



Press kit

6th European Conference on sustainable cities and towns

"Delivering Sustainable Cities: the Local Leadership Challenge"

Dunkerque, 19 - 21 May 2010

Media contacts:

MFA/ 360 EURO RSCG group:

Sophie ROBERT-BEYS
Tel.: + 33 (0) 3 59 57 08 02

sophie.robert-beys@eurorscg.fr

Metropolitan Council of Dunkerque:

Jean-Pierre TRIQUET
Director of Communications and ICT
Tel.: + 33 (0) 3 28 62 70 91

jean-pierre.triquet@ cud.fr



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The European Conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns: first stopover in France. Dunkerque hosts the 6th edition.

After the success of Aalborg 1994, Lisbon 1996, Hannover 2000, Aalborg 2004 and Sevilla 2007, the European Conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns is stopping over in France for the very first time. Dunkerque was selected to host this 6th edition in its region from 19 to 21 May 2010 on the basis of its achievements in sustainable development. **The topic: "Delivering Sustainable Cities: the Local Leadership Challenge".**

Following on from the meetings on the climate in Copenhagen in 2009, and leading up to the meetings of Mexico 2010, this major date for local and regional authorities in Europe has one main aim: provide decision-makers in Europe with a unique opportunity to jointly consider a collective roadmap for sustainable development in the territories.

Birth of a key European movement: the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign



We have covered much ground since 1994, and the 1st European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns, which brought together 67 local authorities to discuss urban sustainability!

This gathering led to the drafting of the Aalborg Charter, signed by the local authorities present. This charter of European cities and towns for sustainable development, also triggered a key movement: the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign.

This campaign was initially coordinated by 5 networks of towns: the CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions), the ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), Eurocities, the WHO healthy cities network and United Cities and Local Governments, the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign aims to lead the network of authorities having signed the Aalborg Charter and ensure regular meetings in the form of conferences.

The European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign was the first initiative bringing together municipalities in Europe in view of promoting and integrating sustainable initiatives in Europe on a large scale, providing support for local authorities in Europe in the integration of good local practices and the hands-on application of the Aalborg commitments, to obtain tangible results in the field of urban sustainability.

The creation of the movement was supported by the European Commission and DG XI (Directorate General for the Environment, nuclear safety and civilian protection), which understood the benefit of an approach acting independently to European and International organisations and the need for local actors to assimilate these issues.

More than 2500 local authorities from over 40 European countries have now signed and accepted the principles of the Aalborg Charter, founding document for the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign!

The European Conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns, "the" date for municipalities since 1994

In 16 years, the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign has led the European authorities having signed the Aalborg Charter to meet together in the major capital cities in Europe for a series of conferences under the title "European Conferences on Sustainable Cities and Towns".

- in 1994, at Aalborg
- in 1996, at Lisbon
- in 2000, at Hannover
- in 2004, at Aalborg
- in 2007, at Sevilla

...and tomorrow - May 2010 -, at Dunkerque!

This is the largest European conference exclusively dedicated to sustainable development at local level. Mayors, local elected representatives, technicians, representatives of the European Union and national governments, companies and NGOs are expected for each edition of this conference. What's on the agenda?: debating, discussion and comparison of ideas and experiences for the sustainable cities and towns of the 21st century. These events provide a means of standardising European policies and acting collectively.

MAY 2010: France and Dunkerque host the 6th European Conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns

The 6th edition of the Conference will stopover in France for the very first time.. The event will be held in Dunkerque: on 19, 20 and 21 May 2010.

Following on from the Copenhagen agreements on the Climate in December 2009 and leading up to Mexico 2010 on the international sustainable development agenda, this is the first time that the conference has had such symbolic importance! European municipalities intend to demonstrate their investment and ensure that their roles in the implementation of national commitments at local level are recognised. **This significant challenge is taken up by the organisers of this 6th edition: the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign and the Municipal Council of Dunkerque.**

The Municipal Council of Dunkerque is located in the Nord département and the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region and is characterised by industrial and port development. Led by Michel Delebarre, former Government Minister, Deputy Major of Dunkerque, the municipality has applied a deliberate policy for the last 20 years, aiming to step beyond the paradox of sustainable industrial-port development. The application of the town was selected by the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign network to host this major event thanks to its long-term approach to sustainable development.



