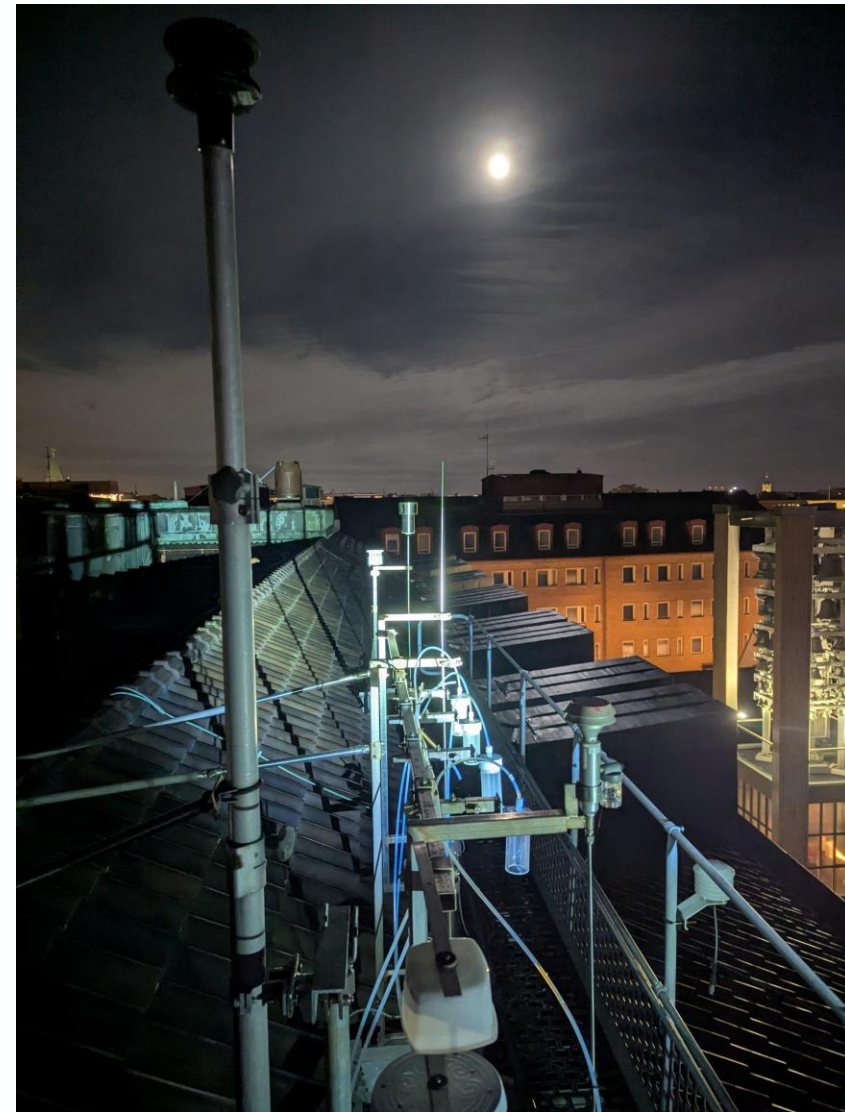


Eurocities WG Air Quality

An overview, activities, advocacy



Tobias Wolf

EPCAC meeting

19. November 2025

Eurocities
connects 200+
cities across
Europe

representing
more than 135
million people



Our Members

- Full member
- ExCom
- Partner



EUROCITIES
info@eurocities.eu • <https://eurocities.eu>

eurocities.eu/cities



Vision and mission

Eurocities is the leading network of major European cities, working together to ensure a **good quality of life for all our citizens**

Core activities are:

Advocacy: Representing the voice of cities at EU level

Learning and sharing: Facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices between cities

Insights: Reporting to cities about EU developments and funding opportunities

Training: Building capacity to tackle current and future urban challenges

Eurocities strives for a Europe where cities are **genuine partners** with the EU to create a better future where

