NOVEL SOLUTIONS THAT CAN TRANSFORM METROPOLITAN SPACES IN THE LONG TERM

Tuesday 9th October, 14:00 – 15:30 (Central European Time)

Context

The Metropolis Policy Debate series offers a space for exchange on challenges and solutions related to metropolitan change. It provides the political representatives of our membership an opportunity to explore basic issues. The theme for dialogue in 2021 is “Novel Solutions that can transform metropolitan spaces in the long term”. This theme connects to the “Call to rethink our metropolitan spaces” to foster a global debate on how to co-create opportunities and improve responses to the profound/historical transformation that the urban spaces are living today as a consequence of, among others, the climate emergency and the crisis generated by the COVID-19.

This Policy Debate intends to caucus a wide variety of political perspectives and propose insights and solutions to enable us to rethink our metropolitan spaces with an actionable and long-term vision.

Background and Debate

Two years after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, pre-existing challenges and inequalities are still intensifying; particularly around poor access to adequate housing, public and green spaces, services and infrastructure. The members of Metropolis already seize the occasion and adapt their governing structures, services, policies and infrastructure to the needs and demands of their citizens in this evolving environment.
Yet, the pandemic make us aware that we can and we need to re-imagine our metropolitan spaces and give them a new life by:

- Redesigning public space, to make it more convivial, accessible and functional
- Developing new and climate-friendly mobility patterns
- Facilitating the transition to more inclusive and sustainable economic models
- Promote the use of technologies to allow more decentralized patterns of work and leisure
- Fostering nature-based solutions and care for biodiversity
- Reducing our carbon footprint
- Enhancing healthcare services
- Mainstreaming the gender sensitive perspective and better protect citizens’ rights

**Questions**

The following questions are provided as starting points for debate and dialogue:

1. What do you think is a stake in your territory regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery in order to ensure the future of our metropolises?
2. What are the main transformations (regarding decision-making process, policies and/or new public services) that have been brought by the COVID-19 pandemic in your city and/or metropolitan area?

Metropolis invites its political leaders to respond to those questions and create new ones, by bringing up concrete examples from their metropolises and local governments.

**Format**

- Input by representative of the Presidency, Guangzhou [10 min]
- Interactive panel discussions, moderation by Octavi de la Varga, Secretary General of Metropolis [90 min]
- Closing remarks by Octavi de la Varga, Secretary General of Metropolis [10 min]

**Contacts**

For more information, or any questions you may have regarding the political dialogue please contact Ms Teresa Oliver (toliver@metropolis.org) or Mr Oscar Chamat (ochamat@metropolis.org) from the Metropolis Secretariat General.