

# GETTING IT DONE

## STEADY MOVES IN TIMES OF TURMOIL

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### LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



**TUESDAY**  
26 May 2026



**VENUE**  
Hotel Esplanade, Mihanovićeve ul. 1, 10000  
Zagreb, Croatia

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# WELCOME!

Now that geopolitical winds blow strongly, and waves of crisis grow high, we must firmly grip the rudder and heed words of wisdom from 2000 years ago: *"If one does not know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favourable."*<sup>1</sup>

The journey to Sustainable Mobility was never bound to be easy. In times of turmoil, some may stick to the status quo and give up on innovation. But we can't afford to hold on to a losing game. There is no time to waste.

We know the port we seek: sustainable, safe, and equitable urban mobility. We have a plan (more precisely, hundreds of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, emerging across the EU), and we are a capable crew, made of transport innovators in government, industry, advocacy and research.

So let's get all hands on deck and focus on the fundamentals!

Let's carry on fixing the basics – making our infrastructure and our organisations serve the goals we seek is a key step... and it's also one of the hardest.

When it comes to AV technology, let's decide who drives – only proper governance will ensure benefits.

Let's remove obstacles to cooperation. The majority of daily trips in the EU are local and regional – this vast market provides a unique opportunity for gains in efficiency and competitiveness... if we make public-private cooperation easier and mutually beneficial.

The POLIS Leadership Summit in Zagreb will bring together transport leaders in government, industry, advocacy and research, for an intense day of dialogue and networking. Come on board, if you're committed to transport innovation: *"When a complex system is far from equilibrium, small islands of coherence in a sea of chaos have the capacity to shift the entire system to a higher order."*<sup>2</sup>

**Tomislav Tomašević**

Mayor  
City of Zagreb

**Karen Vancluysen**

Secretary General  
POLIS



<sup>1</sup> Lucius Annaeus Seneca (Seneca the Younger) (4 BC – 65 AD)

<sup>2</sup> Ilya Prigogine (1917-2003)



CITY OF  
ZAGREB

**POLIS**  
CITIES AND REGIONS FOR TRANSPORT INNOVATION

**Please note:**

1. We will be **taking photos** and **recording videos** of the speakers and participants for posterior use in institutional communications related to the Summit by POLIS and the City of Zagreb. The photos will be made available to all participants. If you do not want to be photographed or filmed, please contact Alexia Collignon at [acollignon@polisnetwork.eu](mailto:acollignon@polisnetwork.eu).
2. POLIS staff will be **taking notes and collecting quotes** for future use in policy work. These quotes will not be used without your previous consent.
3. When speaking, please be brief, direct, and to the point. We have a **tight schedule**, and everybody must have an opportunity to participate.
4. We will not have simultaneous translation to other languages. If you need support with translation to and from other languages, when making statements or asking questions, we can try to help (Karen and Ivo with *Dutch*, Alexia with *French*, Pedro with *Portuguese, Spanish, and Italian*, Carlotta with *Italian*, Marko with *Croatian*).
5. All information related to the event is available in this programme. If you need further information, such as hotel recommendations, please contact Alexia Collignon at [acollignon@polisnetwork.eu](mailto:acollignon@polisnetwork.eu).

**FOR MORE  
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# DRAFT AGENDA

## TUESDAY, 26 MAY

### 09.30 Welcome Breakfast & Networking

### 10.30 Start of Leadership Summit

- **Karen Vancluysen**, Secretary General, POLIS
- **Tomislav Tomašević**, Mayor of Zagreb

### 10.50 Kick-off Keynote

- **Luka Korlaet**, Deputy Mayor, City of Zagreb

### 11.10 Fix the Basics

"Success lies in the relentless execution of the basics"<sup>3</sup>, even if those basics don't appeal to the crowd. Our roads and our organisations must be shaped to serve the goals we seek. Streets must be made safer, for walking and cycling to achieve their full potential. Investment in public transport must grow, for demand to grow too. Shared mobility must be supported, to deploy and survive where we need it the most. Public space must be reallocated, to bring the cities we want, and face the climate risks that await. *What can we do together?*

#### Opening pitch:

- **Skye Duncan**, Executive Director, Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCl)

#### Panellists:

- **Elke Van den Brandt**, Minister of Mobility, Public Works and Road Safety, Brussels Capital Region
- **Léan Doody**, Director, Cities Planning & Design Leader for Europe, Arup
- **Meredith Glaser**, CEO, Urban Cycling Institute
- **Andro Pavuna**, Head of Transport, City of Zagreb

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<sup>3</sup> Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

## 12.00 Decide who Drives

Autonomous Vehicles are rolling. The technology is here. The question now is... who's driving? Not the vehicles, but their deployment – the rules to follow, and the use cases to prioritise. This is a governance challenge, of critical strategic importance for Europe – our technological sovereignty is at stake. Do we follow others into a race where we are already far behind, or do we carve our own path, trying to leapfrog into the future? One thing we know: AVs will be rolling on roads and providing services that are under the jurisdiction of local and regional governments.

*How can we build shared purpose?*

### Opening pitch:

- **Tim Asperges, Expert/Advisor Mobility, City of Leuven**

### Panellists:

- **Bernt Jensen**, CEO, Ruter AS
- **Andrew Glass Hastings**, Executive Director, Open Mobility Foundation
- **Nourie Boraie**, Senior Vice President of Global Affairs and Safety, Einride Autonomous Technologies
- **Goran Dautović**, Vice President & Deputy Chairman, Verne

## 12.50 Group Photo

## 13.00 Light Lunch & Networking

## 14.00 Speed-Networking

We'll have a high-energy, structured activity designed to help participants meet and exchange with several others, through fast-paced and focused conversations.

