

EUROPE CLIMAIL

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CLIMATE ALLIANCE
KLIMA-BÜNDNIS
ALIANZA DEL CLIMA

Crossing borders – International Annual Conference of the Climate Alliance

More than 200 local politicians and experts from all over Europe met at the 16th International Annual Conference and General Assembly of the Climate Alliance in Aachen (DE) and Heerlen (NL) from 1st to 4th April 2008. The cross-border importance of cities and municipalities in climate protection as well as the demand for stronger political and financial support by the European and national level were the main focus of the conference.

European and national climate targets: Incentives for action on the local level?

Crossing borders: This should not only happen between neighbouring countries like the hosts of the conference, Aachen and Heerlen, but also between different political levels. For this reason, the opening plenary of the conference was dedicated to European and national climate targets and how they can be fitted to the municipalities' demand so that maximum synergies can be achieved. Speakers were the Dutch Minister for European Affairs, Frans Timmermans, the Parliamentary State Secretary of the German Department of Environment, Michael Müller, and the European Commission's representative of the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, Katarina Dobranovic.

"Leading by example" was the major issue for all speakers, they emphasised the importance of cities and municipalities as precursor and role model. Frans Timmermans pointed out that the citizens' involvement is decisive for achieving the ambitious aim. Direct contact takes place particularly in the cities and municipalities and is therefore deciding for the motivation and advancement of initiatives on this level. But there are "upward" borders to cross: When Europe displays its courage to define climate targets in a post-Kyoto agreement, the rest of the world will follow.



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Michael Müller underlined clearly the challenge for the future, because “old solutions” are still propagated, e.g. building further coal-fired power plants, even though the public is aware of climate protection at present. He emphasised particularly the necessity of change of structures and pointed out the growing number of encouraging examples – mainly from cities and municipalities.

Katarina Dobranovic presented the “Covenant of Mayors” as the most important and “revolutionary” initiative of the EU at present, as for the first time a direct cooperation between EU and municipalities takes place. She underlined the importance of participation in this initiative of Climate Alliance cities and municipalities and invited to participate in the ongoing consultation process for the final text of the agreement. In the second half of the year, the local authorities should bring about the decisions for joining as the first signing will take place during the European Week for Sustainable Energy in Brussels at the end of January 2009. Together with the networks Energie-Cités, Eurocities and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Climate Alliance has been involved in the development of the Covenant of Mayors.

In the following podium discussion with political representatives of the Climate Alliance cities of Nantes, Munich, The Hague, Aachen, Frankfurt am Main and Heerlen, several issues were consolidated and discussed with speakers. “We are the first to get wet feet” emphasised Melanie Maatman, Director of Policy at the Urban Development Department of the city of The Hague. The central challenge – on all levels – is the development of the necessary creativity to overcome current activity barriers. Manuela



Rottmann, City Councillor for Environment and Health in Frankfurt, demanded: “The time of pilot projects is over, now climate protection needs to become a mass movement.” The transport sector is the area with the greatest demand for rethinking and redirecting. According to Ronan Dantec, Vice-President of Nantes Métropole, cities are yet not seen as important actors in climate protection. The recognition of this role must be connected with allocation of funds for the performance of this task. Gisela Nacken, City Councillor for Environment of the city of Aachen, mentioned the committed citizenship when asked about the success factors of the model role of the city. Thus, the “Aachener Modell”, which is the precursor of today’s Renewable Energy Sources Act in Germany, results from a citizen proposal. All participants of the discussion welcomed the Covenant of Mayors as a major chance to promote the coherence of climate protection policy on all levels.



Left: Frans Timmermans, Minister for European Affairs of the Netherlands; *centre:* Katarina Dobranovic of the European Commission, Directorate General for Energy and Transport and Lex Smeets, Alderman for Climate Policy and

Sustainability in Heerlen; *right:* Diego Iván Escobar Guzman, Coordinator for Environment of the COICA and Vice-President of the Climate Alliance welcomes the conference participants.

General Assembly

New members of the Executive Board

According to the modified statutes of the association the Executive Board of the Climate Alliance consists of at least four and at most 13 persons, which are elected for a two-year term. The General Assembly 2008 elected

- **Camille Gira**, Mayor of the municipality of Beckerich, (LU), as Keeper of the Minutes, and
- **Giovanni Franco Orlando**, Environment Councillor of the city of Modena (IT), again and the following local politicians new to the Board:
 - **Freddy Brunner**, Councillor of the city of St. Gallen (CH),
 - **Josef Danksagmüller**, Mayor of the municipality of Stetteldorf am Wagram (AT),
 - **Ronan Dantec**, Vice-President of the city of Nantes (FR),
 - **Melanie Maatman**, Director of Policy at the Urban Development Department of the city of The Hague (NL), and
 - **Dr. Manuela Rottmann**, City Councillor for Environment and Health of the city of Frankfurt am Main (DE).

