

GOVERNING THE METROPOLITAN FUTURE:

POLICIES, FUNDS AND CLIMATE-DRIVEN WATER RISKS

EUROPEAN METROPOLITAN AUTHORITIES

ANYS AMB Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona

MARMARA MUNICIPALITIES UNION

Programme EMA FORUM 2026

Wednesday 7 October

13:00-13:30 **Registration and welcome**

Venue: InterContinental Istanbul Hotel, Gümüşsuyu Mah. Asker Ocağı Cad. No:1 Taksim 34435, Istanbul

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13:30-16:30 **Site visits**

Departure: InterContinental Istanbul Hotel Lobby

Option 1: From Water Heritage to Climate Resilience: Istanbul Water Civilizations Museum

Location: İstanbul Su Medeniyetleri Müzesi, Terkos, 34277 Arnavutköy/Istanbul

High-level ISKI briefing on Istanbul's water sources, basin protection, climate-risk scenarios, water demand, digital monitoring/SCADA and long-term investment needs. The visit will take place at the ISKI Water Civilizations Museum which presents the history of the city's water management, showcasing Ottoman, Roman, and Byzantine systems. Through advanced digital installations, it illustrates how water shaped civilizations and makes water management accessible and engaging for all audiences.

Option 2: Water Governance and Drinking Water Security in a Megacity: Istanbul Water Control and Automation Center (ISKOM) and Kağıthane Drinking Water Treatment Plant

Location: İSKOM, Güzeltepe, İSKİ Arıtma Tesisi, 7, 34060 Eyüpsultan/Istanbul

The Istanbul Water Control and Automation Center (ISKOM) serves as the operational hub where drinking water production, transmission, distribution, wastewater systems, rainfall, flood risks, and emergency conditions are monitored and controlled in real time through advanced SCADA technologies. The program continues at the Kağıthane Drinking Water Treatment Plant, a major facility within the urban core that illustrates how drinking water is treated and supplied to central districts under increasing climate, population, and demand pressures.

18:00-19:30 **Political meeting (by invitation only)**

Venue: Room Citronelle (Nfloor), InterContinental Istanbul Hotel, Gümüşsuyu Mah. Asker Ocağı Cad. No:1 Taksim 34435, Istanbul

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20:00-22:30 **Official dinner**

Departure: InterContinental Istanbul Hotel Lobby (bus transfer provided)
Venue: Hamdi Restaurant, Tahmis Cad. Kalçın Sok. No: 1, Eminönü 34116, Istanbul, Türkiye.

Thursday 8 October

Venue: Dolmabahçe Ballroom (R floor), InterContinental Istanbul Hotel, Gümüşsuyu Mah. Asker Ocağı Cad. No:1 Taksim 34435, Istanbul

Morning plenary session

09:00-09:30 **Delegations' arrival and registration**

Welcome coffee

09:30-09:40 **Welcome and setting the scene**

Nihal Eminoğlu, *Professor, Ankara University*

09:40-10:00 **Opening and official addresses from EMA and MMU**

Ahmet Akin, *President of Marmara Municipalities Union & Mayor of Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality*

Jordi Castellana i Gamisans, *Vice-President for International Relations and Digital Metropolis, Barcelona Metropolitan Area*

10:00-10:15 **Official address from the EU institutions**

Raffaele Fitto, *Executive Vice President EU Commission (video intervention)*

Themis Christophidou, *Director-General DG REGIO (online intervention)*

10:15-10:25 **Official address from UN-Habitat**

Erfan Ali, *Director of UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia*

10:25-11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00-12:30 **Panel discussion: Metropolitan Governance in Practice: Coordination and Policy Innovation for Resilient Futures**

12:30-12:45 **Signing ceremony of the EMA-Declaration**

12:45-13:00 **Family picture**

13:00-14:30 **Lunch**

Venue: Anadolu (P floor) InterContinental Istanbul Hotel

Afternoon sessions

14:30-16:00 Interactive Roundtables

Roundtable 1: Water Under Pressure: Integrated Metropolitan Responses to Climate Challenges

Venue: Marmara (P floor), InterContinental Istanbul Hotel

This roundtable will explore the metropolitan solutions addressing climate-driven water risks through integrated governance that links water, planning, infrastructure, and nature-based solutions, highlighting collaborative practices that boost resilience.

Moderated by Vasilis Latinos, ICLEI Head of our Resilience and Climate Adaptation

Panellists

Jacek Jaskowiak, *Mayor of Poznan*
Anette Marie, *Governing Mayor of Akershus County*
Omar Al-Rawi, *Member of the City Council of Vienna*
Alessandra Innocenti, *Consiglera delegate, Metropolitan City of Florence*
Pierluigi Sanna, *Deputy Metropolitan Mayor of Rome Metropolitan City*

Discussants

Stefano Carta, *Head of European Funds, Rome Metropolitan City*
Flavio Cappellini, *Head of the Deputy Mayor's Office, Rome Metropolitan City*
Giacomo Parenti, *General Director, Florence Metropolitan City*
Paraskevi Tarani, *Head of the Department of Sustainable Urban Development, Thessaloniki*
Anna Aleksandrzak, *Managing Director, Poznań Metropolitan Area*
Joanna M. Żabierek, *Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office, Poznań Metropolitan Area*

Roundtable 2: Metropolitan Roadmaps for Digital and Climate Transitions: Insights from the MICAD Project

Venue: Rumeli (P floor), InterContinental Istanbul Hotel

This session examines how metropolitan areas can drive inclusive climate and digital transitions, highlighting governance approaches that foster collaboration, reduce inequalities, and ensure these transformations are both effective and equitable.

