



4th ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors

Lisbon, 24/27 May 2017

“Mobility, Sustainability and Migration”

Final Declaration

Contemporary society, characterised by globalisation, goes through accelerated and profound processes of social, economic, political, climate and environmental transformation. The world is going through a structural and multidimensional crisis and the solutions require a comprehensive approach, multidisciplinary understandings and integrated intersectoral interventions.

The main objective of the 4th ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors, held in Lisbon from 24 to 27 May, is the promotion of synergies around policies and strategies to face the challenges and push for solutions aimed at sustainable development, through actions centred on people and on the construction of friendly cities, focusing reflection on three areas:

- Mobility and Environmental Sustainability
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Inclusion and Interculturalism

The ASEM Governors and Mayors agreed that:

- Political cooperation within ASEM-MGM is of fundamental importance and offers a platform of excellence for the exchange of experiences and information between the largest and most relevant cities of Europe and Asia.
- Cooperation between these two continents at a State level shall be reinforced through institutional and technical cooperation at a local level, taking into consideration the importance of conurbations in the main European and Asian countries.
- The exchange of knowledge and experiences undertaken in Lisbon, during the 4th ASEM/MGM Meeting, shall continue through multilateral international platforms or bilateral exchanges between the city members of ASEM-MGM.

- The various National Governments, Institutions and International Organisations shall recognise cities and their international platforms, in particular the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the world organization of cities and local authorities, as indispensable partners in the analysis, discussion and development of actions aimed at resolving the problems affecting the majority of the populations of the two continents, Europe and Asia.

Within the framework of the themes analysed and discussed in the 4th Meeting, the Governors and Mayors agreed on and to the following declarations:

I. Mobility and Environmental Sustainability

Contemporary cities face strong environmental impacts associated to the problems of urban congestion, environmental and noise pollution and unbridled construction, generating social imbalances.

- Mobility and accessibility have become essential concepts in the discussion of the urban system, and it is important to ensure that all citizens, according to their needs, have access to a quick, cheap and safe mode of urban public transport, conditions for the use of cycle paths and parking conditions for private vehicles.
- It is urgent to eliminate architectural, social and psychological barriers to enable the construction of an adequate city for all citizens, without discrimination of any kind, enabling people with reduced mobility to access all systems and services.
- It is necessary to promote sustainable urban development through urban policies that combine measures capable of responding to the needs of citizens, providing a harmonious balance between the environment and architecture, aimed at environmental, economic and social sustainability, and guaranteeing the principles of equality, the right to quality of life, education, culture and science for all citizens.

II. Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Within the context of the global economic crisis, the promotion of entrepreneurship is of fundamental importance to the sustainable development of cities.

In the current global environment, characterised by rapid and constant changes, with new forms of producing, commercialising and consuming, cooperating and competing, Entrepreneurship and Innovation are today the main pillars that sustain the growth of economies in all countries, with the creation of new products and of new markets.

- It is necessary to boost entrepreneurship, based on the awareness that the benefits associated to entrepreneurship, which involve the creation of companies, a higher number of jobs and increased economic competitiveness, contribute in a significant manner to the economic recovery of cities.
- Social entrepreneurship is a strong instrument in the promotion of social inclusion and in the fight against poverty.
- Innovation, in the technological area in particular, generated and disseminated at an increasingly faster pace, is directly related to education, training and the production of knowledge which are indissociable from the importance of the interaction between the academic and the business fields, an agent of innovation that is essential for economic competitiveness and for taking advantage of business opportunities.
- For both innovating and undertaking entrepreneurial activity, policies to stimulate and promote education, training and production of knowledge are inevitable.
- It is necessary to champion the “smart city” as a radical method of tackling the challenges of living in a city environment. The deployment of these smart city solutions must also be matched with a civic debate about data privacy.

III. Inclusion and Interculturalism

The majority of the world’s population lives in cities. If cities, as spaces of creativity and innovation and of services for the surrounding areas, play a crucial role as drivers of the economy, they are also places where social problems of inequality, unemployment, segregation and poverty are concentrated and where the issues of cultural diversity and intercultural and inter-religious dialogue assume greater importance.

- It is thus important to respond to the challenges faced by the poorer and more socially excluded urban communities, namely those communities with a strong presence of immigrants and ethnic, cultural and religious minorities. In addition to these communities, there are refugees whose numbers, as a result of political and armed conflicts continue to grow without precedence. It is thus urgent to create efficient and committed measures of inclusion, respecting Human Rights and working collectively towards the construction of an active citizenship, based on fundamental ethical values.
- The implementation of measures aimed at creating opportunities are vital for people to be able to develop new relations in their community and with their peers, promoting multiculturalism, pluralism, intergenerational proximity, equality of opportunities and the wealth of diversity.

- Political sustainability is necessary for promoting the construction of friendly cities where the principles of citizenship take precedence, guaranteeing the full participation of individuals in the process of development and in the promotion of quality of life.

The Governors and Mayors thank the Municipality of Lisbon for the organisation of the 4th ASEM-MGM and agree in the relevance of the meeting as a space of dialogue and cooperation for the largest cities of Europe and of Asia and as a space for the construction of partnerships and bridges between their populations.

The Governors and Mayors agree to propose the holding of the next meeting of ASEM – MGM in China in 2019.

Lisbon, 26 May 2017