

**JOINT DECLARATION BY THE MAYORS OF EUROPEAN CAPITAL
CITIES IN DEFENCE OF QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES ACCESSIBLE TO ALL**

As the European Union celebrates its 50th birthday, public services are threatened by liberalisation and the systematic use of private operators and money beyond those sectors that have already been opened up to competition.

It is now more important than ever to take action because ensuring that all people have access to quality public services is a fundamental element of the European social model. Modernity must go hand in hand with solidarity, nowhere more so than at the European level.

Independently of purely financial considerations, alongside others, our capitals, our towns, our regions and our States, must be able to offer all citizens access to quality public services at a reasonable price in all sectors: hospitals, healthcare and social services, public transport, childcare, education, postal services, telecommunications, the Internet and so on.

This will enable us to maintain a united, cohesive society where all people can live in freedom.

European legislation is essential. Whilst taking account of the varying definitions of "public services" that exist in the Member States, it will guarantee legal security for public services and the establishment of a balance between the rules of the internal market and the aims of public services.

Conscious that our citizens need public services on a daily basis, we, the Mayors of European capital cities, support the petition¹ launched by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and demand that the future of public services be assured.

¹ <http://www.petitionpublicservice.eu/en>