

Press release / September 2008

“Climate change: Regions in action”

World Summit of Regions in Saint-Malo, 29 & 30 October

For the first time in the history of public-sector policy, the Regions of the world have arranged to come together in Saint-Malo at the end of October to make their voices heard on a top-priority issue: climate change. Up to now, only scientists, States and NGOs have spoken out and made commitments. Today, it is the Region's turn to take up this global challenge and, as the first affected, to do their part to prevent and correct the effects of global warming.

On the proposal of the Regional Council of Brittany and its President, Jean-Yves Le Drian

While France has made energy and climate one of the priorities of its Presidency of the European Union and the UN is preparing a new global climate conference to take place in Poznań, the Regional Council of Brittany and the international nrg4SD¹ network will bring together, in Saint-Malo, 450 representatives of Regions, States, the European Union, NGOs, civil society and several UN agencies. The United Nations has expressed specific interest in this proactive and innovative regional-scale approach for the first time.

Over 80 Northern and Southern Regions in attendance, under the watchful eye of the UN

After reviewing the increasingly worrying current situation, the Regions decided to take action and organise a two-day platform for discussion and sharing experiences in order to provide new, real solutions and demonstrate the pivotal role that regions can play, tomorrow, in **post-Kyoto action and the 2009 Copenhagen resolutions**.

The region: the most relevant level for an effective fight

Brittany, the Spanish Basque Country, North Sumatra or Cape Town Region in South Africa are all different in terms of geography, culture and lifestyle. However, they can all take action to limit greenhouse gas emissions according to their jurisdiction and resources. With direct responsibility for territories, people and activities, regional governments are in the best position to observe and act in the fields of water management, new energies, transport and sustainable housing, etc. In keeping with the principle of North-South solidarity, they are already prepared to go further and devise innovative cooperation initiatives in Saint-Malo to improve the situation.

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: 29 member regions – including Brittany, Burgundy and Réunion Island – along with regions from the CPMR (156 European maritime regions), the Northern forum (17 Arctic regions), the ABEMA (27 Brazilian States), the ANAEE (31 Mexican governments) and the OLAGI (regions of Latin America). 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).



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A UNDP pilot initiative to help 50 Southern Regions to draw up a climate plan

The Saint-Malo global summit has already borne its fruits, even before it has taken place! At the close of the two-day summit, the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) will present the backbone of a pilot initiative, prepared in advance with Brittany and the nrg4SD, to enable around fifty Southern Regions to implement their own regional climate plans with funding from Northern Regions.

The UN is set to open a global satellite service centre on climate in Brest

Another significant outcome of this international summit is the opening of a UN centre of expertise on the Brest technology hub in 2009. The centre will observe the specific effects of climate change using top-of-the-range satellite applications on behalf of the Regions. The creation of this global platform is the achievement of a partnership between the Regional Council of Brittany and the UNDP, with the support of the Brest Métropole Océane agglomeration, the Finistère *Département* Council and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Carbon offsetting: a standard-setting, responsible summit

In its capacity as the organiser of the Saint-Malo Summit, the environmentally-responsible Regional Council of Brittany has set up a financial carbon offsetting scheme that will ultimately fund a pilot cooperation initiative for Southern Regions.

Whether they travel by air, road or train, the 450 participants in the Saint-Malo Summit will produce greenhouse gases. As early as March 2008, the Regional Council of Brittany entrusted the Basque company Ekopass with the task of assessing this carbon production, according to estimations of the number of people registering and their countries of origin.

Ekopass deduced that participants would produce 1,100 metric tons of CO₂. This tonnage was then converted into a monetary cost at the rate of €32/metric ton (rule applicable from 2010), preferable to the €24/metric ton rule in force today.

A forward-looking approach for the 2010 carbon-offsetting objectives

Brittany also wanted to set an example on this issue by applying a high range for carbon offsetting.

