

Caracas, 4th August 2009

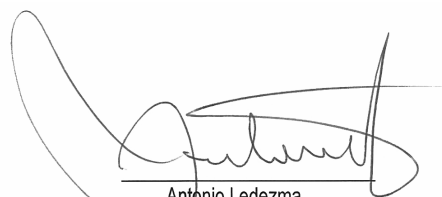
Dear members of Metropolis,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to participate in the first meeting of the Commission 1 - Eco-regions of Metropolis chaired by my colleague Michel Vampouille, Vice President of sustainable development, the environment and Eco-Region of Ile-de-France Region. The Metropolitan Region of Caracas holds one of the vice-presidencies together with the cities of Moscow and Brazzaville.

The Commission proposes three central themes for discussion during the 2009–2011 period: Open spaces in urban outskirts, the climate change forecast and biodiversity. Within the general topic of open spaces in urban outskirts, two sub-topics are to be covered: Agriculture in urban outskirts and green spaces (green belts and ecological corridors).

As Mayor of Metropolitan Caracas and vice president of the Commission 1 Eco-region, we want to underline that the economic growth of countries, in general terms, involves considerable agricultural areas located within various urban regions. In the context of the current global financial crisis, conservation of agrarian resources in urban outskirts areas, whose agronomic potential determine food sovereignty, is fundamental and calls for an exchange between the world's great metropolises. Likewise, the protection and appreciation of natural green spaces contributes towards conserving biodiversity and guaranteeing the population's quality of life in urban areas.

Metropolis is very happy to invite you to participate to our first workshop on "Open spaces: urban and outlying agricultural activities, water and biodiversity", organized in collaboration with the City of Caracas and Ile-de-France Region/Paris. This workshop will take place in Caracas on the 24th, 25th and 26th September 2009.



Antonio Ledezma
Alcalde Metropolitano de Caracas

