Giorgio Prister
President of the MCE

EDITORIAL: Major Cities of Europe (MCE) is transforming its objectives into reality and is providing greater value to its members. Our organizing committee is actively working in achieving that goal by communicating broadly our value proposition to new potential members, sponsors and partners. This newsletter is focusing on what has been achieved up to now. We have already defined the 2009 themes we want to focus next year and the layout of next year's conference in Cork for which we launch now a call for papers and a call for speakers. The workgroup of Large Cities is continuing its activity and is producing interesting insights about key topics. We are welcoming new very appreciated members. We announce now our partnership with the US Public Technology Institute. Our knowledge base is getting richer..... and more is coming. The year 2008 is now close to its end. It has been a positive year for MCE thanks to the active collaboration of its members. I thank you for that and I am sure that 2009 will bring many more positive news for the MCE members. I wish to you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Giorgio Prister – President of Major Cities of Europe – IT Users Group

Also our web site http://www.majorcities.eu/

Major Cities News

THE 2009 FOCUS THEMES & CALL FOR PAPERS: Our plan for 2009 is to launch now the key themes that we believe are relevant to support our members goal to bring permanent innovation in Local Government. These themes will be developed not only at our annual conference, as we already did in the previous years, but also by developing more insights about them with the publication of papers and by running dedicated workshops during the year.

The organizing committee has selected the overarching themes for 2009, Feedbacks and suggestions are welcome. We warmly invite you all to share **white papers, study cases and other relevant documents** that can support this initiative. These are the selected themes for 2009,

- Innovation at work
- New Models For Service Delivery
- Trust, service and information continuity
- Future of the CIO

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN CORK & CALL FOR SPEAKERS. The 2009 conference will take place in Cork city beginning **Monday May 25th and ending Wednesday 27th** . The conference will be hosted in the Clarion Hotel on the river Lee and only a short walk away from city hall and the cities major shopping area. This year's conference will include some new initiatives such as a workshops in parallel session and speakers from China and the US. The topics of *Innovation at work, New Models For Service Delivery, Trust, service and information continuity, Future of the CIO* reflect those issues currently very relevant to our members and speakers and the chang-

ing global environment of uncertainty. Cork is the southern most coastal city of Ireland and enjoys a busy but convenient airport just 20 minutes drive from the city centre. It enjoys a diverse multi-cultural population of over 180,000 people. The city is built on an island in the middle of the River Lee. The two channels of the River Lee in the city centre are spanned by many bridges, and this gives the city a distinctive continental air. More information about the topics of the conference can be found here:

http://www.majorcities.eu/staticsite/staticsite.php?menuid=97&topmenu=10&keepmenu=inactive

Information about the City of Cork: http://www.corkcity.ie/tourism/

Public Technology Institute
The resource for technology executives in local government

Announcement of the MCE partnership with the US Public Technology Institute

PTI is a US national, not-for-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. PTI works with a core network of leading local government officials to identify opportunities for technology research, to share solutions and recognize member achievements, and develop best practices that address the technology management, governance and policy issues that impact local government. PTI member governments participate in Councils and Forums that address specific technology areas. Through partnerships with industry, federal agencies and other governmental organizations, PTI shares the results of its activities and the expertise of its members. PTI offers a variety of technology products and services to assist local governments in addressing their technology needs. Through research, focus groups, online discussions, publications, conferences, pilots and demonstrations, and other information sharing vehicles, PTI's local government and industry members work together to develop and apply technology to the challenges facing communities of all sizes. **Members of Major Cities of Europe (MCE) have the opportunity to become members of PTI at no charge and share the values provided by PTI. Our organization gives the same opportunity to the PTI members. To take advantage to this special offer reserved to them, the MCE members are warmly invited to fill in and send the membership form, that can be found the bottom of the PTI Partnership section, by clicking on the link**

http://www.majorcities.eu/staticsite/staticsite.php?menuid=131&topmenu=131&keepmenu=inactive

More information about PTI can be found in the PTI portal at: www.pti.org

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NEW MEMBERS: Attracted by our many valuable initiatives more Local Governments have applied as members of MCE: **Hamburg, Birmingham and Ljubljana** and more are coming soon!

THE MCE IMAGE: THE GLOBAL FORUM 2008: MCE has been one of the supporting organizations of the GLOBAL FORUM http://www.items-int.eu/ that was held in Athens on October 21 & 22, 2008. The topic of the conference has been *Collaborative Convergence - User Empowerment in the Global Digital Economy.* MCE was represented by Giorgio Prister who made a presentation about *Municipal Wireless.* The participants were coming from all over the world. Many contact have been taken with Local Governments and other Organizations to communicate the value proposition of MCE and build new partnerships. More information about the conference an be found in the attached article from the New York Times.

http://www.majorcities.eu/magazin/artikel.php?artikel=9

THE MCE IMAGE: VITAKO (GERMANY) PUBLISHES AN ARTICLE ABOUT MCE. Vitako is the ICT association of Local Governments in Germany http://www.vitako.de/. Vitako has shown interest about MCE and has accepted to publish an article produced by MCE in their magazine including also information about MCE. The title of the article was: *ICT: Facilitator or roadblock for government innovation?* The text in English of the article can be found in the following link:
http://www.majorcities.eu/magazin/artikel.php?artikel=11&type=&menuid=24&topmenu=24

Large Cities Workgroup

LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION IN LARGE EUROPEAN CITIES
The MCE workgroup of CIOs of large European Cities has continued its fruitful workshops. The last meeting has been hosted on October 27 by the City of Barcelona with the participation of Madrid, Paris, Grand Lyon, Birmingham, Hamburg and Vienna. The topic of the workshop was Local Government Transformation. Each city has presented its plans and achievements and shared its strategies, the investments done and the return achieved. the methodologies followed for the implementation and how challenges have been addressed and overcome. A full report of the workshop and the presentations of each city can be found in the attached link:
http://www.majorcities.eu/staticsite/staticsite.php?menuid=129&topmenu=114&keepmenu=inactive

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