This contribution, estimated at €35,200, is equal to 5% of the total organisation cost for the Summit. Brittany will allocate this amount to the UNDP/Regions pilot programme, which will be signed during the closing plenary session of the Saint-Malo Summit.

For more information: attached programme and website www.worldsummitofregions.org

Brittany press contacts

Rennes Odile BRULEY: tel. +33 (0)2.99.27.13.55 – mob. +33 (0)6.76.87.49.57

Paris Claudine RIPERT: mob. +33 (0)6.73.45.18.43



nrg4SD: a worldwide network

Regions committed to sustainable development

The Network of regional governments for sustainable development, which was set up in 2002 during the Johannesburg summit, now represents some thirty Regions in 16 countries. Its influence, however, extends even further, since its members include five major networks of regions – CPMR, Northern Forum, OLAGI, ABEMA and ANAAE – which, between them, represent over 300 Regions worldwide.

The objectives

Compare experiences and encourage local initiatives

The network's objectives were set out in the Gauteng Declaration, made in Gauteng (South Africa) in 2002, following on from the Rio Declaration and from the United Nations' Millennium Declaration.

This charter states that the regional level is the most appropriate one for initiatives in favour of sustainable development, and that the network is committed to sharing information gained through experiences in the Regions and to fostering collaboration with neighbours near them and in other parts of the world.

Making the Regions' voices heard in the international arena

Over and above the sharing of experiences, the network aims to make the voices of the Regions heard during international negotiations on sustainable development and climate change. The Saint-Malo summit therefore marks a key stage in the development of nrg4SD as a driving force.

While the local level is considered essential, the network is also committed to working with all levels of government and with the United Nations. It has received UN accreditation with observer status for the Framework Convention on Climate Change and for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The network is also a member of the Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR), which represents more than 500 regions worldwide. Within this new entity, which was created in Marseille in March 2007, nrg4SD has responsibility for questions relating to sustainable development

For further information: www.nrg4sd.net



The members of the nrg4SD network: 29 member Regions

Azores	(Portugal)	North Sumatra	(Indonesia)
Aragon	(Spain)	Basque Country	(Spain)
Burgundy	(France)	Wales	(United Kingdom)
Brittany	(France)	Reunion	(France)
Callao	(Peru)	Riau	(Indonesia)
Cantabria	(Spain)	Santa Fe	(Argentina)
Catalonia	(Spain)	Sao Paulo	(Brazil)
Chaco	(Argentina)	Sofala	(Mozambique)
Khulna District	(Bangladesh)	South West of England	
Flanders	(Belgium)	Development Agency	(United Kingdom)
Galicia	(Spain)	Tuscany	(Italy)
Goias	(Brazil)	Tulcea	(Romania)
West Java	(Indonesia)	Valencia	(Spain)
Kaunas	(Lithuania)	Wallonia	(Belgium)
Mbale District	(Uganda)	Western Cape	(South Africa)

5 member Networks

CPMR / Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (Europe):
156 Regions in 28 countries

Northern Forum (17 polar Regions):
Alberta / Yukon Nunavut (Canada); Heilongjiang (China); Lapland (Finland); Akureyri (Iceland); Hokkaido (Japan) ; Gangwon (South Korea); Khanty Mansiysk / Chukotka / Krasnoyarsk / Komi / Sakha / St. Petersburg / Yamalo Nenets / Vologda (Russia) ; Alaska (United States).