Panellists

Vassil Terziev, *Mayor of Sofia*
Jordi Castellana i Gamisans, *Vice-President for International Relations and Digital Metropolis, Barcelona Metropolitan Area*
Carmine Pacente, *City Councillor of Milan*
Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowskiej Metropolii

Discussants

Tariq Khan, *Schiphol Metropolitan Area*
Najat Azogagh, *Metropolitan Region Amsterdam*

Roundtable 3: Metropolitan Areas Strengthening Governance and Shaping the European Policy: Insights from the MetroCase Project

This roundtable looks at how metropolitan areas influence EU policy and strengthen governance through better planning, coordination, and urban-regional cooperation, while shaping European and global agendas beyond 2030.

Venue: Gezi (P floor), InterContinental Istanbul Hotel

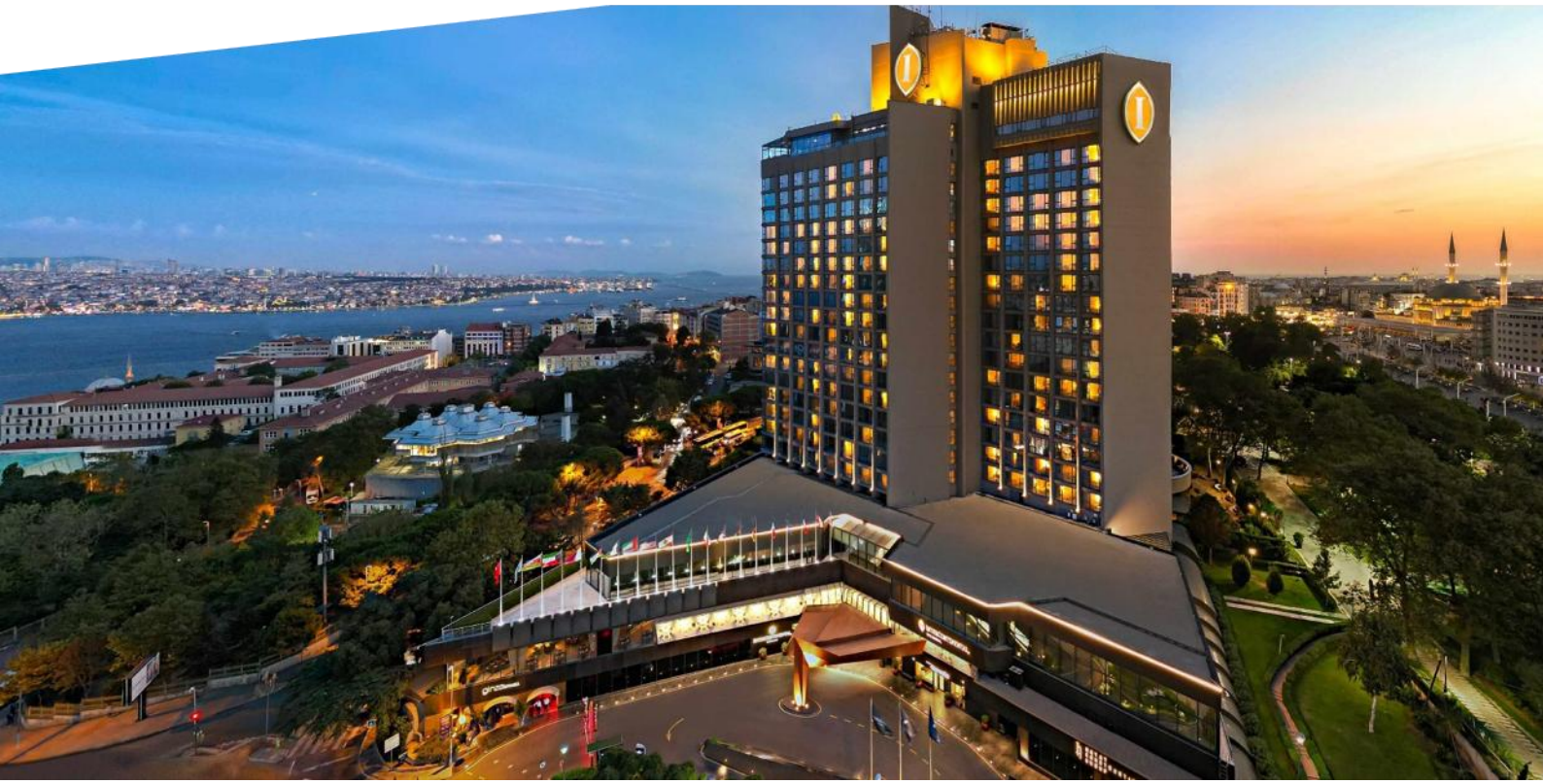
Panellists

Magdalena Czarzyńska-*Jachim, President of Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot Metropolitan Area and Mayor of Sopot,*
Sonia Cambursano, Councilwoman *of Torino Metropolitan City and Mayor of Strambino*
Marco Griguolo, *Vice-president of Milan Metropolitan City and President of Metrex*
Rainer Gessler, *Deputy Chairman, Verband Region Stuttgart*
Māris Sprindžuks, *Deputy Mayor, Riga*

Discussants

Michal Glaser, *CEO, Gdansk, Gdynia Sopot Metropolitan Area*
Laura Papaleo, *Head of the European Office, Genoa Metropolitan City*
Idoia Postigo, *General Director, Bilbao Metropoli 30*
Thomas Teleky, *Head of Representation, Bratislava Region*
Thomas Becker, *STRING Megaregion*
Xavier Tiana, *Coordinator of the General Manager Bureau, AMB*
Daniel Wrzoszczyk, *Director, Krakow Metropolitan Area*

16:00-16:30 Closure



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