The European "network of networks" of authorities involved

The 6th European Conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns has undeniably confirmed its status as "the" date for 2010, dedicated to issues relating to sustainable development in the territories. Record participation levels were reached for this edition: 1,500 – 2,000 participants - mayors, local elected representatives and territorial decision-makers in Europe, representatives of the European Union and national governments, companies and NGOs – representing 50% of the European population – are expected in the territory of Dunkerque, in the flood of recent events in Copenhagen.

For this 6th edition, the Municipal Council of Dunkerque and the ICLEI are delighted to be involved in an event bringing together the leading networks of local authorities in Europe, but also the actors on the front line in terms of urban sustainability.

This event is co-organised by the members of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign

The conference is the high point of the initiatives of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign and is therefore naturally organised by its 12 members: *ICLEI, ACR+, CEMR, Cordinamento Italiano, Climate Alliance, Energie-Cités, MedCities, City of Aalborg, City of Malmö, Diputacio de Barcelona, Union of Baltic Cities, Regional Environmental Center.*

Close up on the actors involved...



ICLEI

The ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) aims to create and serve a committed and active movement of local governments, in view of making real improvements in the field of sustainable development at international level via local action. The association directs campaigns and projects, provides technical advice and organises activities to allow local governments to exchange knowledge and make progress with local sustainable development. More than 1100 local governments and their associations throughout the world are ICLEI members, including 200 European members.



ACR+

The Association of towns and regions for recycling and the sustainable management of resources (ACR+) is an international network whose members jointly aim to ensure the sustainable consumption of resources and the responsible management of waste via prevention, re-use and recycling. The 90 members of ACR+ are mainly local and regional authorities and national networks of local authorities representing approximately 750 municipalities.



City of Aalborg

With 190,000 inhabitants, Aalborg is the third largest town in Denmark. The Aalborg Charter is one of the most famous declarations in the field of local policy for sustainable development. These commitments led to the launch of the sustainable cities and towns campaign in 1994. More than 2,500 local and regional authorities from 40 countries have committed to achieving the objectives of the Aalborg Charter. The Aalborg commitments were approved at the Aalborg +10 conference in 2004 and were signed by more than 600 local governments across Europe.



Diputació de Barcelona

The Council of the Province of Barcelona is a local government institution working in favour of progress and the well-being of local citizens. The organisation includes 311 municipalities and works by providing services for and cooperating with town halls in the different sectors, such as economic development, urban planning, culture, education, natural areas, public health and the environment.



CEMR

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the largest organisation of local and regional authorities in Europe, uniting more than 50 national associations of towns and regions in 37 countries and representing approximately 100,000 towns and regions. The CEMR aims to promote a united Europe based on local and regional autonomy and democracy. Sustainable development is one of the priorities of the CEMR, which intervenes by influencing policies and providing support for the different initiatives such as environmental management, energy efficiency, transport and social integration.



Climate Alliance

Climate Alliance is the largest European network for the protection of the climate. Created in 1990, Climate Alliance supports the partnership between European towns and indigenous populations. Almost 1,400 towns, municipalities, regions, provinces, NGOs and other organisations from 17 European countries are members of Climate Alliance, representing approximately 50 million European citizens. Members aim to reduce greenhouse gases via the preparation of strategies in the fields of energy and transport.



Cordinamento Italiano

This Italian Association working towards the local Agenda 21 mainly unites local Italian authorities (municipalities, provinces, regions, natural parks, mountain areas) whose main aim is to promote the principles and practices enshrined in the local Agenda 21 and sustainable development by encouraging the exchange of information and experience between the 400 members. The Association aims to promote the local Agenda 21 to achieve sustainable development via the integration of economic, social and environmental rights, in accordance with the Aalborg, Gothenburg and Ferrara charters.



Energie-Cités

Energie-Cités is an association of local European authorities aiming to reinforce the role and importance of local governments in the field of sustainable energy and local sustainable energy policy. Energie-Cités has more than 200 members from 26 European countries, representing more than 1,000 towns, inter-municipal structures, local energy agencies, municipal companies and groups of municipalities.



City of Malmö

Malmö is located in south west Sweden. With approximately 270,000 inhabitants (650,000 inhabitants in the municipality), Malmö is the third largest town in Sweden and one of the first Scandinavian towns to have been industrialised. Since 1998, the town has increased its investment in the development of sustainable infrastructures in view of creating a green town. The program includes the transformation of districts on the basis of ecological principles, the extension of cycle lanes, the creation of wetlands and a range of other activities.



