Cities and regions cooperating on sustainable mobility
Cities which dare to invest in an integrated approach to mobility, air quality, economic development and health are vital. This also includes actively bridging the gap between government and industry, between public and private initiatives. With Polis, we would like to prioritise three themes during our presidency: active investment in clean vehicles, optimised urban logistics, and the use of Intelligent Transport Systems. Let us continue to explore and experience them together!

Pex Langenberg, Vice-Mayor for mobility, sustainability and culture of Rotterdam, Polis President since 2016

Polis is the network of European cities and regions working together to deploy innovative solutions for a more sustainable mobility.

With its Brussels-based secretariat, Polis fosters cooperation and partnerships across Europe and with the EU, to make transport research and innovation more accessible to cities and regions. In Polis, decision makers are also provided with the necessary information and tools for making sustainable mobility policies a reality.

Madrid has been a member of Polis since 2005 – for good reasons: constructive dialogue both with other European cities as well as with the European Institutions helps us to better understand the upcoming challenges and, thus, to define and adapt our policies. During the presidency, Madrid intensified its international activity on urban mobility. This cooperation has proven to be very valuable for the daily management of the complex environment that cities are.

Ana Botella Serrano, former Mayor, City of Madrid, and president of Polis in 2014 and 2015
Welcome to POLIS!

Since 1989, Polis has supported its member cities and regions in achieving their mobility policy objectives.

We are committed to providing insight in and practical support to the implementation of innovative solutions for a more sustainable mobility.

Polis Working Groups and activities are organised around four thematic pillars:

→ Environment and Health in Transport
→ Mobility and Traffic Efficiency
→ Transport Safety and Security
→ Social and Economic Challenges of Transport

In addition, we also cover a number of transversal themes such as Smart Cities, urban freight transport and sustainable urban mobility planning.

I am proud to see that cities and regions have become an important stakeholder for the European Institutions in helping to reduce the adverse impacts of transport, while stimulating innovation and economic growth. We look forward to continuing this dialogue and to supporting European transport policies that meet the needs of our cities and regions.

Karen Vancluysen
Secretary General

Missions

1. Facilitate the exchange of knowledge between cities and regions, and with other stakeholders from research, industry as well as NGOs.

2. Help Polis members gain access to European initiatives, projects and funding.

3. Represent the interests of cities and regions on transport related initiatives towards the European Institutions.
Voice of cities and regions

Polis follows EU policy and legislative initiatives in the field of transport that may have an impact on the local and regional level.

Polis provides briefing notes to members on relevant European policy, develops position papers, puts forward amendments to EU legislative documents and financial perspectives, and organises Brussels-based high-level events on key policy challenges related to urban mobility.

The elected representatives of the network’s cities and regions are gathered in the Polis Political Group, which offers a platform for local politicians to meet with their European counterparts and engage in discussions on common challenges in the field of urban mobility, as well as to enter into a dialogue with high-level representatives from the European Commission and Parliament on relevant European policy priorities.

Defining research priorities in ERTRAC

As a member of the European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC), and leader of the platform’s Urban Mobility Working Group, Polis actively contributes to the definition of research priorities for a more sustainable urban transport system, including recommendations to the EC for their research and innovation framework programmes. In 2016, Polis led the publication of ERTRAC’s new Integrated Urban Mobility Roadmap.

SMTC-Tisséo, Public Transport Authority of the Greater Toulouse aims to provide its citizens with result- and innovation-oriented public transport systems that help to decrease harmful emissions and congestion, while enhancing high-quality urban mobility services. By making local and regional authorities’ voices heard at the EU level, Polis allowed us to sensitise Europe on key policy aspects, meet with high-level EU officials and present our views in order to influence EU processes such as the EU Urban Agenda and the EU low emission mobility strategy.