## 14.50 Remove Obstacles to Cooperation

EU competitiveness starts with EU cooperation – most importantly, between the public and private sectors. Cooperation in transport needs focus, and focus depends on concrete use cases and opportunities. In a context of deep and fast change, local and regional transport are ready to provide lots of opportunities... if we find a way to fix practical difficulties in funding, procurement, and partnerships. Let's look for trouble – and trouble shoot. "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time."<sup>4</sup> *How can we improve cooperation?*

### Opening Video Pitch:

- **Erdem Ovacik, Founder, Impact Market**

### Panellists:

- **Martin Bill**, State Secretary for Transport and the Mobility Transition, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
- **Eugenio Patanè**, Deputy Mayor for Mobility, Roma Capitale
- **Christina Moe Gjerde**, VP Northern Europe, VOI
- **Luka Matošić**, Member of the Management Board, ZET (Zagreb Electric Tram)

## 15.40 Wrap up

## 16.00 End of the Summit

## 16.30 After Summit Tours

More information and descriptions can be found on **page 7**.

## 19.30 Reception offered by the City of Zagreb

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<sup>4</sup> Barack Obama (1961 - )

# AFTER-SUMMIT TOURS

**TUESDAY, 26 MAY**

**16.30-18.00**

## 1. Walking tour

This tour takes you through the heart of Zagreb, revealing its rich history and urban charm. You will stroll from the Esplanade, through the most famous squares and streets, to hidden corners that tell stories about Tesla, Lotrščak, and the old Upper Town. Perfect for those who want to feel the pulse of the city and soak up its atmosphere on foot.

- **Duration:** Approx. 80 minutes
- **Capacity:** Up to 20 participants

## 2. Cycling tour

The cycling tour offers a combination of history, architecture, and Zagreb's natural surroundings – all from the comfort of a bicycle. You will ride through the Green Heart of the city, Marko Marulić Square, Kaptol, and Zrinjevac, with fascinating stories about Tesla, Meštrović, and important historical sites. Ideal for those who want to cover more locations in a shorter time without missing the details that make Zagreb special.

- **Duration:** Approx. 80 minutes
- **Capacity:** Up to 20 participants

## 3. Tram ride

A relaxed way to explore the city from the tram, perfect for those who want to enjoy Zagreb without walking or cycling. You will pass through key city spots and see urban landmarks while listening to stories about the city's history, architecture, and culture.

- **Duration:** Approx. 60 minutes
- **Capacity:** Up to 50 participants

## 4. Robotaxi Demo Ride and Visit to Verne Showroom

At the showroom, a presentation of the final vehicle prototype will be held, including a short overview of the concept, current development stage and future plans. The visit will conclude with a transfer back to the hotel.

- **Duration:** Approx. 90 minutes
- **Capacity:** Up to 20 participants

# VENUES

## VENUE #1: LEADERSHIP SUMMIT HOTEL ESPLANADE



Mihanovićeva ul. 1,  
10000, Zagreb



09.30-16.00



# VENUES

## VENUE #2: RECEPTION

### OLEANDER TERRACE, HOTEL ESPLANADE



Mihanovićeva ul. 1,  
10000, Zagreb



19.30



# JOIN POLIS' GROWING MEMBERSHIP!

*POLIS is the **leading network** of European cities and regions committed to innovations that can make urban mobility more sustainable, safe, and fair.*

POLIS brings together local and regional governments and transport authorities, research institutes and public transport operators, to address common urban mobility challenges and share **sustainable and innovative transport solutions**, while advocating for greater involvement of cities and regions in national and international mobility policy agendas.

At a time when international cooperation is critical for tackling transport-related societal challenges such as climate change, air pollution, congestion and road safety, the **exchange and cooperation opportunities** offered by POLIS are instrumental.

We have become a **leading platform for peer-to-peer exchange** and rigorous debate, through which our members can learn about (and contribute to) a wide range of urban mobility-related topics, gain unique access to relevant outcomes of European research and innovation initiatives and projects, and take part in constructive dialogues with industry experts and transport stakeholders.

**Our membership draws from across Europe, the United Kingdom, and beyond:** from large capitals including London and Madrid, Paris and Berlin, to small and medium-sized cities such as Leuven and Ravenna, as well as regions such as Baden Württemberg and Catalonia. In addition, our associate membership includes leading academic and capacity-building institutions (e.g., Gustav Eiffel University, Breda University and CEREMA) as well as operators (e.g., SBB, the Swiss Railway).

## MORE INFO



## CONTACT

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**POLIS**

CITIES AND REGIONS FOR TRANSPORT INNOVATION

# POLIS26

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2 - 3 December 2026  
Brussels, Belgium

# COME TO THE ANNUAL POLIS CONFERENCE

2-3 December 2026  
Brussels, Belgium



[CLICK  
HERE](#)



The Annual POLIS Conference 2026 will take place on 2-3 December in **Brussels, Belgium**.

This event provides an opportunity for cities and regions to showcase their transport achievements to a large audience of mobility experts, practitioners and decision-makers.