

CIVITAS

Sustainable and smart mobility for all

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Politicians Exchange Forum (PEF) meeting

Tuesday 15 September 2026

9.00 – 12.30

Venue: Thessaloniki Town Hall

Draft agenda

DRAFT AGENDA

09.00 – 09.10: Opening and agenda

- Welcome by Stelios Angeloudis, Mayor of Thessaloniki (10')

09.10 – 09.25: EU update

- Update by DG MOVE on key elements of the EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy and other initiatives relevant to destination management – Eric von Breska, Director for Investment, Innovative & Sustainable Transport, DG MOVE, European Commission (10')
- Q&A (5')

I. Political discussion – “The 2026 EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy: Mobility and Tourism at a Crossroads”

Moderator: Dr. Nina Nesterova, Professor Sustainable Development in Tourism and Transport, Breda University of Applied Sciences

09.25 – 09.40: Cities' interventions

Short statements (3 minutes each) from the following local actors on measures implemented and remaining challenges:

- **Arianna Censi, Milan Deputy Mayor** (TBC), on managing visitor peaks during the Olympic games, multimodal hubs and city access rules.
- **Minou Esquetet, Bruges Deputy Mayor for Economy, Tourism, Agriculture and Fisheries** (TBC), on managing tourism pressure in a historic urban context, balancing accessibility, heritage preservation, and resident quality of life.
- **Jeanette Axisa, Chief Officer, Transport Regulator Malta**, on port-city mobility integration, inclusive tourism and EGUM Tourism Subgroup activities.
- **Ádám Bodor, Deputy CEO of Mobility at BKK Budapesti Közlekedési Központ** (TBC), on managing dynamic mobility flows for major events and enhancing city–airport cooperation.

09.40 – 09.55: Stakeholders' interventions

Short statements (2 minutes each) from key tourism-mobility actors.

Each speaker should provide two key opportunities and two challenges for sustainable tourism at local and regional mobility level.

Speakers:

- Suzanne Hoadley, Head of the Passenger Transport Section of IRU
- Laurianne Krid, Chief Executive Officer of the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF)

- Katerina Papamichail, Member of Board of Directors of the European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT)
- Ioannis Toskas, CEO of the Thessaloniki Transport Authority (TheTA)
- Speaker TBC, Thessaloniki Port Authority (ThPA)

09.55 – 11.20: Open discussion

Proposed discussion questions:

- **Sustainable Mobility:**
 - How can the EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy strengthen support for low-emission and zero-emission visitor transport, including buses/coaches, cycling, walking, shared mobility and cruise-related mobility?
 - What local measures are needed to reduce the tourism mobility carbon footprint while ensuring affordability?
- **Cross-Border Connectivity & Visitor Flow Management**
 - What barriers prevent seamless multimodal, cross-border travel, and better integration between long-distance transport and local mobility systems for visitors?
 - How can cities and transport operators manage peak visitor flows while safeguarding local mobility, system efficiency, and resident well-being?
- **Governance & Funding**
 - What mechanisms are needed to improve coordination across cities, Destination Management Organizations (DMOs), transport operators, and EU institutions?
 - How can the EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy ensure consistency with local Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP)?
 - Which funding gaps currently limit cities' ability to deliver sustainable tourism mobility solutions?

11.20 – 11.30: Key takeaways, closing remarks and photo

II. Site visit

11.30 – 12.25: Guided tour to the archaeological areas of Venizelou and Agias Sofias metro stations:

- Transfer from Municipal Hall to Venizelou metro station (10')
- Guided tour to Venizelou metro station (15')
- Ride the metro from Venizelou metro station to Agia Sofia metro station (10')
- Walking to Agias Sofia surrounding (pedestrian) area (20')
- Transfer to the main venue of the conference (Concert Hall) (5')

12.25 – 12.30: Transfer to the main venue of the conference (Concert Hall)