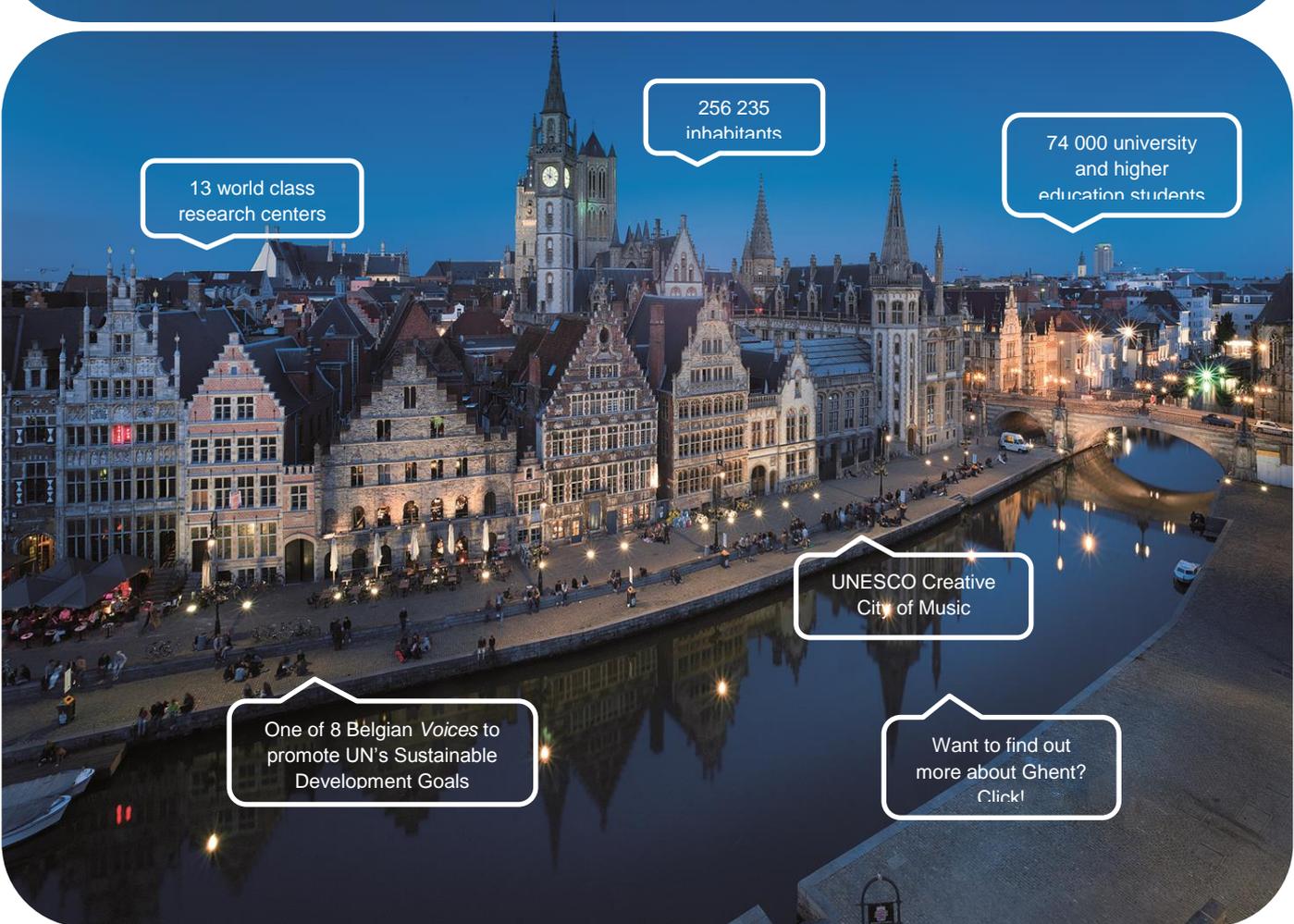




GHENT'S application for the presidency of EUROCITIES



13 world class research centers

256 235 inhabitants

74 000 university and higher education students

UNESCO Creative City of Music

One of 8 Belgian *Voices* to promote UN's Sustainable Development Goals

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Ghent's vision for the EUROCITIES presidency

Dear friends, dear EUROCITIES colleagues

In 2016, the EUROCITIES network is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Indeed, there is much to be proud of. It is because of the tireless efforts, the strong commitment and especially the hard teamwork of you, past and present politicians, field experts from cities all over Europe and the EUROCITIES team that we have achieved tremendous breakthroughs.

