

## PRESS RELEASE

### EU funding must be made available to meet EU transport targets and obligations, said leading cities and regions to European Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism members of the European Parliament

**Brussels, 11 December 2025** – As the European Union prepares its investment plans for 2028-2034, political leaders of the POLIS network called today on high-level EU officials to ensure that EU funding will be made available for cities and regions. This is instrumental to help them comply with obligations set at the EU level, particularly for connectivity, sustainable mobility, and emissions reduction.

The POLIS delegation included regional ministers and deputy mayors in charge of transport in nine different regions and cities (cf. list below). They met with key actors—the European Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, Apostolos Tzitzikostas, and five members of the European Parliament, from five different political groups.

These meetings take place at a critical moment—the European Commission, Parliament, and Council are discussing the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2034), which includes two key instruments for transport: the Connecting Europe Facility, and the European Competitiveness Fund.

POLIS political leaders highlighted the importance of ensuring proper support to the investment needs of regions and cities, which have a key role to play as urban nodes in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), and insisted on the urgent need to secure long-term, people-centred mobility policies that support local authorities in delivering accessible, sustainable, and resilient transport systems.

Cities and regions play a leading role in implementing Europe's transport and mobility priorities, including expanding clean transport infrastructure and intermodal hubs, developing Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP), and advancing digital and green transitions. Delivering these priorities effectively will require predictable funding, appropriate governance structures, and strengthened multi-level dialogue to translate EU objectives into tangible results on the ground.

**Karen Vancluysen, Secretary General, POLIS :**

'These were very important meetings. This is a critical moment for the future of European cities and regions, which is to say, for the future of Europeans, and for their right to move and to access services and goods. We are grateful that the Commissioner and the Members of the European Parliament listened to our concerns and proposals. They positioned themselves as allies, recognising the key role of cities and regions in reaching Europe's ambitions.'

[Placeholder quote for POLIS members]

For information on POLIS, check [Note to editors](#).

## POLIS Delegation

- **Dejan Crnek**, POLIS President, and Deputy Mayor, City of Ljubljana, Slovenia
  - **Karen Vancluysen**, Secretary General, POLIS, Belgium
  - **Ioannis Anastasakis**, Vice Governor, Region of Crete, Greece
  - **Tuija Telén**, Regional Mayor, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland
  - **Jeroen Olthof**, Regional Minister, Province Noord-Holland, Netherlands
  - **Eugenio Patanè**, Deputy Mayor, Metropolitan City of Roma Capitale, Italy
  - **Lars Strömgren**, Vice Mayor, City of Stockholm, Sweden
  - **Koen Kennis**, Vice Mayor, City of Antwerp, Belgium
  - **Angel Lopez Rodrigues**, Vice Mayor Representative, City of Barcelona, Spain
  - **Thomas Van Oppens**, Deputy Mayor, City of Leuven, Belgium
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- **Eugenia Kolb**, Representative to EU, Ministry of Transport Baden-Württemberg, Germany
  - **Françoise Guaspere**, Representative to EU, Île-de-France Mobilités, France
  - **Hans Verdonk**, Representative to EU, G-4 (Amsterdam, the Hague, Rotterdam and Utrecht), Netherlands
  - **Marcus Göpfert**, Representative to EU, Stuttgart Region, Germany
  - **Justin van Schepen**, Advisor, Province of Noord-Holland, Netherlands
  - **Erwin von Baumgarten**, Advisor, City of Stockholm, Sweden
  - **Marjolein de Jong**, Advisor, City of Antwerp, Belgium
  - **Ron Nohlmans**, Advisor, City of Eindhoven, Netherlands
  - **Simona Berden**, Advisor, City of Ljubljana, Slovenia
  - **Tim Asperges**, Advisor, City of Leuven, Belgium

## Note to editors

POLIS is a registered international non-profit association under Belgian law with its secretariat based in Brussels. POLIS is the leading European network of cities and regions on urban transport innovation, where European local and regional authorities have been working together since 1998 to promote sustainable mobility through the deployment of innovative transport solutions. Its aim is to improve local transport through integrated strategies that address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of transport.