

# 7<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS

*A green and socially responsible  
economy: a solution in times  
of crisis?*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Announcement*

17-19 APRIL, 2013  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

**Join the next biggest European conference  
on sustainable development ten months after Rio+20!**

[www.sustainablegeneva2013.org](http://www.sustainablegeneva2013.org)

Aalborg 1994 > Lisbon 1996 > Hannover 2000 > Aalborg 2004 > Sevilla 2007 > Dunkerque 2010



## GENEVA 2013

*7th European Conference on  
Sustainable Cities & Towns*

Organised by



# A green and socially responsible economy: a solution in times of crisis?

In the face of current European crises, business as usual is no longer an option. A paradigm shift towards sustainable development is needed. Cities have a crucial role to play in the transition to a green and socially responsible economy. Urban areas concentrate human pressures on natural resources, act as magnets for vulnerable populations, and become focal points for tension. Yet, cities are key economic and innovation centres, holding the potential to develop creative and responsible solutions.

## The 7th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns – an ideal place for networking and exchange

From 17 to 19 April 2013, local and national government delegates, members of European and international organisations, as well as business, research and NGO associates will come together in Geneva, Switzerland, to tackle the current economic, environmental and social challenges confronting urban areas. The timing could hardly be better, coming in the aftermath of the Rio +20 Conference and during the preparation phase of the European Union's 7th Environment Action Programme.

Plenaries will address today's crises, future trends and the potential of a green and socially responsible economy. Sustainable financing as well as governance systems will be addressed as key aspects of such

an economy. Interactive break-out sessions will further present a variety of solutions that contribute to sustainable development at the local level, and will involve both public and private partners. The Mayors' Session will be the political hub for local leaders, looking more closely into how public services can be funded and delivered in economically challenging times. The conference itself will also act as a privileged space for networking, exhibiting and dialoguing.

## Geneva – a city firmly committed to sustainable development

Workshops on site will showcase recent developments in local sustainability. Participants will discover the region and learn from this city's experiences in the field. Ever since Geneva hosted the Brundtland Commission, it has been at the heart of international thinking on this issue. At a municipal level, commitment took root in 1995 through the signing of the Aalborg Charter. This decision was reinforced in 2010 through signing the Aalborg Commitments, in an increasingly consistent, efficient and transparent approach to sustainability.

'Cities have to be at the heart of our planning for the next period. But curiously, cities are not at the heart of the debate.' European Commissioner Johannes Hahn at the URBACT conference, 3 December 2012.

## TUESDAY 16 APRIL

15:00  
Registration

17:00  
Welcome Reception

## WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL

08:00-9:30  
Registration

09:30-11:00  
Opening Plenary

11:00-11:30  
Coffee break

11:30-13:00  
Plenary 1  
**Setting the scene: today's crises and future trends**

13:00-14:30  
Lunch

14:30-16:00  
Break-out Sessions A  
Mayors Session

16:00-16:30  
Coffee break

16:30-18:00  
Plenary 2  
**Economy, environment and society: bridging the gaps**

19:00  
Fondue  
Gala dinner (upon invitation)

## THURSDAY 18 APRIL

09:30-11:00  
Plenary 3  
**Sustainable financing - a response to the current crisis**

11:00-11:30  
Coffee break

11:30-13:00  
Break-out Sessions B

13:00-14:30  
Lunch

14:30-15:30  
Plenary 4  
**Multilevel governance for a green and socially responsible economy**

15:45-18:45  
Workshops on-site

20:00  
Enjoying Geneva  
Geneva Opera Pool (upon invitation)

## FRIDAY 19 APRIL

09:30-11:00  
Outlook Plenary  
**Setting a new European agenda now**

11:00-11:30  
Coffee break

11:30-13:00  
Open press conference: press, panel and participants discuss

13:00-14:30  
Farewell Lunch

14:45-17:45  
Additional workshops on-site are being developed

# Wednesday 17 April

## OPENING PLENARY 09:30 – 11:00

Welcome by Ms **Sandrine Salerno**, Vice-President of the City of Geneva (Switzerland), M. **Michel Delebarre**, Former Minister of State, Senator-Mayor of Dunkerque (France) and Ms **Evelyne Huytebroeck**, Minister, Brussels Capital Region (Belgium) and Chair of the ICLEI Europe Regional Executive Committee.

### Invited speakers

- **Micheline Calmy-Rey**, Former President of Switzerland (Switzerland)
- **Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **Patrick Viveret**, essayist (France)



## PLENARY 1: SETTING THE SCENE: TODAY'S CRISES AND FUTURE TRENDS 11:30-13:00

The plenary will explore future scenarios and provide a sense of urgency regarding the environmental, social and economic status of Europe.

