



## Press Release

Brussels, 5 December 2017

### **GREATER MANCHESTER ELECTED AS NEW POLIS PRESIDENT**

**At today's Annual General Assembly, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) was unanimously elected to take the Presidency of Polis from Rotterdam. TfGM will chair the independent network of European cities and regions on urban transport innovation for the following year.**

"Urban regions are key drivers for national and global economies, and transport is essential for their success and development", said **Rafael Cuesta, Head of Innovation at Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)**. "Challenges such as congestion, air quality and changes in customer behaviour have no obvious route to resolution, they require innovation. The Polis network offers access to expertise, best practices and knowledge-sharing opportunities", he continues.

Manchester has been actively engaged in the Polis partnership for several years. Among others, the region collaborated on decarbonisation, freight logistics and finance, and has led projects on MaaS, Autonomous Vehicles and bike sharing schemes.

At today's General Assembly, the cities of Aarhus (DK), Helmond (NL), Madrid (ES) and La Rochelle (FR) were also elected to join the Management Committee of Polis:

- "Aarhus is a growing city and we are strengthening our work on smart mobility, in close collaboration with other European cities through Polis", said **Gustav Friis, City of Aarhus**.
- "Helmond shows by example that it is possible also for small and medium-sized cities to unlock innovation in transport", said **Gert Blom, City of Helmond**, in a letter addressed to the assembly.
- "Madrid has shifted from managing traffic to managing mobility over the past decade. Exchanging knowledge and experiences with other cities through the Polis network has been key to success and we are committed to help other cities, too", says **Sergio Fernández Balaguer, EMT Madrid**.
- "Polis is precious to draw the attention of the European Institutions on the expectations and concerns of the cities and regions – not only the large ones but also medium-sized towns like La Rochelle", said **Matthieu Graindorge, La Rochelle Urban Community**.

Polis' members assembly preceded the Annual Polis Conference, taking place on 6 and 7 December in Brussels. The conference brings together more than 500 professionals exchanging on innovation to make urban and regional transport more sustainable. Key topics addressed at the conference include Mobility as a Service, walking, cycling, road safety, transport planning (SUMP) and automation.

A number of thematic workshops are organised back to back to the conference. This includes a joint [workshop with ACEA, EUCAR and ERTRAC](#) to kick-start the dialogue between cities and vehicle manufacturers regarding urban vehicle access regulations and a capacity building workshop for cities on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans. <end>



## More information

More information including the conference programme: [www.polisnetwork.eu/2017conference](http://www.polisnetwork.eu/2017conference)  
Twitter hashtag: #polis17

## Contact

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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. In Polis, decision makers are provided with the necessary information and tools for making sustainable mobility a reality.

The Annual Polis Conference represents an important annual highlight for urban mobility professionals and 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.

Polis members meet regularly in working groups organised around four thematic pillars:

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

Polis has a permanent secretariat located in Brussels. [www.polisnetwork.eu](http://www.polisnetwork.eu)