



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



**Local & Regional  
Europe**

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**Ahead of the Informal Ministerial meeting on Urban Matters, the Presidents of the European Committee of the Regions, EURO CITIES and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) call on Ministers to maintain and implement the principles underlying the Urban Agenda for the EU and improve its operationalization.**

The adoption of the Pact of Amsterdam, which established the Urban Agenda for the EU on 30 May 2016, was a milestone for cities and for urban matters in the European Union. It was the beginning of a continuous process of involving urban authorities more closely in the EU decision-making process and of strengthening the urban dimension of EU policies.

While the multi-level governance model and the approach of the 3 pillars (better funding, better regulation and better knowledge) put in place by the Urban Agenda for the EU have been widely recognised, we consider that there is space for improvement regarding the implementation mechanism, the follow up of the partnerships' recommendations and the dissemination of the results. It is of utmost importance to reinforce the urban dimension of EU policies within the framework of the Better Regulation Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030. It is also crucial to ensure consistency in the implementation of EU Funds dedicated to urban and territorial development over the upcoming programming period beyond 2020 based on lessons learnt from the Urban Agenda.

We strongly believe that the Bucharest declaration needs to convey a clear message of commitment of the European Commission, Member States, and all other partners in line with the multi-level governance working method introduced by the Pact of Amsterdam. And that it is the right time to join forces to move forward with the improvement and implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU.

In this regard, we call the Ministers to maintain the three pillars of better regulation, better knowledge and better funding, and to guarantee the continuation and improvement of the work carried out by the partners of the Urban Agenda for the EU. The respect of the multi-level governance and partnership principles should be embedded in a strong political framework within the future Leipzig Charter 2.0.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you in order to advance on our common objective of improving the common framework for urban development in the European Union.

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