AETU Seminar Madrid

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Prof. dr. Joris Scheers

Secretary-general ECTP

Visiting professor KULeuven

Senior policy advisor Flanders Government

Implementing the Urban agenda
European reflections

Joris Scheers

EU
Urban Agenda

1. What is the urban agenda?
2. How do we deal with it (our survey)?
3. What's up now?

1. What is the urban agenda for the EU?

It brings together the Commission, national ministries, city governments and other stakeholders to promote better laws, easier access to funding and more knowledge sharing on issues relevant for cities.

The [urban agenda for the EU](#) addresses problems facing cities by setting up partnerships between the Commission, EU organisations, national governments, local authorities and stakeholders such as non-governmental organisations.

Together they develop action plans to:

- pass better laws

- improve funding programmes

- share knowledge (data, studies, good practices)

Better regulation

- EU legislation have direct and indirect implications for city governments and can impact different audiences differently.

- EU legislation is often hard to implement at local level. The EU regulation should anticipate these difficulties…

- …and help the relevant actors to implement existing policies, laws and instruments more effectively and coherently.

- The Commission's [better regulation programme](#) ensures that it achieves its objectives at minimum cost without imposing unnecessary administrative burdens on the businesses and other organisations affected.

Better funding

- Urban authorities are among the key beneficiaries of public funding.

- The urban agenda seeks to improve the quality of funding sources and make it easier for city governments to access them.

- The urban agenda for the EU does not create additional EU funding, but draws on lessons learned in order to make it easier for city governments to apply for funding from all EU programmes, including those falling under cohesion policy.

Better knowledge

- Success stories and other knowledge about cities need to be put to better use and shared more widely.

- From one city to another, the responsibilities of the authorities and the related administrative structures can vary greatly. Reliable data are important to ensure that urban policy is based on evidence and that tailor-made solutions to major challenges can be found.

- The urban agenda for the EU will help build up an urban-policy knowledge base and promote the exchange of good practices. All related initiatives will comply with EU legislation on data protection and reuse of public-sector information as well as promote the use of big, linked and open data.

Priority themes 12 + 2

- air quality
- circular economy
- climate adaptation
- digital transition
- energy transition
- housing
- inclusion of migrants and refugees
- innovative and responsible public procurement
- jobs and skills in the local economy
- sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions
- urban mobility
- urban poverty

