



## Press Release

Brussels, 19 November 2015

### **Urban/regional transport: 2015 POLIS CONFERENCE CALLS FOR FULLY USING POTENTIAL OF URBAN MOBILITY IN MAKING THE CITY SMARTER**

**400 mobility professionals from across Europe and beyond have come together to debate on urban and regional mobility at this year's Annual Polis Conference in Brussels. Local and regional authorities call for putting the citizen at the heart of the Smart Cities process.**

European **Vice-President Jyrki Katainen, Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness** said at the conference's Opening Plenary on "Smart Cities. What's in a name?": "Talented people want to work in smart sustainable cities. Polis is a crucial network in helping cities to share and to get access to know-how and proven practice in other countries than their own."

At the conference today, Polis also launched its new **policy paper "Sustainable Urban Mobility and the Smart City"**. The paper states that the role and potential of urban mobility in making the city smarter is currently not sufficiently recognised. **Karen Vancluysen, Polis Secretary General** said at the plenary session: "The Smart City knows what it wants, knows how to intervene, is interested to assess results and change course if needed, and in this process is able to take everybody along. (...) The current European framework for Smart Cities, with focus on ICT, Energy and Transport is rather narrow. ICT is an enabler of many smart mobility measures, but still, not all transport solutions need ICT to make them smart."

"Smart cities is going to be more than technology. We therefore encourage and support Polis to put the citizens at the heart of a smart cities vision", **said Jon Lamonte, CEO Transport for Greater Manchester and Chair Passenger Transport Executive Group.**

The 2015 Polis Conference is taking place today and tomorrow, 19-20 November, and entitled "Innovation in Transport for Sustainable Cities and Regions". It has also marked the launch of **Polis' new 'Global Platform'** allowing local governments from beyond Europe to become associated Polis members, the release of the latest edition of **'Thinking Cities'**, a magazine jointly published by Polis and H3B media, and the launch of the **CHALLENGE project's SUMP self-assessment tool.**

The Polis Conference is an important annual highlight for urban mobility professionals. It provides an opportunity for cities and regions to showcase their transport achievements to an international audience, and for the wider transport community to engage with representatives of local and regional authorities on innovative transport solutions. Technical sessions at the conference cover innovative topics identified by Polis members.

<end>



### **The 2015 Polis Conference is live on twitter:**

For twitter users: the hashtag is #polis15.

### **More information:**

- 2015 Polis Conference webpage: <http://www.polisnetwork.eu/2015conference>
- Polis Policy Paper on Smart Cities: <http://www.polisnetwork.eu/Smartcities>

### **For more information, please contact Polis:**

Dagmar Köhler  
Polis Communication Manager  
Rue du Trone 98, 1050 Brussels, Belgium  
+32 (0)486 255068  
dkoehler@polisnetwork.eu  
[www.polisnetwork.eu](http://www.polisnetwork.eu)

### **Notes to editors:**

Polis is a network of European cities and regions working together to develop innovative technologies and policies for local transport.

Our aim is to improve local transport through integrated strategies that address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of transport. To this end, Polis supports the exchange of experiences and the transfer of knowledge between European local and regional authorities.

In Polis, decision makers are provided with the necessary information and tools for making sustainable mobility a reality. Within the Political Group of Polis, they formulate recommendations to the European institutions.

Polis members meet regularly in working groups organised in the framework of four pillars:

- Environment and Health in Transport
- Mobility and Traffic Efficiency
- Transport Safety and Security
- Social and Economic Aspects of Transport

The Spanish city of Madrid holds the 2015 presidency of the Polis network. Polis has a permanent secretariat located in Brussels.

[www.polisnetwork.eu](http://www.polisnetwork.eu)