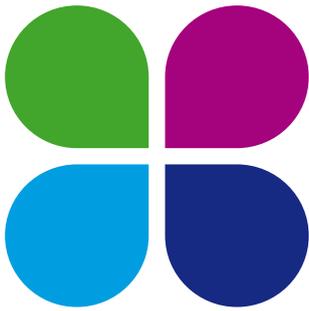


Aalborg 1994 > Lisbon 1996 > Hannover 2000  
Aalborg 2004 > Sevilla 2007 > Dunkerque 2010



# GENEVA 2013

*7th European Conference on  
Sustainable Cities & Towns*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNOUNCEMENT

**7<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns:  
17-19 April, 2013 Geneva, Switzerland**

A green and socially responsible economy: a solution in times of crisis?

**Join the next biggest European conference on sustainable  
development after Rio+20!**

Organised by:



## Welcome to the 7th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns!

« The road to sustainability runs through the world's towns and cities. By building sustainable towns and cities, you will build global sustainability ».

**Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General, United Nations.**  
**Global Town Hall - ICLEI, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil),**  
**21 June 2012.**

The City of Geneva, its local partners, as well as the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Conference Preparatory Committee, have the pleasure of inviting you to the next biggest European conference on green and socially responsible economy.

With governance and finance for sustainable development as the focus, the 7th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns will take place from 17-19 April 2013 in the City of Geneva. The conference will bring together local and national governments, UN and European institutions, business, science institutes and research and development organisations from all over Europe.

The conference comes at a moment when the world's attention to the exemplary role of local governments in sustainable development may never have been as extensive, driven partly by the urgent need to find lasting solutions to present crises, both financial and environmental. This is your opportunity to be part of an event that will mark a milestone for Europe's local governments in their quest to achieve sustainable communities and which will allow you to exchange experiences and good practices. The 7th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns will explore sustainability in all areas of public administration and will try to identify effective institutional mechanisms to tackle the current financial and environmental crises.

### Geneva's commitment to sustainable development

For many years, the City of Geneva has been committed to promoting sustainable development at all levels. Since 1980, Geneva has been at the heart of international thinking on this issue, hosting the Brundtland Commission, which shaped the report "Our common future" published in 1987. Designed to examine global environment and development, the commission sought to reassess critical problems, to formulate realistic proposals for solving them, and to raise the level of understanding and commitment.

Since then, Geneva has firmly chosen the path of sustainability. The City's commitment stems from the signing of the Aalborg Charter by the Administrative Council in 1995, three years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. It chose to adopt a long-term approach in protecting the environment, defending social justice, promoting cultural diversity and ensuring economic viability. Six years later, in 2001, the city defined an initial sustainable development strategy by means of establishing an exemplary administration, organising awareness-raising and information campaigns on the topic of sustainable development, and implementing assessment tools and sustainability indicators to guide the municipal strategy. Following a 2008 evaluation of the progress achieved by this policy, the executive body of the city decided to give its actions a new impetus by signing the Aalborg Commitments; a consistent, efficient and transparent approach to sustainability.

For all of these reasons, the City of Geneva is proud to host Europe's biggest conference for sustainable cities and towns in 2013, with the aim of contributing to the emergence of new solutions that will lead municipalities towards development which respects both human populations and their environment.

### Invited speakers:



**Micheline Calmy – Rey**  
Former President of  
Switzerland



**Janez Potočnik**  
European Commissioner for  
the Environment



**Johannes Hahn**  
European Commissioner for  
Regional Policy



**Brice Lalonde**  
Coordinator of the United  
Nations Conference on  
Sustainable Development  
Rio+20

## Conference programme and structure

Over the course of three days, wide-ranging plenary sessions and interactive break-out sessions will be organised in the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG), a conference venue at the heart of Geneva's international policy area. It will offer a broad dialogue platform to the conference's expected 1,000 participants. The venue will provide large exhibition spaces, where sponsors and partners can present their activities. It will ensure excellent opportunities to network, exchange and discuss during numerous break-out sessions bringing together sustainability professionals and officials from different government levels in Switzerland and Europe.

### TUESDAY 16 APRIL

**15:00**  
Registration

**18:00**  
Welcome Reception

### WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL

**08:00 – 9:30**  
Registration

**09:30 – 11:00**  
Opening Plenary

**11:00 – 11:30**  
Coffee break

**11:30 – 13:00**  
Plenary 1  
**Setting the scene: today's crises and future trends**

**13:00 – 14:30**  
Lunch

**14:30 – 16:00**  
Break-out Sessions 1

**16:00 – 16:30**  
Coffee break

**16:30 – 18:00**  
Plenary 2  
**Economy, environment and society: bridging the gaps**

**19:00**  
Dinner

**14:30 – 16:00**  
Mayors Session

### THURSDAY 18 APRIL

**09:30 – 11:00**  
Plenary 3  
**Sustainable financing - a response to the current crisis**

**11:00 – 11:30**  
Coffee break

**11:30 – 13:00**  
Break-out Sessions 2

**13:00 – 14:30**  
Lunch

**14:30 – 15:30**  
Plenary 4  
**Multilevel governance for a green and socially responsible economy**

**15:45 – 18:45**  
Workshops on-site

**20:00**  
Enjoying Geneva

### FRIDAY 19 APRIL

**09:30 – 11:00**  
Outlook Plenary  
**Setting a new European agenda now**

**11:00 – 11:30**  
Coffee break

**11:30 – 13:00**  
Open press conference: press, panel and participants discuss

**13:00 – 14:30**  
Farewell Lunch



**Ronan Dantec**  
Municipal Councillor, City of Nantes, European Green Capital 2013, and Senator of Loire Atlantique, Pays-de-la-Loire, France



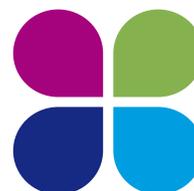
**Saskia Sassen**  
Professor of Sociology at Columbia University, USA

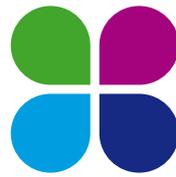


**Jacqueline McGlade**  
Executive Director of the European Environment Agency



**Harald Welzer**  
Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Memory Research, Essen, Germany





# GENEVA 2013

7th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns

## Break-out Sessions to focus on topics such as:

- Sustainable procurement
- Education and awareness about sustainable development
- Structural funds for sustainable cities
- Low carbon communities
- Responsible consumption
- Urban environmental planning
- Sustainable urban mobility
- Urban biodiversity
- Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities
- Climate change adaptation
- Social and solidarity economy
- Human rights and urban development

## Geneva invites mayors to a high-level networking session

The Palais des Nations (United Nations Office in Geneva and European headquarters) will see a high-level political session for mayors only. It will be an ideal networking setting for the exchange of good practices and innovative institutional mechanisms among local and regional leaders involved in sustainable development initiatives.

## Register now!

Make sure to secure your place for this exciting event now. For more information about registration, programme development, logistics and more, please regularly visit the conference website:

[www.sustainablegeneva2013.org](http://www.sustainablegeneva2013.org)

## Workshops on-site

In addition to the rich programme offered at the main conference venue, participants will have the opportunity to join workshops on-site in the Geneva area. On these occasions, the latest innovative activities in urban sustainability will be showcased. Local energy and environmental management infrastructures, urban mobility projects, and private sector sustainability initiatives are examples of workshops on-site proposed to conference participants.



### Organised by



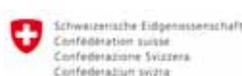
### Partners of the City of Geneva



### Co-organised by the ESCT Conference Preparatory Committee



### Official partners



### Other partners and suppliers



Ville du Grand-Saconnex