



Declaration establishing

Brussels, 22 May 2008

## THE EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL AWARD

Whereas Europe is now an essentially urban society, with four out of five Europeans living in cities;

Whereas European cities concentrate most of the environmental challenges facing our society including the dangerous consequences of global warming but also bring together commitment and innovation to resolve them;

Whereas the European Heads of State at the European Council of June 2006 adopted the renewed Sustainable Development Strategy for an enlarged European Union with the aim of identifying and developing actions to enable the EU to achieve continuous improvement of quality of life both for current and for future generations, through the creation of sustainable communities able to manage and use resources efficiently;

Whereas the European Commission adopted the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment on 11 January 2006, committing itself to supporting and encouraging Europe's cities to adopt a more integrated approach to urban management thus making them healthier and better places to live in and reducing the adverse environmental impact of cities on the wider environment;

Whereas the idea of a European award is to further encourage cities to achieve a high level of environmental protection and improve the quality of the environment,

### WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, ENDORSE

The objectives of the European Green Capital Award, namely to:

- Reward cities that have a consistent record of achieving high environmental objectives;
- Encourage cities to commit to ambitious goals for further environmental improvement and sustainable development;
- Provide a role model to inspire other cities and promote best practices and experiences in all other European cities;

### WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, AGREE TO:

**Choose one European city, starting in 2010** - from the EU27, candidate countries (Turkey, FYROM and Croatia) and the EEA (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein) - as the European Green Capital each year;

**Recognise that an independent panel of experts** will carry out a pre-analysis by assessing the candidates' data and performance using 10 environmental indicators in relation to the above mentioned objectives and submit a pre-assessment report including a shortlist of three cities per award year;

**Take the final decision** on the annual selection of the European Green Capital;

**Ensure that the selected city has the right to use the honorary title** of "European Green Capital" for one year and use the award's logo and all promotional material;

**Promote awareness and understanding** of the award and its objectives;

**Foster the development of partnerships** involving a broad range of stakeholders;

**WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, ARE DETERMINED TO PROMOTE AND REWARD EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT MADE BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND INVOLVE CITY DWELLERS MORE CLOSELY IN THE IDEA OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**



[www.europeangreencapital.eu](http://www.europeangreencapital.eu)

**Stavros Dimas**  
European Commission - Commissioner  
responsible for the Environment

**Councillor Paddy Bourke P.C.**  
Lord Mayor of Dublin - President of the Union  
of Capital Cities of the European Union

**Gino Van Begin**  
Regional Director for Europe  
ICLEI - Local Governments for  
Sustainability

**Jacqueline McGlade**  
Executive Director  
European Environment Agency

**Jos Dings**  
Director - European Federation  
for Transport and Environment

**Luc Van den Brande**  
President of the Committee  
of the Regions