

## **PRESS RELEASE: Green and connected cities...**

**Strasbourg, 10th and 11th December 2009**

**And if Copenhagen were the opportunity for cities to invent a sustainable fate for a connected and interdependent life**

***A few days before the closing of negotiations in the Copenhagen talks, a number of very practical suggestions and commitment to actions were collectively drafted by the public and economic stakeholders of the territories assembled together in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 10th and 11th December***

The first **Euro-Mediterranean Green and Connected Cities forum**, organized by ACIDD, Association for communication and information for sustainable development, in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, with the Green and Connected Cities Cluster, the European thematic ICT21 for Energy Efficiency network (information technologies for energy efficiency), the urban community of Strasbourg, the Alsace region, the Conseil général de Bas-Rhin, ADEME, the Caisse de dépôts and the Grenoble School of Management, etc. closed on a realistic and optimistic note.

Over 200 decision-makers and experts with 75 contributors from around twenty countries, all highly active as people in charge of local authorities, firms, researchers in engineering science and human science, association leaders, etc., decided to implement programmes and **cooperation for developing the use of new digital technologies which are an incredible lever for innovation, solutions and also the adoption of sustainable development in cities. They also agreed to develop large scale training and awareness-raising programmes for all the inhabitants and users of the 21st century cities.**

They all share the same concern regarding climate change (fighting and adapting to it), demography and lack of solidarity...

The work done together over the two days in the Strasbourg forum made it possible to ask fundamental questions to encourage a rapid deployment of digital solutions and the urgent dissemination of new and responsible uses, but also to inform on the risks of exclusion and the lack of eco-design.

**Energy efficiency is at the heart of our priorities. The ICT21 network made some very precise suggestions on the choice of the indicators which will enable cities to make progress, notably along the lines of the European strategies of institutions. [www.ict21ee.eu](http://www.ict21ee.eu)**

**Great changes are taking place in lifestyle and work. We all urgently need new intermediary areas for cities; shared, connected, exemplary areas... places of work, but also places for territorial education and involvement. The cluster presented its work and prospects. [www.greenandconnectedcities.eu](http://www.greenandconnectedcities.eu)**

The need for intermediary areas in cities, which is part of the digital information sharing and cooperation devices, was the thread of the symposium, a subject which was transversal to almost all the workshops.

### **New steps planned**

1. Catherine Trautmann, European deputy, proposed taking the work of ACIDD and the Cluster into the hearings of the European Parliament.
2. Malaga and Manchester are joining the cluster, along with Sidi Bou Saïd, and other Tunisian towns.
3. New ecological towns and eco-quarters were also at the heart of the talks... these are genuine laboratories for uses and customs . A further step will very soon involve the implementation of an international cooperation action with Morocco (more than 20 new towns being built), proposed by the Director for Habitat and Town Planning of Morocco, ACIDD and the Green and Connected Cities Cluster.
4. Many other projects are in the process of being implemented which shows a strong will for action. This is a strong signal for the negotiators present in the Copenhagen climate talks. City stakeholders are ready to act, and they are capable of meeting very ambitious objectives.

Acts and videos will be broadcast at the beginning of 2010 on: [www.acidd.com](http://www.acidd.com) and [www.greenconnected.eu](http://www.greenconnected.eu)