MedCités

MedCités is a network of 26 coastal towns on the Mediterranean in 20 countries. The aim is to promote the awareness of urban environmental problems and make these initiatives a means of according power to the municipalities of Mediterranean countries with regard the management of the urban environment and sustainable development. MedCités is a means of reinforcing the environmental management abilities of local authorities, but can also be used to identify fields in which common action could be the most appropriate means of improving regional environmental conditions.



REC (Regional Environmental Center for Eastern and Central Europe)

The Regional Environmental Center for Eastern and Central Europe (REC) is an international organisation, which aims to assist countries in the region to solve environmental problems. The REC is currently based on a charter signed by the governments of 29 countries and the European Commission. The REC encourages cooperation between governments, non-governmental organisations, companies and other stake holders by supporting the free exchange of information and the participation of the public in decision-making processes.



UBC (Union of the Baltic Cities)

The Union of the Baltic Cities aims to encourage and reinforce dialogue and the sharing of experiences in the region of the Baltic sea. The association has 107 member towns in the ten towns around the Baltic sea. The environmental commission of the Union aims to increase cooperation and the exchange of good practices between the members of the UBC network and other networks and organisations working in the sector of sustainable development.

The support of an impressive network of partners

Organised under the aegis of the Committee of the Regions, the event is supported by associations of mayors of large, medium-sized, small and very small towns and cities, and by the representatives of the leading networks of local and regional authorities: *The Worldwide Network of Port Cities (AIVP), the Assemblée des partenaires de France (Assembly of the partners of France), the Association des petites villes (Association of small French towns), the French association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AFCCRE), Communautés urbaines de France (Urban municipalities of France), Eco-Maires (French association of mayors for the environment and sustainable development), Maires de Villes Moyennes (French federation of mayors of medium-sized towns), Maires de Grandes Villes (French association of mayors of large towns), Maison Européenne des Pouvoirs locaux français (European association of French local authorities), Villes et Banlieues ("Towns and suburbs" Association of French mayors), et Association des Maires de France (AMF - Association of French mayors).*

Close-up on the actors making the wheel turn!

Committee of the regions

The Committee of the regions (CoR) is the political assembly, which represents the voice of the local and regional authorities within the decision-making processes of the European Union. The CoR has 344 members from 27 countries, all elected or key players for local authorities in the region represented. The European Commission, Council and Parliament consult the CoR on all issues with local or regional consequences. Sustainable development is one of the priorities of the CoR.





ADF (Assemblée des Départements de France - Assembly of French Administrative departments)

The ADF brings together the 102 French departmental councils and departmental authorities in mainland France and overseas. The association represents all administrative departments within public national, community and European authorities to advertise their tasks, competences and activities. The ADF includes several commissions on different issues such as economic development, social cohesion, decentralised cooperation, sustainable development and agriculture, etc.



AFCCRE (French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions - CEMR)

The AFCCRE currently has almost 2,000 territorial authorities, municipalities, administrative departments, regions and groups of municipalities as members. The Association is the French section of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, a European organisation uniting more than 100,000 territorial authorities in Europe. The AFCCRE has created commissions and working groups which are open to its members, including the "Environment and sustainable development" commission, which aims to simplify exchanges on the application of Community regulations at local level.



AIVP

The AIVP (Worldwide Network of Port Cities) is an international network including 200 public and private actors dedicated to the development of port cities. Its main aim is to create a permanent structure for the exchange of information and contacts between its members. Sustainable development is an essential field for towns and actors and the AIVP provides its members with information and documentary services relating to the sustainable development of port cities (economy, environment, transport, territorial planning, architecture and urban planning).



AMF (Association des Maires de France - Association of French mayors)

The AMF includes almost 35,000 mayors and inter-municipal presidents in France and is therefore the main institution representing local authorities. The aim of the association is to provide support for mayors in the context of their local policies and provide assistance to the former to optimise the living conditions of their citizens. The association represents the interests of the local authorities and can provide these authorities with information in several fields such as education, culture, environment and sustainable development in view of achieving its objectives.



AMGVF (Association des Maires des Grandes Villes de France - Association of mayors of large towns in France)

This federation has represented the mayors and presidents of the largest towns and largest (100,000+ inhabitants) inter-municipal groupings in France since 1974 (95 members). The Association aims to defend the interests of large cities and their inhabitants. The AMGVF therefore participates in parliamentary debates relating to these authorities. The Association is broken down into topical commissions, including the Commission on "Sustainable urban development and the environment".



