



**Exhibition**  
Cities of the future  
Brussels, 8-10 April 2008

## Exhibitions

An exhibition aimed at featuring relevant "best practice" of sustainable urban development in the areas of mobility, transport, housing, energy solutions will be organised at the Committee of the Regions (Jacques Delors Building, 5th floor).

On the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Jacques Delors Building, visitors can also discover "Imagine your energy future: Beacon regions, cities, neighbourhoods...", an exhibition of exemplary and innovative territorial practices developed by Energie-Cités.

The Region of Valencia will present (in the entrance hall of the Jacques Delors Building) "Aqua" by Chimo Serrano, a photo exhibition depicting water as a vital resource.

Exhibitions open on Tuesday 8 April at 11 o'clock, and can be visited during office hours until Thursday 10 April 15 o'clock.

Please register beforehand at [www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu) for your free visit.

## Partner organisations at the exhibition:

- › ASBL Cluster Eco-Construction – Wallonia  
[info@ecoconstruction.be](mailto:info@ecoconstruction.be)
- › Climate Alliance of European Cities  
[europe@kimabuendnis.org](mailto:europe@kimabuendnis.org)
- › DG ENTERPRISE  
[www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sme](http://www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sme)
- › DG ENERGY AND TRANSPORT  
[www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy\\_transport](http://www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport)
- › Energie-Cités  
[www.energie-cites.eu](http://www.energie-cites.eu)
- › EUROCITIES  
[www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)
- › European Renewable Energy Council  
[de.schaetzen@erec.org](mailto:de.schaetzen@erec.org)
- › FEDARENE  
[fedarene@fedarene.org](mailto:fedarene@fedarene.org)
- › ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability  
[www.iclei-europe.org](http://www.iclei-europe.org)
- › LAN EKINTZA-BILBAO  
[lan-ekintza@lane.bilbao.net](mailto:lan-ekintza@lane.bilbao.net)
- › Polis  
[ojung@polis-online.org](mailto:ojung@polis-online.org)
- › Union of Baltic Cities  
[www.ubc.net](http://www.ubc.net)
- › Valencia Region  
[www.uegva.info](http://www.uegva.info)



**How to register?** Please register at [www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu)



**Committee of the Regions**

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# CITIES OF THE FUTURE



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Brussels,  
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In co-operation with:



## Editorials

Cities of the future  
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**Luc Van den Brande,**  
President of the  
Committee of  
the Regions

For several years, the economic growth and the development of entrepreneurship in cities and towns has been a major concern within the EU 27. The need to become a sustainable city is one of the most serious challenges facing a "City of the Future". However, successful local entrepreneurship and sustainable urban development are not in conflict with one another – as this Forum will demonstrate.

The time has come for Europe's local governments to tackle the challenge of sustainability, and a general mobilisation of all European cities and towns towards greater environmental awareness is now required.

With this platform, the Committee of the Regions intends to assemble European and local decision makers as well as key stakeholders from the public and private sector and the civil society to discuss concrete initiatives on entrepreneurship and sustainability that have already been successfully implemented, in addition to new concepts concerning these two issues.

Furthermore, the Committee of the Regions aims to raise awareness among its members about sustainability in various aspects of urban development, whilst encouraging all local representatives to get involved in common efforts. The 'Covenant of Mayors' launched by the European Commission in late January 2008, is one such initiative, aiming to realise the objective of a 'City of the Future' in the field of sustainable energy, and fight against climate change. The Committee of the Regions is committed to the success of this initiative and will assure its support for the largest possible involvements of local authorities in Europe.

The event is also an opportunity to encourage the necessary dialogue between local authorities and the EU institutions regarding the need to develop far-reaching efforts in Europe's cities and towns and address the level of support the EU can provide in helping to achieve this objective.



**Gerard Collomb, Mayor of Lyon and President of EUROCITIES**

Europe's 'cities of the future' will be – will have to be – energy-efficient cities. There is no escaping the fact that, faced with challenges such as climate change and rising energy costs, urban areas across Europe will have to drastically reduce their energy consumption within the next decade and beyond.

While a number of local actions have already been undertaken, it is now time for Europe's local governments to collectively take up the challenges of climate change and energy efficiency. The 'Covenant of Mayors' initiative, unveiled by European Commissioner Andris Piebalgs on 29 January, will give the mayors and leaders of our cities the opportunity to commit themselves to reducing CO2 emissions in their city by more than 20% by 2020. EUROCITIES has actively contributed to the preparation of the Covenant, and by the end of this year our member cities will adopt a Declaration on climate change whereby they will agree on a series of actions aimed at meeting the Covenant's objectives.

