

POLITICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) OF THE CIVITAS INITIATIVE

Statement on CIVITAS and CIVINET
Networks

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CiViTAS
Cleaner and better transport in cities



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About this document

The PAC met on the 5th of July 2015 in Parma, to discuss their views concerning the importance of the CIVITAS and CIVINET Networks and how to present it to the European Commission.

The resulting document was circulated among the PAC members. This document represents the final version of the PAC Statement.

Statement of the CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee on the future of the CIVITAS Network and CIVINET Networks

As it is stated in several European documents, the cities of the EU are the engines of the growth of the European Union, and also the sources of problems arising from that growth, like unsustainable expansion of transport infrastructures and pollution related to the movement of people and goods.

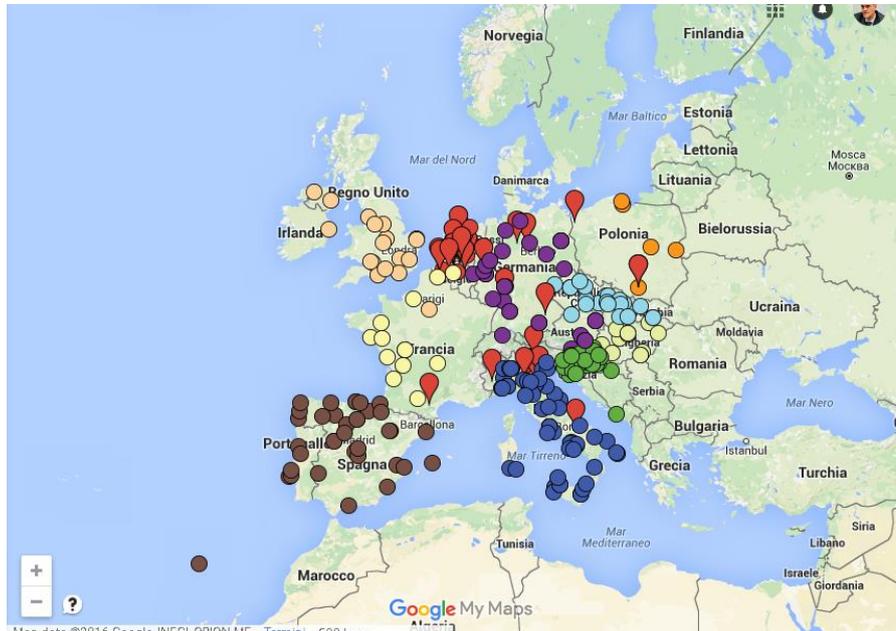
The CIVITAS Network was created by the European Commission to take part in the search for sustainable mobility solutions and to catalyse the exchange of ideas among the cities. The Political Advisory Committee, which members are ultimately appointed by the European Commission, is a group of politicians who devote time to take part in this process and feel responsibility for the Network.

After developments of the past years we believe that it is necessary to draw attention to the challenges the PAC and the Network faces:

- The cooperation of DG Move and the PAC is not enough utilized. PAC members would like to received more information about the plans of the European Commission for shaping the future urban mobility policies. PAC meetings represent an opportunity for officials of DG Move to have a direct discussion with city leaders who will actually apply policies. Members of the PAC are strongly motivated and intend to take part in these discussions together with EC representative. Further to that, PAC would like to express regret because of the absence of a representative of DG Move at last two PAC meetings, thus limiting the exchange of information further.
- The PAC sees the cutting of the funding for CIVINETs as a lost opportunity. These networks provided the link between research activities and everyday practitioners, between high level abstraction of knowledge and the man on the street. These networks are still in a growing phase and cutting the funding will limit their capacity and likely, seal their end. The PAC would like to reinforce the importance that the results of the work done in the past decade of CIVITAS projects should be made available to the cities in their own languages. As the number of cities to be reached may even be around a thousand, and non-sustainable transport planning is a reality in most of them, cutting the funding will mean that local professionals who are willing to devote time and effort to work on sustainable mobility will have no access to resources and possibility for discussions. As consequence, this will deteriorate the



effectiveness and the usability of the CIVITAS network and the dissemination effort of its results.



Civinet network

- The Political Advisory Committee feels itself responsible for the cause of sustainable urban mobility and urges the European Commission to capitalize on the results of the past and to work together with the cities represented in the CIVITAS Network and CIVINETs providing the cooperation and the funding for the topics discussed in this statement.

About the CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee (PAC)

The Political Advisory Committee (PAC) constitutes a small group of motivated politicians from within CIVITAS Network cities that acts as the Initiative's steering group. Members participate in a personal capacity.

Typically, the PAC's work takes the form of short policy-styled notes (the "*PAC statements*"). These are drafted by the PAC with the support of a Secretary and may be directed towards policy makers at either European, national or local level, as well as towards industry, transport operators and other stakeholders.

As a result of the 2015 call for PAC members a new PAC was constituted in September 2015. Hereby we list the current members of the Committee:

- **Steen Moller**, (Chair), Deputy Mayor, Odense, Denmark
- **Gabriele Folli**, (Vice-Chair), Deputy Mayor, Parma, Italia
- **Margareta Rönngren**, Vice Mayor, Umeå, Sweden
- **Sándor Nagy** City Development Committee, Szeged, Hungary
- **Domingos Rodrigues**, City Councillor, Funchal, Portugal

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- **Alessandro Meggiato**, Mobility Department Manager, Reggio Emilia, Italy
- **Miroslav Matešić**, Deputy Mayor, City of Rijeka, Croatia
- **Carlos Bernardes**, Mayor, Torres Vedras, Portugal
- **Dejan Crnek**, Vice-Mayor, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- **Henrik Munck**, First Vice Chairman, Gothenburg, Sweden
- **Andrzej Bień**, Vice-Chairman, Gdynia, Poland
- **Íñigo de la Serna Hernáiz**, City Mayor, Santander, Spain
- **Bas Verkerk**, City Mayor, Delft, The Netherlands

For any further questions concerning the PAC, please contact its Secretary: Ms. Chiara Frenca, pac@civitas.eu