Association des maires ville & banlieue de France ("Town and suburbs" Association of French mayors)

This Association is currently the only association uniting the peripheral municipalities of the main French cities and suburban towns. The Association includes towns with between 5,000 and 100,000 inhabitants, peripheral towns and elected representatives from all political backgrounds. The Association focuses on urban renewal and housing, safety, transport and education.



APVF (L' Association des petites villes de France - Association of small towns in France)

The APVF (uniting towns with a population of between 3,000 and 20,000 inhabitants) includes more than 1000 small towns in all administrative departments in mainland France and overseas. The association aims to represent small towns, share experience, and provide support for elected representatives. The APVF obtains real results in all fields of local life: public services, local finances, inter-municipal cooperation, and the representation of small towns. It operates in various fields including health, sustainable development, the environment and waste management.

ACUF

Created in 1985 as the Association of the Presidents of Urban Communities, the ACUF currently unites 16 urban communities in France. Its aim is to compare the experiences of the urban communities and position these communities as critical actors in territorial organisation. The organisation works in various sectors such as finances, institutional organisation, accommodation, communication, urban planning, public services, sustainable development strategies, etc.



FMVM

The FMVM (Fédération des maires des villes moyennes - Federation of mayors of medium-sized towns) is an association uniting the mayors of medium-sized towns (population of between 20,000 and 100,000 inhabitants) and the presidents of public establishments of inter-municipal cooperation, thereby federating medium-sized towns. Created in 1988, the FMVM currently has 186 members. The FMVM represents a network which shares information, know-how and experience, which members can then use to assist with decision-making and local management.



Eco Maires (French association of mayors for the environment and sustainable development)

Eco Maires federates and acts for and with almost 1,900 municipalities or inter-municipal groups whose elected representatives have decided to make environmental policy and sustainable development priorities for their policies. The association particularly aims to promote best local practices and encourage all types of initiatives launched by municipalities driving to modify consumer and production habits in view of sustainable development.



Maison européenne des pouvoirs locaux français (European association of local French authorities)

This association was created at the initiative of the main national associations of local elected representatives and aims to structure, extend and coordinate their activities in the European field. The objectives assigned to this association aim to ensure the strong presence of local French elected representatives in the European capital. Priority fields for action: public transport services, inter-municipal cooperation, waste, decentralised cooperation, regional policy, rural and urban policies, energy, environment, etc.



Experts and key witnesses take the stage

Many VIPs have been invited to take the floor during the conference and have already confirmed their presence, demonstrating the importance of this event. Each of these VIPs was selected to represent a wide range of specialist knowledge and experience in the fields of urban sustainability and commitments by local authorities.

The 6th European Conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns: the key date on the agenda for European mayors!

The 6th European Conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns is primarily an event for European mayors, the main parties concerned by the implementation of sustainable development in the territories, and they are expected in droves! More than 1500 mayors and representatives of European towns are expected for this 6th edition.

Including:



Claus Bondam
*Deputy Mayor of
Copenhagen
(Denmark)*



Abel Caballero
*Mayor of Vigo, politician
and economist
(Spain)*



Carl Cerderschiold
*Mayor of Stockholm
(Sweden)*



Edoardo Croci
*Deputy Mayor of Milan
(Italy)*



**Alfredo Fernandez
Monteseirin**
Mayor of Sevilla (Spain)



Stephan Hugo Winters
*Secretary of State, Hamburg
(Germany)*



Lisbeth Iversen
*Councillor for the town of
Bergen
(Sweden)*



Alain Juppé
*Former Prime Minister,
Mayor of Bordeaux
(France)*



Imma Mayol Beltran
*Deputy Mayor of
Barcelona
(Spain)*



Dominique Voynet
*Former Minister of the
Environment, Mayor of
Montreuil (France)*

Leading international experts are expected to join the event...

Leading international experts will take the floor at the event during the plenary sessions and workshops, providing specialist input in the fields of urban sustainability and fuelling debates with elected representatives. Water management, energy, waste treatment, urban planning, construction and biodiversity: expertise will be available in all fields!

Including:



Maria Berrini

President of the Ambiente Italia Research Institute (Italy)



Jeb Brugmann

Expert in urban planning strategy, Consultant in innovation, author (Canada)



Andrea Burzacchini

Head of the spatial analysis department of the European Environment Agency (Germany)



Virna Bussadori

Honorary president of the European Council of spatial planning (Italy)



Srdjan Susic

Director of the Regional Environmental Center (Hungary)



Ronan Uhel

Head of the spatial analysis department of the European Environment Agency (Denmark)

...and the leading European decision-makers!