Culture
Security in public spaces
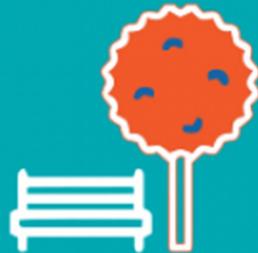
Pact of Amsterdam (2016)
Urban policy ministers EU
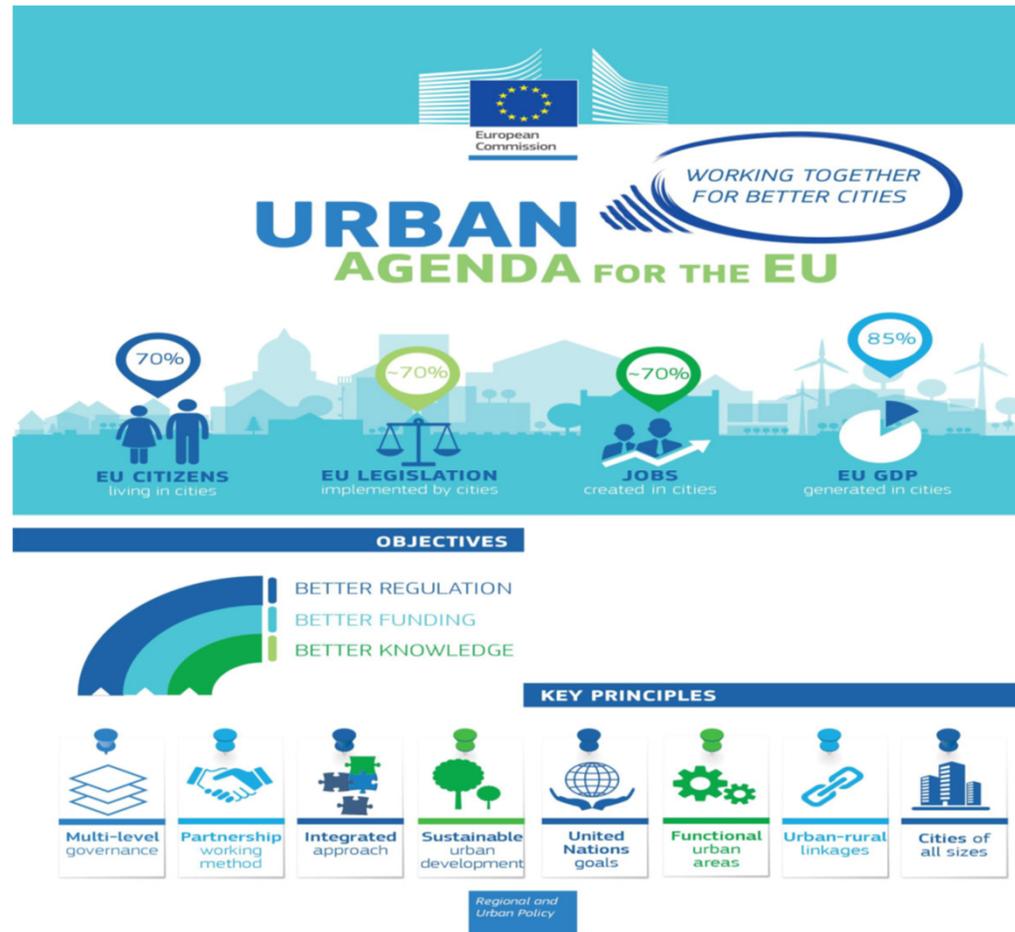
Energy transition partnership

Security and sharing public space

Running actions

109 (+5) action plans now running:

- 22 better funding
- 31 Better regulation
- 56 better knowledge

More focus now on expert work support (between 5 and 15 days).

An interesting opportunity for spatial planners

2. How to deal with it?

Situation in different countries

Now 114 actions running

EC is preparing survey and publication

Implementation is the key word

- Pact of Amsterdam, Leipzig Charter, NUA UN-Habitat,… ?

    just reference frameworks… but …

    with important political opportunities!
- Use these frameworks to implement it in existing/new instruments and policies, no matter how.
    - Budget (new/reorienting/extra criteria,…)
    - Criteria for measurement

Implementation is the key word

- Through new projects (EU Urban agenda partnerships)

- Through existing projects and budgeting

- Incorporate it into more global sustainability policies or Spatial development visions, climate action plans, …

- Reporting issues ?

Different ways to deal with it and implement it (small survey):

- As a separate policy document, based on NUA (Spain)

- As part of the overall urban policy (France, Flanders)

- As part of the overall spatial planning document (many)

- Financing document or just a set of principles

- Referring to NUA or to EUA?

Urban agenda in Spain

- Spanish urban agenda (AUE) 2019 and regional agendas (Basque, Catalonia, Murcia)

- A specific urban agenda document with proper action plan and methodological criteria

- System of quantifiable indicators evaluating the implementation (Catalonia)

- Struggling with binding character or not

Basque - Bultzatu 2050 (AUV)

EJE (AUV)		ODS (ONU)	
1	Housing and basic equipment	11.1	Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.
2	Mobility and transport	11.2	Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems.
3	Sustainable urban planning	11.3	Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization
		11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
		11.5	Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
		11.7	Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
4	Environment	6	Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
		11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
		13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
		14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
		15	Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss
5	Economic development and employment	8	Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
		12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
6	Innovation and digital transition	9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
7	Health & Wellness	3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
8	Social inclusión	10	Reduce inequality within and among countries

Urban policy Flanders: subsidies and expertise

- Grants for and expert guidance on urban renewal projects.