Further Board members are:

- **Joachim Lorenz**, Permanent City Councillor for Health and Environment of the City of Munich (DE), as President,
- **Diego Iván Escobar Guzman**, Coordinator for Territory, Environment and Biodiversity of the COICA, as Vice-President,
- **Dr. Karl-Ludwig Schibel**, Città di Castello (IT), as Treasurer and
- **Dr. Christiana Dolezal**, Vice-Mayor of the city of Linz (AT).

Resolution on agrofuels

The General Assembly adopted a resolution on agrofuels which demands that social, ecological and economic effects of the increasing production of agrofuels should be more strongly regarded by the EU and the national governments. The cities and municipalities declare that a reduction of the CO₂ emissions can be reached in the transport area only by savings and a higher energy efficiency. Especially they demand that agrofuels are not imported from developing countries, since without a corresponding certification the ecological as well as the social and economic balance is negative. Biogenous waste and waste material should be used as energy source.

In 2004 the indigenous partners of the Climate Alliance have already critically expressed to the world-



From left: Ronan Dantec, Dr. Karl-Ludwig Schibel, Josef Danksagmüller, Camille Gira, Joachim Lorenz and Freddy Brunner

wide boom of biomass. They warned not only of the endangering of sensitive ecosystems but also that sustainable used living space for the residents, usually indigenous population gets lost. Diego Iván Escobar Guzman, Vice President of Climate Alliance and Environmental Coordinator of the indigenous organisation in the Amazon area COICA, impressively reported about displacements due to the creation of oil palm plantations in South America.

Resolution on compensation of CO₂ emissions

The idea of implementing compensation measures for CO₂ emissions evolved from the Kyoto-Protocol. The two project-oriented mechanisms are the so-called Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI). The principle of both mechanisms is similar: An investor carries out a project in a host country that reduces the emissions and therefore obtains emission credits. Requirement for the generation of emission credits is that the reductions of emissions are additional to the measures that would have been carried out also without the project.

In the meantime compensation projects are “sold” as low-cost alternative for voluntary reduction of greenhouse gas and should guarantee the “climate neutrality” of our activities and actions.

The Climate Alliance members declare that every activity influences the climate when emitted greenhouse gas reaches the atmosphere. Therefore the concept of “climate neutrality” is misleading because it suggests that a compensation neutralises the emissions. The “CO₂ compensation” must not be meant as a legitimacy to keep the CO₂ emissions unchanged or even to raise them. The first goal is to reduce CO₂ emissions by means of more efficient energy use or the use of renewable energies.

Climate Alliance milestones 2008

Where do Climate Alliance cities and municipalities stand with their climate protection strategies? Which successes can they show? Which measures can be recommended for imitation? And what is missing on local, national and European level so that they become even more successful? How can the Climate Alliance support this? We considered these questions with the method of "The Future Café", a conversational, supremely participative workshop method (see www.thefuturecafe.com).

The facilitator Andrew Davies invited to a conversational meeting beat, in which the participants intro-



duced themselves and their working context to each other. A slide show and the corresponding project portrayals by the representatives of the respective member municipality provided an impressive cross-section of the activities in 50 Climate Alliance cities and municipalities (see www.climatealliance.org at Events/Event Documentation).

At the end of this extremely diversified topic several small groups worked to the topics local climate protection strategies, urban planning, retrofitting of buildings and mobility. Part of the emerged demands to the EU was about a European green electricity law like the German model, a European energy performance certificate analogue the one in Lower Austria, uniform energetic standards for new products or specifications for energy efficient vehicles. The national level is asked above all by the implementation of climate protection as legal task, the creation of clear legal basis for climate protection in the (urban) land use planning as well as the annulment of the commuter tax relief in Germany. The Climate Alliance should support local authorities with tools, for example for the development of climate protection strategies. Its strength lies mainly in the motivation by the quantity of the local authorities, so that at present challenging climate protection standards will become relative quickly "state of the art".

Workshop: Climate protection as a chance for local economy

At the beginning of the workshop that specifically addressed local politicians, the facilitator Ernst Vuijk of the company Ecofys put some theses. Amongst others he emphasised the model effect of the municipalities as success factor for the local climate protection politics and postulated that support programmes and incentives are most effective for climate protection on the local level.