Many decision-makers and representatives of European institutions have been invited to attend the event as key witnesses in order to relay the message to be addressed by the authorities to the different European governments following the conference.

Including:



Jean-Louis Borloo

Minister of Ecology, energy, sustainable development and the Sea (France)



Mercedes Bresso

President of the Committee of the regions, President of the Region of Piedmont (Italy)



Johannes Hahn

European commissioner for Regional policy, European Commission



Günther H. Oettinger

European commissioner for energy, European Commission



Ian Micallef

President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe, Council of Europe



Dubravka Suica

Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe, Council of Europe

3 days to discuss, compare and share experiences and to dream up the sustainable town of the future

Let us open these 3 days of conferences by remembering the declaration of Copenhagen distributed to leaders, and with this phrase in particular, included on the first page of the preamble: **"further recognizing that a broad range of stakeholders needs to be engaged on global, regional, national and local levels, be they governmental, including sub national and local government, private business and civil society"**, recognizing the role played by local governments at the heart of each nation's ability to change. This position is particularly important as local governments currently represent 70% of public investment. **The event in Dunkerque is therefore particularly critical in the lead up to Mexico 2010 and the conclusions of this conference will be laid down in a symbolic written text: *The Declaration of Dunkerque*.**

The agenda for the 6th Conference

The 6th European Conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns provides a unique opportunity for European authorities to consider a collective roadmap for sustainable development in their territories and confirm the weight and impact of their proposals. The main ambitions of this event are to create new tools, develop means of cooperation and share successful experiences.

To achieve this, the organisers have laid down 6 ambitious objectives for the 3 days of the conference:

- Assess progress in terms of sustainable development over the last 15 years,
- Launch political and strategic consideration of the opportunities inherent to sustainable development,
- Explore different fields of action for local governments, contributing to sustainable development,
- Consider how local governments can involve their citizens in sustainable behaviour
- Analyse the changes inherent to political processes at European level.
- Conclude with consideration of future action within the context of the European sustainable cities and towns campaign (partnership tools and methods required for sustainable development)

... guidelines will be laid down in a symbolic text: *The Declaration of Dunkerque*.

Taking a closer look at the agenda!



For this 6th edition, the organisers aim to maximise interaction between actors and participants by using original methodologies. The agenda will be full of plenary sessions, workshops, and interactive and one-to-one debates, based on **3 main topics**:

- **19 May 2010: the role of local action for the sustainable development of towns and cities**
- **20 May 2010: Report on sustainable cities and towns in Europe and how to move forward**
- **21 May 2010: Overview of discussions – means of cooperation to be launched in Europe**

PLENARY SESSIONS AND DEBATES

<p>Wednesday 19 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 2050, Where are cities going?✓ Climate change, economic crisis and social challenges	<p>Thursday 20 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Connected and committed: progress of local sustainability in Europe✓ Champions and newcomers (homage to the success of European towns and cities)	<p>Friday 21 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ After Copenhagen – COP-16 in Mexico: responsibilities ahead for local and national governments✓ A Europe of sustainable cities
<p>Turning challenges into solutions - The local approach</p>	<p>Mayors' session</p>	<p>Conclusion of the conference</p>

2 DAYS, 20 WORKSHOPS

<p>Wednesday 19 May "Innovative solutions to local challenges"</p> <p><u>A range of workshops:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ New challenges for port cities✓ Sustainable mobility choices and accessibility✓ Buildings: the challenge of the existing stocks?✓ Quality of life – Strengthening local communities✓ Socially inclusive societies✓ Responsible consumption & waste reduction✓ Adaptation to climate change – Building local strategies✓ Local renewable energy✓ Biodiversity✓ Towards a water-sensitive city	<p>Thursday 20 May "Governing and managing sustainability cities"</p> <p><u>A range of workshops:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The dynamics of changing citizen behaviour✓ Culture and development: towards sustainable cities✓ Urban planning✓ Cooperation between levels of government✓ European strategy and opportunities for financing✓ Sustainable public procurement✓ Integrated sustainability management✓ Cooperation with business✓ International urban cooperation✓ Research and innovation
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Highlight number two: the Mayors' session!

Thursday 20 May, from 17:30 to 19:30, chaired by the Guest of Honour Alain Juppé.

This event is specially dedicated to mayors, whose contribution is awaited with bated breath in view of Mexico 2010!

