Preliminary programme - day 1

Tuesday 17 November 2026

Venue: ss Rotterdam, 3e Katendrechtsehoofg 25, **Rotterdam**

08.00 - 09.00	Registration - coffee and tea
09.00 - 09.10	Opening by moderators moderators: **Daniela Patti** and **Martin Grisel**
09.10 - 09.20	Political opening **Luuc Dekkers** Deputy Mayor, City of Rotterdam
09.20 - 09.35	Key input: What makes a city competitive? **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 the Urban Agenda for the EU contributions to the EU Cities Agenda priority themes

Session A

Spatial policy and effective land-(re)use

- **Claudia Pamfil,** Bucharest
- **Thomas Kiwitt,** Stuttgart
- **Valerio Barberis,** Prato

moderator: **Nils Scheffler**

Session B

Skilled labour as a source of competitiveness

- **Emilia Postolache**, CEB
- **Valentina Schippers-Opejko,** Harlem
- **Barbara Poggio,** Genoa
- **Agnieszka Zielińska,** Bielsko-Biała

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, The Netherlands

John Cummins, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland

12.00 - 12.25 Reflections from the Commission and the Dutch Urban Envoy

Patrick Child, Deputy Director-General, DG Environment, European Commission

Karen van Dantzig, Dutch Urban Envoy

12.25 - 12.30 Closure and outlook

12.30 - 13.30 Networking lunch

13.30 - 15.45 Site visits

15.45 Bus transfer to Amsterdam Amstel Station

Venue: Capital C, Weesperplein 4B, **Amsterdam**

19.30 Evening reception in Amsterdam and Recognition ceremony

moderators: **Eileen Crowley** and **Ed Thorpe**

Zita Pels,
Deputy Mayor, City of Amsterdam

Nicolaas Beets,
Former Dutch Urban Envoy

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Preliminary programme - day 2

Wednesday 18 November 2026

Venue: Capital C, Weesperplein 4B, **Amsterdam**

08.45 - 09.30 Registration - coffee and tea

09.30 - 09.40 Opening by moderators

moderators: **Daniela Patti** and **Martin Grisel**

09.40 - 10.30 Opening debate

Lian Heinhuis,
Deputy Mayor, City of Amsterdam

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 for the EU in the past 10 years

Daniel Leca (Video message)
Vice-President, Hauts-de-France Region

Ivana Katuric
Urban researcher and expert, specialising in sustainable urban development and spatial policy

Nuno Pomar
Intermunicipal Community of Coimbra Region, Portugal

Mihaela Florea
Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, Romania

Stefani Mikulec
City of Zadar, Croatia

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11.15 - 11.45	Coffee and tea break
11.45 - 11:50	Video message on the 10th anniversary of the Pact of Amsterdam

Raffaele Fitto
Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission

11:50 - 12:00	Keynote by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

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

12.00 - 13.00	Political panel - Cities at the core and the way ahead

Hugo Sobral
Deputy Director-General, DG REGIO, European Commission

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

Marcos Ros Sempere
Member of the European Parliament, European Urban Forum

Anna Lisa Boni
Deputy Mayor of Bologna, Italy

Ciprian Ciucu
Mayor of the General City Hall of Bucharest, Romania

Ellen van Selm
Mayor of Purmerend, The Netherlands

13.00 - 14.00	Networking lunch
14.00 - 14.30	Coffee and tea

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

Session A
Climate-resilient cities

Alfonso Alcolea Martinez
DG ENV, European Commission

Heather Brooks
Eurocities

Paraskevi Tarani
Major Development Agency Thessaloniki

Chiara Mandelli
City of Milan

moderator:
Eileen Crowley

Session B
Social and affordable housing & the energy transition

Michaela Kauer
City of Vienna

Miguel Segovia
Green Building Council España

Iiris Tähti Toom
Office of the Estonian State Architect

Bianca Faragau
European Investment Bank

moderator:
Laura Colini

Session C
Technical dialogue on the EU Anti-poverty strategy

Bo Vanbesien
City of Roeselare

Dimitrios Gkartsonis
City of Komotini

Giulia Sozzi
City of Bergamo

moderator:
Ian Graham

Session D
Matchmaking & opportunities for cities

with partners:

- Portico Cities Helpdesk
- EUI capacity building
- Driving Urban Transitions
- NetZeroCities
- URBACT

16.00 - 16.30 Coffee and tea break

16.30 - 16.45 Concluding notes

Claragh Mulhern, Principal Adviser, National Strategic Planning, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland

16.45 - 18.30 Cultural closure and reception

Cultural segment and musical retrospective of the day, presented by the **Schuman Show**.

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