



EUROPEAN COMMISSION - WEB RELEASE

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European Commission strengthens partnership with local authorities associations

EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, will sign today strategic partnerships with representatives of five of the main global and regional associations of local authorities, to achieve common objectives in matters of good governance and sustainable development at the local level.

Ahead of the event Commissioner Mimica said: *"This is the first time that the European Commission establishes this way of cooperation with local authorities, and I believe that it will allow us to further improve our work together on the basis of mutual interests and common objectives. By strengthening the structure and capacity of local authorities, as well as their capacity to influence the interests and practices of national governments, we can make a real difference in development."*

The EU will also provide these associations with financial support of €20.3 million for the period 2015-2017. The funds will be used to enhance the associations' structures, capacity and relations with their members; to improve their capacity to contribute to national, regional and global policy-making. These partnerships will also look at ways to improve the coordination among the targeted associations operating at different levels (national, regional and global) as well as to promote policy dialogue among different development actors.

The five associations who will co-sign today's agreements are:

- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Association International Maires Francophones (AIMF)
- Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
- United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-A)
- Council of European Municipalities and Regions/PLATFORMA (CEMR/PLATFORMA)

Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul, Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, and Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Dakar, are among the representatives of these associations who will be present at the event.

All local and regional authorities, including those in the EU, are on the frontline of our fight against poverty and local and global environmental challenges such as climate change. They play a key role in highlighting the voices and priorities of the poor and the marginalised.

Responsible and accountable local authorities are also paramount for increasing democratic participation and for the respect of human rights.

The Commission Communication “Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes”, adopted in 2013, provides a comprehensive policy to frame the participation of local authorities in countries' development processes and in broader political, social and economic dialogue.

For further information, please contact:

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Photos and videos of the event will be available here:
<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/photo/photoByDate.cfm?sitelang=en>