



*Declaration of Cooperation
Between Metropolitan Regions and Areas
of the United States and Europe*

Alexandria, Virginia, April 10, 2008

REALIZING the major influence that metropolitan regions and areas in the U.S. and Europe exert on the economy, the environment and society;

APPRECIATING the creative energies and leadership that metropolitan regions and areas in the U.S. and Europe have in developing and applying environmentally friendly energy production, "smart growth" land use planning, sustainable transportation systems, and the construction of environmentally friendly buildings and housing;

RECOGNIZING the common environmental, economic development, equity and social inclusion challenges that metropolitan regions and areas on both continents confront and the powerful innovative solutions that metropolitan regions and areas offer to address those challenges;

NOTING the mutual interest in establishing and strengthening cooperation between U.S. and European metropolitan regions and areas and their local authorities in the exchange of information on all aspects of sustainable and climate-friendly development; and

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the advantages of cooperation between U.S. and European metropolitan regions and areas to exchange and apply innovative and mutually beneficial policies;

The participants of the first U.S. – European Conference of Metropolitan Regions and Areas have reached the following understandings of common resolve:

ARTICLE I

To promote the identification, review and application of innovative regional strategies and actions to promote sustainable and climate-friendly development, including but not limited to greenhouse gas reduction, energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transportation and land use, and “green” building policies.

ARTICLE II

To create and strengthen mechanisms that promote the exchange of activities, best practices and policies falling under Article I of this Declaration among metropolitan regions and areas in the U.S. and Europe.

ARTICLE III

To work with international organizations, national governments, local authorities, and research institutions to support the collection, analysis and testing of innovative climate change reduction and sustainable energy programs.

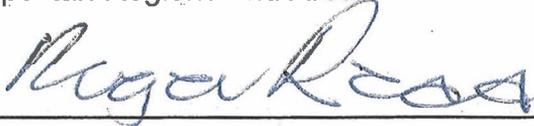
ARTICLE IV

To engage in cooperative activities under this Declaration that may consist of exchanges of information and technical assistance concerning the referenced fields of co-operation; exchanges of personnel for purposes of mutual interest including, but not limited to, study tours, workshops, training courses, conferences, and symposia, as mutually decided; and joint activities or projects subject to further development by participating metropolitan regions and areas. A list of envisaged short-term and long-term activities is enclosed in Annex I.

Signed in Alexandria, Virginia, on this 10th day of April, 2008

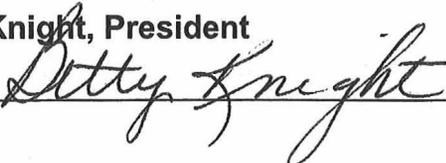
For the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas:

Roger Read, Secretary General



For the National Association of Regional Councils:

Betty Knight, President



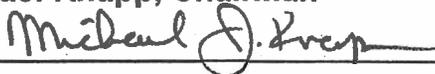
For the Northern Virginia Regional Commission:

Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman



For the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments:

Michael Knapp, Chairman



For the Verband Region Stuttgart:

Dr. Bernd Steinacher, Regionaldirektor



Annex I

Short-term activities to possibly include:

- Gathering at the next METREX conference in London, October 2008;
- Create a joint, bi-annually distributed newsletter between U.S. and European metropolitan regions and areas;
- Develop and support Internet exchanges, application of video tools and development of a joint listserv;
- Establish a joint website with on-line data bases for best practices case studies on climate, energy efficiency, watershed management, renewable energies, “green” buildings, “smart growth,” and sustainable transportation and land use practices;
- Inviting individual speakers to joint conferences or workshops; and
- Convening future bilateral conference(s) between U.S. and European metropolitan regions and areas that involve governmental, non-governmental, private sector, academic and research organizations.

Long-term activities to possibly include:

- Joint grant writing for additional peer-to-peer exchanges;
- Specific technical research between universities and research institutes – with special emphasis on climate and sustainable energy practices aspiring to attain 80 percent emissions reductions by 2050;
- Identification and implementation of regional pilot projects related to greenhouse gas reduction, energy efficiency, watershed management, renewable energies, “green” buildings, “smart growth,” and sustainable transportation and land use practices;
- Promoting mutually beneficial business cooperation in the environment, economic development and social inclusion sectors;
- Promoting the exchange and testing of mutually beneficial methodologies for regional greenhouse gas inventories.