



Press Release

Brussels, 18 November 2015

CITY OF ROTTERDAM ELECTED AS POLIS PRESIDENT

At today's Annual General Assembly, the city of Rotterdam was unanimously elected to be the president of the Polis network in 2016. Rotterdam is taking over the presidency from the city of Madrid, which as outgoing president will welcome delegates to this year's Polis Conference tomorrow.

“Rotterdam would like to make a significant and ongoing contribution to the Polis network. Together we can conduct a constructive dialogue between cities and with European organizations in the fields of sustainability and transport”, said Stella Leijten, Head of Transport, City of Rotterdam. **“In our role as president of Polis we will also focus on bridging the gap between public interest and private initiative.”**

Rotterdam has been promoting sustainable transport for many years, both locally and through cooperation across borders. Outstanding initiatives include the city's ambitious plan for zero emission urban logistics by 2020, Rotterdam's electromobility and charging infrastructure strategy, and its ITS activities.

At the General Assembly, the cities of Bilbao and Toulouse, and the region of Île-de-France were also elected to join the Management Committee of Polis, while the city of Pisa was appointed as vice-president.

The Polis elections will be followed by the 2015 Polis Conference, also held in Brussels. On Thursday and Friday, the conference titled “Innovation in Transport for Sustainable Cities and Regions” will gather around 400 urban mobility professionals from across Europe and beyond. Among the plenary speakers are European **Vice-Presidents Jyrki Katainen, Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness**, and **Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner for the Energy Union**.

The 2015 Polis conference also marks the launch of **Polis' new 'Global Platform'**, the release of the latest edition of **'Thinking Cities'**, a magazine jointly published by Polis and H3B media, and the launch of the **CH4ALLENGE 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.

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The 2015 Polis Conference is live on twitter:

For twitter users: the hashtag is #polis15.

More information incl. the conference programme: <http://www.polisnetwork.eu/2015conference>

For more information, please contact Polis:

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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