Policy, Sustainable Development, Culture and Education, Economic and Social Policy) and in many of the 15 European Agencies.

The issue of programs focused on spatial development, environment and support to scientific research has its origin in the most different activity sectors in the EU and are supported by funds from most different places.

3.- For an Urban strategy with an European dimension

However the complexity of the urban subjects by itself and his integration in the widest vision of the European development, indicates that it is necessary to reformulate the place that these subjects should occupy in the European institutions.

This concern has been expressed in numerous occasions indicating that it is necessary to work the European dimension of the urban affairs in the definition of you common policies for a better national governments' articulation. These factors are referred in several documents of the largest relevance. In the declaration of Vienna of Eurocities is undoubtedly declared: "From the cities' perspective, a more integrated approach is needed towards urban areas at the level of the European Union, taking the urban dimension into consideration during the conception, development and implementation of all policies, programmes and legislation with a direct or indirect impact on cities and their citizens.

This would require, within the European Commission, a systematic coordination between the different Directorates-General (DGs) dealing with relevant issues, in order to ensure that policies and actions are complementing and reinforcing each other.⁶

Also in the final document of Ministerial Meeting Urban Policy 'Cities Empower Europe' Rotterdam 30 Nov 2004

"Ministers acknowledge the need to make a next step in the collaboration between member states. Ministers agree to develop further the Lille priorities with the aim to improve urban policies and in this respect to improve the coordination between local, regional, national and European levels of government.

Ministers recognize that urban challenges vary considerably between the 25 EU member states. In implementing the Lille Priorities new policy issues must be addressed. These are in particular the challenges of improving physical infrastructure and the urban environment, the need for affordable housing, problems of social exclusion developing in large housing estates in many of the member states, and addressing the specific challenges faced by young people and ethnic minority communities in cities.

Ministers stress the need to exchange knowledge and practical experience of urban policies between cities, regions, member states and European institutions. Such knowledge will help to develop policies that encourage economic growth, social inclusion and environmental quality".⁷

⁶ idem

⁷ Ministerial Meeting Urban Policy 'Cities Empower Europe' Rotterdam 30_Nov 2004

At the Conclusions of the French Presidency of the European Union at the end of the informal meeting of Ministers responsible for urban affairs at the Conference “Europe, spatial and urban development” Lille, 2 November 2000

“- Intensify the co-operation between the Member States at all levels in order to confront the urban policy implemented in every country, then to form and specify a common doctrine on the large orientations of urban policy that they expect to conduct as well on an EU scale, all to the extent to which they are concerned in their own framework of responsibility.

*- Encourage the initiatives taken by the Commission in the urban field so that a true urban policy, reflected and structured, substitute the simple addition of EU measures destined to different urban areas, even though EU competences on urban policy are not questioned at that stage. The urban dimension will need to be included as one of the main priorities in the future reform of regional and structural policy in the European Union regarding the enlargement and the following programming period of Structural Funds starting from 2007”.*⁸

Thus, for prudent reasons, it is obviously important to create a co-ordination body in the EU structures where the Ariadne’s thread of the European Urban affairs policy could be located.

It is difficult to understand why the urban affairs are not centralized in a general directorate like the Fisheries, Environment, Agriculture, Energy and Transportation.

And we believe that the challenges of Urban Affairs have at least the same strategic dimensions, for the future of Europe.

The creation of a General Directorate for the urban affairs means naturally the definition of clear objectives to establish a profitable articulation with the other instances of the EU

4. - Guiding principles of the General Directorate for Urban Affairs

4.1 - Principle of the Transparency

Establish a face for European urban affairs, to avoid fragmentation of responsibilities through hundreds of cabinets and services.

4.2. - Principle of assumption

Assume the urban realities without dependence of eventual attention rendered on the part of other instances that naturally analyze each subject to the light of there own strategy.

4.3 - Principle of the co-responsibility

“Promotion of the territorial dialogue” just as it was proposed by Roman Prodi, President of the European Commission and Peter Straub, President of the Committee of the Regions.

4.5 - Principle of the Integration

The urban subjects occupy a place of primordial importance in the European development and they represent an own logic, but at the same time, they are fruit and they condition all of the challenges and objectives of the EU.

