JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

STRONG URBAN AND TERRITORIAL DIMENSION IN THE EU BUDGET 2028-2034

BRUSSELS, 28 SEPTEMBER 2026

We, representatives of cities, metropolitan areas, urban networks and local government associations, confirm that we are ready to undertake key development investments, support innovation, and serve as an engine for growth and competitiveness at the EU and global scale; such goals can only be achieved by maintaining substantial financial support under the multiannual financial framework (MFF).

We agree that the future MFF should deliver:

- **a clear, sufficient financial allocation** for sustainable urban and integrated territorial development; **we see a 15% for sustainable urban development** as a guaranteed threshold;
- explicit **recognition of functional urban and metropolitan areas**;
- floor for utilizing the high potential of functional urban areas and their roles and accountability in **programming, implementation and selection of operations**;
- stronger role and support for **integrated instruments, place-based approaches** across sectors and administrative boundaries;
- **open opportunities for innovative partnerships** and consortia involving metropolitan, urban and business activities **under the European Competitiveness Fund**; strong **partnership and multilevel governance** within National and Regional Partnership Plans.

The urban dimension has to be strongly recognised in EU legislation; moreover, recognition has to be accompanied by sufficient **resources and proven tools and delivery mechanisms such as integrated territorial instruments, the quota for sustainable urban development** and other integrated tools.

We are ready to continue the dialogue with EU institutions and Member States on a strong urban and territorial dimension for the EU programming period 2028+.

This statement is endorsed by
(1) Association of Metropolitan Areas and Agglomerations of the Czech Republic, which brings together all ITI holders.
(2) Association of German Cities, Germany
(3) City of Warsaw, Poland
(4) Representation of Budapest to the EU, representing the city of Budapest, Hungary.

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