



The Union of Capitals of the European Union  
Union des Capitales de l'Union Européenne

## **DRAFT PROGRAMME 48<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UCEU DUBLIN, 13<sup>TH</sup>-15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2008**

### ***“LEADERSHIP – THE NEW FRONTIER FOR CAPITAL CITIES”***

The Union of the Capitals of the European Union (UCEU) is a unique gathering of Europe’s capitals and it provides an exclusive opportunity for the Lord Mayors, elected city councillors and senior administrators to address collectively issues of common concern. Dublin City has been honoured with the role of holding the Presidency of the UCEU for 2008 for the first time since 1988. Dublin City Council's Office of International Relations and Research is responsible for co-ordinating this year's UCEU activities.

Dublin will be hosting the 48<sup>th</sup> UCEU General Assembly from 13th-15th October 2008. It is hoped that this is effectively a Summit of the Leaders of Europe’s Capitals styled and modelled on the meetings of Prime Ministers and Heads of State within the Union. This will provide an opportunity for the leaders to network as well as coming to conclusions through debate on the theme of the 2008 Assembly.

The theme of the 48<sup>th</sup> UCEU General Assembly is **“Leadership – the new frontier for capital cities”**. There are two elements to this theme.

1. **Looking Inwards** - the first is in relation to the role of capital cities looking inwards and taking the lead on ***securing economic futures*** through developing knowledge and creative business
2. **Looking Outwards** - the second is in relation to the role of capital cities looking outwards and taking the lead on securing global sustainability through tackling ***climate change*** and promoting ***balanced development across the world.***

It will be clear to urban-based policy-makers across Europe that these are not separate elements– they overlap and pose significant challenges, which must be addressed by Europe’s capitals. Solutions require innovative approaches where-by co-operation between cities is essential.

The key consideration for the General Assembly is to run a programme of events that re-energises the UCEU and provides a platform for learning, networking, debate and practical action between the leaders of the capital cities. A major conference will be run on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October where distinguished guest speakers will give keynote speeches on subjects of direct

relevance to the overall theme of leadership. It is hoped that the conference in Dublin will spark a dialogue that will continue well beyond the 3-day event through, for the first time ever, practical co-operation on a number of tangible and practical “*legacy projects*” that may involve two or more cities. Legacy Projects will add a new practical and tangible element to the UCEU that has not been developed before.

For more information on Dublin’s preparations for the UCEU General Assembly in October please contact:-

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