



# Breakfast Meeting of the EP Urban Intergroup

European Parliament  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Introductory speech by  
Lord Mayor Dr Frank Mentrup, City of Karlsruhe**

Mr. Olbrycht,  
Distinguished Members of the European Parliament,  
Partners of the „Partnership for Urban Mobility“,

I am both honoured and delighted to be here today in my role as coordinator of the „Partnership for Urban Mobility“, and to present to you – together with our partners – the current status of our project.

On behalf of the coordinators and of all project partners, I thank you very much, Mr. Olbrycht, for the kind invitation to this Breakfast Meeting of the Urban Intergroup.

We highly appreciate your interest in our project and your willingness to exchange ideas and discuss the development of our work.

Since the beginning of 2017, the City of Karlsruhe and the Czech Republic have been coordinating the „Partnership for Urban Mobility“.

Together with our twenty-one project partners from across Europe, we have elaborated an ambitious Action Plan which covers the four thematic areas „Governance & planning“, „Active modes of transport“, „New mobility services & innovation“ as well as „Public transport & accessibility“. In addition, our partners have elaborated two policy recommendations: on involving municipalities, cities and



regions in the multi-annual financial planning as well as on the improvement of cross-border mobility, which plays a key role in highlighting the added value of European integration in people's daily lives.

The Action Plan will shortly be adopted by the partnership. This means that we will be soon entering the implementation phase – the last phase of our project.

Therefore, we would like to take the opportunity to briefly present to you the nine actions with their concrete objectives and intended outcomes. And we would like to discuss with you in what way the Action Plan can have a real impact in addressing the future challenges of urban mobility in Europe.

In the discussion, we would also like to go beyond the concrete Action Plan and to exchange views about the potential of the partnership as a tool to implement the „Pact of Amsterdam“, and to successfully strengthen the cities' influence at EU level.

Let me assure you that we, the coordinators, fully support the „Urban Agenda for the EU“! Earlier this year, the political support of our partners became particularly visible at the meeting of the political leaders of the „Partnership for Urban Mobility“. The Karlsruhe gathering resulted in a „Joint political statement“ that shows our partners' strong commitment for the project. You will find the statement in front of you.

However, the „Urban Agenda“ is a quite young initiative – it is still more of an experiment and far from being a consolidated and acknowledged working method.

We very much appreciate the bottom-up approach of the „Urban Agenda“. It introduces a new form of multi-level cooperation among stakeholders from all levels. With this, the „Urban Agenda“ is – without any doubt – a step in the right direction. It paves the way for cities to get involved in EU policy-making.

But how can this new cooperation model be anchored in the political dialogue process after the end of the project partnership?

How can we maintain and further develop the active involvement of cities in EU policy-making in the long run?

These are the questions we would like to discuss with you today.

We are very interested in your feedback and your professional assessment!

I look forward to a lively discussion.

Once again – thank you very much for the invitation!



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