

SPIRIT OF SEVILLA 2007
at the occasion of the 5th European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference

In Sevilla, at the 5th European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference, more than 1500 representatives gathered marking a major milestone in urban sustainable development – “the Spirit of Sevilla”.

Three years after the Aalborg Conference in 2004 local governments and delegates from European countries and beyond discussed and took stock of and reaffirmed their strong commitment to the sustainable development process, in the dynamic City of Sevilla. The challenge and need is clear for all of us, and from now onwards, there is an ever stronger mandate to implement sustainable development and the Aalborg Commitments in local governments.

The Sevilla conference has enthusiastically promoted the Aalborg Commitment process.

Supporting guidance is available, tools have been developed and a powerful network of local governments and associations exists to support and encourage cities and local authorities in their valuable work for implementing the Aalborg Commitments through effective sustainable development actions.

During the 5th European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference in Sevilla, Spain we were able to see concrete, motivating and inspiring examples of successful implementation of the Aalborg Commitments among local governments.

We, local governments will

- adapt policies and actions to meet sustainability challenges
- ensure progress in our own Aalborg Commitment work
- take the Commitments to the streets and also bring the streets into our work with the Commitments involving our local government leader, our politicians, our citizens, our businesses and our partners.
- inspire and motivate other cities and local authorities to enter into the Aalborg Commitment process

We, local governments will assess progress in achieving our targets by

- setting local indicators for the Commitments
- undertaking a monitoring review of the progress achieved
- making the results available to our citizens

The European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign will continue to promote the Aalborg Charter, the Aalborg Commitments and support the participating local governments.

Also, the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign will

- Provide an active European platform towards National Governments and European Institutions
- Evaluate and monitor the work with the Commitments

In the “Spirit of Sevilla” we therefore ask and urge local governments to sign up to the Aalborg Commitments and join us in our common process. We also urge local governments to use the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign and its webportal to share information and experiences in order to inspire and motivate other cities.

We warmly welcome the recognition given by the European Council, in the new European Sustainable Development Strategy, to the important role of the Aalborg Commitments, and invite the European Institutions to work with us in promoting and implementing our common goals.