



We have the great pleasure to invite you to the Open Days 2011 debate

“Unlocking Innovation and Efficiency at Local Level”

to be held in Brussels on **12th of October 2011** from 9.30 to 13.00

at Résidence Palace, rue de la Loi 155.

The event is organized under the aegis of the European Confederation of Intermediate Local Powers (CEPLI), by the Regional Partnership

“Local Intermediate Authorities - Acting for Europe 2020”

composed by the following local authorities:

Diputación de Badajoz (ES); NAMRB (BG); Diputación de Cáceres (ES); Drôme County Council (FR); Gironde County Council (FR); Province of Liège (BE); City of Łódź (PL); Province of Palermo (IT); Province of Potenza (IT); Prahova County Council (RO); Province of Venezia (IT); Province of Walloon Brabant (BE).

Short description of the debate:

Mrs. Bridget Czarnota, former head of unit in DG Enlargement and freelance advisor at present, will moderate the debate during which the panellists will discuss how LIAs (Local Intermediate Authorities) are facing the challenges set up by the Strategy Europe 2020.

The first part of the debate, entitled **“Digital Europe and Innovation - the role of Local Intermediate Authorities in Europe 2020 strategy”** will relate to innovation, digital uses and creativity in European provinces and cities. The second part, entitled **“Energy efficiency at local level for the benefit of Europe 2020 goals”** will relate to actions towards energy efficiency and their influence in terms of future perspective of a smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe.

The projects to be outlined during the debate will reveal how the problems were solved at local level in an innovative and efficient way, how the LIAs selected the adequate measures, what were the outcomes, positive results, challenges and lessons learned. The panellists will present and discuss best practices for interaction between stakeholders at local level and the influence of innovation and energy efficiency on job creation and social policies. Pictures from different parts of Europe will show how problems were treated, from the Balkans to Belgium and France and also to the South of Europe, using the EU regional policy funding. Speakers will challenge the debate by trying to find common features to comparable solutions. The debate will tackle questions regarding the management of their local communities in a Europe experiencing scarce financial and energy resources and ever-deepening problems of an ageing population, youth unemployment and public pressure to reduce administrative burden.

Translation will be provided in the following languages: **English, French, Italian, Spanish and Romanian.**

The debate will be followed by a **buffet lunch** with traditional foods and drinks from each of our territories.

You are kindly requested to register online to this event at the following address:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2011/reg_frame.cfm?nmenu=500, searching for the keyword: 12A32.

Thanking you in advance for your interest, please receive our best regards.