

ENERGIE-CITES & CLIMATE ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

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COVENANT OF MAYORS

SHARING LOCAL VISIONS

CONCLUDING REMARKS FOLLOWING THE MAYORS' DEBATE.

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1. CITIES ARE NO LONGER CITIES BUT LOOSE URBAN TERRITORIES.

Mayors of cities are challenged by the fact that their jurisdiction covers only a piece of a larger urban territory, as a result of "Urban Sprawl" ([www.eea.europa.eu](http://www.eea.europa.eu) 2006). The central piece of that puzzle is particularly affected by the endless expansion of activities in the former countryside, encouraged by public subsidies. The huge oversupply of urbanised space ("brown fields") has been the subject of research projects such as "Shrinking Cities". How to recycle them, saving land and energy in the process? This remains an unresolved challenge.

2. BUILDINGS AS POTENTIAL POWER PLANTS.

The growing evidence that fossil energy has to be saved is also leading to new building policies. These policies cover new buildings (use of sustainable materials such as wood, better thermal insulation, alternative energy production), urban renewal and in-fill space. Substituting fossil fuels by "agro-fuels" rises however the prospect of a conflict between using agriculture land for feeding humans or for fuelling cars ([www.eea.europa.eu](http://www.eea.europa.eu) 2008).

3. BUILDING ELECTORAL CONSENSUS AROUND ENERGY SAVING POLICIES.

Mayors recognize the necessity of generating a non-partisan and business supported energy saving policies, not forgetting the citizen associations. Machiavelli was quoted as the master thinker for cities today as for cities of his time (see Anthony Jay's "Management and Machiavelli").

4. USING THE COVENANT OF MAYORS AS TOOL IN THE COMING EMISSIONS MARKET DEBATE.

The stakes of the forthcoming debate about GHG emissions trading mechanisms, involving both developed and developing nations, should be fully understood by mayors. Proceeds from the emissions trading are due to finance an adaptation fund (December 2005 COP 15 Agenda). The allocation of proceeds between countries should also allow cities to claim their share, as a reward for their own emissions/energy saving efforts.