4.6 - Principle of the contract

The urban affairs should be based on dialogue and clear contract between public and private entities

4.7 - Principle of equity

The richness produced by urban transformations should be shared with equity and democracy, based on participation processes, among public and private actors and among citizens involved and interested on them.

⁸ Conclusions of the French Presidency of the European Union at the end of the informal meeting of Ministers responsible for urban affairs at the Conference “Europe, spatial and urban development” Lille, 2 November 2000

5. – Main goals of the General Directorate for Urban Affairs

- 5.1. - Promote a global and integrated approach in urban policy orientated to sustainable development of all space of EU, based on spatial, social and economic domains
- 5.2. - Promote research for better acknowledgement of the role, problems and perspectives of towns and cities in spatial planning for the European sustainable development.
- 5.3. - Promote a common language, tools and legislation for urban affairs
- 5.4.- Promote a innovative urban action through programmes properly articulated to each other.
- 5.5. - Promote the qualification of human resources through the definition and search of new professional profiles in dialogue particularly with the universities.
- 5.6. - To provide the different instances of the EU with the necessary and strategic elements for the decisions with impact in the urban affairs.
- 5.7. - To assure the access of all Europeans citizens to the improvements resulting from the urban qualification on the European space.
- 5.8. - To share with all countries of the world, the knowledge on the urban subjects, seeking to develop partnerships particularly with the developing countries.
- 5.9. – Promote cultural heritage, territorial landscape and social cohesion as the fundamentals of local regional and European development.
- 5.10.- Promote common language and tools with South Mediterranean countries through projects and programmes particularly with local institutions.

Mentioned documents:

The European Spatial Development Perspective - Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory of the EU (E.S.D.P.) Comments and recommendations from the European Consultative Forum on the Environment and Sustainable Development 1999

Conclusions of the French Presidency of the European Union at the end of the informal meeting of Ministers responsible for urban affairs at the Conference “Europe, spatial and urban development” Lille, 2 November 2000

EUROCITIES Vienna Declaration *final version* For an Integrated Approach towards Urban Issues and Reinforced Cooperation with Cities in the European Union, Vienna 12-Nov-2004

Ministerial Meeting Urban Policy ‘Cities Empower Europe’ Rotterdam 30_Nov 2004

	Reference documents
2004	Informal EU ministerial meeting on Urban Policy 30 Nov 2004 Conclusions of the informal ministerial meeting on Urban Policy, chaired by the Dutch Minister for Government Reform and Kingdom Relations. The ministers want more attention paid to the role of cities as engines of economic development and a better social climate. In achieving the goals of the Lisbon and the Gothenburg agendas, ministers acknowledge that linking economic competitiveness to social inclusion and environmental quality is a crucial challenge on the urban policy agenda in all European countries. Ministers acknowledge that policies need to focus both upon economic opportunities in cities as well as the social needs of cities in order to achieve success in urban development. Urban acquis and sharing experience The experiences of the past decade of the different European countries on urban policy have generated set of common principles that underpin successful policies. Ministers value this 'Urban Acquis' as a basis of a more coherent approach to urban policy. They encourage the development of urban policies on the basis of this Urban Acquis. Good practice and successes should therefore be promoted widely. Policies should be subject to evaluation. The ministers recognise the need to reflect innovative urban strategies in their European employment action plans and in the national action plans on social inclusion. Strengthening collaboration between Member States on urban policy The ministers agreed in piloting a European Knowledge Network: The network will build on experience of the existing URBACT programme but aims to cover a wider range of policies and cities. The pilot will be carried out under the responsibility of the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations with the voluntary participation of other Member States and the support of URBACT. Urban on the EU agenda Ministers value that Cohesion Policy has made a substantial contribution to urban development through actions in mainstream "Objective 1, 2 and 3" programmes as well as through the Urban Community Initiative. Ministers confirm their preparedness to co-operate with the Commission on implementing the urban content of the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas. They stress the need to take account of the diverse urban realities present in the enlarged European Union Implementation strategy Ministers acknowledge the need for the development of an implementation strategy for the coming two years, which translates the overarching goals and the policy commitments the Ministers agreed upon into concrete actions. Ministers ask the Dutch and the coming Presidencies together with the Commission to develop the implementation strategy for 2005 and 2006 in cooperation with the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions. It should include the consideration of priority fields, actions and a time schedule, identify the participating member states and must take into account the practicalities of implementation. http://www.dutchuec.nl/kcgs/show/id=136088/