According to the motto of the Annual Conference Wim Aarts presented the work of Energy Hills, the biggest border crossing knowledge and experience network in the field of energy in Europe. The area of Aachen/Heerlen forms the centre of the cross border region Meuse-Rhine. In Energy Hills municipalities and innovative companies work together with research and educational institutions on innovative energy solutions for the future. Besides the development of new technologies, the implementation of energy projects in different partner constellations in the region is a focal point. A job exchange was established to keep the well qualified junior employees of the region on-site.

The company Solarcomplex will supply the region Western Lake Constance largely with local renewable energies until 2030. This goal is ambitious, but feasible and is realised with a multiplicity of activities step by step. Bene Müller showed the participants the drastic depreciation by fossil fuels as well as the share of the private purchasing budget by renewable energies quite plainly and documented this with projects implemented in the region Lake Constance. He said "Photovoltaic on the roof must become as naturally as the mounting of the toilet. This will be supported latest by the 2015 expected grid parity when electricity from photovoltaic facilities will have the same price for consumers as electricity from power sockets."

In the following discussion the participants underlined the necessity to organise majorities and to dispute not only with ecological but also with economic and increasingly social arguments (keyword: energy poverty). So above all energy independence plays a role in Beckerich in Luxembourg, while climate protection is almost no subject. Advantages and disadvantages of a decentralised energy production are naturally

near together in the region: "Energy autonomy" comes possibly along with noise and smell nuisance. Therefore in local climate protection the facilitating

role of the authority by bringing together local actors ranks first.

Workshop: Energy bridges between North and South

Current development and climate protection strategies, their instruments and their effects on the indigenous peoples in the Amazon area were discussed in this workshop.

Diego Iván Escobar Guzman, Vice-President of the Climate Alliance and Coordinator for Territory, Environment and Biodiversity of the COICA, reported about the disastrous effects of the regional integration program IIRSA (Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America). By this programme



From right: Anika Schroeder, Diego Escobar, Thomas Brose, Birgit Engel and Dietmar Mirkes

the access and the exploitation of the resources in Amazonia will be accelerated and reinforced: Infrastructure measures like the construction of streets and embankment dams are planned, the mining of energy resources (petroleum) and the cultivation of crops for agro fuels. The threats and expulsions of indigenous communities coming along with it will proceed so even more quickly.

Dietmar Mirkes of ASTM (Action Solidarité Tiers Monde) and of the Climate Alliance Luxembourg introduced an evaluation of the Clean Development Mechanism according to the Kyoto Protocol. Therein it became clear that the current application of this instrument neither leads to an effective CO₂ reduction nor to a sustainable development.

In the lecture of Birgit Engel of ASTM it became clear again how problematic the enlargement of the cultivable land for agro fuels is for the people in the countries of the South. This confirmed the urgency of the adoption of the resolution on agro fuels by the General Assembly of the Climate Alliance once again.

Anika Schröder reported about a new project of the Catholic relief organisation Misereor on the topic "climate and justice". Above all the social aspects of climate change should be considered in the framework of this project in the next years.

Workshop: Adaptation to Climate Change

The workshop was used to highlight further aspects of the integration of the action fields adaptation and mitigation. Main focuses were procedures to identify adaptation measures, so-called "climate scans", and the presentation of practical examples by Melanie Maatmaan, Director of Policy at the Urban Development Department of the city of The Hague, and Dr. Christian Becker, Managing Director of the Public Services Aachen.

Hans Schneider, Strategic Consultant at the Dutch company BuildDesk, explained methodical aspects of the climate scans. Thereby on the one hand local fields of work (water management, health, etc.) and on the other hand the current local plans were checked on their resilience. From the practical examples it became clear that in the Netherlands the integration of climate protection and adaptation

measures is being implemented on the local level. Guus Willemsen, Director of IFTechnology in Arnhem, introduced especially innovative examples from the area of the energetic use of groundwater and illustrated the synergy effects of an integrated climate policy.



Workshop: Public Procurement for more Energy Efficiency

This workshop was arranged in the framework of the EU project Pro-EE (Public Procurement boosts Energy Efficiency). With Pro-EE Climate Alliance wants to bundle the big market and purchasing power of the cities and municipalities in Europe by undertaking large-scale joint procurement. So a higher market share should be assured for energy efficient appliances, equipments and vehicles and their market presence should be increased. The involved local authorities should support new ecological technologies and should strengthen the competitiveness of the European industry with it.