- Capacity building and knowledge exchange by means of research into various urban subjects, monitoring of the liveability of cities (City Monitor), the Flemish Cities Knowledge Centre, conferences and master classes, publications, websites and an inspirational blog.

- Support cities in their development into smart cities trough the Smart Flanders program, including the Smart City award for the most innovative and creative concept about the city of the future.

- Support in European programmes such as Urbiscoop (the Benelux's urban consultation platform), ERDF and JPI Urban Europe.

Private car sharing is booming

(support in 11 cities)

Creative economy supported (Kortrijk Buda Genk and Leuven with local schools)

Urban brownfield
development

Large sites important

Bottom up with local
communities (present
and new!) Ghent
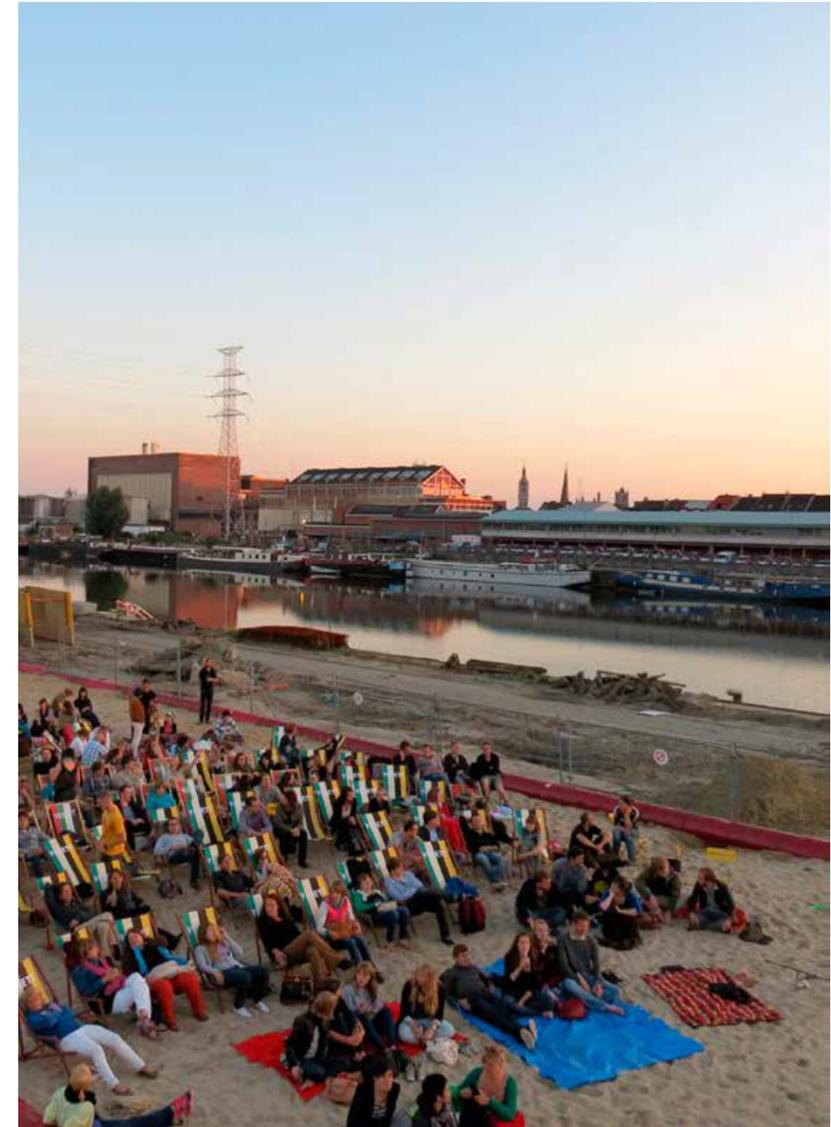
Don't forget:
also small scale
initiatives are
important
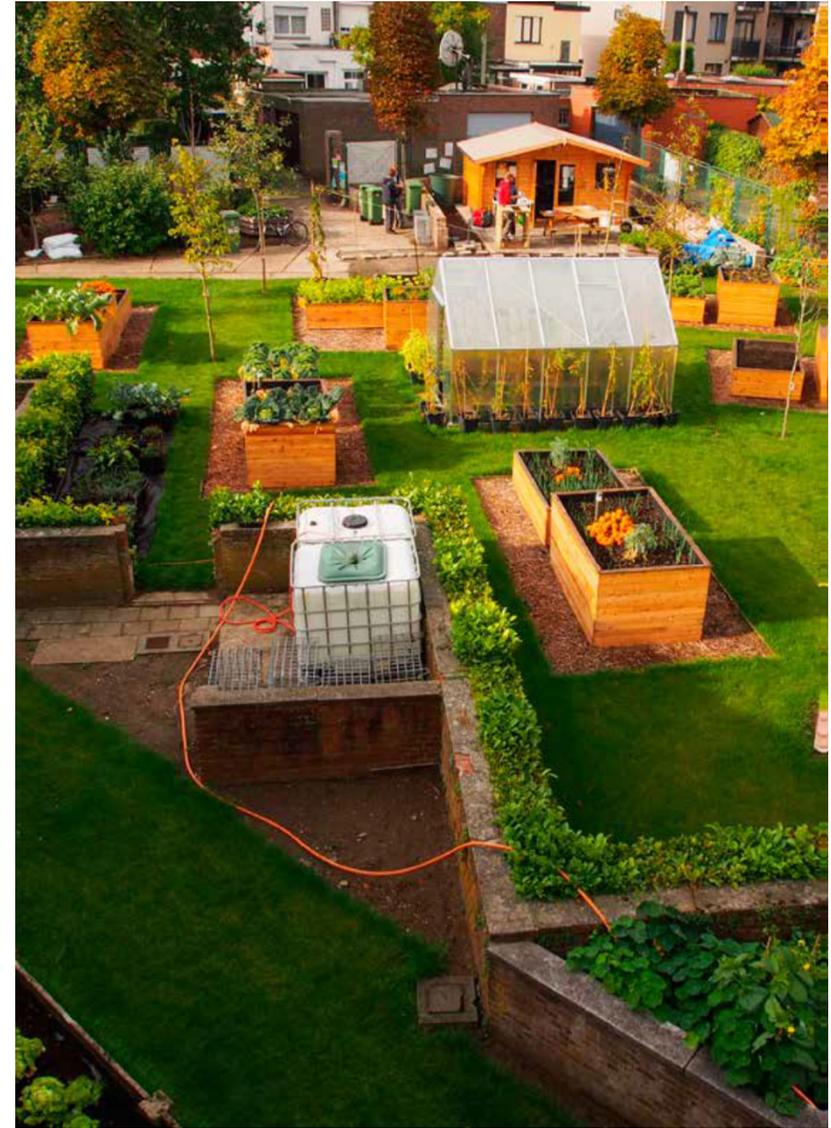
Urban agenda in France

