

MANCHESTER WEEK – PODCASTS NOW AVAILABLE

Manchester Week
16 – 20 March 2009



Following Manchester Week - a series of events to promote the latest developments in the Manchester City Region - podcasts are now available on the Events page on our website. The podcasts include interviews, comments and analysis on the week's events which covered Cities for Cohesion, Manchester's Mini-Stern, transport and cultural events. You can also watch one of the songs performed by The Safires. The week involved MEPs from both the North West of England and further afield, senior Commission officials, regional and city representatives from across Europe - all interested in learning about best practice in the Manchester City Region. Feedback from the seminars and cultural events has been very positive. For further information and podcasts, please visit www.manchesterweek.com

CITIES FOR COHESION RESPONSE TO GREEN PAPER ON TERRITORIAL COHESION

The Cities for Cohesion group, of which Greater Manchester is a part, have submitted a response to the European Commission's Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion. The Green Paper is the first initiative to emerge from the Commission that contributes to the future thinking on the Structural Funds. The Cities for Cohesion Group highlighted the importance of urban areas and outlines five key points, including the importance of delegation of funds to the most appropriate level and the need to concentrate resources on the areas that are in a position to achieve the desired outcomes and achieve the 'Lisbon Goals' of growth and jobs, in a way that is sustainable in the environmental sense, but also in terms of an investment's long term impact. If you would like a copy of the response paper, please contact the office.

The Urban Dimension
of European Policy



Cities for Cohesion

NEW EU SURVEY ON TRUST IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Eurobarometer, the EU polling organisation, has published a new survey showing that the majority of European citizens think that regions and local authorities are the most trusted layer of government. While only 34% of Europeans tend to trust their national government, 50% of them say that they trust their local and regional authorities, more than the level of trust in the European Union (47%). In the UK, more people distrust (48%) local and regional government than trust it (47%). Trust in the EU is one of the lowest across the whole of Europe, standing at

25%. When asked if regional and local authorities are sufficiently taken into account by the EU when deciding policies, 61% believe they are not. However, 23% of British people also believe that local councillors are best placed to defend their personal interests at the European level, compared with 22% who believe the UK government will defend their interests in the EU, whilst MEPs stood at 30%.

COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS CONSULTATION ON STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) has launched a broad consultation on the future of the EU growth and jobs strategy after 2010. The consultation is open to all regional and local authorities who are invited to submit their views on the future of the Lisbon strategy. The results of the consultation will be discussed during seminars in Open Days week in October 2009 and will feed into the CoR feedback to the 2010 spring council. If you would like more information on how to participate, please contact the office. Deadline for responses: 20 April 2009

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The European Commission has published a new call for proposals to support the aims of the Small Business Act. The call is broken down into two core Actions, the first of which seeks to support projects which will establish a cross-European workshop programme for entrepreneurship professors in higher education, so as to share knowledge and learn from practitioners e.g. Entrepreneurship Summer Academy. Action two seeks to fund activities that have a clear European added value. The total budget for this call is €2.7 million. **Deadline: 20 April 2009**

MARCO POLO

The European Commission has published a new call for proposals under the second Marco Polo programme. The Programme is focused on freight and will fund the following five themes: Traffic Avoidance, Common Learning, Modal Shift, Catalyst Actions and Motorways of the Sea. Projects usually have to involve at least two partner organisations from two different EU countries. The total budget for this call is €62 million. **Deadline: 8 May 2009**

TRANS-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT NETWORKS

The new TEN-T 2009 Call has been established under three separate work programmes: Economic Recovery Programme (€500 million), Multi-Annual Programme (€370 million) and the Annual Programme (€140 million). The Economic Recovery Programme represents an ad hoc programme for 2009-2010 in which €500 million has been brought forward to support the European economy. The Multi-Annual Programme aims to finance the highest priorities of the TEN-T network. The Annual Programme complements the efforts developed under the Multi-Annual Work Programme. **Deadline: 15 May 2009**

HEALTH – COMMUNITY ACTION

The call consists of the following four Actions: financial assistance for specific health care projects, conference funding, funding to assist the functioning of non-governmental bodies and specialised networks (operating grants), and an invitation to EU national governments and participating countries for joint activities. Projects should involve at least two independent organisations, established in two different EU countries. Total budget for this call is €48 million with 60% co-financing. **Deadline: 20 May 2009**

MEDIA 2007 – DISTRIBUTION

The core objective of this call is to encourage the development of links between the production and distribution sectors in the media industry, thus improving the market share of European films and the competitiveness of European companies. The call seeks to work in two phases: first, the generation of a potential Fund that is proportional to the number of paying admission tickets sold for non-domestic European films, and second, the reinvestment of this Fund into co-production, acquisition of distribution rights and editing costs. **Deadline: 29 May 2009**

ICT POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The European Commission has published a new call for proposals under the ICT Policy Support Programme. The current call contains eight broad themes: (1) ICT for health, ageing and inclusion, (2) Digital Libraries, (3) ICT for government and governance, (4) ICT for energy efficiency and environment, (5) Multilingual Web, (6) Public Sector Information, (7) Internet Evolution and Security, and (8) open innovation, user experience and living labs. Proposals should examine e-accessibility and be user centric. The total budget for this call is €100 million. **Deadline: 2 June 2009**

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