Marthe Marti, Political representative of Tisséo-SMTC and Councillor of Toulouse Agglomeration
**Innovation in transport for sustainable cities and regions**

**The annual conference of the leading European network of cities and regions on transport innovation**

The Annual Polis Conferences provide an opportunity for cities and regions to showcase their transport achievements to a large audience. The conference’s key topics derive from Polis’ thematic working groups and projects. In addition to the parallel sessions, high-level plenaries on pressing policy issues are held, while technical site visits show urban transport working in practice. Elected representatives from Polis members also engage in discussions with their counterparts during dedicated political meetings within the conference.

**Cities at the Polis Conference**

“I for us, the Polis Conference is the European expert conference on sustainable and innovative mobility solutions. It offers a perfect platform to engage with peers at the European level and benefit from knowledge and innovations that help us tackle the urban transport challenges of the future.”

Kerstin Burggraf, City of Dresden

**Networking platform**

The 2015 Polis Conference brought 400 urban mobility professionals to Brussels. Polis launched its Smart Cities policy paper at the event: “We encourage and support Polis to put citizens at the heart of a smart cities vision,” said Jon Lamonte, CEO of Transport for Greater Manchester.
**Clean transport & healthy mobility**

This pillar looks at understanding the impact that urban and regional transport has on the environment and on health.

Topics considered under this pillar include air and noise pollution from transport; cleaner vehicles and alternative fuels, including electromobility; climate change; walking and cycling; shared mobility services, and mobility management.

The Province of Gelderland (NL) coordinates the Working Groups on mobility & health, and on bike sharing schemes, fostering multidisciplinary discussion and exchange on best practices from Europe and beyond, with a predominant focus on active travel.

The City of Rotterdam (NL) leads the Working Group on clean vehicles and alternative fuels. Vehicle emissions and air quality, clean vehicles procurement and transport electrification are some of the key areas covered by this group.

**Electrification of transport**

Integrating electromobility services in a multimodal urban mobility system can help to achieve cleaner and healthier urban environments. Polis members are enhancing the electrification of their transport system, including light and heavy duty vehicles, as well as collective transport. Polis is also involved in several EU flag-ship projects on e-mobility such as FREVUE (on freight), ZeEUS and ELIPTIC (both on public transport).

**Health in transport planning**

Polis helps cities make a case for considering health alongside the environment when assessing a transport policy or plan. In cooperation with the WHO and UNECE Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme. Polis promotes the use of health economic appraisal tools among decision makers for more liveable communities through healthier transport and active travel.

*Marco Filippeschi, mayor of Pisa, presents the new electric freight vehicles in Pisa. (Photo: ClickUtility)*

*Nantes Métropole has increased the cycle mode share from 2 % to 4,5 % in 5 years, with 27% of trips by foot. (Credit Hadrien Bedok)*
Efficient mobility

The Traffic Efficiency pillar addresses issues related to network management and innovative services, in particular those enabled by intelligent transport systems (ITS).

The working group meetings have focused, for instance, on open ITS systems; ITS impact assessment; cost-effective communications; proactive traffic management (data gathering, information services, decision support); cooperative systems and research and cooperation needs for network management and ITS.

Developments in these areas are discussed with local and regional authorities, the research community and industry at, for example, the Annual Polis Conferences.

Opening, analysing and dissemination transport data

Further to the publication of the Polis position paper on open data in 2013, Polis has extended its data activities to encompass data analytics and data dissemination in order to support transport planning, to improve customer services and to influence travel behaviour.

Transport connectivity and automation

Through European projects (notably CIMEC, CODECS and MAVEN) and several European fora (including the Amsterdam Group and C-ITS Deployment Platform), Polis is heavily involved in European discussions on connected and automated transport systems. Its main purpose is to ensure the voice of cities and regions is heard in these developments and to understand where they can bring benefit.
Safe mobility

This pillar addresses road safety and the security of transport systems.

Polis activities cover policies addressing all types of road users (children, pedestrians, two-wheelers, drivers, etc.), from education and campaigns to data collection and technological innovations contributing to the improvement of road safety.

