

## Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU

### “A presidency that cares about cities”



The Belgian Presidency wants to be “a presidency that cares about cities”.

To achieve this objective, the three Belgian regions have developed a full programme of events dedicated to **European mayors** with the aim to:

- **Give mayors the possibility to express** their messages and priorities towards the European institutions
- **Put cities and their challenges at the heart** of the European political agenda for the next 5 years
- **Increase the involvement of cities and mayors** in the EU decision-making process and EU policies and programmes.

#### Six events dedicated to Mayors

Official Belgian EU Presidency event on urban policy:

- **23 & 24/01/2024** High-level event with Mayors: A European urban policy fit for the future

Official thematic events:

- **23/01/2024** Direct Dialogue between EU Capitals Mayors and the European Commission on the Rule of Law
- **15/03/2024** Conference “Translating the EU Green Deal into Local action”
- **18 & 19/03/2024** 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities
- **20 to 22/03/2024** 8th International Conference “Security, Democracy & Cities”
- **19/04/2024** Conference "Local Government Approaches to Diversity"

Attached a detailed list of these six events.

### Detailed list of the six events with Mayors

Date and location	Short description	Organizer (entity / administration)	Minister or political representative in charge
<b>Official Belgian EU Presidency event on urban policy</b>			
<b>High-level event with Mayors: A European urban policy fit for the future</b>			
23/01/2024 and 24/01/2024  Egmont Palace Brussels	The Brussels-Capital Region holds the Presidency on EU urban policy on behalf of Belgium. This event brings together the mayors of capital cities and large cities in Europe, representatives of European institutions, associations of European cities and metropolises as well as other important European urban stakeholders. A Brussels Declaration of Mayors to the European Institutions will be presented and signed during the event. This overarching declaration aims to provide bold political messages and recommendations for a strong European urban policy during the next mandate of the European Parliament and the European Commission.	Brussels-Capital Region perspective.brussels <u>Contact:</u> <a href="mailto:europa@perspective.brussels">europa@perspective.brussels</a>	Minister-President of Brussels-Capital Region, Rudi Vervoort & State Secretary, Ans Persoons <u>Contact:</u> Julien Jost <a href="mailto:jjost@gov.brussels">jjost@gov.brussels</a> Thomas Allegaert <a href="mailto:tallegaert@gov.brussels">tallegaert@gov.brussels</a>
<b>Five official thematic events</b>			
<b>Rule of law: Direct Dialogue between EU Capitals Mayors and the European Commission on the Rule of Law</b>			
23-01-2023  City Hall of Brussels	The City of Brussels and the European Commission will devote the upcoming 13th "Direct Dialogue between EU Capital Mayors and the Commission" to the rule of law. The event will provide an interactive setting for Mayors to discuss the rule of law situation at local level with other mayors and the European Commission.	City of Brussels <u>Contact:</u> Nathan Clarke <a href="mailto:nathan.clarke@brucity.be">nathan.clarke@brucity.be</a> Joana Segonds <a href="mailto:joana.segonds@brucity.be">joana.segonds@brucity.be</a>	Mayor of the City of Brussels, Philippe Close
<b>Future of the Green Deal and the role of local and regional authorities: Conference with 550 mayors and representatives of local governments Fit for 55 on "translating the EU Green Deal into local action" and giving inspiration for effective multilevel governance</b>			
15-03-2024  European Parliament and Committee of the Regions Brussels	Various EU supportive structures currently exist, such as the (future) Covenant of Mayors, the EU-Mission 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities, the EU-Mission for Adaptation, the European Climate Pact, the Green City Accord, the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI), the Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC), the Urban Initiative, ...  The Belgian Presidency wants to explore how to create more impact by building a bridge between these, serving better the needs of all local governments, creating stronger synergies and integrating with regional supportive frameworks across the Union in order to make the Green Deal thrive in our communities.	Flemish Agency for Internal Affairs – <u>Contact:</u> Toon Delodder <a href="mailto:Toon.Delodder@vlaanderen.be">Toon.Delodder@vlaanderen.be</a> Nathalie Hoes <a href="mailto:Nathalie.Hoes@vlaanderen.be">Nathalie.Hoes@vlaanderen.be</a>	Vice-Minister president of Flanders, Gwendolyn Rutten <u>Contact:</u> Elise Steyaert <a href="mailto:Elise.Steyaert@vlaanderen.be">Elise.Steyaert@vlaanderen.be</a>
<b>The vision of Europe's regions and localities on the future of the European Union: 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities</b>			
18/03/2024 and 19/03/24  Mons	This Summit will bring together all 329 members representing local and regional authorities from the 27 Member States of the EU, many elected local and regional representatives, official members of the European Committee of the Regions, European and national parliamentarians, European Commissioners and Ministers. Presidents of European institutions, high-level external guests, academics and representatives of international organisations, NGOs and civil society are also invited.  The aim is to set out the vision of Europe's regions and cities for the future of the European Union. A wide range of issues will be addressed, including the place of local and regional players in the European Union's decision-making process, the dual green and digital transition, the future of cohesion policy, the major European and global challenges, and the democratic participation of citizens and the new generations to come.	Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI) <u>Contact:</u> Luc Pacque <a href="mailto:l.paque@wbi.be">l.paque@wbi.be</a>	Minister-President of Wallonia, Elio Di Rupo <u>Contact :</u> Mathias Pley <a href="mailto:mathias.pley@gov.wallonie.be">mathias.pley@gov.wallonie.be</a>