People progress in a prosperous local economy

People move and live in a healthy environment

People make vibrant and open public spaces

People take part in an inclusive society

City governments address global challenges

City governments are fit for the future



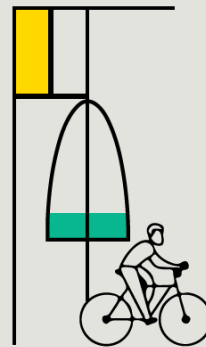
Relevance for members

Insights

Funding

Advocacy

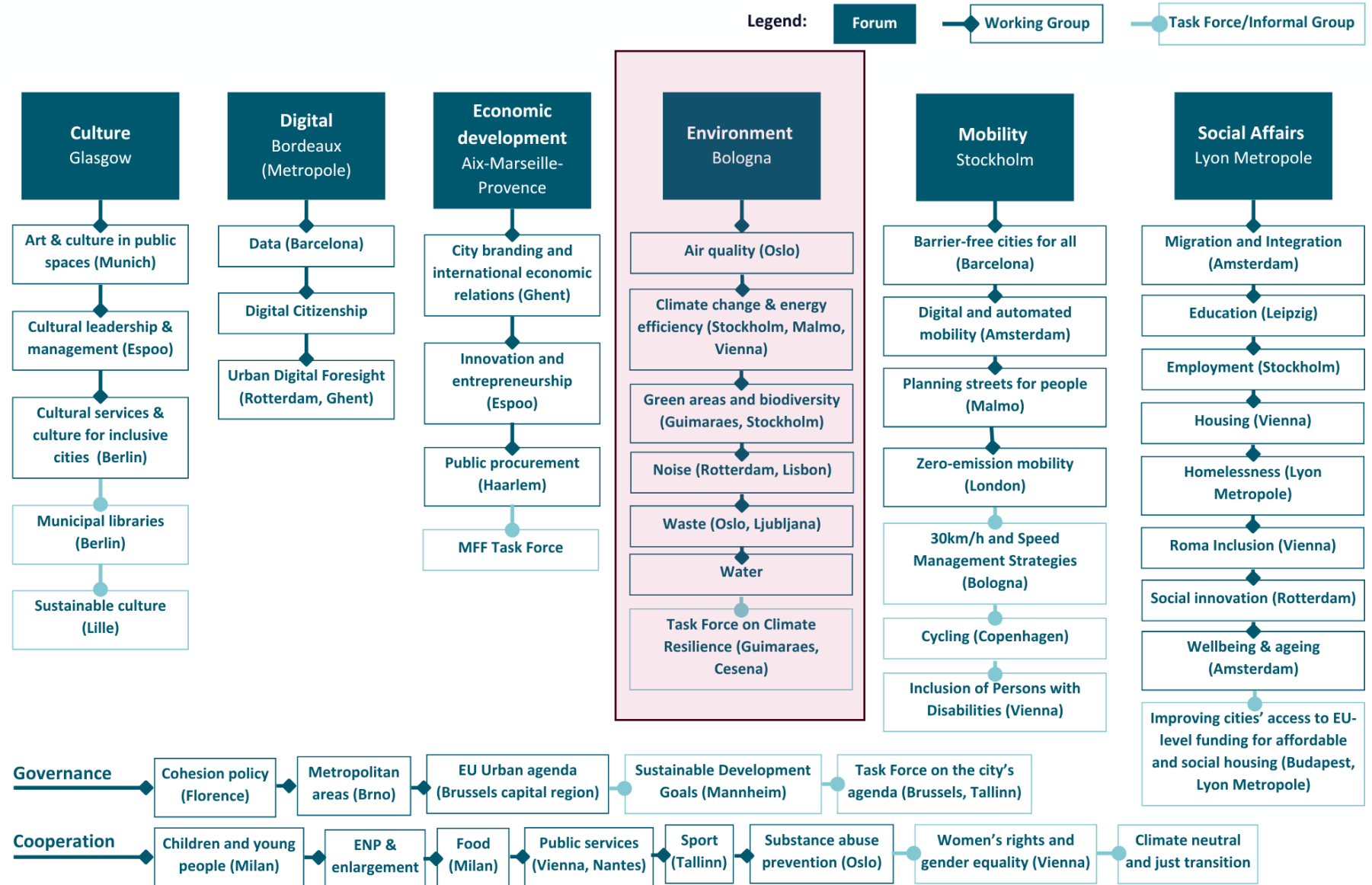
Networking



Visibility

Thematic areas

Forums, working groups & taskforces



33+ projects

WG Air Quality



- 1 in-person meeting per year during EEF
- 3-5 online meetings dependent on activity
- Advocacy and visibility

