



Press kit

8th edition of Efus' *Security, Democracy & Cities* international conference

Brussels, 20-22 March 2024

Press/media and accreditations:

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About the *Security, Democracy & Cities* conference

A major event in the field of urban security

Held periodically since 1989 and organised by the [European Forum for Urban Security](#) (Efus), the [Security, Democracy & Cities international conference](#) has become in the space of three decades a major event in the field of urban security and crime prevention.

Stakeholders from varied backgrounds

The conference gathers elected officials and representatives of the 250 European local and regional authorities that are members of the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus), as well as delegates from European institutions and international organisations such as the United Nations, representatives of the justice system, national and local police forces, field practitioners (social workers, associations...),

knowledge institutions (universities, research centres...) and public and private actors from the technology and innovation sectors.

International participation

Each edition of the conference gathers on average 800 participants and 100 speakers. The previous edition, in Nice (France) in October 2021, gathered representatives from 150 cities and regions, mainly from European countries, but also from North and South America and Africa.

Exchange of experience and practices

The *Security, Democracy & Cities* conference is held over 2.5 days. Through plenary sessions, workshops, field visits, and multiple informal meetings, it is an opportunity for attendees to exchange ideas, know-how, experiences and practices on key urban security issues.

Two dozen topics

Some two dozen topics will be addressed during the conference, including police-population relations; security technologies, including artificial intelligence; crisis management, including the climate crisis; the prevention of drugs and trafficking, and public space security.

The [programme](#) is currently being finalised. The pre-programme is available on the [conference's website](#).

Partnership with safe.brussels

Efus is organising the 2024 edition of the *Security, Democracy & Cities* conference in partnership with [safe.brussels](#), the public body responsible for preventing crime on the territory of the Brussels-Capital Region.

The previous editions

The previous editions of the *Security, Democracy & Cities* conference were held in Nice (2021), Barcelona-Catalonia (2017), Aubervilliers-Saint-Denis (2012), Zaragoza (2006), Naples (2000), Paris (1991), and Montreal (1989).

About the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus)

The only European network dedicated to urban security

The [European Forum for Urban Security \(Efus\)](#) is a network of [250 local and regional authorities from 17 European countries](#) dedicated to fostering discussion, cooperation and support among local and regional authorities in the field of crime prevention and urban security. Garnered over 35 years, its unique expertise is recognised by leading national and European institutions, who regularly consults Efus on a range of urban security issues.

Exchange of practices and know-how

Efus fosters direct exchanges among cities on a whole range of urban security issues through conferences, working groups, specialised publications (with a catalogue of over 60 publications to date), participation in European Union-funded action-research projects, and the exchange of practices and know-how.

A large network of partners

Efus is part of an ecosystem it has developed over more than three decades, which gathers as partners European and leading international institutions as well as numerous European universities, associations, non-governmental organisations and private actors.

A principle: cities helping cities

Efus was founded on the principle: cities helping cities. Beyond national and transnational policies that are designed and implemented by national governments and European institutions, Efus fosters direct dialogue among European cities, whatever their size, geographical location or political affiliation.

In practice, this principle inspires all of Efus' activities.

Three examples of practical responses to complex challenges

- **Trafficking and drug consumption in cities**
 - > Working group on the [Local roots and impacts of organised crime](#)
 - > The [administrative approach](#) to combat organised crime, which has been notably developed in Italy
 - > [Public-private partnerships](#) against organised crime
 - > [Harm reduction and supervised consumption rooms](#)
 - > Work on [police-population relations](#) and on improving coordination among law enforcement agencies
- **Technologies: how to balance practices and ethics?**
 - > [Ethical use of video surveillance](#) and [practical recommendations](#) for local authorities
 - > Impact of artificial intelligence on urban security (both local crime prevention and crime itself)
 - > Data management and use by cities of [new technologies](#)
- **Prevention of polarisation and violent extremism**
 - > [Mapping/measuring/monitoring](#) polarisation and violent extremism at the local level
 - > [Locally preventing](#) individuals from joining extremist networks and guiding individuals towards exit and reintegration
 - > Preventing fake news and strengthening citizens' [critical thinking](#), in particular young people

Multiple exchanges

Efus fosters [multiple exchanges](#) and conducts monitoring, consulting and research activities in many ways: through meetings – in-person and online conferences, workshops, seminars... –, through [European Union-funded projects](#) which all associate member cities as partners, one-to-one support to cities, lobbying national and European decision-making bodies, publications, and regular communication (website, newsletter, social networks).

Governance

The European Forum for Urban Security is a non-profit charity (registered in France under the 1901 Law statute, *association Loi 1901*). Headquartered in Paris, France, it is presided by the **city of Liege (Belgium)**, represented by its mayor **Willy Demeyer**. The vice-presidencies are held by the **Government of Catalonia** (Spain) and the cities of **Mannheim** (Germany), **Nice** (France) and **Rotterdam** (Netherlands).

The members of the Executive Committee are: Barcelona (Spain), Berlin (Germany), Bologna (Italy), Bordeaux (France), Brussels (Belgium), Cologne (Germany), Düsseldorf (Germany), Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany), Gdansk (Poland), CA La Rochelle (France), Lisbon (Portugal), Matosinhos (Portugal), Meyrin (Switzerland), Paris (France), Emilia Romagna Region (Italy), Riga (Latvia), Setúbal (Portugal), Toulouse Métropole (France), Unione della Romagna Faentina (Italy), Zaragoza (Spain), Xàbia (Spain).

In Paris, Efus has a technical team of about 20 staffers. The Executive Director is Elizabeth Johnston.

More information

- Efus website: www.efus.eu / SDC conference: www.sdconference.efus.eu
- [The Security, Democracy & Cities manifesto](#), which expresses Efus member cities' principles and commitments
- Leaflet on the *Security, Democracy & Cities 2024* conference
- [A Network on the Move](#), which gives a brief overview of the evolution of crime prevention policies since the foundation of Efus, in 1987
- Efus' 2022 activity report (the most recent)
- [Efus' publication catalogue](#)

Recent press releases and position papers

- Efus | [Working towards a common culture of the security of European public spaces: training all local stakeholders](#) – 15 June 2023
- Efus | [Concrete political, legislative and financial support to tackle organised crime](#) – 30 November 2022
- Efus | [Brussels declaration on the security of public spaces](#) – 23 November 2022
- Council of Europe | [World Forum for Democracy 2022: Tackling polarisation, a key challenge for local and regional democracy](#) – 10 November 2022
- Efus | [Elected officials from 250 European cities and regions call the European Union institutions to further support local authorities](#) - 22 October 2021

Communicate about the *Security, Democracy & Cities* conference

>> Mention and tag the **European Forum for Urban Security (Efus)**

>> **#SDC24**

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