OLAGI/Organización Latinoamericana de Gobiernos Intermedios (Latin America):
Regional governments of the 17 Latin American countries

ABEMA/Associação Brasileira de Entidades Estaduais de Meio Ambiente (Brazil):
27 Brazilian regional governments

ANAAE / Asociación Nacional de Autoridades Ambientales Estatales (Mexico):
31 Mexican regional governments



World Summit of Regions, St-Malo: “Regions in action”

79 Regions registered to date

EUROPE

Germany	(Saxony)
Austria	(Lower Austria)
Belgium	(Wallonia / Flanders)
Spain	(Basque Country / Andalusia / Canaries / Balearic Islands / Asturias / Malaga / Catalonia)
France	(Brittany / Midi-Pyrénées / PACA / Martinique / Burgundy / Centre / Aquitaine/ Poitou-Charentes / Reunion / Guadeloupe)
Italy	(Veneto / Tuscany)
Lithuania	(Kaunas / Klapeida)
Norway	(Rogaland)
Netherlands	(South Holland / Zeeland / Drenthe/ Northern Netherlands)
Portugal	(Alentejo / Aveiro / Norte)
Romania	(Brasov)
United Kingdom	(Wales / East Sussex / Scotland / Hampshire / Cornwall)
Russia	(Khanty-Mansyisk / Sakha / Vologda)
Sweden	(Norrbotten)
Ukraine	(Lugansk Oblast)

AFRICA

South Africa	(Western Cape)
Burkina Faso	(Nord)
Madagascar	(Analanjirifo / Anosy)
Morocco	(Oued Eddahab Lagouira / Tanger-Tétouan / Casablanca (CU))
Uganda	(M'Bare)
D.R. of Congo	(Lekoumou)
Senegal	(Linkering / Kolda / Kandia / Dioulacolon / Djibabouya / Fatick / Kounkane / Louga / Tambacounda / Saint-Louis)

ASIA

Bangladesh	(Khulna)
China	(Heilongjiang)
South Korea	(Gangwon)
India	(Punjab)
Indonesia	(North Sumatera)
Japan	(Kyoto)
Taiwan	(District of Taipei)
Vietnam	(Hanoi / Hue)

AMERICA

United States	(Alaska)
Brazil	(Sao Paulo)
Chile	(Antofagasta)
Colombia	(Caribe)
Mexico	(Mexico / Santa Cruz)
Peru	(Callao)

Countries represented at national level only

Cameroon	Nepal
Comoros	Uganda
Gabon	Seychelles
Mauritius	Tunisia



International organisations attending

European institutions

- . European Commission
(Directorates-General for Regional Policy, Development, the Environment and External Relations)
- . European Parliament
- . Committee of the Regions
- . European Environment Agency

International organisations

- . UNDP/United Nations Development Programme
- . UNEP/ United Nations Environment Programme
- . FAO/Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- . UNOSAT/United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme
- . IPCC/ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

International networks of regions

- . AIRF/Association Internationale des Régions Francophones
- . CEMR/Council of European Municipalities and Regions
- . FEDARENE/European Federation of Regional Energy and Environment Agencies



The UNDP Programme for Regions

A 5-year North-South cooperation initiative

Faced with global warming, the least developed countries, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions to a much lesser extent, are among the most vulnerable. This solidarity programme, led by the UNDP, aims to provide Southern Regions with the means to tackle the effects of climate change so that they can become resilient and carbon-neutral. It is the first time in the history of the United Nations that a programme is directly aimed at a sub-national scale. The funds generated (\$70 million) are set to bring about \$2.5 billion in projects in developing regions.

Step one: raising awareness and training 500 Regions

The idea is to organise training workshops in 22 regional zones across the world where Southern regional governments can be informed, mostly by their Northern counterparts, of the challenges caused by climate change and the measures, best practices and technological solutions already in use worldwide.

Step two: helping 50 Regions to draw up their own climate plan...

This training phase will identify around fifty Regions that wish to go further. They will be given assistance to draw up a Regional Climate Plan with two action plans to mitigate and adapt to global warming.

Mitigation: by conducting a carbon footprint assessment, according to the tried and tested methods of the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), regional governments involved can quantify and identify their greenhouse gas emissions.

Adaptation: using satellite-aided cartography created by CLIMSAT, the Region will find out exactly how vulnerable it is. In terms of various factors (sea levels, temperature fluctuations, pluviometry, etc.), it will be better equipped to prevent the possible effects of climate change.