Previous activities - AAQD

- Response to public consultations
- Meetings with DG ENV and ENVI
- EU Clean Air Forum
- TAIEX workshop AQD Brussels
- Voice towards our national partners
- Several policy documents:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12677-Air-quality-revision-of-EU-rules/F3385291_en
- Supporting moderately ambitious limit values
- Better distribution of responsibilities
- Technical feasibility



The screenshot shows a news article on the Eurocities website. The article is titled "New EU Air Quality Directive proposed" and is dated 27 October 2022. It features a social media sharing bar with icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email. The main text discusses the European Commission's proposal for a revised Air Quality Directive, noting that while it has some improvements, it also has shortcomings. It mentions that poor air quality is a major concern for Europe's cities, according to the WHO. A quote from Eurocities Air Quality Policy Advisor Thomas Lymes is included, stating that the directive includes a firm commitment to achieve safe levels by 2050, with a mid-way target for 2030. The article also mentions that the WHO's air quality recommendations are considered the gold standard for human health. A contact box for Anthony Colclough, Eurocities Writer, is visible on the right side of the article. The background of the article features a graffiti of a person wearing a gas mask and holding a green balloon with a red 'X' on it.

EUROCITIES

New EU Air Quality Directive proposed

27 October 2022

The European Commission has just put forward a proposal for a revised Air Quality Directive – one that pundits say has marked improvements, but shortfalls too. As poor air quality contributes as much to disease as bad diets and smoking around the world, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), this is a major concern for Europe's cities.

The WHO's air quality recommendations are considered the gold standard for human health, and the proposed directive includes a firm commitment to achieve safe levels by 2050, as well as a mid-way target for 2030. "Having this realistic long-term target and an interim target to ensure immediate efforts and forward thinking strategies is key to making this directive work for people living in cities across Europe," says Eurocities Air Quality Policy Advisor Thomas Lymes, "which is why we fully support to have these measures included in the directive."

While long term targets are positive, achieving cleaner air is urgent and many cities are taking measures already. In Brussels Capital Region, the local administration managed to reduce harmful pollutants like nitric oxides and particulate matter (PM2.5) by around 11% in just one year by introducing low emission zones. The latest tightening of the rules in

CONTACT

 **Anthony Colclough**
Eurocities Writer

Previous activities - Ecodesign

Solid fuel local space heaters/boilers

- Capacity building with SINTEF, DBMFZ, Blue Angel
- Meetings with DG ENER
- Stakeholder consultation forum
- [Policy brief](#)

- Supporting stricter limit values
- Automatic air flow control
- Secondary particles
- Reporting



Work plan - Advocacy

- Implementing acts AAQD
 - Direct contact with DG-ENV
 - Answering public consultations
 - modelling applications/spatial representativeness of AQ stations; accounting for natural sources and winter road maintenance; road maps and plans; information to the public
 - Participation in TALEX workshops (e.g. Vienna January 2026)
- Policy statement on WGs collective experience on smart sensors
- EU Clean Air Forum
- Ecodesign and NEC directive



Work plan – Knowledge Sharing

- AQPs
 - Comparison
 - Thematic meetings
 - Foster collaboration 1-1
- Interaction with other authorities (local, national, EU)
- PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ as secondary pollutants, UFPs
- Cross boundary transport, equipment of AQS, technical specifics of measurements



Work plan – Capacity building

- Communication
 - New limit values
 - New measures
 - Vulnerable groups
- Overview over relevant committees
 - FAIRMODE
 - ACTRIS
 - AQUILA
 - CEN
- Non-exhaust emissions, TWP



Thank you!



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