

Paris, 30th June 2010

Minutes of the First Meeting of Metropolis' Commission 1 (Eco-Region) : 28th and 29th June 2010 ; Paris ; France

Iuli **NASCIMENTO**

Commission 1 Co-ordinator
Institute for Urban Planning and Development,
Île-de-France / Paris Region (IAU-îdF)

Danielle **SAUTEREL**

Regional Council for Île-de-France

Subject: Open Spaces: Péri-Urban Agriculture, Water and Biodiversity

Meeting Venue: International Welcome and Events Centre « Les Récollets »
150-154, rue du Faubourg Saint Martin
75010 PARIS

CONTEXT

The Worldwide Association of large metropolises, **Metropolis**, was created in 1984 at the instigation of the Île-de-France Region. The Commission 1 – Eco-Region was proposed and established during Metropolis' board of directors' meeting at the occasion of the tri-annual congress which took place in Berlin in 2005.

The subject of the meeting corresponds to one of the main objectives of the first electoral campaign of the President of the Regional Council for Île-de-France, Mr. Jean-Paul Huchon. The aim was to lay the basis of a political ecology project which would make Île-de-France the biggest eco-region in Europe.

This aim was meant to influence all regional policies. During the last mandate, several planning documents referring to the eco-region were drawn up or initiated by the Regional Council. The issue in question here was principally the review of the Île-de-France Region's strategic plan, from Regional Agenda 21 « Île-de-France » (which specified the definition of the eco-region through a system of reference), or of more sector-specific plans such as the regional plans for waste disposal (PREDMA, PREDD, PREDAS), the regional strategy for biodiversity, energy policy and the regional climate plan, etc.

During its first term of activity, the Commission (2005/2008) proceeded with two technical meetings and one training session. The first technical meeting took place in Toronto in 2006, the second, in Paris in 2007. A training session destined for the members of the Commission then took place in Montreal in 2008. This training was co-organised with the International Training Institute of Metropolis.

For the 2009/2011 term, following several postponements outside our control, this meeting in Paris – in June 2010 – was the first technical meeting of Commission 1 that we have organised on the subject of «**Open Spaces: Péri-Urban Agriculture, Water and Biodiversity**».

The Commission was represented at the World Urban Forum in a workshop organised by the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), with a presentation on « the challenges and opportunities of local agriculture in Île-de-France ».

A training session is planned for November 2010 on the subject of « Cities and climate change ». This training will probably take place in Montreal in collaboration with the International Institute of Metropolis.

Opening of the session :

Mrs. Hélène **Gassin**, Vice-president of the Regional Council of Île-de-France in charge of Environment, Agriculture and Energy, and President of Metropolis' Commission 1 (Eco-Region), opened the work session on «Open Spaces: Péri-Urban Agriculture, Water and Biodiversity» by giving a presentation on her approach to the Eco-Region concept.

In the **first round** of talks, three presentations were given :

- 1 - Regional Agenda 21 ;
- 2 - Environmental issues and urban development in Moscow ;
- 3 - Metropolises faced with the food crisis : the example of Île-de-France.

1 - Mrs. **Sauterel** presented Regional Agenda 21, the instrument which must bring into line the different objectives of regional policy. It is organised around three main axes :

- The exemplary nature of the institution ;
- The integration of the principles of the Eco-Region in regional policies ;
- The definition of a renewed governance.

2 - Mr. **Tkachenko** presented the range of environmental difficulties faced by the city of Moscow – such as the problems of air and water quality, waste disposal, and soil pollution – detailing what are the actions recommended in the strategic plan for the city of Moscow for 2025 and which criteria must be met by then in order to overcome these difficulties.

3 - Finally, Mr. **Thibault** proposed some elements concerning the problems and challenges that are facing the agricultural industry and metropolises around the world today, looking at the issue through the lens of «how to produce more and produce better ». He noted that metropolises often grow up on and build over the best land, and he pointed out that this waste of fertile soil is a result of us being blind to what is at stake in the long-term. He explained that in order to answer our future needs the current systems of agriculture, whether they be conventional or organic, will have to use new agronomical techniques to maximise production. Socio-cultural attitudes will also be fundamental in achieving this.