2004	European City Summit 2004, Noordwijk - the Netherlands The third City Summit, organized by the European Commission in conjunction with the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, took place in Noordwijk, Netherlands, on 18 and 19 October. The conference was held in the run-up to the ministerial conference on urban affairs in Rotterdam on 30 November, and was attended by over six hundred representatives of towns and cities in all the EU member states. The European Commission and the Dutch presidency welcomed mayors, interest groups, Commission staff and others involved in urban programmes in Europe. The first City Summit took place in London in 2002, the second in Milan in 2003. Cities are the engines of social and economic growth and innovation. They are at the forefront of sustainable social development and social cohesion. At the conference opening Jacques Barrot, the commissioner with responsibility for regional policy, explained that 'The Commission proposes to reinforce the role of cities in the next generation of European development programmes due to start in 2007'. The Commission's proposal includes an increase in funding for projects in towns and cities as well as more exchanges of best practices. The conference also saw the presentation of the Urban Audit: a large databank with comparative data on 189 towns and cities in fifteen EU member states which will provide a wealth of information. The system contains data on over three hundred indicators for each town or city. By exchanging and sharing this knowledge it will be possible to eliminate inequalities in cities and concentrate on each community's strong points. Many of the speakers and panel members argued for more room and more possibilities for urban programmes in the European context in the future so that the sharing of knowledge and expertise in the EU can be put to maximum effect. The second day saw the presentation of a survey of urban policy in the member states. This Dutch study is a follow-up to a survey of the fifteen old member states, updated with a survey of the ten countries that acceded in May this year. Vice-premier and minister for Government Reform and Kingdom Relations Thomas de Graaf observed that at the national level there was growing interest in a targeted approach to urban problems, reflecting the rising importance of urban policy at all levels including the European. In his speech Mr de Graaf also spoke of the forthcoming European urban network: 'this will have to consist of local, national and European knowledge networks linked to each other. We want to use the existing URBACT structure. A working party consisting of representatives of member states, government think-tanks and cities will further elaborate this in a pilot for the coming two years, and will be required to report its initial results in mid 2005. On 30 November the Dutch presidency is to hold an informal ministerial conference on urban policy. The ministers at the conference, which is to be held in Rotterdam, will join in discussions on such subjects as the role of cities in the knowledge economy and social exclusion. The presidency also wants to make moves in the collaboration between cities, member states and the European Commission and to conclude appropriate strategic arrangements for the years to come. http://www.dutchuec.nl/kcgs/show/id=136088/

2004	EUROCITIES Vienna Declaration 'EUROCITIES Vienna Declaration' was officially adopted by EUROCITIES members on the occasion of EUROCITIES Annual Conference, which took place in Vienna from 10 to 12 November 2004. It sets out a series of 18 specific proposals for strengthening the cooperation between cities, national governments and the EU institutions, in order to improve policy-making and implementation at all levels. SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS With this Declaration, EUROCITIES wishes to contribute to a more integrated and balanced approach towards urban issues, both at European level and at national level, and outline avenues for reinforced cooperation with cities in the European Union. EUROCITIES does so through a set of concrete proposals addressed to the Council and the Member States, to the European Commission, and to the European Parliament. The Constitutional Treaty and evolving governance processes are creating a suitable framework for reinforced cooperation with local and regional authorities, and setting the stage for more integrated approaches towards complex challenges. Increasingly, European policies and programmes, in areas such as regional policy and environmental policy, are addressing the specific needs and circumstances of urban areas. Although these developments towards the mainstreaming of urban issues at European level are to be welcomed, there remains a need for a more coherent and coordinated approach towards the implementation of European policies in urban areas. Meanwhile, in the Member States of the European Union, significant changes have been taking place in relation to the institutional context at national level, and especially the relationship between national governments and local and regional authorities. In many countries, there is a growing recognition of the need for more integrated approaches to urban challenges and for structured dialogue with large cities. This has led to a number of interesting developments, such as: increased coordination of complementary policy sectors; new laws facilitating local partnerships; the promotion of citizens' participation in local decision-making processes; and national policy measures designed to ensure the balanced development of cities and regions. The major challenges that are currently being faced by the European Union and by the Member States will only be tackled by developing more balanced and integrated policy approaches, involving a wide range of stakeholders, including the large cities. These challenges include: achieving the Lisbon and Göteborg objectives; ensuring a better balance between the imperatives of economic growth and competitiveness, and those of social cohesion and eradicating poverty; fighting all kinds of discrimination; supporting the creation of quality jobs; and ensuring a sound provision of reliable services that are accessible and affordable for all citizens. They also include the need to promote sustainable development and address threats to our environment by promoting positive changes in relation to energy consumption and transport patterns. http://eurocities.ugr.be/eurocities/Documents/Vienna_Declaration_EN.pdf
2001	Gothenburg Agenda The Gothenburg European Council in June 2001 completed the Lisbon strategy by adding an environmental dimension. It focussed on a new emphasis to protect the environment and achieve a more sustainable pattern of development. The Gothenburg European Council set out key environmental objectives and target dates at strategic, political and legislative levels, taking account of international

