



*Lord Mayor, Your excellence,  
I thank you very much for being invited.  
It's a great pleasure for me and my colleagues from all over Europe to meet in  
Plymouth on the occasion of the 13th Biennial of towns and town planners and the  
General Assembly of the ECTP, the umbrella organisation of the national town planners  
associations in Europe.*

*First we have to thank you and the Council of the City of Plymouth for the support you  
gave to organize this event.*

*We will have a very interesting program with reports about current town planning  
problems, debates about solving these problems and good practises in planning right  
here from Plymouth.*

*Plymouth is the Ocean City of Britain, formerly the biggest marine harbour and the last  
stop of the Mayflower on their way to America.*

*Plymouth is living from its connectivity to the world; not only with European countries.  
So Plymouth is an open minded town and may be an example for how Europe has to  
work with migration.*

*Plymouth has been hardly bombed in early World War II and being German, I am still  
ashamed 80 years after the start of the war when the Third Reich invaded Poland.*



*Paul Barnard Plymouth City Council - Lord Mayor of Plymouth - Michael Stein ECTP-CEU*

*The Plymouth citizens have rebuilt their city in the fifties and they are pursuing the building nowadays.*

*As we heard, your town planners won the RTPI Planning competition nearly every time in the last years; such a remarkable achievement!*

*So, during the Biennial, we will find good practises of European town planning right here.*

*And this I think it is one of the reasons we are here: to learn, how a middle-sized city on the edge of Europe is managing its problems of shrinking and growing, keeping its infrastructure up to date, developing good housing for people who are needed to stay here for keeping the power for a self-consistent urban development.*



*Mr Richard Ball, Lord Mayor of Plymouth*



*Lord Mayor's Macebearer, Mr Steve Mallinson*

*We will have a great conference and many opportunities to learn, to discuss and to understand.*

*It will be a European congress and powered by the spirit of an Europe in friendship and solidarity, including the specific European spirit of Great Britain.*

*I arrived late yesterday and haven't yet seen much of the town but I am sure to be impressed when I travel back.*

*So again, it's a great pleasure to be welcomed in your city and thank you very much for being such a friendly host.*

*Plymouth Lord Mayor's September 11 2019*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Stein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Michael Stein  
ECTP-CEU President*