

**EURO
CITIES**THE NETWORK
OF MAJOR
EUROPEAN
CITIES

Mr Adrian Bragea
City of Timisoara
International Cooperation Department
1 C.D. Loga Bd.
RO-1900 Timisoara
Romania

Brussels, 15 January 2009

Subject: EUROCITIES Membership Fee 2009

Dear Mr Bragea,

As the new Secretary General of EUROCITIES I am pleased to offer you my best wishes for 2009, with all the challenges that we face in this difficult economic climate. Europe's cities are at the forefront of the current crisis, facing increased pressures on services, threats to jobs and investment, and the social and physical consequences of economic turbulence. Even so, the longer term questions posed by globalisation, demographic and climate change remain pressing. Therefore the need for Europe's major cities to work together to shape the European policy response is stronger than ever.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for the commitment and support of your city in relation to EUROCITIES activities during 2008. The difficulties over the Lisbon Treaty have highlighted the need for the European institutions and Member State Governments to engage their citizens far more effectively. EUROCITIES has made a convincing case for the greater involvement of city governments in policy-making in order to bring Europe closer to the people. We have earned a privileged dialogue with the European institutions and have worked successfully with the Slovenian and French EU Presidencies on urban issues. Together we have had strong influence in particular in the areas of urban mobility, social policy and climate change; we have facilitated fruitful international exchange and a range of partnership projects funded by EU programmes.