

Political Group* Meeting

Political Leadership for Urban Mobility Innovation

1st December 2021, Gothenburg

The POLIS Annual Conference will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden, on the 1st and 2nd of December. It will include specific meetings and activities for the elected officials of the **POLIS Political Group**. We have shaped this programme to make it **useful and inspiring** for political leaders: we'll discuss hot topics and recent findings, and share and learn from each other's experiences and insights.

The most recent IPCC report¹ is clear about the threats posed by the **Climate Crisis**, and about the need to act fast, both to revert global warming and to prepare for some of its now inevitable impacts. Urban mobility has to change substantively, to become cleaner and more resilient. But for this change to be **socially and politically viable**, we have to ensure a **just transition**, and also make urban mobility more affordable, safe, and inclusive. How?

Accelerating the shift to Sustainable Mobility requires strong investment in Public Transport and Active Mobility, but also wise and effective **governance**, capable of channeling a dynamic and disruptive private sector to serve this societal goal. Especially now, that the COVID-19 pandemic has entered a new phase and our local and regional **economies are regaining speed**.

POLIS members – local and regional governments and transport authorities – are at the forefront of these challenges, and hold the keys for critical changes. **Leadership is more important than ever, and the much-needed transport transformation will happen in cities and regions.**

Peer support, exchange and cooperation at the political level is crucial. In this meeting of the POLIS Political Group, we'll address needs and priorities, how to get things rolling, and how to make the most of **policy breakthroughs and funding opportunities** emerging at other levels of government, from the global COP 26 to European policy targets and funding instruments.

* **Mission of the POLIS Political Group:** foster direct communication and cooperation between elected officials with the Mobility portfolio, to (1) discuss common challenges, (2) shape strategies and messages, and (3) interact with high-level representatives from European institutions to voice concerns, call for support, and highlight the crucial role of cities and regions. We focus on topics where political input is essential.

¹ Summary for Policymakers available for [download here](#).

30th November

19h00 POLIS Members Dinner

1st December

9h30 to 10h45 Dedicated Site Visit

Cooperation between Cities, Industries and Universities

Lindholmen Science Park² is jointly owned by Chalmers University of Technology, the City of Gothenburg, and the business community. For 20 years, owners and partners have worked together to invest and purposefully develop a modern and inspiring innovation environment for several of Sweden's leading development projects, with a focus on mobility for tomorrow.

11h15 Opening Plenary of the POLIS Conference

“Agents of Change: Local Leaders Initiating Innovation”

13h00 Political Networking Lunch

An exclusive event, where Political Group members will have the opportunity to meet and exchange, with their peers, as well as with invited leading stakeholders and experts.

14h30 Meeting of the Political Group

Welcome and Introductions

- **Toni Orsulic**, *Mayor for Transport, Chair of the Urban Transport Committee City of Gothenburg*
- **Karen Vancluysen**, *POLIS Secretary General*

14h40 Policy Updates

- **Ivo Cré**, *POLIS Director of Policy and Projects*
- **Malcolm Balfour**, *City Councillor, Glasgow*

² Learn more about it here: <https://www.lindholmen.se/en>

- **Matthew Baldwin**, *European Commission, Deputy Director-General of DG MOVE, European Coordinator for Road Safety & Sustainable Mobility, Climate-Neutral Cities Mission Manager*

15h00 Leading the Change & Getting things rolling

- Governing Mobility as a Service, reallocating space
Philippe Crist, *Advisor Innovation & Foresight, International Transport Forum at the OECD*
- Operationalizing MaaS in Brussels
Elke van den Brandt, *Minister for Mobility, Public Works & Road Safety, Brussels CR*
- Respacing and Green Urban Planning
Philip Broeksma, *Vice-Mayor, City of Groningen*

15h30 Strategy Group Discussion

This will be an open and structured discussion, to facilitate peer exchange and feed policy efforts. We look forward to your input. Regarding Sustainable Urban Mobility:

- In which areas would you consider your City/Region has best practice?
- What are the major challenges you need to tackle, where other cities could help?
- In which aspects does your city mostly need innovation?
- How can we work together to overcome barriers to innovations that serve urban mobility policies?

With Kick-off statements from

- Vice-Mayor of Moscow
- Arnhem-Nijmegen

16h20 Conclusions, Next Steps

16h30 End of Meeting

16h45 to 18h15 POLIS Conference (Parallel Sessions)

The Conference continues! If you wish to attend in this time slot, you'll find a rich menu to choose from, with sessions on Cycling (3.A), Leveraging data to improve transport planning and management (3.B), Parking and Modal Shift (3.C), MaaS (3.D), Road Safety (3.E), Zero-emission urban freight (3.F), Integrating shared mobility 3.G) and Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (3.G).

19h15 POLIS Conference Dinner

For more information:

- Political Group activities: pgouveia@polisnetwork.eu
- POLIS Conference: acollignon@polisnetwork.eu