

# ICLEI European Convention 2011

Supported by the Brussels Capital Region, the Metropolitan Urban Council of Dunkerque and Hamburg European Green Capital 2011 and in cooperation with ICLEI member representation offices in Brussels

**Cities in Europe 2020 - Enhance sustainability now!**  
**12 - 14 September 2011**  
**Brussels, Belgium**

*Should Europe change its focus from "growth" to enhancing sustainability, or are these concepts compatible?*

The ICLEI European Convention 2011 engages ICLEI Member and other European cities, representatives from EU institutions and business in answering this fundamental question. The time and place for this discussion is extremely pertinent given that the European Commission adopted the *"Europe 2020 Strategy"* in October 2010 with a view to turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy by 2020.

Bearing in mind that 85% of the EU's GDP is generated in cities, ICLEI members and other European cities must be sufficiently supported by - and appropriately included in - the implementation of the EU 2020 Strategy and its seven flagship initiatives. How to pursue the appropriate balance between growth and sustainability, to deliver low carbon, climate resilient and sustainable cities by 2020 serves as the central theme of the ICLEI European Convention 2011 debates and forms the basis for strong recommendations to the European Institutions. In light of the *UN Rio + 20 Conference* in 2012, a preliminary review of European local sustainability achievements and the key next steps needed to move Europe and its cities forward will be featured.

This engaging event takes place in Brussels, allowing participants to discuss sustainable actions with peers and representatives from the European institutions, discover the exhibition *"Brussels - sustainable city"*, explore the Hamburg European Green Capital 2011 *"Train of Ideas"* and follow up on the outcomes of the [6th ESCT Conference](#) that took place in Dunkerque in 2010.

## Programme

On days one and three, held in Brussels' renowned Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR) in the heart of the city, plenaries explore the main challenges in Europe in terms of growth and sustainability and how cities can contribute to enhancing sustainability based on EU 2020. On day two, a number of ICLEI Members open the doors of their Brussels-based offices to allow for smaller theme-focused discussions on the necessary transformations within cities, implementing the EU 2020 strategy. For a more detailed description please click [here](#).

For updated information please visit the [convention website](#) or contact the Convention Secretariat at: [convention.europe@iclei.org](mailto:convention.europe@iclei.org)

Please note that the main conference language will be English; however French, German, Spanish, and Italian translation will be available in plenary sessions. Details on translations in the parallel sessions will be available at a later date.

I look forward to welcoming you to Brussels for the ICLEI European Convention 2011.

Gino Van Begin, Regional Director for Europe, ICLEI



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Metropolitan Urban Council of Dunkerque



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