Based on roadmap of France on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Taking the European urban agenda into account in regional planning policies in France.

Innovative examples of pilot urban planning interventions at different scales.

Urban agenda in France

1 Development of the circular economy (Dominique Lancrenon - Earth Cycle Project - 2018-2020)

2 Fighting degraded housing of city hearts (Chantal Gillet)

3 Revalorization of city centers to fight against urban sprawl (Sandra Huppe)

4 Promote Strategic Planning at the different scales (Laurence Bertrand Territorial Coherence Scheme (SCOT) and Air-Energie-Climate plan

French conclusions

Central conclusion: The different topics reflect the contrasts existing in the country between the metropolises under tension and strong demographic pressure like Paris or Marseille, and the small cities in decline.

- Access to housing and employment for the poorest and the reception of migrants are particularly present in metropolitan areas.

- The creation of new sectors by developing the circular economy, by rehabilitating the existing habitat, by developing a quality and accessible housing offer, seems to be a priority.

French conclusions

- AIRBNB type tensions: Overexploitation, pushing ordinary housing units out of the normal market functioning ('merchants of sleep'). Changing function of metropolitan hearts: reception of the tourists on the one hand and of poor housing .

- In small and medium-sized cities, the priority issue seems to be urban renewal and the requalification of city centers to put an end to urban sprawl and regain an attractiveness based on the valuation of existing urban heritage.

- The strategic planning documents bring the political construction of these balances to be defined on a scale of large living area whose democratic functioning requires the development of citizen participation.

3. What's up now?

Meetings EU Council presidency (DG TC and DG UA)

Territorial agenda and urban agenda equally treated by Council presidencies
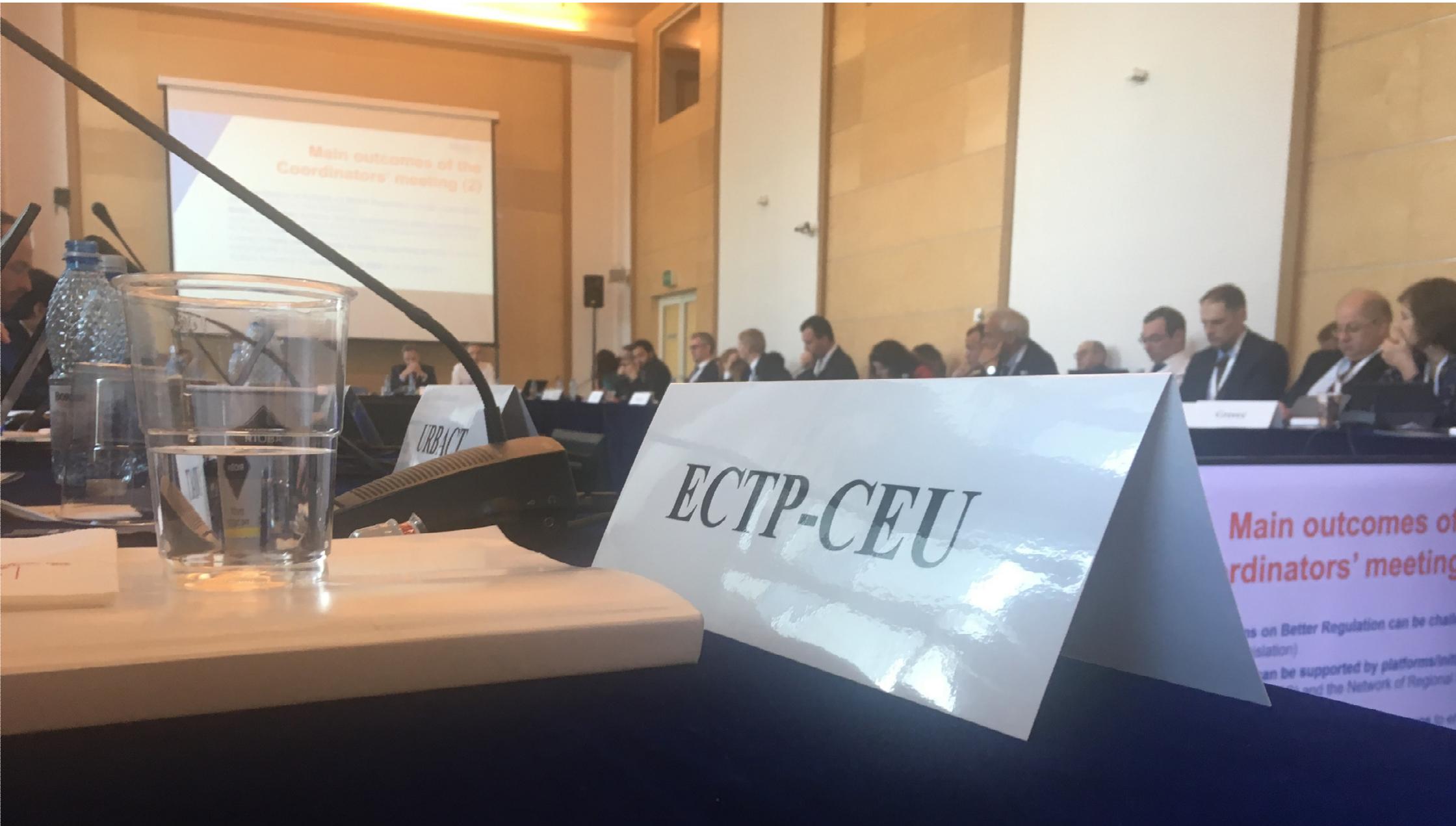
Clearly more power, more money more political interest in urban agenda