A united political message will be drafted to conclude this session, ensuring the recognition of local authorities as front line actors in the sustainable development of the territories. This message will be distributed to the leading national and European institutions present at the closing of the 6th European Conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns.



A special attraction for this 6th edition: the Agora

This place for meeting and exchange, the Agora, will provide participants with a structured space to meet up, present and discuss their local initiatives during the 3 days of the conference.

It is also possible to start debates, or take the floor to present initiatives and projects. Representatives of local authorities and networks of local authorities, representatives of companies with contracts with local authorities, NGOs involved in sustainable development at local level, universities and other research institutes and the representatives of the European institutions and agencies are all invited to participate.

Dunkerque 2010: a year-long program! ... to advertise and set up the Conference in the municipality

Hosting the 6th European conference on sustainable cities and towns made this year very special. From September 2009 to December 2010, the territory of Dunkerque is encouraging its inhabitants to live life in the name of sustainable development. **The Metropolitan Council and its partners therefore launched the "Dunkerque 2010, at the crossroads of sustainable development" operation. The aim: launch collective drive throughout the territory, involving all those supporting sustainable development.**

Ensure the awareness and participation of inhabitants : a year-long priority...

Awareness is at the heart of the policy applied by the Municipal Council of Dunkerque in terms of sustainable development. Providing support for inhabitants, helping them to change their behaviour, is a day-to-day concern. Hosting the 6th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns provides the opportunity to ensure that inhabitants are aware of the many fields of application of sustainable development in their daily lives. For this event, the 18 urban municipalities of Dunkerque drafted a very wide ranging program!

What's on the agenda:

- ✓ Story telling
- ✓ Films
- ✓ Conferences & debates
- ✓ Events (Sustainable development rally, sea days, concerts)
- ✓ A sustainable development competition
- ✓ Conferences & debates in local homes on the topics covered by the event.
- ✓ Itinerant exhibitions with conferences throughout the year
- ✓ An operation organised with the schools in the urban area, leading to an exhibition on the planet

The other... fun side of the 6th Conference, for everybody!

In line with its festive traditions, Dunkerque invites and involves the inhabitants of the town in the hosting of the 6th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in the form of multiple celebrations.

A fun, but educational exhibition in front of the Congress hall

Inhabitants and tourists passing through will be able to enjoy a temporary exhibition on global warming in front of the Congress hall during the conference. Topical cubes will allow one and all to learn about climate change while having fun.



An exceptional concert

Dunkerque will also host an open air concert by the Sinsemilia group for the event, on 19 May 2010, at the car park of the Paul Asseman pool. This group is known for its songs with lyrics fighting for a future with respect for humankind and the environment. Take advantage of a relaxed moment for some in-depth thinking.

Michel Delebarre, representative of regional authorities in Europe

Michel Delebarre, former Government Minister, Deputy Mayor of Dunkerque, and President of the Municipal Council of Dunkerque, confirmed his convictions relating to the sharing of practices, experience, and innovation in territorial sustainable development as President of the Committee of the regions between 2006 and 2008 and Vice-President between 2008 and 2010. In 2007, he therefore naturally supported the application of Dunkerque to host the 6th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns. Close-up on the European commitment of this experienced politician.

A convinced and determined man since 1996, both locally and at European level



The commitment of Michel Delebarre to these issues dates back to 1996, when the Aalborg charter was signed by the territory of Dunkerque. He simultaneously launched a series of initiatives and trials.

Later, in 2006, as President of the Committee of the regions, he launched the **Covenant of Mayors: European initiative by the Convention of Mayors of European towns in collaboration with the European Commission.**

First ever project at European level to federate policies around sustainable development priorities for towns, this Covenant commits signatories to achieve the ambitious "3X20" objectives before 2020: a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a 20% improvement in energy efficiency and a 20% share of renewable energies in energy consumption in the E.U. This project can be considered a success as 1000 towns have currently declared their commitment. This support is fundamental as it clearly highlights the decisive role of towns and local governments in the fight against climate change.

