

EU Urban Agenda: Roadmap from Riga to Amsterdam

The declaration of Riga is an important building block towards the establishment of an EU Urban Agenda. For the first time, EU-ministers responsible for Urban Development will commit to developing an EU Urban Agenda, in partnership with cities, the European Commission and other stakeholders. The declaration of Riga identifies some key principles for the design of the Urban Agenda.

The objective of the Dutch Presidency is that the responsible Ministers adopt in May 2016 a declaration (the "Amsterdam declaration") establishing the EU Urban Agenda, its priorities and working methods. For this to happen, important elements have to be developed and some concrete actions need to be taken between now and the informal Ministerial meeting of May 30th, 2016.

This roadmap describes those elements and actions.

1. Key elements

The Amsterdam declaration will be a concise document defining the key elements of the EU Urban Agenda. In particular, the document will provide:

- An updated, shared understanding of urban development (Urban Acquis) based on key EU documents, such as informal ministerial conclusions, the Territorial Agenda of the EU 2020, and the Cities of Tomorrow report. To facilitate the discussion, the Netherlands has commissioned EUKN to prepare a "State of Play" document outlining the conceptual framework.
- The priorities areas on which to focus cooperation. The Commission has identified three broad priority areas. Their broad formulation gives the Member States and other key stakeholders room to specify more precisely the concrete issues where they would like work to focus on. This should result in a rolling agenda allowing new priority areas to be addressed as need arises.
- A working method defining what to do, the role of the key actors and the governance of the process, including monitoring of results. Sustainable urban development requires partnerships between public and private actors and engaging citizens, within and beyond the boundaries of cities. This is necessary to bridge the gap between the different logics of sectoral policies and of urban and territorial policies, by enabling the development of multi-sectoral interventions adapted to the specific place-based potentials and problems. Informal partnerships between the Commissions and other EU institutions, the Member States, European organisations, cities and urban stakeholders should be built in the selected priority areas.

The UDG and DG meetings during the Luxembourgish and Dutch presidencies will be the key platforms to build consensus on the abovementioned elements.

2. Key actions

| <i>Action</i> | <i>Who</i> | <i>What/how</i> |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Development of Updated Urban Acquis | MS/COM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUKN report • Discussion in the UDG |
| 2. Identification of the priority areas | MS/COM/Cities/other EU institutions/... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS written input • Dedicated workshops (COM-MS-Cities) • Dedicated mapping studies • Discussion in the UDG/DG meetings |
| 3. Resolution on the EU urban agenda | EP | |
| 4. Agreement on the main elements of EU urban agenda | MS/COM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of successive drafts in the UDG/DG meetings |
| 5. Alignment calls of the Urban Innovative Actions to the priority areas based on mapping | COM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation of MS through EGTCUM |

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| 6. Work on territorial impact assessment | COM/MS/Cities/CdR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops |
| 7. Alignment of COM networks and platforms (UDN, URBACT, etc) to priority areas | COM/MS/Cities | |
| 8. HABITAT 3 process and the New Global Urban Agenda. | COM/MS/UN HABITAT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Cities Report • Common EU position |
| 9. Amsterdam Declaration | COM/MS/Cities/other EU institutions/... | <p>Declaration on overall EU UA framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives and priorities • working method • governance (roles and responsibilities) |

3. Timetable

| 2015 | Action/event/output |
|------------------|---|
| June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of Commission Staff Working Document (SWD) on EU urban agenda consultation • 2nd CITIES Forum (Jun 2) • Informal ministerial meeting (Jun 10): Riga declaration • Inquiry about MS priority areas (start Jun 11) • EGTCUM meeting (Jun 18): Presentation of urban agenda SWD and first discussion with MS |
| July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline inquiry MS about priority areas (Jul 10) |
| September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UDG Luxembourg (10 sept): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion on priority areas (based on inquiry) - Discussion about Urban Acquis document • EP: vote on Westphal report • Workshop on TIA (tbc) • EGTCUM meeting (Sep 17): Discussion with MS on priorities for Urban Innovative Action first call. • Dedicated workshops (COM/MS/Cities/experts) to define scope for action within each broad theme (priority area) identified in SWD |
| October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint workshop NL-CoR-COM on Urban Agenda during Open Days (14 Oct) • DG-meeting (Oct 21): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COM reports preliminary results of scoping studies - Conclusion on the Urban Acquis document - Agreement on the first 2-3 priority areas |
| November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of roles of platforms (URBACT, UDN, etc.) • First written procedure on draft declaration sent to UDG-members • COM Work Programme 2016 • Urban Innovative Actions first call (tbc) |
| December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First meeting to build partnerships around the first 2-3 priority areas • EGTCUM meeting (Dec 17): reporting on state of play of COM actions in support of EU urban agenda |

| 2016 | Action/event/output |
|-----------------|---|
| January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second written procedure on draft declaration sent to UDG-members |
| February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral CoR accepted in plenary meeting • Second meeting to build partnerships around the first 2-3 priority areas |
| March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third draft written procedure on draft declaration sent to UDG • EGTCUM meeting (tbc): reporting on state of play of COM actions in support of EU urban agenda |
| April | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Mayors meeting Amsterdam (tbc): declaration on Urban Agenda • UDG-meeting (April 7th): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion about contents priority areas, partnerships - Discussion draft declaration - Last meeting partnerships before launch • First draft 'State of European Cities Report' |

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| May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference CoR (May 30th): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation referral CoR - Workshops on Urban Agenda • DG Meeting (May 12th): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive discussion about contents priority areas, partnerships - Discussion draft declaration • Informal ministerial meeting (May 30th): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signing Urban Agenda Declaration - Launch first partnerships • EU City Makers Summit (May 30th): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social innovators presenting their best practices and ideas for Urban Agenda |
| June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start partnerships of EC, MS, cities and other stakeholders |