PARTICIPANTS :

1 - Danielle **SAUTEREL**
Head of Department, Agenda 21 and Eco-Region
Regional Council for Île-de-France

2 - Sergey **TKACHENCKO**
Director of Studies, Institute for Urban Planning and Development
City of Moscow / Russia

3 - Christian **THIBAULT**

In the **second round**, five presentations were given :

- 1 - Presentation of the Agri-Congo programme;
- 2 - Peri-urban agriculture, accessibility and distribution : hunger in Africa. Problems and perspectives : the case of Congo - Brazzaville ;
- 3 - The role of the AEV (Agence des Espaces Verts Île-de-France) in preserving biodiversity, natural spaces and agriculture;
- 4 - Development of local food production, short supply chains, accessibility and distribution of food in France - Short supply chains and food governance ;
- 5 - Partnerships between producers and consumers for the efficient management of peri-urban open spaces.

1 - Mr. **Bouka**, replaced by Mr. **Okoko**, presented the Agri-Congo programme in charge of the development of peri-urban agriculture in Africa in general, and in particular in the big cities of Congo. He showed us how this activity is subject to both endogenous and exogenous constraints. Internally, these constraints are related to the implementation of strategic policies of urban development, and externally, they are linked to problems with exterior sources of financing.

2 - Mr. **Okoko** exposed the problems of accessibility and distribution of agricultural products, highlighting the problems and perspectives of hunger in Africa by using the example of Congo- Brazzaville.

3 - Mr. **Bonnefoy** explained how short supply chains have become one of the two main pillars of the regional policies in favour of peri-urban agriculture that have been implemented in France since the 1970s thanks to the protection of agricultural land. He offered us some views of the great historic approaches to peri-urban agriculture :

- The land approach of the agricultural profession,
- The planning approach of the Île-de-France Region that has privileged the protection of agricultural or natural spaces

4 - Mr. **Clavel** demonstrated the role of the AEV in the preservation of biodiversity and natural and agricultural spaces. Since 1999, in association with several partners, the AEV has been taking ecological inventories of properties in the region. In his presentation, he explained how the scientific expertise aimed at understanding local biodiversity has been extended to all the natural sites in the Region.

5 - Mr. **Calori** presented the URGENCI network, whose principal objective is to increase the links between « Local and United Producers and Consumers » through various forms of short supply chains and by getting the local authorities involved, as well as agricultural services and other NGOs sympathetic to these issues.

PARTICIPANTS :

1 - Richard **BOUKA**

Engineer in Food Agronomy ; Head of the Agri Congo programmes
Institute for Development, Brazzaville / Congo

2 - Séraphin Hilaire **OKOKO**;

Engineer in Construction; Director of Studies and Head of Projects
City of Brazzaville / Congo

3 - Serge **BONNEFOY**
Technical Secretary
Land in the City Foundation

5 - Pierre **CLAVEL**
Agency for Green Spaces – AEV
Île-de-France / Paris Region

5 - Andrea **CALORI**
International URGENCI Network
Network President
Milan / Italy

The **third round** was comprised of three presentations :

- 1 - An agency dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity in the whole of the Île-de-France metropolitan area ;
- 2 - Nature in the City ;
- 3 - Environmental policy in the city of Guarulhos.

1 - Mrs. **Le Jeune** presented the role and actions of the Natureparif foundation, which aims to conserve biodiversity. She explained that Natureparif is a new agency and was directly inspired in its concept by the *Grenelle de l'Environnement*. The agency is also innovative because it aims to be a regional watchdog devoted entirely to nature.

2 - Mr. **Thibault** gave a presentation on the importance of incorporating the city into nature and nature into the city at all levels and with all the component parts of « nature ». He explained how to ensure the continuation of the ecological, social, and even economic services that nature offers us and that are non-replaceable, emphasising the key notion of open spaces, that is to say, all the spaces that have not been built up and have not been tarmacked, whether they be found in the suburbs or in the centre of the city.

3 - Mr. **Santomauro** outlined the environmental policy of the city of Guarulhos in Sao Paulo, with its various problems and challenges. The services of the city must face up to these challenges in order to bring about an improvement in the physical setting and quality of life of the local population.

