

For Immediate release

Biggest city delegation ever at COP 15 Climate Summit in Copenhagen

Copenhagen, Friday, December 5, 2009 – The second largest delegation to attend the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) United Nations Climate Summit in Copenhagen starting next week, is the city and local government delegation. Of this Major Group, represented by more than 1,200 city and local government delegates, nearly half are from Europe. This confirms the high level of interest in the expected outcomes of the international climate negotiations. With already visible and future projected local impacts of climate change, there is a growing concern and recognition among city leaders that they need to act, and that they need support to do so.

Input was gathered from local governments around the globe, to identify their needs, challenges and interests. This was also done through the LG Action project ('Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy and climate debate') which has a particular focus on Europe. The key outcome of the Local Government Climate Roadmap process is captured in the final document - 'Local Government Responses: Input to the International Climate Negotiations for a Strong, Comprehensive and Global Agreement'. It highlights the main issues addressed under negotiation as agreed to in the Bali Action Plan - a shared vision, adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology and capacity building.

Some of the most important aspects European local governments have highlighted include the need for improved framework conditions and tools, to support local climate action. The core element can be summarized as a call to be recognised as partners to national governments in tackling climate change together. This requires an inclusive approach that supports interaction and exchange, and will result in a cooperative approach to roll out sustainable energy solutions in communities. Human resources, information and expertise are but a few of the barriers mentioned, in particular from representatives of Central and Eastern Europe.

The next phase of LG Action in the post-COP 15 timeframe will focus on national-local dialogues and partnerships. The input received during the COP 15, in particular during the Local Government Climate LOUNGE, will help to refine what this could and should entail from the local government's perspective.

Further information:

www.lg-action.org
www.iclei.org/cop15
www.iclei.org/climate-lounge

Contact in Copenhagen

Carsten Rothballer, LG Action media coordinator
Mobile: **+45 5275 2724**
Email: lg-action@iclei.org

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