

EU Expert Group on the Urban Environment

**Centre Borschette (CCAB), rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels
24 September 2004: 10.00 – 17.00**

Interpretation available in E/FR/D

Chairs:

Chantal Bruetschy, Head of Unit – Health and Urban Areas, DG Environment
Professor Colin Fudge, Dean, Faculty of the Built Environment, University of West
England, Bristol

Agenda Item 1

10.00 Update of progress with the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment since the last meeting on 7 April 2004 (DG Environment)

- Establishment of the 3 Expert Working Groups¹ and outcome of coordination meeting for the chairs and consultants
- Discussions in Council and Parliament on the Communication “Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment”
- Timescale for the rest of the process

Agenda Item 2

10.30 Interim results from the 3 Expert Working Groups

- **Urban Environmental Management plans and systems**
- **Sustainable Urban Transport Plans**
- **Urban Environment Research and Training needs**

The 3 Expert Working Groups will present briefly the interim results of their respective working group. Members of the EU Expert Group are encouraged to review the results from the working groups in advance. Minutes and reports from each working group are available on the website www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/urban/experts_working_groups.htm².

The EU Expert Group will be asked to comment on the results so far, highlight any gaps in the work in order to improve the final report and offer suggestions or solutions.

¹ The 3 Expert Working groups established in 2004 to develop key ideas in the interim Communication are ‘Environmental Management Plans and Management Systems’, ‘Sustainable Urban Transport Plans’ and ‘Urban Environment Research and Training Needs’

² The interim report from the Transport Group will be available 06/09/04

Timing: 15 minute presentation and 45 minutes of questions for each working group based on priority questions identified by each chairman (to be circulated in advance of the meeting).

12.30-14.00 Lunch

Continuation of Agenda Item 2

14.00 Interim results from the 3 Expert Working Groups – Urban Environment Research and Training Needs

Timing: 15 minute presentation and 45 minutes of questions for each working group.

Agenda Item 3

15.00 Extended Impact Assessment

DG Environment will provide an update on the extended impact assessment of the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment that is being undertaken in parallel with the preparation of the Strategy. The process and approach will be outlined.

Some basic information needed for the impact assessment has already been distributed to the EU Expert Group:

- Draft list of the EU Cities above 90,000 inhabitants (e-mail of 12 July);
- Review of national and regional legal obligations for environmental management plans, environmental management systems and sustainable urban transport plans (e-mail of 24 August – deadline 30 September).

Agenda Item 4

15.30 Update of activities on the other elements of the Strategy

- Sustainable Construction and Sustainable Urban Design themes
- Integration of urban environment issues into other EC Policy Areas: Research Policy - Priorities for the 7th Framework Programme, Cohesion Policy - Draft Regulations for the future Funds.
- Outcome of 4th European Sustainable Cities Conference (“Aalborg +10”)

Agenda Item 5

16.30 Any other business

16.45 CLOSE OF MEETING

NB – Meeting scheduled for 25 October 2004 has been rescheduled to allow discussion of the expert working group’s final reports (due end November 2004).