



The Rt. Hon. David Davis MP
Secretary of State for Exiting the
European Union,
House of Commons,
London
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Minister,

UK Cities in Europe

As set out in our recent letter to the European Parliament and Heads of State, the future of all European countries, whether future members of the Union or not, are dependent on the success of their cities. Cities are international economic and population hubs that direct flows of trade, commerce and skilled labour. It is also cities that largely deliver on pan-national programmes like reducing carbon emissions. Cities are the places where social cohesion plays out and where inter-cultural cooperation must succeed. Because of this, we suggested that cities should be invited to sit at the table for negotiation of any changes to the EU.

The great cities of Europe must continue to collaborate across borders, to work cooperatively to secure the economic, social and environmental future that each nation wants, whether they are a member of the Union or not. We have already restated our collective commitment to working through EUROCITIES to demonstrate that our cities are open for business and trade, that they will remain welcoming, tolerant and diverse places.

We understand that this is a critical and challenging moment for the parliament and for each member, but the political and policy dialogue has not yet responded to these points in any meaningful way. This risks further alienating our populations from the processes of change within the EU, which will be bad for our cities and citizens.

We have agreed between us three conditions that we believe the EU and all Heads of Member States should support, to maintain open, tolerant and diverse cities, deliver more Inclusive Growth for the future of the European economy, and guarantee a successful transition to new working arrangements which go well beyond the issue of Brexit.

1. **Funding for continued ‘Collaboration’.** Seek mutually beneficial agreements for funding programmes that allow cities and regions to deliver inclusive growth, and for particular jobs and skills in a way which stimulates cross-border collaboration between cities and their major institutions, including local authorities, universities, schools, hospitals and other anchor institutions.
2. **Sustaining conditions for continued ‘Cooperation’.** Ensuring that all European cities can continue to work together to deliver solutions addressing key global challenges such as climate change, migration, active ageing, skills and youth unemployment.
3. **Supporting ‘Cohesion’ and inclusion.** Supporting cities to help overcome social, economic and culture disparities and to facilitate/sustain attempts to work progressively across borders to create open,

tolerant, diverse and welcoming places to live, work and visit, including intercultural dialogue, alongside mechanisms to deliver Inclusive Growth.

This letter has been discussed by and has the support of the EUROCITIES Executive Committee, on behalf of the 130 member cities and 40 partner cities across Europe.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Blake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cllr Judith Blake

Chair, Core Cities UK; Leader, Leeds City Council