Position of European Commission remains rather passive towards TA.

- Study 260 obstacles for territorial cooperation with action plan for each obstacle

What's up with the Territorial Agenda ?

Through the interreg programs and later Transnational programs the territorial cohesion is present and is still being promoted.

Focus on Functional territories and territories with specific needs.

Regions in transition are still a priority.

In the ERDF and ESF policy option n° 5: it is possible to fund territorial cohesion for specific functional areas/territories

Today the EC is giving additional points when evaluating projects for cross border projects

Working towards TA 2020 +

Functional Urban areas

Instruments already exist

Scale of governance and metropolitan governance (OECD)

18 % governance bodies with regulatory power

51 % governance bodies without regulating power

31 % no governance bodies

Mismatch between political geographies and geographies of networks of interrelations between people and businesses

What's up with the Urban Agenda ?

New impulse through *Bucharest Declaration* (mid June):

Two new themes added to Pact of Amsterdam:

Culture/Cultural Heritage: The objectives are to preserve cultural heritage… having in regard its role as a resource for urban development whilst presenting its social, ecological and economic dimensions

Security in Public Spaces: The objectives are to ensure the security in public spaces, given their importance as the identity and social fabric of cities. Relevant themes are: prevention, technology, better guidelines and laws and exchange of practices

Urban Agenda

- Finish presidency : Digitalization
- Croatian presidency: Green cities (green areas and re-development)
- EU Commission Urban Initiative: cohesion policy legislative <u>proposal</u> 2021-2027.
  - Intervention logic and governance
  - Incorporate urbact: improve capacities
  - Improve design and implementation of urban development plans
  - Develop transferable and scalable innovative solutions (different scales)
  - Knowledge on policy design and implementation

