

Paris, 10th August 2009

Dear colleagues,

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On behalf of the Île-de-France (Paris) region, the City of Caracas and the World Organization of Major Metropolis METROPOLIS, we would like to invite you to join the first **workshop of Commission 1 Ecological Region, Open Spaces (outlying agricultural activities, water and biodiversity)**.

As you know, Commission 1 is presided over by Michel Vampouille, Vice President of Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Île-de-France Eco-Region. For the 2009-2011 cycle, Commission 1 is proposing three central themes of reflection: open spaces in urban outskirts, the climate change forecast and biodiversity. Within the general topic of open spaces in urban outskirts, three sub-topics are to be covered: agriculture in urban outskirts and biodiversity, green spaces (green belts and ecological corridors) and climate change.

Within the topic of the climate change forecast, the various aspects of the Climate Plan can be raised in comparison with the strategies of other member metropolises. Regarding this aspect, Commission 1 wishes to lead the discussion with other metropolises.

Use of agrarian and uncultivated land does not only concern Île-de-France (around 1,500 ha per year in Île de France). As a general rule, the economic growth of countries uses up large areas of agricultural land in the various urban regions of the world. In the context of the current global financial crisis, conservation of agrarian resources in urban outskirt areas, whose agronomic potential determines food sovereignty, is fundamental and calls for an exchange between the world's great metropolises.

The first working meeting of Commission 1 will take place in September 24th, 25th and 26th 2009 in Caracas, Venezuela. The workshop will be organised in collaboration with the City of Caracas. **Key themes to be addressed during this meeting will be ecological regions and open spaces, outlying agricultural activities, water and biodiversity.**

We hope that the significant presence of African countries, amongst others, at this workshop will provide the opportunity to exchange our experiences and to learn both from the experts and the other speakers from the participating metropolises.

We look forward to meeting you in Caracas.

Yours sincerely,

The Co-ordinators of Commission 1 :

Iuli Nascimento Head of Studies on the Environment and Sustainable Development

Danielle Sauterel Supervisor of Agenda 21 and Eco-regions



Iuli Nascimento