Such initiatives show that cooperation between the EU and the local level is crucial in the fight against climate change and for energy efficiency. EUROCITIES will continue to play its role in ensuring that this cooperation remains fruitful and beneficial to the inhabitants of our cities. The 'Cities of the Future' Forum is an excellent occasion to pursue and deepen discussions with our partners at the European level, and I thank the Committee of the Regions for taking the initiative to organise this event.

## Context & Objectives

The Forum on "Cities of the Future" is organised by the Committee of the Regions in cooperation with the European Commission Directorates General for Energy and Transport (TREN) and for Enterprise and Industry (ENTR) and EUROCITIES.

The Forum intends to highlight the necessity for a "City of the Future" to be a sustainable city. Therefore, strong focus will be placed on the challenges that local authorities are facing in the field of sustainable urban development, concerning for example energy, mobility, transport and housing.

One important tool for sustainable urban development is the "Covenant of Mayors". This initiative was launched by the European Commission in January 2008 with the intention of mobilising mayors and leaders of Europe's cities and towns, giving them the opportunity to go beyond the objectives in the field of sustainable energy adopted on 9 March 2007 by the EU's heads of state and government. Signatories of the Covenant will be committed to reducing CO2 emissions in their territory by more than 20% by 2020 through the implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans based on the strong involvement of citizens and the use of dedicated resources.

95 European cities and towns have already expressed their interest in joining the Covenant. The official signing is expected to take place during European Sustainable Energy Week 2009.

Another important area for the "City of the Future" is the role of enterprises and their willingness to contribute to sustainable solutions for environment, energy, mobility and related social aspects that make a city attractive. Cities and towns have the potential to encourage, motivate and support entrepreneurship among their citizens and stimulate private initiatives that are beneficial to both public authorities and companies. It is therefore a main objective of the forum to highlight how cities and towns can make the most of this true entrepreneurial spirit. This Forum will also host an exhibition on the theme of best practice in European cities, as well as an art exhibition on the theme of water "Aqua" by Chimo Serrano (Region of Valencia).

## Target Audience

- Members of the Committee of the Regions
- Officials from the European Commission, and other EU institutions
- Representatives of regions and cities: urban policy makers and civil servants
- Sectoral and thematic networks and European associations
- Specialists on urban development
- Representatives of the business sector



## Programme

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## "Sustainability solutions for cities of the future"

Thursday 10 April 2008

### Plenary Session of the Committee of the Regions

10:00 - 11:30 Political Debate "Sustainability solutions for cities of the future"

(Venue: Charlemagne Building, Rue de la Loi, 170)

- › **Luc Van den Brande**, President of the Committee of the Regions
- › **Andris Piebalgs**, European Commissioner for Energy: the "Covenant of Mayors" - a tool to make cities sustainable
- › **Henk Kool**, vice-mayor of The Hague, Vice-President of EUROCITIES

#### Interventions

- › **Tom Burke**, Friends of the Earth, Green Alliance and E3G
- › **John Vassallo**, General Electric, President of GE Benelux & GE Director for European Affairs
- › **Jean-Claude Banon**, Veolia Environment, Veolia Group Executive Representative with the EU institutions

#### Debate

Debate with the Members of the Committee of the Regions.



13:00 - 13:30 Visit of the exhibitions

(Venue: Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard, 101)

Visit of the exhibition on the "Cities of the future" and the Valencian Region's exhibition on water "Aqua" by **Luc Van den Brande**, President of the Committee of the Regions and **Francisco Camps Ortiz**, President of the Region of Valencia.

**Reception for participants** at the Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors Building, Atrium 5.

14:30 - 16:30 Technical Workshop: "How can entrepreneurship enhance sustainable urban development?"

#### Introduction

- › **Gerhard Stahl**, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions

#### Interventions

- › **Estibaliz Sanz Gogekoetxea**, on behalf of Iñaki Azkuna, Mayor of Bilbao, introducing Lan Ekintza-Bilbao, a municipal development company, winner of the 2007 European Enterprise Awards Grand Jury's Prize
- › **Maive Rute**, Director, Promotion of SMEs' Competitiveness, DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission
- › **Arnaldo Abruzini**, Secretary general of EUROCHAMBRES
- › **Maryke van Staden**, Coordinator of ICLEI's European Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign
- › **Neil Peterson**, Head of International relations and Welcome of Liverpool European Capitale of Culture in 2008
- › **Katarina Jagić**, President of Small and Medium Entrepreneurs' Association of Croatia

#### Discussion

Discussion with the floor, moderated by **Lucio Gussetti**, Director of the Directorate for Consultative Works, Committee of the Regions.