EU Commission
is supporting and
investing in policy
preparation
see:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/
sources/docgener/brochure/explanat
ory_memo_eui_post_2020_en.pdf
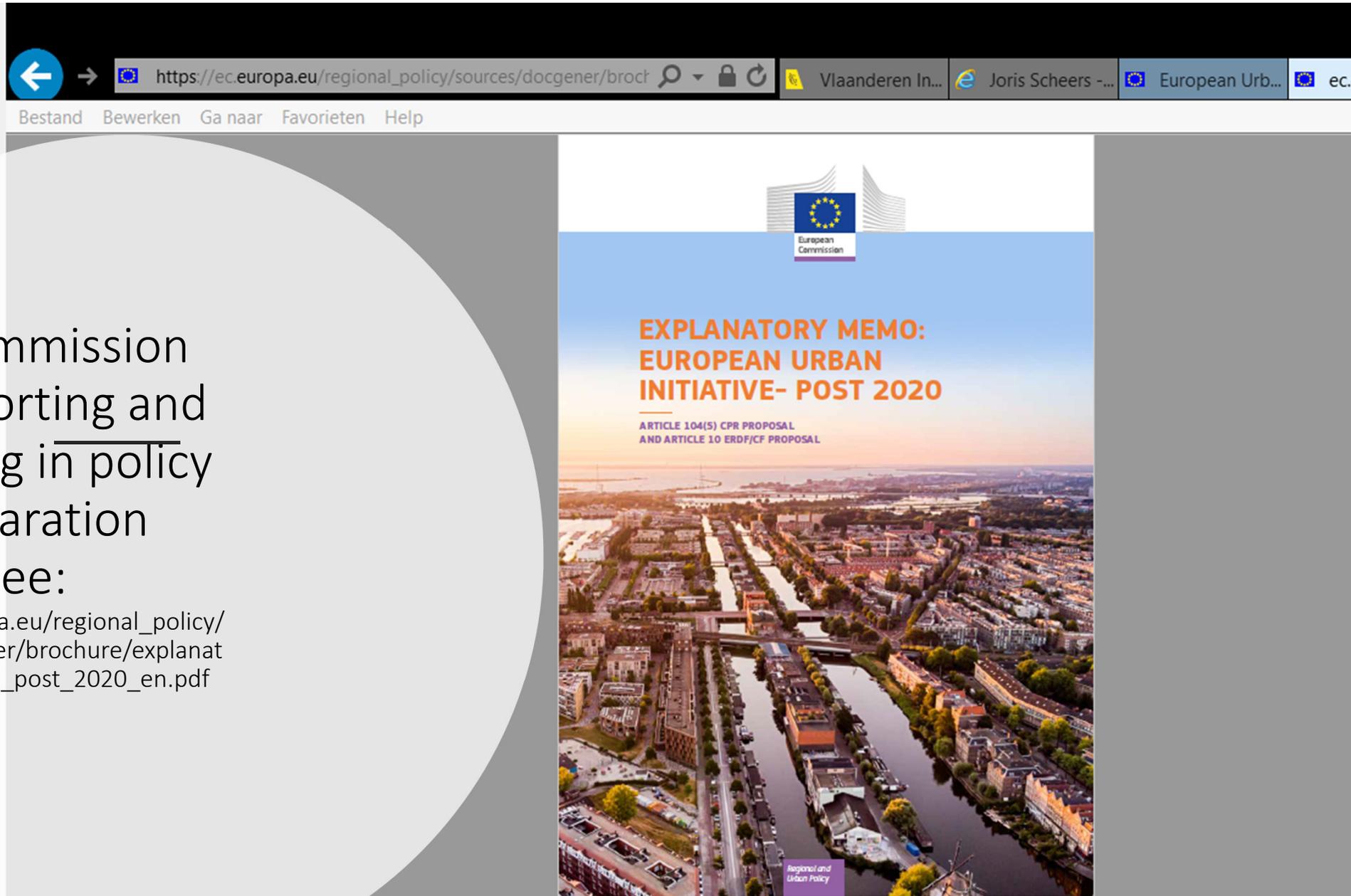
Suggestions for improvements

- Continued emphasis on rural development (so called 'balance' needed)
- Role of planners?
- Local governments at play : how to link ECTP with thousands of local planners being active every day.
- Relevant contributions: participatory processes, advising policy makers, designing development plans, improving legal frameworks.
- More profound problem for spatial planners and their role.
  - Where is the integrated holistic approach?
  - Too much attention on just one aspect (social)
  - Relation with hinterland (mobility issues, …)

Impact of Urban Agenda

- Study commissioned by Dutch Governement (10 countries)
- New priorities defined
- National urban policy plans established
- Coordination activities established
- (re-)evaluation of urban policies

Importance of European policy documents

Towards a common framework for urban development in the European Union

Informal Meeting of EU Ministers Responsible for Urban Matters

Declaration of Ministers

Bucharest, 14 June 2019

We, the ministers responsible for urban matters,

upon the invitation by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU), during the session of the Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for urban matters in the European Union, on the 14th of June 2019, in Bucharest (Romania),

in the presence of the European Commissioner for Regional Policy (TBC) and representatives from the European Parliament (EP), Committee of the Regions (CoR), European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), European Investment Bank (EIB), as well as representatives from candidate countries for EU

- Work through via different set of funding mechanisms ! New multi-annual financial framework 2021-2027

- Reference framework

- Political support and commitment: informal meeting of ministers mid June 2019 (only every 2-3 years)

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Reflect but above all: implement! Thx!