Vanessa Hübner of the Energy Agency of Berlin clarified the procedure of using ecological criteria in public procurement on the basis of the GreenLabelsPurchase project. On the basis of practical examples from the Netherlands Maxim Luttmer of the Beco Group in Amsterdam and Sjaak de Ligt from the city of Apel-

doorn showed the big potential of public procurement in reducing greenhouse gases. Andreas Drack of the Upper Austrian Academy for Environment and Nature dealt in his presentation with the advantages of the cross-municipal joint procurement.

Against this background Climate Alliance again calls all member cities to participate in Pro-EE. Pro-EE will select innovative products, whose economic and technical energy saving potential is higher than products that are available on the market at present. Examples are energy efficient office equipment, energy saving street lighting and traffic light systems as well as fuel saving vehicles. As a first step in the framework of Pro-EE computer monitors and so-called plug-in electric-hybrid vehicles, cars rechargeable at a power outlet, should be procured.

Further information: www.pro-ee.eu



Picture left: The Executive Board members Josef Danksagmüller, Dr. Christiana Dolezal and Joachim Lorenz (from left); *centre left:* The stand of altbau plus e.V. during the Kaleidoscope

scope; centre right: The Executive Board members Melanie Maatman and Dr. Karl-Ludwig Schibel under discussion; *right:* „Sarah’s World“ during the Kaleidoscope.

Workshop: Fit for future – retrofitting of existing buildings

One can save up to 75 percent of the energy demand for heating by better insulation and modern heating in old existing buildings. In Aachen for example about 78 percent of the residential buildings are older than 25 years. Dr. Maria Vankann presented the activities of altbau plus e.V. as central contact point that informs about structural and technical possibilities as well as financial support programs on retrofitting buildings. An analysis of the consultations and measures carried out thereupon assumes 300 millions Euro medium range caused investments and 60.000 tons CO₂ reduction.

The EU project Ecolish, in which the Climate Alliance is involved too, dedicates the development and adaptation of different financing and organisation models of the refurbishment of buildings on freehold

flats of persons with low income and social housings in Greece, Latvia, the Netherlands and Hungary. The project coordinator Peter Op’t Veld of Cauberg Huygen R.I. in Maastricht introduced the four pilot municipalities and the planned measures. The participation of the inhabitants and the communication of the retrofitting as an integrated process for energy efficiency, reduction of the energy costs and improvement of the air quality in interiors as well as the direct assignment of the savings to the investments have proved to be especially important.

Success factors of the programme on a total refurbishment of buildings started in the beginning of 2008 by the Building Department of the city of Basel are, according to Christian Mathys, the energy coaches who personally accompany the homeowners from

the first advice up to the implementation of the measures as well as the well filled promotion fund with about 7 millions Euro per year that is fed by a 5 percent additional charge on the electricity bill. Goal is the sustainable renewal of 200 single and multiple

family houses in the canton Basel-Stadt in the coming three years.

Further information: www.altbauplus.de – www.ecolish.com – www.energie.bs.ch

Workshop: What's our ,drive' – Energy alternatives in transport

In his introductory presentation Michael Cramer, Member of the European Parliament, showed that the CO₂ emissions clearly increased in the area of transport. In order to reach the climate targets the EU has set by itself, additional and strategically coordinated measures are necessary. in this sector. He further clarified that the economic competitiveness of Europe only will sustain with a modification in the European transport policy.

Afterwards Tomi Engel of the German Society for Solar Energy gave a lecture about the use of vegetable oils as a substitute for diesel and the resulting rivalry in land use. As a more efficient and environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels Engel recommended electric vehicles. With this technology the fuel consumption of small and medium-sized vehicles can be lowered up to 60 percent. The additional demand of electricity would be only 10 percent of the present consumption for approximately 40 million vehicles.

Gerhard Knauf of the Forum Environment and Development in Germany confirmed the statements of Tomi Engel and referred to the factor time in order to clarify that we have to act now. By using biomass in the transport sector he only sees an interim solution and puts his priority on the increase of efficiency and sufficiency. Particularly the behaviour and the social awareness concerning mobility must change urgently. He named new transport concepts and the electro drive as goals and the latter should also be used in freight transportation.

Finally, Guido Goose of DuraCar Holding B.V. from Heerlen presented the development of battery-operated vehicles. Thereby he demonstrated impressively what is already possible with this technology today and that the new generation of electro cars should be regarded as adequate substitutes to present-day vehicles.



