



**EURO
CITIES**

THE NETWORK
OF MAJOR
EUROPEAN
CITIES

CITY OF TIMISOARA

Ms. Diana Donawell
International Cooperation Department
1C.D. Loga Bd.
RO-300030 Timisoara
Romania

Brussels, 4 January 2013

Subject: EUROCITIES Membership Fee 2013

Dear Ms Donawell,

I enclose our invoice for your city's 2013 membership of EUROCITIES. In the face of the continuing financial pressures on our member cities, I am pleased once again to have adopted a budget in the forthcoming year that requires zero increase on current membership rates. We have frozen subscriptions now for four years running and they still remain at 2009 levels; taking inflation into account this represents a real-terms reduction of some 10%. Despite the crisis our membership remains stable and our finances remain sound.

Clearly we are at a critical stage in the European agenda. Discussions on the shape and structure of the EU budget from 2014 are close to conclusion. Cohesion policy is probably the most important for our members. Our challenge is to ensure that the Commission's 'ambitious urban agenda' not only survives the next rounds of scrutiny and negotiation, but, when implemented, really puts cities in the driving seat. We have convincingly made the same case too in other programme areas, including innovation, climate and transport. As a result the Commission's 'Smart Cities' initiative represents an important shift in both EU policy and approach and a real opportunity for our members.



I would like therefore to thank you and your colleagues for your city's commitment and support during this past year. If you were at our EUROCITIES 2012 annual conference in Nantes in November you will have heard about the significant progress we are making. In these difficult times there is growing recognition that any economic recovery will be led by metropolitan Europe. Our new president, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, mayor of Warsaw, will head our continuing dialogue with the EU institutions.

This will be the first time our network has been led from a central European city, and only the second time by a woman. Our president will be ably supported by a new vice-president, the mayor of Nantes, and by the rest of the EUROCITIES Executive Committee, which the mayors of Barcelona and Turin have now joined. We also have six new forum chairs: Birmingham (environment), Bologna (culture), Ghent (knowledge society), The Hague (social affairs), Liverpool (economic development), and Mannheim (mobility). Our forums continue to attract high levels of participation by addressing pressing EU policy developments and fostering dialogue and mutual learning; much of this exchange takes the form of partnership projects funded by EU programmes.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments about EUROCITIES and our activities.

Thanking you once again for your city's continuing support for EUROCITIES.

With kind regards,

Paul Bevan
Secretary General

Encl. Membership fee 2013 invoice