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I am in charge of the urban policy which includes the Urban agenda and the Urban innovative actions. So what I will do today is to give you an overview of the main elements that we are doing on urban matters and you will see it is a lot and you will see also that everything is new, everything is just starting, is under construction. But before I start on that I just want to react on the two speeches that we just listened to. They were very much talking about challenges, about difficulties that there are in cities and no doubt there are many difficulties that's true. But the way we see it is above all that cities are places where there are opportunities. For example if you are a business it's an opportunity to be in a city because you have more customers, so you can make more specialised products. If you want to innovate it's better to be in a city, too because you have more interaction between different people, researchers, enterprises, students, etc. so that you have a better creativity. Being in a city is also better for inclusion. Because in cities you have more diversity and this diversity means that the inclusion is facilitated. And finally being in a city is better for the environment for example in a city you might not need a car, so you pollute less. So you see cities are certainly bringing challenges but they are also bringing opportunities and we believe that we have to work on this opportunities to improve the situation of the citizens.

So my first point is about the Urban agenda. I will start by underlining that the Commission is really committed to make it work. You might not know in detail what the Urban agenda is, but I understand that this will be covered in the next presentation by Nicolaas Beets, so you will see in detail what it is, but you should know, that we in the Commission are committed to work on it.. Nevertheless, we are working on it, because most of the EU citizens, 70%, are living in cities, because 70% of the EU legislation is implemented in cities at the end of the chain, because 55% of the EU funds are spent in cities, so you see, it is in cities that the things are happening. So that's why we work more on urban matters, more with cities and we will of course ask more from the cities. The Urban agenda is a strong request by the member states. And that's said in the Pact of Amsterdam and this Pact of Amsterdam was really a long-lasting process, was a very good cooperation between the member states and the Commission and here I would like to thank first the Dutch Presidency, because the Pact of Amsterdam was adopted during the Dutch presidency, but also the current Slovak Presidency with which we are working really well and which helped us really to make thing happen and to progress very quickly on this file so thank you very much, it worked very well. We have developed a one-stop-shop which is a website which presents all the information that we have at the EU level on urban matters. Information on the legislation - if there are studies, if there are networks, if there are projects. So all that is in the one-stop-shop, it provides complete, reliable and customised information. There are many things that we plan to do also in the coming months. First to start new partnerships, it will be explained later. So there will be four new topics on which we will work. Also to set up a secretariat which will help us and the cities and member states to work on the Urban agenda. We will also make another website, an online collaborative tool, so that everybody including you can be informed about everything which is happening in the Urban agenda, can be informed, can contribute if you have something to say, if you have a study, if you have a view, you can put it on this collaborative online tool and everybody can be consulted. When we will have the draft action plans the idea is that it goes on this website and everybody can say whether they agree or not and what the improvements would be.

Olivier Baudalet\_Prepis prezentácie

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At the end of 2017 we will do a report to the Council, reporting back what has been done and end of 2017 also we will organise a big conference

Then a few words about the New urban agenda. Because you know, we are doing this Urban Agenda for the EU, but there is also a worldwide urban agenda, which is called the New Urban Agenda. It has been agreed recently in October in Quito. It is done under the auspices of the United Nations and its agency for urban matters called Habitat. It is global, it is worldwide, but it has some goals, it has some targets and everybody will have to implement it. Then few words on the Urban Innovative Actions. The idea of the UIA is to test, to experiment new ideas. So the outcome of the UIA is to get an answer to the question Is my idea actually working in the real world with real people with real problems? So every year there will be a call. We are now on the 2<sup>nd</sup> call, every call will be about 50 Million Euro, every project will be maximum 5 million Euro ERDF, the co-financing rate is 80% for everybody and the duration of the project is 3 years. The new call will be launched mid-December. It will be on 3 topics: the integration of migrants and refugees, the circular economy and the urban mobility.

As a conclusion I want to really get you the message that we have progressed a lot So thanks for your support. We really believe in cities and you can really help us and we look forward to see the first results of the Urban Agenda through the action plans. Thank you.