	agreements. The Council added the environmental dimension to the Lisbon process as its ‘third pillar’, the others being economic and social reform. Integration of environmental protection into other Community policies became a requirement. Sustainable development deals with economic, social and environmental policies in a mutually reinforcing way. Priorities include combating climate change, ensuring sustainable transport, addressing threats to public health and managing natural resources more responsible. For the four priorities, the Gothenburg European Council agreed on: • Climate change: Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, Kyoto targets. Progress towards electricity generated from renewable sources. • Sustainable transport: Decoupling gross domestic product from transport growth. Tackling rising traffic volumes, congestion, noise and pollution. Encouraging the use of and investment in environmentally friendly transport and related infrastructure. • Public health: Respond to citizens’ concerns regarding food safety, the use of chemicals, infectious diseases and antibiotic resistance. • Resource management: Decoupling resource use and the generation of waste from growth. Since 2002, the Gothenburg strategy has been subject to ongoing monitoring and adjustment, the results of which are published in a separate chapter of the Commission’s annual report on the Lisbon strategy. The latter is usually published in March of each year, before the spring European Council. http://www.dutchuec.nl/kcgs/show/id=136088/
2000	Lille Action Programme The Lille Action Programme is a proposal for a multi-annual programme of co-operation in urban affairs in the European Union. It was adopted at the informal meeting of ministers dealing with urban affairs in Lille on 3 November 2000. The programme proposes a common set of nine priorities. The Lille Action Programme is based on a report prepared by the Committee on Spatial Development in the autumn of 2000. The main aim of the report is to help Member States, the Commission and cities to give more tangible form to the policy objectives defined at European level to the challenges facing cities. The programme proposes a common set of nine priorities: • A better acknowledgement of the role of towns and cities in spatial planning • A new approach of urban policies on national and community levels • Improving citizens participation • Action to tackle social and ethnic segregation • Promote an integrated and balanced urban development • Promote partnership between public and private sectors • Diffusion of best practices and networking • Promote the use of modern technology in urban affairs • A further analysis of the urban areas to deepen the knowledge of interlinked phenomena in the cities The programme proposes furthermore to establish more permanent platforms within the EU with respect to exchange of information including best and worst practices of urban policy. http://www.dutchuec.nl/kcgs/show/id=136088/

2000	The Lisbon strategy: stimulating the European knowledge economy The Lisbon strategy was formulated at the European Council meeting of heads of government and state held in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March 2000. The strategic goal for 2010 is to make the European economy the world's most competitive and dynamic knowledge economy. This, it is argued, will produce sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. The strategy initially consisted of economic and social ambitions, but environmental goals were added during the European council's meeting in Gothenburg in 2001. The aim is to encourage sustainable development through the concerted exercise of economic, social and environmental policy. The principal themes of this integrated strategy are: • permanent education • social inclusion • environmental protection • information and communication technology, ICT • employment • innovation and business climate. Implementation of the strategy is by the open coordination method. This 'soft' way of developing, implementing and monitoring policy entails EU member states comparing their progress in the areas of the Lisbon strategy, exchanging good practices, and together evaluating the implementation. Every spring, the European Council meets to discuss overall progress and set out guidelines for the realisation of the strategic goals. http://www.dutchuec.nl/kcgs/show/id=136088/
1999	European Spatial Development Perspective Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory of the European Union ESDP 1 The Spatial Approach at European Level ESDP 1.1 The "Territory": a New Dimension of European Policy (1) The characteristic territorial feature of the European Union (EU) is its cultural variety, concentrated in a small area. This distinguishes it from other large economic zones of the world, such as the USA, Japan and MERCOSUR 1 . This variety – potentially one of the most significant development factors for the EU – must be retained in the face of European integration. Spatial development policies, therefore, must not standardize local and regional identities in the EU, which help enrich the quality of life of its citizens. (2) Since European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) came into force, European integration has made considerable progress 2 . With growing economic and social integration, internal borders are increasingly losing their separating character and more intensive relationships and inter-dependencies are emerging between cities and regions of the Member States. This implies that effects of regional, national or Community projects in one country can have a considerable impact on the spatial structure of other Member States. In implementing Community policy, greater attention must be paid, in future, to spatial factors at an early stage, particularly because it will no longer be possible to compensate for regional productivity disparities by consequently adjusting exchange rates. In that respect, spatial planning can help avoid increases in such regional disparities. (3) Development projects in different Member States complement each other best, if they are directed towards common objectives for spatial development. Therefore, national

