Preliminary programme - day 1

Tuesday 17 November 2026

venue: ss Rotterdam, 3e Katendrechtsehoofg 25, **Rotterdam** (NL)

8.30 - 9.00 Registration - coffee and tea

Opening and key notes — moderators: **Daniela Patti** and **Martin Grisel**

09.00 - 09.10 Opening by moderators

09.10 - 09.20 Political opening

→ **Carola Schouten**, Mayor of Rotterdam

09.20 - 09.35 Key input: What makes a city competitive?

→ **Ms. Soo-Jin Kim**, Deputy Head of the OECD CFE Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division

09.35 - 09.45 Time to change rooms

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09.45 - 11.00 Parallel work sessions on **Urban Agenda for the EU** contributions to the **EU Cities Agenda** priority themes

Session A
Working title:
Effective spatial policy to ensure competitiveness
moderator: **Nils Scheffler**

Session B
Working title:
Skilled labour as a source of competitiveness
moderator: **Milota Sidorova**

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee and tea break

11.30 - 11.40 Reports from the parallel sessions by the moderators

11.40 - 12.00 Ministerial policy dialogue

- **Elanor Boekholt-O'Sullivan**, Minister for Housing and Spatial Planning, Netherlands
- **James Browne**, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland (TBC)

12.00 - 12.25 Reflections from the Commission and Parliament

- *NN*, DG ENV, European Commission (TBC)
- *NN*, DG EMPL, European Commission (TBC)
- *NN*, European Parliament, MEP (TBC)

12.25 - 12.30 Closure and outlook

12.30 - 13.45 Networking lunch

13.45 - 15.45 Site visits

Participants can choose from a range of site visits organised by the City of Rotterdam. Further details will be provided later.

15.45 Closure of Rotterdam programme

16.00 Bus transfer to Amsterdam

Participants can benefit from a bus transfer from Rotterdam to Amsterdam, organised by the cities of Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

19.30 Evening reception in Amsterdam and Recognition ceremony

Keynote by Kieran McCarthy:
Member of the Committee of the Regions, Former Lord Mayor City of Cork

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Preliminary programme - day 2

Wednesday 18 November 2026

venue: Capital C, Weesperplein 4B, **Amsterdam** (NL)

9.00- 9.30	Registration - coffee and tea

Opening and key notes — moderators: **Daniela Patti** and **Martin Grisel**

09.30 - 09.40	Opening by moderators
09.40 - 10.30	Opening debate

Welcome note by Melanie van der Horst
Deputy Mayor of Amsterdam (TBC)

Keynote and dialogue with Herbert Dreiseitl
Landscape Architect and Pioneer of Blue-Green Urban Infrastructure

10.30 - 11.15	The success and impact of the **Urban Agenda in the EU** in the past 10 years

Ivana Katuric
and **representatives from Thematic Partnerships**

11.15 - 11.45	Coffee and tea break

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11.45 - 12.00 **Keynote**

Raffaele Fitto
Executive vice President for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission (TBC)

12.00 - 13.00 Moderated interactive debate

Pieter Heerma,
Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, The Netherlands

Marcos Ros Sempere
European Urban Forum

Kata Tüttö
President, European Committee of the Regions

and elected mayors

13.00 - 14.30 Networking lunch

14.30 - 16.00 Parallel work sessions on Urban agenda for the EU contributions to the EU Cities Agenda prioriy themes

Session A
Working title:
Environment and climate adaptation
moderator: **Eileen Crowley**

Session B
Working title:
Affordable housing and building decarbonisation
moderator: **Laura Colini**

Session C
Working title:
Social inclusion and equality
moderator: **Ian Graham**
priority given to urban authority representatives!

Session D
Working title:
Matchmaking and opportunities for cities

16.00 - 16.15 All participants back to plenary

16.15 - 16.30 Concluding notes

Xavier Bertrand
President Hauts-de-France Region (TBC)

16.30 - 18.30 Cultural closure and reception

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