



The Green Week 2009 logo

The Green Week 2009 logo symbolises both a candle and a bomb. This double entendre exemplifies the attitude of Green Week: pointing out the dangers of the already irreversible consequences of climate change and the need for **adaptation**, while offering hope that **actions** undertaken today can help prevent further developments and avert catastrophes.



European Green Capital spirit at Green Week 2008
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"Green Week is much more than a conference. It is a festive event which features numerous expositions, side events and film projections."

Isabelle Michiels, Information and Communication officer at DG Environment, in charge of the coordination of Green Week

Green Week 2009 - Climate Change: Act and Adapt!

2050 Vision: a carbon-free society

The 9th edition of Green Week, the biggest annual event on European environmental policy, will take place from 23 to 26 June 2009 in Brussels on the theme of climate change. It will prepare for the U.N. climate change conference in Copenhagen in December 2009 by introducing some key debates. Green Week 2009 will focus on four topics: "EU climate policies", "The international dimension", "Living with climate change" and "2050 Vision: a carbon-free society".

While the first three topics will be addressed in a rather typical conference context, the fourth theme, one of this year's highlights, will be organised in sessions that will facilitate input from participants with diverse backgrounds, including professors and journalists. *"The sessions of '2050 Vision' will concentrate on creating positive yet realistic outcomes, focusing on four subtopics – energy, greening the economy, transport and spatial planning, and working with nature. Participants will be asked to consider how a 'climate-neutral' society – characterised by a genuinely sustainable low-carbon economy, low poverty levels and successful adaptation to climate change – can be achieved by 2050"*, explains Isabelle Michiels, Information and Communication Officer at DG Environment, responsible for the coordination of Green Week.

Green Week is more than a conference...

Each year, Green Week attracts a large number of visitors and exhibitors, as well as high-level speakers from the European Commission, including Stavros Dimas, Commissioner for Environment, from environment ministries and major NGOs. One of Green Week's success factors is that *"it is much more than a conference"*, says Isabelle Michiels. *"It is a festive event which features numerous expositions, side events and film projections"*, she explains. One of the side events will include the presentation of the new European Green Capital Award, an initiative rewarding cities at the vanguard of environmentally friendly urban living. The first European Green Capital will be Stockholm in 2010. To find out more about the Green Capital Awards, have a look at the [EECN newsflash n°69](#).



Stavros Dimas, Commissioner for Environment, visiting a stand of the Green Spider Network
© EC / Patrick Mascart



Information stand at Green Week 2008



One of the numerous conferences at Green Week 2008



The theme of Green Week 2009: Climate Change

This newsflash is issued by the EECN which is DG Environment's support structure for European Environmental Communication Networks.

Visit the website of the EECN on:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/networks/index_en.htm to learn more about the activities of the networks and read newsflashes previously released.

Debates and side events

Other interesting side events include the photo exhibition "Climate Migrants", portraying people and places under threat from global warming, "Vegetal City" – an exhibition of architect Luc Schuiten's urban visions of a future based on a new relationship between Man and the natural environment, as well as the projection of a film by Franny Armstrong: "The Age of Stupid", set in the year 2055 in a world ruined by global warming.

The organisers of Green Week regularly report a very high satisfaction rate among participants. *"The event is indeed a great opportunity to learn and exchange ideas and good practices and a place for useful and fruitful debates"*, confirms Valentin Brustur, Ministry of Environment — Romania, President 2008-2009 of the Green Spider Network, who has been participating in Green Week since 2002.

Green Spider Network at Green Week



Among the exhibitors, the Green Spider Network (GSN) members will be present with examples of best practices in national environmental communication campaigns at their stand n°44. For more information and a detailed programme, visit www.ec.europa.eu/environment/networks/greenspider/2009_greenweek.html.

- "Change your habits for good, change your climate for the better", a campaign to involve Polish society in climate change issues → www.cop14.gov.pl
- Information about the Kids' Page and the Blue Danube Book Interactive CD ROM - a Romanian online water educational tool for children → www.mmediu.ro
- "Keep away from energy-guzzlers", a Belgian Campaign with the objective of promoting rational energy use at home and reducing personal CO₂ emissions → www.energivores.be
- "Don Catos", a German competition for children, encouraging 3 to 12-year-olds to take direct action for the environment → www.doncato.de

Moreover, a survey on Italian campaigns and initiatives for climate change communication will be available throughout Green Week. → www.sinanet.apat.it/it/gelso

Practical Information

Green Week is an event organised by the Directorate-General Environment of the European Commission. During the conference, all sessions will be **streamed live** on the Green Week website.

Green Week is open to the public free of charge, and you can sign up for the event easily online. **Green Week tries to be as "green" as possible** by offering organic and/or fair trade food and drinks and using environmentally friendly materials (recycled paper, water based inks etc.). Read more on the Green Week 2009 website at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/>.