



EUROCITIES - THE NETWORK OF MAJOR EUROPEAN CITIES
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Europe's major cities sign climate change declaration

27 October 2008 - Today in Lyon at the EUROCITIES conference on climate change, leading politicians of nearly 50 major European cities pledged their commitment to fight climate change in a common declaration. The official signing ceremony of the 'EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change' took place at the network's conference held in collaboration with the French Presidency of the EU.

Home to around 70% of the EU's population, cities in Europe unequivocally have a central role to play in providing solutions to what is one of the 21st century's biggest global problems, in particular as crowded urban areas are especially susceptible to the impacts of climate change.

The Declaration testifies to the commitment of cities to ensuring that action is undertaken at the local level and that the climate change challenge is brought into the hearts and minds of the citizens they represent. Cities are best placed to speak with their citizens on global matters such as climate change, and to show how changes made at the local level in all areas of public life, from waste management, to public transport, to cultural events, among others, can contribute to facing this global challenge.

Speaking at the event, Jean-Marc Ayrault, President of Nantes Métropole and Chair of the EUROCITIES Working Group on Climate Change and Energy remarked, "It is now the right time to accelerate our actions on combating climate change. This can be a contributing factor in facing today's economic crisis. We, the cities, strongly believe that we cannot delay the fight against climate change."

Also commenting, EUROCITIES President Gérard Collomb, Mayor of Lyon said, "With this Declaration, we are sending a strong message to the EU and national governments that cities are profoundly engaged in combating climate change. But, we need to consider the different levels of capacity existing in different cities. And, we are looking to other levels of governance to work together to support cities' actions.

Specifically, the Declaration outlines cities' commitment to implement a strategy to fight against climate change, by:

- **Adapting global objectives, defined by international negotiation and the scientific community**, to the level of urban territories and through the combination of city efforts.
- **Implementing a climate plan in each of our territories**, in order to reach a local objective that is consistent with the overall European and international objectives.
- **Regularly measuring and reporting reductions in emissions** of greenhouse gases in order to assess the efficiency of the climate plan's actions.

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Note to Editors

- Established in 1986, EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities. It brings together the local authorities of 133 large cities in 33 European countries. www.eurocities.eu
- Attachments to this email: EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change (EN, FR); 27 October conference programme; list of signatory cities as of 27 October 2008.
- All media enquiries should be directed to: Nicola Vatthauer, EUROCITIES Communications Director, tel: +32 2 552 0884; e-mail: nicola.vatthauer@eurocities.eu