**Security: European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) 8th International Conference Security, Democracy & Cities**

<p>20/03/2024 to 22/03/2024</p> <p>The Egg Anderlecht</p>	<p>This event, will unite over 800 actors involved in urban security and crime prevention (Representatives of the European institutions, elected officials of more than 150 cities and regions from over 30 countries, government officials, magistrates, security professionals, social workers, researchers and representatives from civil society).</p> <p>The #SDC24 conference offers a unique occasion to join high level roundtables, workshops, networking opportunities and field visits, and fosters exchanges and mutual learning in the field of crime prevention, security and crisis management.</p> <p>The objective of the conference is to update the Manifesto “Co-producing urban security policies”, that expresses the shared principles and values of Efus and its members and provides the guidelines for the network’s activities with more than 60 practical recommendations.</p>	<p>Efus - European Forum For Urban Security Brussels-Capital Region - Safe.brussels</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Hans Crab <a href="mailto:hans.crab@safe.brussels">hans.crab@safe.brussels</a></p>	<p>Minister-President of Brussels-Capital Region Rudi Vervoort</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Fabien Gerard</p>
---	--	---	---

**Integration and inclusion: "Local Government Approaches to Diversity" Conference with 330 people, amongst which mayors of European cities and municipalities with inspiring policies, as well as heads of international institutions**

<p>19/04/2024</p> <p>Conference Centre Lamot Mechelen</p>	<p>Today, our continent is more diverse than ever. This is owing to the fact that the world’s growing globalisation has reduced distances, leading to increased mobility. Hundreds of thousands of newcomers arrive in Europe every year. As a result, Europe has a population of 450 million. It is a Europe in which every nationality in the world is represented. A Europe that characterizes a broader spectrum of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and religious and philosophical beliefs than ever before. The increased diversity offers opportunities but also presents challenges.</p> <p>Municipalities and cities have developed a range of initiatives and policies to address these challenges and build on the opportunities. It is time to bring together these insights. To learn from each other. To exchange best practices. To see where and how European local authorities can collaborate.</p> <p>The conference presents inspirational initiatives, policies and methods from Flanders and abroad (plenary sessions, parallel sessions and site visits).</p>	<p>Flemish Agency for Internal Affairs</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Tom De Bruyn <a href="mailto:tom.debruyn@vlaanderen.be">tom.debruyn@vlaanderen.be</a> Alice Delhoux <a href="mailto:alice.delhoux@vlaanderen.be">alice.delhoux@vlaanderen.be</a></p>	<p>Vice-Minister president of Flanders, Gwendolyn Rutten</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Chloë Van Hoegaerden <a href="mailto:chloe.vanhoegaerden@vlaanderen.be">chloe.vanhoegaerden@vlaanderen.be</a></p>
---	--	--	---