



European Commission

The EU's executive body, responsible for proposing and implementing EU laws, monitoring the treaties and the day-to-day running of the EU.



Council of the European Union

Government ministers who share budgetary and legislative power with European Parliament.



European Parliament

The only directly-elected EU body. Represents the EU's 500 million inhabitants.
Plays a key role in electing the President of the European Commission.
Shares power over EU budget and legislation with Council of the European Union.

EU Antenna

UBC

UNION
OF THE BALTIC
CITIES

What we do?

We develop innovative policies

How?

European network (30 countries)
Expert pool & ICT

Why?

Active participation of citizens



Current cooperation with UBC

- Funding applications (5)
- Policy cooperation
- Workshops (Kaunas annual event)
- Assisting with this meeting (Survey, Moderation)



Roles

- Straighten **the visibility** of UBC at the EU level (*two advocacy events in Brussels in 2020*)
- Facilitate **institutional partnership** with key EU stakeholders (*Scanning, analysing, meeting*)
- Reinforce UBC role as a partner in **European projects** (*Promoting UBC as a partner & kick off initiatives*)
- Build **synergies** with member cities offices.

Results (by end of 2021.)

- Better visibility of UBC at the EU level;
- UBC taking part in some of the most relevant EU policy dialogue;
- New projects contribution increase % of UBC financing;





News

I. EU publishes roadmap to phase out coronavirus lockdowns

EU member states' approach to lifting their coronavirus lockdowns should be done in coordination between EU MS.

SOME ACCOMPANYING MEASURES:

- Gather data and develop a robust system of reporting.
- Create a framework for contact tracing and warning with the use of mobile apps, which respects data privacy.
- Expand testing capacity and harmonise testing methodologies.

II. The impact of COVID-19 on the tourism economy

Preliminary OECD estimates on the COVID-19 impact point to **45% decline** in international tourism in 2020. This could rise to 70% if recovery is delayed until September.

Domestic tourism is also heavily affected by containment measures, however a quicker recovery is expected with an important role to play during the recovery phase.

https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=124_124984-7uf8nm95se&title=Covid-19_Tourism_Policy_Responses



III. SURE programme

The new instrument for temporary **Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE)** is designed to help protect jobs and workers affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

It will provide financial assistance in the form of **loans** from the EU to Member States to cover the costs related to the creation or extension of national **short-time work schemes** (100 billion).

- Short-time work schemes difficulties to temporarily reduce the hours worked by their employees.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_20_572

IV. European Green Capital / Schedule Changes for 2020

One of the policy tools the European Commission is the European Green Capital Award (EGCA), which recognizes and rewards local efforts to improve the environment, the economy and the quality of life in cities.

Road map for 2020:

- Call for Applications for EGCA 2023 and EGLA 2022
- 28 May 2020: Launch of Call for Applications for EGCA 2023 and EGLA 2022
- TBC July 2020: Applicant Workshop for European Green Capital 2023
- 28 October 2020: Closing date for applications

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/about-the-award/policy-guidance/>



V. European Weeks of Regions and Cities *“Smart cities of the future”*

European Weeks of Regions and Cities is an annual four-day event taking place in Brussels during which cities and regions network, showcase innovative policy and technological solutions to global challenges, learn from each other’s experiences and discuss EU approaches towards regions and cities.

The event will take place between **12th and 15th of October 2020 in Brussels**, focusing on the following main themes: Green Europe, Cohesion and Cooperation, and Empowering Citizens.

VI. The World After the Coronavirus

The pandemic will strengthen the state and reinforce nationalism (Stephen M.Walt);

It will only accelerate a change that had already begun: a move away from U.S.-centric globalisation to a more China-centric globalization (Kishore Mahbubani);

This is not yet the end of an interconnected world. The pandemic itself is proof of our interdependence (Shivshankar Menon);

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/20/world-order-after-coronavirus-pandemic/>



Thank you for your attention.