### Invited speakers

- **Janez Potočnik**, European Commissioner for the Environment
- **Domenico Rossetti**, DG Research and Innovation, Supervisor of the Global Europe 2050 Report (European Commission)
- **Brice Lalonde**, Coordinator of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20
- **Ronan Dantec**, Municipal Councillor, City of Nantes, European Green Capital, and Senator of Loire Atlantique (France)
- **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, President of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union
- **Daniel Cohn-Bendit**, Co-President of the group European Greens – European Free Alliance in the European Parliament (France/Germany)



## BREAK-OUT SESSION A OR MAYORS SESSION 14:30-16:00

- A1** Standards for sustainable and resilient cities
- A2** Sustainable procurement in practice
- A3** Funding for the implementation of sustainable actions
- A4** Challenges and obstacles in achieving sustainable education
- A5** Planning the urban transition
- A6** From low carbon to zero carbon communities
- A7** The Resilient City as a response to EU future scenarios
- A8** Private sector involvement in water and waste water services
- A9** Development and cooperation
- A10** Sustainable energy infrastructures
- A11** Managing ecosystem services and biodiversity
- A12** Local relevance of human rights
- A13** Community-Led Local Development
- A14** Levers used by local authorities to support a social economy
- A15** Aalborg +20: the next steps

## MAYORS SESSION, AFTERNOON

The Palais des Nations (United Nations Office in Geneva and European headquarters) will see a high-level political session for mayors, which will look more closely into how public services can be funded and delivered in economically challenging times. It will be an ideal networking setting among local and regional leaders involved in sustainable development initiatives.



## PLENARY 2: ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY - BRIDGING THE GAPS 16:30-18:00

This plenary will discuss a strategy to overcome economic, environmental and societal challenges at the local level. What does a green and socially responsible economy mean at the local level?

### Invited speakers

- **Staffan Nilsson**, President of the European Economic and Social Committee
- **Cécile Duflot**, Minister for territorial equality and housing (France)
- **Pekka Sauri**, Deputy Mayor of the City of Helsinki (Finland)
- **Michel Destot**, Mayor of Grenoble and President of the Association des Maires des Grandes Villes de France (France)
- **NN, UNEP**



## Thursday 18 April

### PLENARY 3: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING – A RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT CRISIS 09:30-11:00

This plenary will discuss the mechanisms to finance and foster a green and socially inclusive economy, as well as new and cost efficient ways of investing on a local level.

#### Invited speakers

- **Loris Centola**, Co-head Chief Investment Officer, Wealth Management Research, UBS SA
- **Mario Marconi**, Head Philanthropy and Values-Based Investing, UBS SA
- **Alexandra van Huffelen**, Deputy Mayor, City of Rotterdam (The Netherlands)
- **Gianni Carbonaro**, Head of the Municipal and Regional Unit, European Investment Bank



### PLENARY 4: MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE FOR A GREEN AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE ECONOMY 14:30-15:30

This plenary will address governance frameworks that support cities and regions in establishing a green and socially responsible economy. The potential role of existing European frameworks will be addressed.

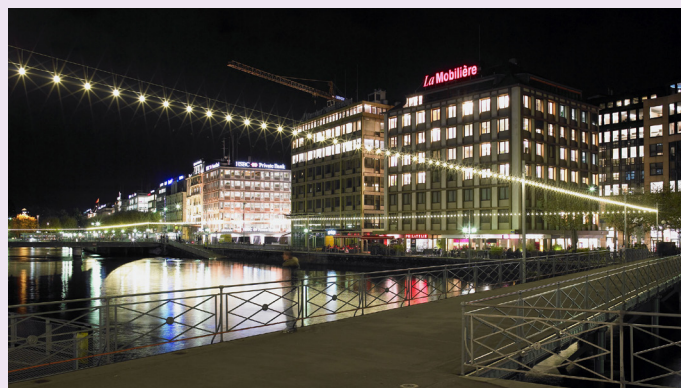
#### Invited speakers

- **Saskia Sassen**, Professor of Sociology at Columbia University (USA)
- **Herwig van Staa**, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe
- **NN**, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission
- **NN**, local government representative



### BREAK-OUT SESSIONS B 11:30-13:00

- B1** Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities
- B2** Multidisciplinary & multisectoral approaches in sustainable consumption
- B3** Finance and sustainable investments
- B4** Civic engagement to enable sustainable cities
- B5** Transport and land use: new instruments for better urban planning
- B6** Sustainable energy – foundation for the green urban economy
- B7** Building local resilience
- B8** The European Innovation Partnership on Water
- B9** Inconsistencies between local agricultural policies for food sovereignty and international policies
- B10** Sustainable neighbourhoods
- B11** How Public-Private Partnerships can help to implement sustainable actions
- B12** Industrial ecology, from the concept to practices
- B13** Urban health and sustainable development
- B14** A future of sustainable management?
- B15** Diversity and gender equality: a sustainable investment for local governance



