Luxembourg/Bruxelles, 9th June 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are honoured to invite you to a European workshop on the implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU which will be held in Athens (Greece) on July 10, 2017. This workshop, jointly organised by the European Investment Bank EIB/JASPERS, KEDE and EETAA, is framed within the campaign “Reflecting on Europe” promoted by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR).

This event aims to discuss the technical issues related to the implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU. It will also give an overview of the available European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) addressed to sustainable urban development and, therefore, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the way in which JASPERS may support the preparation of projects and programmes in the areas of urban regeneration, social housing, smart city development, smart and sustainable urban mobility, waste management and energy efficiency.

The programme of the workshop will allow representatives of Greek cities and regions to have the chance to highlight their main urban challenges; The EIB/JASPERS will showcase its advisory support activities; and, in break-out sessions, cities, regions and JASPERS staff will have a more in-depth discussion on technical issues. Eligible cities and regions not receiving JASPERS advisory support are encouraged to request assistance.

The technical discussions will be followed by a political dialogue between the Greek members of the European Committee of the Regions, interested citizens and stakeholders on specific issues related to the future support of the European Union to their cities, towns or neighbourhoods. This discussion will be in line with the objectives of the new CoR “Reflecting on Europe” campaign 2017. Please find attached an explanatory annex and the draft agenda of the workshop for further reference.

The event explicitly encourages proactive participation. Attendees will have the opportunity in the technical sessions to present their city’s challenges, expectations and requests related to the topic of the session to JASPERS and other stakeholders.

The workshop will take place at Divani Caravel hotel (2, Vas. Alexandrou Av) in Athens. To facilitate communication among participants, the workshop will be held in Greek with simultaneous interpretation into and from English. Further details and information regarding this event will be forwarded to you in due course.

To express your interest in attending the technical workshop, please register via the web link http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/JASPERS-CoR-UrbanAgenda-Athens/ indicating the name, positions and contact details of intended participants no later than 6st of July. While some flexibility could apply, please note we may not be in the position to confirm registrations received after this deadline.

For any enquiries on this workshop please do not hesitate to contact Mr Joachim Schneider (j.schneider@eib.org), Mrs Anastasia Koutroumpeli (tkou@eetaa.gr), Mrs Katerina Frantzeskaki (kfran@eetaa.gr) or Mr Jeroen Bakker (j.bakker@eib.org).

We look forward to welcoming you in Athens.

Mr. Dimitris Kalogeropoulos
President of EETAA

Mr. Georgios Patoulis
President of KEDE

Eugenia KazamakiOttersten
Head of Division
Smart Development Division

Norbert Hahn
Head of Networking and Competence Centre