

“CLIMATE CHANGE: REGIONS IN ACTION” NRG4SD’S WORLD SUMMIT, 29 & 30 OCTOBER 2008 IN SAINT-MALO

While France has made the “energy-climate” issue the top priority of the French Presidency of the EU, member regions of the international NRG4SD¹ network aim to demonstrate that regional governments are key players in combating global warming.

Upon the Regional Council of Brittany’s invitation, regions of the world will gather together, alongside State, EU and UN representatives, on 29 and 30 October 2008 in Saint-Malo, to share their experience and provide concrete solutions to this worldwide issue.

Brittany is a prime example in this matter: in March 2008, the largest French maritime region was hit by a storm causing unprecedented damage all along its coastline. In addition to sea level rise, a major concern in various locations (*île de Sein, presqu’île de Gâvres*, the Audierne and Keremma dune ridges, etc.), some plant and animal species (umbrella pine, processionary caterpillar, etc.) are gaining ground while others are on the decline (sand-eel, atlantic puffin, etc.), another cause for worry among the local population.

The region: the most relevant level for an effective fight

As for Brittany, both northern and southern regions are in the front line when it comes to climate change. Entrusted with direct responsibility for territories, people and activities, regional governments are in the best position to act. Alaska, Cape Town region in South Africa or the Spanish Basque Country are all different in terms of geography, culture and lifestyle. However, they can all take action to adapt, and mitigate the consequences of climate change according to their jurisdiction and resources (managing water, developing new energy sources, promoting public transport, providing training in eco-building, etc.).

Added value to be highlighted on the international scene

In Saint-Malo, 450 participants from all over the world are invited to share and pool their experience, in keeping with the principles of North-South solidarity. The aim is also to involve UN agencies in these innovative projects. Aware of this new drive, UNDP – the United Nations Development Programme – intends for example to launch a pilot initiative to help southern regions implement climate action plans.

Latest news...

Mr Jean-Pierre Jouyet, Minister of State with responsibility for European Affairs, has confirmed his attendance on Wednesday 29 October, as has Mr **Nicolas Hulot**.

Carbon offset: a standard-setting, responsible summit

The Regional Council of Brittany has calculated the amount of energy necessary for organising the summit and transporting those taking part. Carbon generated will be offset by funding a programme geared towards transferring knowledge to southern regions.

To find out more : programme enclosed and website www.worldsummitofregions.org

¹ The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development: following on from the 2002 Johannesburg summit, it brings together more than 250 regions from all over the world: 26 member regions – including Brittany, Burgundy and Réunion Island – along with regions from the CPMR (150 European maritime regions), the Northern forum (Arctic regions) and the ABEMA (Brazilian States). The Network is jointly chaired by two regional governments, one from the North, the other from the South (the Spanish Basque Country and Western Cape, South Africa).