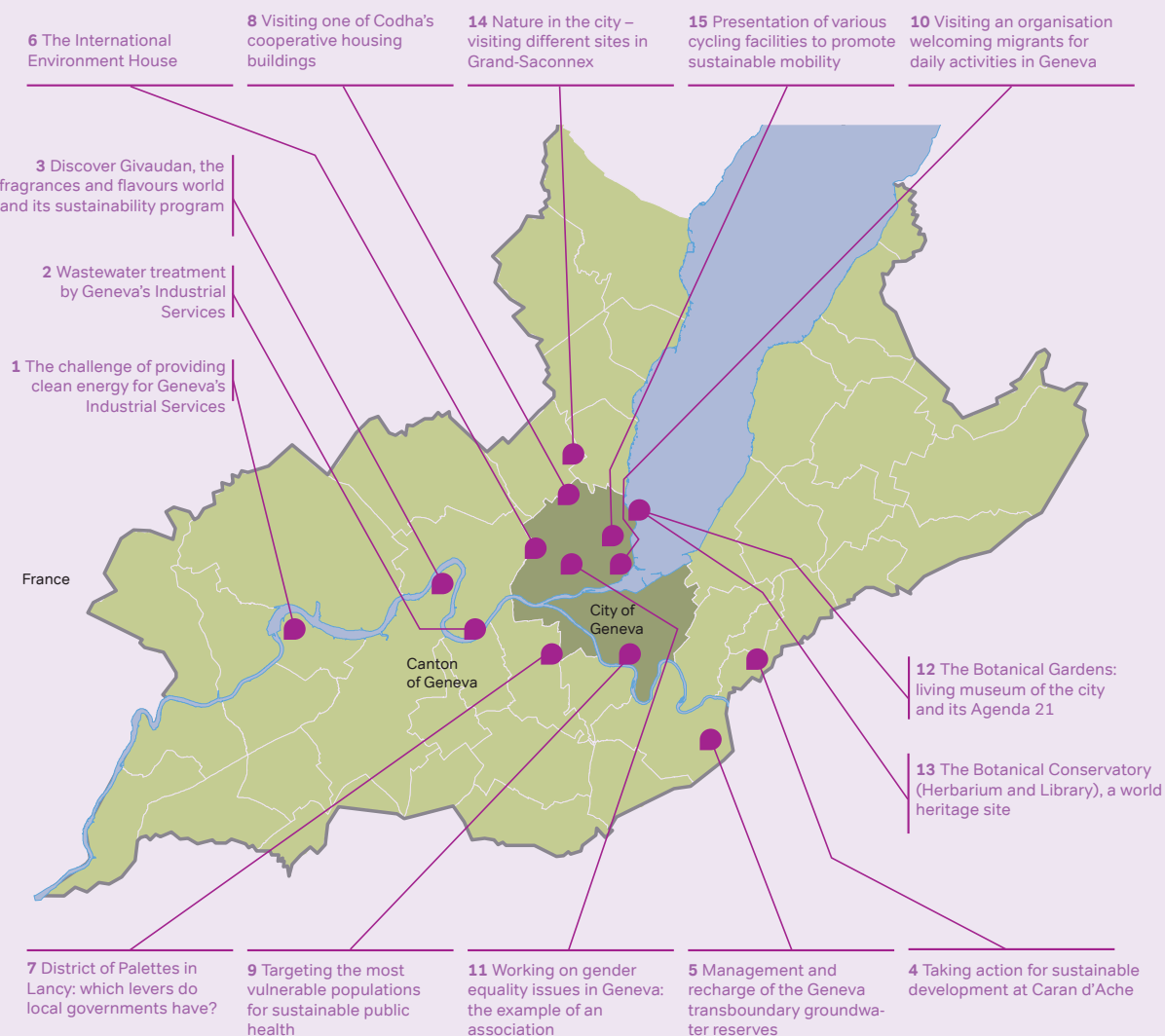
Low energy public lighting on the Geneva lakeside.



The Budé farm in Geneva: an example of urban agriculture.

## Thursday 18 April

### WORKSHOPS ON-SITE 15:45-18:45



## Friday 19 April

### OUTLOOK PLENARY: SETTING A NEW EUROPEAN AGENDA NOW 09:30-11:00

With the conference coming to a close - the first major European sustainability event in the aftermath of Rio+20 - the outlook plenary will look ahead at global developments, addressing the Sustainable Development Goals and the coming Climate Conference of the Parties. The future of the Aalborg process and other frameworks will be addressed at the session, which will conclude with the launch of a platform to support local governments to become sustainable cities.

### OPEN PRESS CONFERENCE 11:30-12:30

Press, panel and participants discuss in a plenary setting.

### FAREWELL 12:30-13:00



## Register Now!

Make sure to secure your place for this exciting event now. For more information about registration, programme development, logistics and more, please regularly visit the conference website:

[www.sustainablegeneva2013.org](http://www.sustainablegeneva2013.org)

**Register before 1 March in order to benefit from our early bird fees!**

### Organised by:



### Official partners:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

### Partners of the City of Geneva:



Givaudan<sup>®</sup>

CARAN d'ACHE

### Co-organised by the ESCT Conference Preparatory Committee:

