

*****PRESS RELEASE FOR URGENT ATTENTION*****

Sevilla, Spain - 23 March 2007

The Spirit of Sevilla – European local governments commit to advance implementation of sustainable development policies

Over 1500 delegates from European local governments have committed to act immediately and implement advanced policies for local sustainable development.

“**The Spirit of Sevilla**” is the culmination of the Fifth European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns and endorses the Aalborg Commitments.

This event represents a **major milestone** in the pursuit of a sustainable Europe, with strong attendance and vigorous debate highlighting the importance of sustainable development for local politicians in Europe. The commitment of delegates to immediately advance implementation of the Aalborg Commitments is an important step towards a sustainable Europe.

Sevilla 2007 aimed to **inspire local governments** by providing examples of successful implementation of the Aalborg Commitments. Keynote speakers included Cristina Narbona Ruíz, the Spanish Minister of the Environment; Mayor of Sevilla, Alfredo Sánchez Monteseirín; and Dennis Meadows, Honorary Member of the Club of Rome.

In Sevilla, local governments have committed to **adapt policies and actions to meet sustainability challenges**. Local governments will assess progress to achieve their targets by setting indicators, undertaking regular monitoring reviews and make results available to citizens.

Across Europe, cities and towns will **take the Aalborg Commitments to the streets** by engaging with their citizens and stakeholders to ensure progress in local sustainability. Their work will inspire and motivate other cities and local authorities to enter into the Aalborg Commitment process.

“The Spirit of Sevilla” calls for local governments **to sign up to the Aalborg Commitments** and join this common process. The challenge for Europe is clear, and from today, there is a stronger mandate to implement sustainable development through the Aalborg Commitments.

Background information

From 21-24 March 2007, over 1500 representatives from local governments in Europe gathered in the dynamic city of Sevilla, Spain, for the Fifth European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns. The conference was co-organised by the City of Sevilla and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, on behalf of the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign. The European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign supports local governments in their work for local sustainability.

Sevilla 2007 built upon previous conferences, notably the Aalborg +10 Conference of 2004 which resulted in the Aalborg Commitments. The Aalborg Commitments are a set of policy commitments that have been recognised by the European Council in the new European Sustainable Development Strategy as the focus of local sustainability. “The Spirit of Sevilla” reaffirms the Aalborg Commitments and promotes advanced implementation of local sustainable development strategies in order to achieve local sustainability in Europe.

Contact information

Sevilla 2007 – the Fifth European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns

www.sevilla2007.org

European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign

www.sustainable-cities.orgEmail: sevilla2007@iclei-europe.org Telephone: +49 761 368 92205th European Conference
on Sustainable Cities & TownsV Conferencia Europea
de Ciudades y Pueblos Sostenibleswww.sevilla2007.org