EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Raffaele FITTO
Executive Vice-President

Brussels, 05/11/2026

Dear Mr Lukl, dear Ms Vladyková

Thank you for your letter of 25 September and for sharing the publication on the role of towns and municipalities in achieving the objectives of the European Union and the Czech Republic in the years 2028–2034.

I share your view that we should work together to deliver tangible improvements in people's daily lives. Towns and municipalities are indispensable to this effort. They are places where challenges linked to housing affordability, decarbonisation, mobility, social inclusion and security are concentrated and where demand for skills, innovation capacity, services and investment are strong.

As highlighted in your publication, European objectives are ultimately realised in the territories. Local authorities are not only beneficiaries of funding but also essential strategic partners. This territorial dimension is central to the Commission's proposals for the 2028–2034 programming period. The proposed framework places strong emphasis on integrated planning and implementation. The future National and Regional Partnership Plans are intended to bring reforms and investments together in a single strategic framework, with a stronger focus on delivery, milestones and results. The purpose is to improve people's quality of life, strengthen territorial resilience, and contribute to the sustainable development and competitiveness of the Member States.

Such an approach can only work if the plans reflect territorial realities and are prepared together with the authorities responsible for implementation on the ground. Towns and municipalities should be involved early and meaningfully in the process, while the principles of partnership and multi-level governance should apply throughout the preparation and implementation of the plans. It is equally necessary that the territorial dimension is well reflected across all relevant chapters, so that the proposed measures respond to the respective needs at the appropriate territorial level.

Sustainable urban development will remain an important part of the future cohesion policy architecture. The legislative proposals recognise that urban areas require targeted and

Mgr. František Lukl, MPA, Mgr. Radka Vladyková
Svaz měst a obcí ČR (Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic)
5. května 1640/65
140 00 Prague 4
Czech Republic
predseda@smocr.cz

integrated support, and that sufficient resources should be dedicated to this objective. In this spirit, the Commission, together with stakeholders, is implementing the Communication on the EU Agenda for Cities, aiming to strengthen the urban dimension across EU policies, improve policy coherence, deepen dialogue with cities, and support capacity-building, mutual learning and integrated approaches. It seeks to ensure that cities of all sizes are seen as strategic partners in shaping and delivering Europe's priorities.

Let me conclude by warmly welcoming your proactive approach and readiness to contribute to the design and implementation of the future National and Regional Partnership Plans together with all relevant partners. The involvement of towns and municipalities is indispensable for the credibility and effectiveness of the future framework.

The Commission stands ready to support national, regional and local authorities in this endeavour.

Yours sincerely



Raffaele FITTO