Representative of European local authorities

Michel Delebarre, as Vice-President of the Committee of the regions, regularly takes up position at key European events to promote the fundamental role of local and regional authorities in implementing the sustainable development commitments of national governments in the territories. Recent contributions:

- **In June 2009, at the International Congress of the ICLEI – International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives in Edmonton, Canada.** 628 participants from 58 countries met up to reiterate the decisive role of local decision-makers for the future of the planet. Michel Delebarre took the floor on the issue of Agenda 21 and governance in relation to sustainable development.
- **In June 2009, at the Green Week in Brussels: the largest European conference dedicated to the environment.** 3,500 participants debated the following priorities: reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, preparing international economies for the impact of climate change, setting climate change in a wider context of ecosystems
- **In October 2009, at the extraordinary meeting of the ESP (European Socialist Party), dedicated to smart green growth, in Malmö, Sweden.** His message was loud and clear: reiterate the critical role of local decision-makers on the eve of the negotiations on climate in Copenhagen.
- **More recently, at the Copenhagen agreements on 15 - 17 December 2009**
Appointed by the European Commission to join the European delegation in Copenhagen, as Vice-President of the Committee of the regions, he defended one message: the implementation of the commitments of national governments against global warming requires the involvement and recognition of local governments in Europe.



The European commitment of Michel Delebarre

Member of the Committee of the regions since 1998

- President of the "Territorial cohesion" commission (COTER) 2010
- President of the socialist group of the Committee of the regions, 2002-2006
- President of the Committee of the regions, 2006 - 2008
- First Vice-President of the Committee of the regions, 2008 - 2010
- Participation at ministerial meetings (regional policy, maritime policy, GIS, etc.)
- Participation at informal councils on Regional policy
- Organisation and chairing of the Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome by the Committee of the regions in Rome in May 2007
- Participation at the official commemoration ceremony for the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome with 27 Heads of State in Berlin in May 2007
- Regular meetings with European commissioners in charge of regional policy, maritime policy, energy and social affairs

Member of the European Union delegation of the French National Assembly

- Rapporteur on the Lisbon Strategy
- Rapporteur on Structural funds and cohesion policy, 2007-2013
- President of the port study group

Mayor of Dunkerque/ President of the Municipal Council of Dunkerque

- Vice-President of the AIVP (Worldwide Network of Port Cities)
- Member of the Steering committee of the French Association of the CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions)

The European commitment of Michel Delebarre is above all the reflection of a voluntary policy on sustainable development, boosted in the territory of Dunkerque for the last 20 years, in the fields of economic and industrial development, housing and urban planning, social cohesion and participation-based democracy.

Dunkerque Grand Littoral: territorial arguments convinced the ESCT

The issue of sustainable development is not recent in Dunkerque. Beyond simple environmental factors, the Municipal Council of Dunkerque was required to consider how to go beyond the paradox of sustainable port and industrial development. This consideration focused on 4 lines: economic and industrial development, housing and urban planning, social cohesion and participation-based democracy, leading to an original approach.

Dunkerque, strong territorial port & industrial forces



Dunkerque has long been intimately linked to the sea. Fishing port, trading port, industrial port, cross-channel port, marina... Over the years, the economic and social life of the territory has been dictated by the successive development of these different sectors of activity.

Leading French maritime port in the North sea, third port in France, first energy platform in Europe, Dunkerque is the heart of an urban sprawl with 18 municipalities and 200,000 inhabitants, combining industrial and port traditions.

Located just 1:30 by sea from the most heavily used maritime route in the world and right next to the city of Lille, at the centre of the Brussels/ London/ Paris triangle, Dunkerque is the ideal platform for shipping and distributing bulk goods in Europe. Perfectly integrated in international exchanges, the large Maritime port serves both long-distance destinations (Asia, Antilles islands, Latin America, etc.) and north Europe. **In 2008, an annual 7,000 ships transporting 60 million tons of goods connected Dunkerque to 110 countries!**

Leading industrial actors have opted for Dunkerque and the Municipal Council currently hosts key industrial sites for international groups (Arcelor, Rio Tinto, EDF nuclear power plant, etc.) along side of a network of highly effective SME for industrial maintenance. **A total of 953 industrial firms provide employment for 30,000 inhabitants.**

The sustainable development challenge well met!

Since its creation in 1969, the Municipal Council of Dunkerque has constantly aimed to provide its citizens with a territory combining well-being and mutual support with sustainable port and industrial development. In this context, the Municipal Council of Dunkerque opted for sustainable industrial development in collaboration with all of the economic actors in the territory. **This decision particularly led to the establishment of an Industrial Environment program from 1993.**

By signing the Aalborg Charter for sustainable European towns in 1996, the Municipal Council of Dunkerque boosted a long-term trend, which reinforced financing - thanks to growth - and an enlarged field of competences, converted into innovation. Since this date, the **Municipal Council of Dunkerque has taken many pioneering initiatives**: first urban area in France to launch selective waste sorting (1989), first to set up an air quality monitoring system (1976), host of the most powerful wind turbine station (1996), etc. **The area was also rewarded for all of these initiatives with the First European award for sustainable cities and towns in 1996.**

More recently, on 12 November 2009, the Municipal Council of Dunkerque adopted its "Territorial climate plan" at its community council meeting. In just one year, community politicians drew up a plan with commitments enabling the achievement of the "3X20" objectives in the territory by 2020: a 20% reduction in

greenhouse gas emissions, a 20% improvement in energy efficiency and a 20% share of renewable energies in energy consumption.