	spatial development policies of the Member States and sectoral policies of the EU require clear spatially transcient development guidelines. These are presented in this (4) Competition in the Single European Market is one of the driving forces for spatial development in the EU and will be intensified even more by EMU. Even though regions, cities and local authorities have already started co-operating in diverse fields, they compete with each other for economic activities, jobs and infrastructure. Currently, however, not all European regions start from a similar point. This complicates the strengthening of the economic and social cohesion of the EU. It is therefore important gradually to aim at a spatial balance designed to provide a more even geo-graphical distribution of growth across the territory of the EU (aiming at cohesion). (7) Spatial development issues in the EU can, in future, only be resolved through co-operation between different governmental and administrative levels. In the wake of European integration, closer relations at all levels are developing: between the regions themselves and between the regions and the national and European authorities. Cities and regions are becoming more dependent, both on global trends and decisions at the Community level. European integration could benefit spatial development by encouraging the participation of cities and regions. http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/some_en.htm
1997	Towards an Urban Agenda in the European Union (1997) (...) At the European level, the European Parliament and the Committee of Regions have supported a more active intervention from the Union in urban development, and the Member States and the European Commission acknowledged their common concern about the future sustainable development of cities at the recent UN Conference on Sustainable Urban Development (HabitatII). This Communication examines possibilities for improving urban development and for increasing the effectiveness of existing Community intervention in urban areas. The intention is not to develop Europe wide urban policies for matters which are best dealt with at a local or regional scale. However, since it is clear that cities in the European Union are facing a number of common problems, there are also opportunities at the European scale to share and facilitate potential solutions. This would not require additional powers at the European level. Rather, much can be achieved through a more focused approach using existing instruments at national and Community level and enhanced co-operation and co-ordination at all levels. (...). This Communication is structured into four parts. The first part sets out the key challenges which affect all cities to a greater or lesser degree. The second part takes stock of existing EU policies which have an impact, directly or indirectly, on cities. The third part proposes some directions for future actions and the approach which urban policy in Europe could take as a starting point for debate. Finally, fourth part proposes a follow-up of this communication, in particular the organisation of an Urban Forum in 1998 http://europa.eu.int/comm/urban/documents/d004_en.pdf
1992	European Urban Charter

The European Urban Charter is an initiative of the Council of Europe's former Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and originates from 1992. It defines citizens' rights in European towns. The Charter provides a practical guide to good urban management, covering: housing, urban architecture, energy, transport, sport and leisure, street security, pollution.

The European Urban Charter contains a series of principles on good urban management at local level and is based on the belief that citizens have basic urban rights. Its main purpose is to provide a practical tool and urban management handbook for local authorities.

It concentrates on qualitative aspects of urban development and quality of life considerations, in line with the overall vocation of the Council of Europe for the protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights. Central elements of the Charter are:

- urban security
- housing
- environment
- multicultural integration
- transport
- sport and leisure

Political, economic, social and cultural change in Europe over recent years has necessitated revision of the European Urban Charter. This mainly concerns policy themes such as:

- employment
- social exclusion
- information technology
- good governance
- globalization
- sustainable development

In 2004 the revised Charter will be submitted for approval to the successor of the Standing Conference, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. This is a consultative body of the Council of Europe regarding all aspects of local and regional policy.

<http://www.dutchuec.nl/kcgs/show/id=136088/>