Through this thematic pillar, Polis aims to provide tools and knowledge, enabling local authorities to contribute to the achievement of a “vision zero” as defined in the White Paper on European Transport Policy. SRM Bologna is the Working Group’s chair.

Reducing road injuries

The official EU targets were an important driver for some countries to cut road casualties with more than 60% since 2001. Because of its particular relevance for the urban level, Polis also calls for an EU target to reduce serious injuries. Polis is voicing this message together with other European associations, while the network’s Working Group looks into the related challenge of collecting and using accident data on the local level.

Safety and active travel modes

Polis supports research on how to improve the safety, comfort and mobility of Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs). Tailored guidelines developed within the ISAAC project demonstrate how to promote walking and cycling without compromising road safety.
Mobility for urban economic development and social cohesion

This pillar covers the social and economic challenges of transport.

Polis members jointly work on how to best address challenges such as financing, regulation, planning and governance. Cities and regions look to increase self-financing and levels of internalisation of external costs.

They consider the social impact of transport measures. This includes access to transport services for people with reduced mobility as well as access to jobs, education and other services.
A holistic view on mobility

Transversal topics include Smart Cities, urban freight transport and sustainable urban mobility planning.

Rotterdam chairs the urban freight working group, which discusses topics such as joint procurement for zero emission vehicles, data collection/management, recognition schemes, and consolidation. The group looks into ways of engaging with industry partners and freight operators.

Supporting Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning

Polis developed the handbook on “institutional cooperation within the SUMP process” in the CH4LLENGE project. It also coordinates the Innovation Pilot Pool of the SUMP-s-Up project, which provides micro-funding for local SUMP development and implementation.

Mobility in the Smart City

Polis strives to raise the profile of urban mobility in the smart city. Through the network’s position paper, the involvement in the European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities and Communities, and the H2020 GrowSmarter Lighthouse project, Polis members’ views on smart cities receive a lot of attention.

“Citizens should come first when designing, planning and building the Smart City. Without citizens, the Smart City has no real purpose.”

Rafael Cuesta, Transport for Greater Manchester

Teaming up for clean commercial vehicles

Polis supports joint actions by local authorities to reach larger uptake of clean commercial vehicles. Within the FREVUE project, the hidden demand for zero emission vehicles for urban logistics is highlighted through a Declaration of Intent that logistics operators subscribe to.
Polis Global Platform

Linking up European cities with their non-European counterparts

The Polis Global Platform was established in 2016, with the aim to structure, pool, and support the increasing outreach activities of the network and its members on an international scale regarding shared global transport challenges, such as air pollution, congestion, road safety and accessibility. Non-European cities can now also become engaged in Polis as associated members.

International activities include cooperation with the International Transport Forum, the World Health Organisation, UNECE and SloCaT. Polis presented at the international UN Habitat III conference, shaping the urban agenda for the next 20 years.

Polis as a member of SLoCaT

Polis has become a member of the Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT) - a multi-stakeholder partnership representing UN organisations, the World Bank and many transport-specific associations. This gives more visibility to Polis’ activities globally.

Welcome São Paulo

São Paulo was the first non-European city to join Polis. The city’s Deputy Secretary spoke at the plenary debate on Smart Cities at the 2015 Polis conference. Some of São Paulo’s best practices related to freight, parking and ridesharing have been promoted through Polis.

Photo: Marcelo Fortin
Cities and regions are stronger in the Polis network

- A unified and strong voice of cities and regions towards the European Institutions
- Networking with peers and strategic players in the transport sector
- Support to join European initiatives and European funded projects

Become a Member

Would you like to be part of the Polis network?
www.polisnetwork.eu/become-member

www.polisnetwork.eu

Thinking Cities

‘Thinking Cities’, a partnership between Polis and H3B Media, is showcasing transport innovation in cities and regions - not just for the sustainable city of tomorrow, but the sustainable city of today.