Finally, sustainable development is also the main axis of the Urban Planning Project 2000-2015, and the community project 2009 – 2015.

**A committed territory,
ensuring everybody is involved!**

With regard local public services, since 1996, the Municipal Council of Dunkerque has modernised and invested in tools and technologies to contribute to sustainable development. A few examples: the Organic re-use centre, the energy re-use centre, the urban heat network (which recently received the "First Global District Energy Climate Award"), the construction of a HQE purification station, the construction of the mud methanisation centre.

Investment also targets social fields and local democracy, via urban regeneration and the participation of inhabitants in planning projects or the definition of key public policies and framework documents (urban centre project, climate plan, waste management charter). The Sustainable Development Council brings together representatives of civilian society and organises debates on the main priorities for the territory at city level.

The Municipal Council also focuses on providing support for changing behaviour. To encourage the participation of the citizens, the Council uses provisions such as Réflex'énergie and launches educational initiatives (Maison 3d - an educational centre focusing on sustainable development, discovery manuals for school kids, awareness campaigns, etc).

Sustainable development has gradually become a hub for all planning, education and transformation policies. Each strategic document (we could mention the urban travel plan, the local housing program, the climate plan, the waste charter, the Local economic development plan or the Local Community urban planning program) is based on sustainable development, and a shared vision of joint sustainable development has been constructed with municipalities, partners and the inhabitants.

Check out the latest news from Dunkerque on sustainable development at:

www.dunkerquegrandlittoral.org

www.dunkerque2010.org

Sustainable development at Dunkerque: a long and winding road littered with encouragement and awards

Global sustainable development strategy

1996: EUROPEAN PRIZE for sustainable cities and towns awarded in Lisbon by the ICLEI

2005: The Municipal Council of Dunkerque was selected to represent France at the UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION of Aichi in Japan, reflecting French expertise in the design and application of a global sustainable development policy.

2006: Gold medal awarded for the "DEFI DE LA TERRE" (EARTH CHALLENGE), by the Nicolas Hulot foundation, the Association des Maires des Grandes Villes de France (Association of Mayors of large towns in France) and the Agence française de l'environnement et de la maîtrise d'énergie (French agency for the environment and energy control).

Reduction in energy expenses

2007: MARIANNE D'OR awarded by the President of the French Senate for the air thermography campaign and the Reflex'énergie operation

2008: EUROPEAN BELIEF PROGRAM, for the promotion of sustainable energy within local authorities, at European level. Dunkerque is one of the 20 authorities participating from 11 European countries.

Reduction and re-use of waste

1990: ENVIRONMENTAL OSCAR awarded by the French Ministry of the Environment

1995: ECHARPE VERTE TROPHY awarded by the French Ministry of Industry and the AMF

2000: SPECIAL PRIZE awarded by the Association Eco-Maires

Sustainable development and planning policies

1997: TERRITORIA PRIZE for the Industrial environment program

2004: diploma awarded by the COUNCIL OF EUROPE for the cycle route guide for the territory of Dunkerque

2006: 1st PRIZE FOR TOURISM ENGINEERING for the sustainable development and HQE policy applied for the renovation of the Congress hall

Involvement of inhabitants in sustainable development priorities

2008: QUALITY LABEL awarded by the Agence française de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Énergie (ADEME - French agency for the environment and energy control) and ECO-EMBALLAGE for the satisfaction of the public in the context of quality policy for the Dunkerque waste charter.

And more recently... On 3 November 2009: the "Global District Energy Climate Award" in Copenhagen!

Despite competition from 26 other urban territories in 11 countries (including: Boras in Sweden, Krakow in Poland, Austin in Texas (USA), Jiamusi and Heilong-Jiang in China and Thisted in Denmark), the urban heating system of Dunkerque was rewarded for its pertinence at a time when fossil resources are growing scarce, and for its sustainable development approach craftily organised with the industrial sector.