... and to give concrete expression to hundreds of projects

Each of the 50 Regions will receive assistance to identify and set up hundreds of projects:

- Mitigation projects, by implementing new regulations and public-sector policies: the thermal performance of buildings, revision of development area maps, creation of carbon taxes, etc.
- Adaptation projects, by scheduling investments for equipment: insulation for buildings, recovery of gases released during the methanogenesis of waste, creation of small solar- and wind-powered electric power stations, geothermal power, streamlined transport systems, etc.



In addition to regional projects, the programme plans to help regional governments to identify and make full use of new sources of funding for their investments: tax, energy-savings certificates, tax breaks, purchasing rates for renewable energy, low-interest loans, partnership agreements, carbon finance, public-sector funds for climate change, etc.

The first candidate Regions

A few pilot Regions will get involved in the process at the end of 2008, through a partnership with the nrg4SD. This first initiative will concern a dozen of world Regions. It aims to promote skills transfers between 4-6 developing Regions and 8 developed Regions in the areas of calculation methods for the carbon footprint assessment and the measurement of the effects of climate change.

<p>Southern Regions (provisional list): Western Cape (South Africa), Sofala (Mozambique), North Sumatra (Indonesia), Santa Fe (Argentina).</p>	<p>Northern Regions (provisional list): Brittany, Euskadi (Spanish Basque Country), Scotland (to be confirmed), Catalonia (to be confirmed), Tuscany (to be confirmed), São Paulo (Brazil).</p>
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The programme's financial partners

The UNDP is in charge of the financial logistics of the programme. Its role, in addition to the implementation of cooperation initiatives, is to raise the necessary funds from States, regional governments and private partners. The NRG4SD and the Regional Council of Brittany have already committed to contributing.

The UNDP, active in 166 developing countries

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a [specialised agency](#) of the [United Nations](#) entrusted with the task of helping [developing countries](#) to reach the Millennium Development Goals concerning democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention, fight against the spread of [HIV/AIDS](#) and the protection of sustainable resources.

Based in [New York](#) and Geneva, the UNDP is active in 166 countries. Each year, it publishes a [Human Development Report](#). The latest report (2007-2008) focuses on "*Fighting climate change: human solidarity in a divided world*".

This year, the UNDP has set itself the same priorities as the nrg4SD, in the same spirit of solidarity and cooperation.

Within the UNDP, Christophe Nuttall is in charge of drawing up innovative cooperation programmes, particularly in terms of funding, for which the United Nations, States, Regions and Northern and Southern cities join forces.



The UN selects Brest for CLIMSAT

A satellite service centre for Regions

As part of its programme to combat global warming with Regions, the UNDP has decided to set up a world-class centre of expertise to enable Regions, the poorest in particular, to access satellite imagery and its latest applications to help them in their sustainable planning.

Pooling skills, research resources and high-performance companies specialised in climatology, oceanography and telecommunications, the area around Brest caught the United Nations' eye.

This global platform, to be opened on the site of the Brest-Iroise technology hub, is the achievement of a partnership ahead of the Saint-Malo Summit between the UNDP and the Regional Council of Brittany, with the staunch support of the Brest Métropole Océane agglomeration and the Finistère *Département* Council.

5,000 images per year to gain a better understanding of Regions' vulnerability

The CLIMSAT project, coordinated in Brest by Alain Retière, will produce, on behalf of the Regions, satellite maps that depict their vulnerability against climate change. The high-precision data will be used to predict the possible impact over time and space (sea level, temperature fluctuations, pluviometry, etc.) and to consequently plan adaptation projects.

The CLIMSAT centre will work with other scientists and technical operators in Brittany. Alain Retière, who, until now has led the UN UNOSAT service in Geneva, will lead a small team of initially 3-4 people, but with the eventual objective of seeing this expand to around 50 people.

After Paris and Lyon (WHO), CLIMSAT is the 3rd largest UN location in France.