You will agree that the official launch of the Pact of Amsterdam in May this year was a remarkable milestone. We have shown Europe that cities are a true and indispensable partner to make things work. Our ample meetings with European Commissioners underline the recognition that we get and deserve. The Urban Agenda and its partnerships, for which we delivered important input, allow us to work together with the European Commission and with the member states to work on unemployment, climate change and many more societal challenges.

Also, looking back on the past 30 years in Europe, it is clear that Europe is no longer the same. The current system and values are actually under great pressure. Needless to say that tensions inside and outside Europe are linked to the vote for Brexit, terrorist attacks, refugees, the economic and financial crisis, changing relations between the EU and Russia as well as between the EU and China and the fact that people feel left behind.

Next to that, the traditional relation between government, citizens and businesses is changing from a hierarchical one to a network relationship. It creates opportunities but it also requires new solutions and connections.



I believe that with every crisis come great opportunities. Our strength, of the cities and of the network, lies in the agility to adapt to changing circumstances. Time and time again, cities have managed to overcome challenging issues.

It is because cities dare to think differently that they are resilient. Cities know how to act and create differently. In cities we work together, beyond opposing views and ideas, beyond physical and mental borders. We experiment, as

true laboratories, with new or other methods of doing things: we leave room for car sharing systems, we support people to grow their food on their rooftops, we help people to re-invent derelict industrial buildings as new places for culture, leisure and work.

It is a fantastic asset.

We should be proud of what we do and we should show that to 'Europe' notably the European political institutions, the member states, the regional governments and the citizens. The way in which governments work today does no longer allow them to counter the challenges that come fast, that are complex and interwoven.

That is why governments need to break down the institutional walls and get rid of the silos so that they can truly work together, across domains, competences and borders. They need to tear down the hierarchical system and build bridges with each other, with cities, with citizens.

Cities alone may not be able to counter the European crisis but together with the Commission and the member states they have a key role to play in addressing the pressing challenges.

Working together in true partnership is what we already do in our cities and in the EUROCITIES network and it is especially thanks to Nantes, our current network President, that we have managed to make new and stronger coalitions with NGOs, labor organizations and citizens.

It is my ambition to continue this important work together with all the Executive Committee colleagues. I truly believe that we are a very committed team and in that respect I fully support Stockholm's candidacy for Vice-President of the network.

Still, we have to take these initiatives a few steps further.

We should show 'Europe' what we have to offer, but likewise we need to tell that to all the other partners that are key to finding the answers to the pressing societal needs.

Those partners are also outside Europe because the challenges are too. It is what the UN's recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals try to tell us.

We should reach out to businesses, knowledge institutions, the media and the citizens to find out how we can all make each other stronger and improve our lives in a fair and just way, in true solidarity and in guaranteed mutuality.

It is my dream to organize a democratic festival in all the cities of our network across Europe under the Ghent Presidency.

Let us make it a public meeting where Commissioners, mayors, journalists, business leaders, children, professors, all those who are interested come together to openly discuss and think of what kind of Europe and what kind of society that we want, both local and global.

I hope to see you there.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Daniël Termont', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Daniël Termont

Mayor of Ghent, EUROCITIES Vice-President

Ghent in EUROCITIES

Political engagement

Ghent was elected as vice-president of the network in 2014. In that respect, Ghent engaged in various political activities:

- The mayor had a bilateral meeting with Commissioner Malmström on TTIP.
- He discussed the EUROCITIES activities and urban needs in the EU policy making with the European Commission Vice-President Timmermans.
- Together with the EUROCITIES Executive Committee, he met with EU Commissioners Thyssen, Malmström and Cretu on the Declaration on Work.
- He attended and spoke at the official launch of the Pact of Amsterdam under the Netherlands' EU Presidency.



Ghent is an EUROCITIES member since 1998.

In 2009, Ghent was elected to the Executive Committee. It took up a series of mandates such as Executive Committee Secretary in 2011 and 2012, and Executive Committee Treasurer in 2013 and 2014.

Ghent was also host city of the EUROCITIES Annual Conference 2013 with focus on smart citizens.