Kaleidoscope

More than 20 cities, organizations and companies from the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Great Britain and South America presented their work around climate protection. A colourful mixture in the fields of energy (efficiency), retrofitting of buildings and the area of education showed the visitors, how creative climate protection is implemented on the local level.

Picture centre left: stand of the company Lesmar with ecobuttons; *centre right:* the girls of the KRO Energy Survival team; *right:* Mayor Toine Gresel and Hans van der Logt of the city of Heerlen on discovery tour (from right).



Excursions

A guided bus tour offered the interested persons insights into two exciting geothermal energy projects in the cities of Aachen and Heerlen. Thanks a lot to the organisers!



SuperC in Aachen

In the centre of the city the first part of an ambitious project was realised: the geothermal borehole for the opening of geothermal energy for the SuperC, the 'study functional centre' of the Rhineland-Westphalian Technical College (RWTH).

Before the building construction a 2,500 meters deep cylinder bore was made next to the future SuperC building and completed as deep borehole heat exchanger. In the outer steel pipe of the tube cold water streams into the depth. The water heats up and reaches the surface from the borehole deep via a central conveying tube again. Inside of the SuperC building the 70 °C hot water runs successively through convectors, ceiling and floor heating during the heating period. In summer the thermal power (480 kilowatts) ensures the cooling of the building.



Mijnwater and Remining Lowex in Heerlen

Heerlerheide is an important quarter of the municipality of Heerlen. A decade ago Weller, the main housing company in Heerlen, started a huge operation to renew and to redevelop the centre of Heerlerheide. The main building of the new community centre, new civil service centre, supermarket and fifty apartments should be completed in 2008. The power station designed by Weller Energie BV uses the temperature of the minewater for heating and in the summer for cooling. Meanwhile there is a lot of (inter-)national public interest for the Heerlerheide Minewater project. Politicians, scientists, environmental action groups, journalists and citizens are visiting the area and show a lot of enthusiasm for the concept of this former mine area. In autumn 2008 a Minewater Information Centre will be opened.

Climate Alliance is involved in the follow-up project Remining Lowex supported by the Concerto program of the EU. Heerlen and further pilot local authorities in Bulgaria, Poland and Slovenia will show how residential districts in former coal-mining areas will be provided with geothermal energy from old mines.

Outlook

Thanks a lot to the cities of Aachen and Heerlen, to the engaged employees of both cities as well as to the mainsponsor Public Services Aachen for the arrangement of Climate Alliance's Annual Conference 2008!

Together with the city network Energie-Cités we will organise the Annual Conference and General Assembly 2009, which takes place on 23 and 24 April 2009 in Brussels.

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Climate Alliance members

We cordially welcome our new members. Since June 2007, the following cities and municipalities have joined the Climate Alliance: Altenberg bei Linz, Deutschkreutz, Fohnsdorf, Fresach, Geinberg, Grän, Hainfeld, Hall in Tirol, Henndorf am Wallersee, Kaumberg, Kottingbrunn, Lengenfeld, Luftenberg a.d. Donau, Magdalensberg, Maria Laach am Jauerling, Millstadt, Mining, Mutters, Nesselwängle, Neuhofen an der Krems, Pattigham, Pfarrkirchen, Pöggstall, Pucking, Schattwald, Schwarzach, St. Florian, Tannheim, Terfens, Übersaxen, Wattens, Wienerwald, Wies, Zellerndorf and Zöblen from Austria; Bad Aibling, Gehrden, Gießen, Gilching, Gründau, Landkreis Peine, Langen, Memmingen, Neumarkt i.d.OPf., Pfungstadt, Rems-Murr-Kreis, Rödermark, Rosenheim, Schneverdingen, Schöneck, Wenden and Wetttemberg from Germany; Enneberg/Marebbe from Italy; Esch-sur-Sûre, Lorentzweiler, Mondorf and Walferdange from Luxembourg as well as Den Haag from the Netherlands.

Presently (April 2008) 1324 cities, municipalities and districts as well as 53 provinces, NGOs and further organisations are member of the Climate Alliance. The members are in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.



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The "Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples / Alianza del Clima" is Europe's largest city network dedicated to climate protection. The member municipalities have entered into a partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples to protect the world's climate. The city network was founded in 1990 with the mission to elaborate and implement local climate protection measures especially in the fields of energy and mobility and to cooperate with indigenous peoples to protect the tropical rainforests. Cooperation partner is COICA, the Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Peoples' Organizations of the Amazon Basin. The Climate Alliance represents 50 million citizens in Europe.