PARTICIPANTS :

1 - Gaëlle **LE JEUNE**
NATUREPARIF
Head of Institutional and International Relations

2 - Christian **THIBAUT**
Director of Studies, IAU-îdF

3 - Fernando **SANTOMAURO**
Head of International Affairs
Guarulhos - Sao Paulo / Brazil

In the **fourth round**, two presentations were made :

- 1 - The metropolitan system of green spaces ;
- 2 - The protection of water resources : drinking water and aquatic environments.

1 - Mrs. **Bolivar** presented the five axes of the strategic planning system of the Metropolitan Region of Caracas as an instrument - a guiding principal of the public policies for local development. Two strategic lines have been followed :
Environmental sustainability and Socio-spatial integration.

2 - Mr. **Maret** showed how water resources are spread over the whole land area, whether they be rural or urban, and the different conditions of water use. Urban, rural and peri-urban areas are all linked by the same needs, he explained, because what is at stake is the same in each case : that is to say, the protection of drinking water resources and aquatic environments in order to allow human development.

PARTICIPANTS :

Zulma BOLIVAR

President of the Institute for Metropolitan Urban Planning
Municipality of Caracas / Venezuela

Pascal MARET

Director of Agriculture and Environment
Agency of Seine Water Normandie (AESN)

The **fifth round** proposed six presentations to conclude the workshop session :

- 1 - Urban agriculture and public spaces ;
- 2 - Water and environment in the city of Guarulhos ;
- 3 - Peri-urban agriculture: roles and functions in the challenges and the links to urban poverty, food, the economic crisis, the shortage of water and climate change ;
- 4 - Cities, food and agriculture : Challenges or opportunities ;
- 5 - Agenda 21 of Île-de-France and the Eco-Region reference system ;
- 6 - The sustainable development indicators for the Eco-Region.

1 - Mrs. **Moreno** presented the actions that have been taken by the city of Medellin to encourage peri-urban agriculture and the development and use of public spaces. She proposed a solution whereby the local natural resources are taken into account in order to compensate for ecosystem malfunctionings that have been caused by built-up areas.

2 - Mr. **Rocha Moraes** demonstrated the important challenges that the city of Guarulhos in Sao Paulo must face in order to overcome problems of water supply, wastewater disposal and treatment.

3 - Mrs. **Dubbeling** showed us the RUAF network (Resource centres on Urban Agriculture and Food security) and the steps to better understanding the relations between urban poverty, food, the economic crisis, water shortages and climate change.

4 - Mr. **Custot** explained the mission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as regards those aspects linked to the food security and nutrition of the world population. In his presentation, he discussed the FAO's role of watchdog to ensure that human beings have regular access to good quality food in order to be able to lead healthy and active lives, and he called on cities to co-operate with each other.

5 - In her second presentation about Regional Agenda 21 Île-de-France, Mrs. **Sauterel** presented the aims of the Eco-Region's reference system. This tool is designed to help systematise the way in which the objectives of the Eco-Region are taken into account in all the policies of the Regional Council. In order to achieve this, the reference system proposes a chart to interpret the sustainable development goals adapted to the case of Île-de-France. She added that this tool is meant to assist and render coherent the different decisions, projects and policies of all the sectors in the region, and is intended to be a simple and user-friendly tool.

6 - Mr. **Nascimento** demonstrated the difficulty of bringing together indicators and planning in order to put sustainable development into practice. Until recently, the impression one gets is that of two different schools of thought that have coincided too rarely. It has become essential to find a meeting point between research for indicators and planning, he explained, but for reasons of coherence a minimum number of indicators that are common to both will have to be shared. The context indicators proposed in the framework of Regional Agenda 21 are presented here.

PARTICIPANTS :

Nora **MORENO**
City of Medellin / Colombia

Joao Roberto **ROCHA MORAES**
Head of Water and Sewerage Service (SAAE)
Guarulhos - Sao Paulo / Brazil

Marielle **DUBBELING**
RUAF Coordinator - From Seed to Table Programme
Advisor on peri-urban agriculture
Leusden / The Netherlands

Julien **CUSTOT**
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
United Nations

Danielle **SAUTEREL**
Head of Department, Agenda 21 and Eco-Region
Regional Council for Île-de-France

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