Engagement in Forums and Working Groups

As (vice-)chair Ghent took a leading role in various forums and working groups such as:

- Chair of the Cooperation Platform from 2014 until 2016
- Culture Forum Vice-Chair in 2013 and 2014
- Culture Forum Chairmanship from 2014 until 2016
- *Ghent will be the host city of the Culture Forum meeting in autumn 2017*
- Chair of the Creative Industries Working Group since 2011
- Knowledge Society Forum Vice-Chair in 2011 and 2012
- Knowledge Society Forum Chair in 2013 and 2014
- Chair of the Data Working Group since 2013
- Chair of the eInclusion Working Group in 2010 and 2011
- Chair of the Roma Inclusion Working Group since 2011
- Founder of the Smart city logistics and fleet management Working Group under the Mobility Forum in 2014

As an active member since 2009 Ghent participates in the aforementioned Forums and Working Groups. For instance, these past few years it organized meetings in Ghent of the following Working Groups: Inclusion through Education, Public Services, Creative Citizenship, Roma inclusion, Migration and Integration

Next to that, the city is engaged in the Economic Development Forum, in the Environment Forum, in the Mobility Forum and in the Social Affairs Forum. Ghent also participates in the following Working Groups: Public Services , the EU Urban Agenda Taskforce, Mobility of Artists, Cohesion Policy, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Innovation, City Branding & International economic relations, Inclusion through Education, Employment, Homelessness, Migration and Integration, Creative Citizenship.

In brief, the Ghent engagement means that the city often represents the network at official events, that Ghent presents its own practices at workshops and that it participates in various European projects and closely follows urban initiatives throughout Europe.



Curriculum of Daniël Termont

Biographical sketch

Daniël Termont was born in Ghent on the 19th of May 1953. He obtained a degree in Accountancy (Higher Secondary Education) in 1971 at the Municipal Institute for Business and Secretariat.

He started his professional career in 1973, after his military service. He was Propagandist for the National Health Service Bond Moyson Gent –Eeklo and Federal Responsible for the M.J.A. (Social Youth Action), manager of the holiday centre 'De Ceder' and Secretary-Treasurer of the National Health Service Bond Moyson Gent-Eeklo.

Political career

Daniël Termont had been active in local politics with the Socialist Party from the age of 15 on, before becoming a professional politician in Ghent in 1995. He was elected in the city council in 1976, at the age of 23, and has been a member ever since.

After the 1994 local elections, he became full time politician: he was appointed Deputy-Mayor of the Port, Economic Development and Utilities of the City of Ghent. He was re-elected at the end of the year 2000 and became Deputy-Mayor of the Port, Economy and Festivities, before running for Mayor in 2006. He was elected and re-elected in 2012, and has been Mayor since the end of 2006.

International experience

During his 12 year term as Deputy-Mayor of the Port, Daniël Termont has been very active on the international level. It earned him the election as 2nd best mayor in the World Mayor competition 2015.

He was the originator of bonds between the Port of Ghent and ports in South-America, especially in Brasil and Chile. He negotiated trade agreements that, today still, guarantee the shipment of goods to and from the Port of Ghent. He is Vice-President of the Autonomous Municipal Company 'Ghent Port Company AMC'. Moreover, he became one of the experts in energy supply of the Socialist Party and President of the board of directors of Fluxys PLC, a European natural gas infrastructure company and a very important player in that field.

As the Mayor of Ghent, Daniël Termont represents his city in EUROCITIES. Thanks to his firm efforts and commitment, Ghent was elected to the Executive Committee of which he is the current Vice-President. He was the city's driving force behind the EUROCITIES' Annual General Meeting in Ghent in 2013, which focused on 'smart citizens'.

Daniël Termont is involved in the formation of Dr. Benjamin Barber's Global Parliament of Mayors. He is convinced of the fact that Europe's future will be made in and by cities and regions.

The team

A dedicated strategic international affairs team of 3 experienced urban officials will be the backbone during the mayor's EUROCITIES Presidency mandate.

There is a direct line with the mayor's cabinet and the mayor himself. Via regular meetings the mayor and the 'presidency team' will discuss the EUROCITIES items.

Throughout the city of Ghent, there are 11 internationally working expert colleagues on whom we can count for support and technical advice for our work in and with EUROCITIES.



Virginie Verstraete
International Officer

Dirk Temmerman

Head of International Relations and Networking



Karl-Filip Coenegrachts
Strategic Coordinator