

BUILDING INCLUSIVE CITIES

A new urban compass for the European Pillar of Social Rights



European
Parliament



26 March 2025, 12:30 – 18:00

European Parliament, Brussels, Rue Wiertz 60 – 1047

Room SPINELLI 1G3

The event

The third Eurocities Cities' Social Summit aims at bringing together cities, EU and national leaders for a direct dialogue on how to join forces to build more inclusive and resilient urban areas. Cities are indispensable partners in advancing the European social model and turning the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) into reality. Over the past six years, through the Eurocities' political campaign '[Inclusive cities for all](#)', cities have made a tangible contribution to the Pillar, collecting around 100 concrete political commitments (city pledges) from 61 cities across 23 countries. The campaign has improved social rights for over 102.4 million citizens by implementing the EPSR principles at the local level.

The event will gather Mayors and Deputy Mayors from all over Europe to investigate how cities' political commitments contributed to translating the principles of the Pillar into concrete actions and the positive impact they had on people's lives. The event will also facilitate an open dialogue with EU policymakers on how to strengthen the urban dimension within the new Action Plan on the Implementation of the EPSR to help cities address pressing social challenges such as rising poverty, a lack of affordable housing, homelessness, and social exclusion.

Objectives

The event will foster a structured political dialogue between city representatives and EU policymakers on how to better involve cities in the European social agenda, highlighting the critical role of urban areas in addressing social challenges and driving inclusive growth.



While celebrating the remarkable achievements of the Eurocities' political campaign and taking stock of all city pledges over the last five years to improve people's lives, the event will be a forward-looking opportunity to reflect on how to join forces to build more inclusive and resilient urban areas. A dedicated policy paper on cities' recommendations for the new Action Plan on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights will be presented, delivering concrete recommendations on how

to adapt the European Pillar of Social Rights to reflect current socio-economic realities at the local level, to better address current socio-economic challenges such as the rising cost of living and the social inequalities deepened by the twin digital and green transitions.

Target audience

The event will gather key stakeholders, including city leaders – Mayors and Deputy Mayors responsible for social affairs and inclusion, Members of the European Parliament, particularly from the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, and representatives of the European Commission. In addition, EU social partners and civil society representatives will provide vital perspectives to ensure an inclusive and impactful dialogue.

<p>12.30 – 13.50</p>	<p>Networking lunch in the European Parliament with Members of the European Parliament and EU officials.</p> <p><i>The lunch will take the form of an open debate between Mayors, Deputy Mayors, European Commission and European Parliament representatives. Cities will have the opportunity to present their pledges to the European Pillar of Social Rights and share their views on the social priorities of the European Commission.</i></p> <p>Please note that due to limited capacity, priority will be given to elected city representatives.</p> <p><i>Family photo</i></p>
<p>13:50 – 13:55</p>	<p>Welcoming speech by Victor Negrescu, Vice-President of the European Parliament</p>
<p>14.15 – 15.45</p>	<p>Session I: <i>From pledges to impact: localising the European Social Model through City Pledges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga • Katarina Ivanković-Knežević, Director for Social Rights and Inclusion, DG EMPL, European Commission <p>Session II: <i>Which role for cities in the next European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan?</i></p> <p>Presentation of the Eurocities policy paper “A new urban compass for the European Pillar of Social Rights” by André Sobczak, Eurocities Secretary General, followed by discussion with panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcos Ros Sempere, MEP, S&D • Danijela Dolenc, Deputy Mayor of Zagreb • László Andor, Secretary General, FEPS <p style="text-align: center;">100^o pledge ceremony by Sara Funaro, Mayor of Florence</p>
<p>15.45 – 16.00</p>	<p> Coffee break</p>

<p>16.00 – 17.45</p>	<p>Session III: <i>From principles to action: A deep dive into the Pillar's principles</i></p> <p><i>Opening words by H��l��ne Duvivier, Vice-President of Lyon M��tropole and Vice-chair of the Eurocities Social Affairs Forum</i></p> <p>Principle 20: Ensuring access to essential services to all residents</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benedetta Scuderi, MEP, The Greens • Sara Funaro, Mayor of Florence <p>Principle 11: <i>Combatting child poverty by localising the Child Guarantee</i></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathias De Clercq, Mayor of Ghent and Eurocities Vice-President • Stefan Iszkowski, Team Leader European Child Guarantee, European Commission
<p>17:45 – 18:00</p>	<p>Conclusion by Richard Bell, Councillor, Depute Leader, City Treasurer & Convenor for Financial Inclusion, Glasgow City Council – Chair of the Eurocities Social Affairs Forum</p>



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