

# **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**DIRECTORATE -GENERAL IB** 

External Relations: Southern Mediterranean, Middle East, Latin America South and South-East Asia and North-South Cooperation

**Directorate for Latin America** 



**URB-AL/INFO** 

**INFORMATION CIRCULAR N°2** 

#### The URB-AL programme in brief:

# Objective:

To develop a direct and lasting partnership between those involved on the ground in Europe and Latin America

#### Activities:

- 8 thematic networks of mutual interest, which will give rise to various common projects cofinanced by the Commission.
- 2 biennial political and technical meetings between mayors and representatives of towns in Europe and Latin America.

# Participants:

towns, regions and other local authorities in the countries of the European Union and Latin America.

Duration: 4 years

## $m{P}$ resent situation regarding the programme

The first stage of the URB-AL programme, in which the back-up structures were put into place, has been completed. URB-AL is now ready to start its first activities.

In accordance with the timetable, the Commission used the first few months of the URB-AL programme to define its activities and set up the High-Level Technical Committee and the External Secretariat.

## The High-level Technical Committee

The Committee's role is to provide back-up for the implementation and general monitoring of the various stages of URB-AL by assisting and advising the Commission on the conceptual and practical aspects: identification of priority topics, evaluation of proposals for projects from those in the networks, participation in the supply of information and the dissemination of the programme activities.

The Committee is made up of eight members: four European and four Latin American. These experts were requested by the Commission to sit on the URB-AL Committee for their expertise, experience and reputation in the main areas of cooperation covered by the programme, and their in-depth knowledge of Latin America. On no account may they represent, nor do they represent, economic or trade interests. There follows a brief description of the members of the Committee:

European Union

- Maria Luisa Cerrillos	Spanish. Director of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation's Division for the Conservation of the Latin American Cultural Heritage and Coordinator of the CIDEU from 1984 to July 1996. Specialized in the rehabilitation of historic sites, particularly in Latin America.					
- Hugues de Jouvenel	French. International forecasting, Director of Futuribles, Delegate for Futuribles International, International Multidisciplinary Centre for Analysis and Forecasting.					
- Cornelia Poczka	German. Head of Office with responsibility for international affairs in the Ministry of Town Planning, Environment and Technology in Berlin. Until January 1996, Director of the Stadtforum.					
- René Schoonbrodt	Belgian. Founding president of the "Atelier de Recherche et d'Action Urbaines" (ARAU - Urban Research and Action Workshop) Administrator of the Modern Architecture Archives, joint editor of the European Commission's green paper on the urban environment Professor at the University of Louvain (open faculty), Director in the Ministry for the Region of Wallonia.					

#### Latin America

- Manuel Camacho Solis	Mexican. Head of Mexico City administration from 1988 to 1995, former Secretary for Urban Development and Ecology and Under Secretary for Regional Development in the Mexican Government.					
- Hector Dada Hirezi	Salvadorian. Civil engineer and economist, Director of la Flacso/ El Salvador.					
- Jaime Torres Lara	Ecuadorian. Sociologist, expert in municipal development, expert in local development projects and international technical cooperation, director of the publication "Democracia Local". At present Secretary General of the International Union of Local Authorities for Latin America and Executive Director of the Latin American Centre for Training and the Development of Local Government (CELCADEL).					
- Emilio Patricio Rodé	Uruguayan. Director-General for Municipal Planning in the Montevideo administration. Professor of architecture at the Universidad de la República.					

The first meeting of the Committee will be held on 11 December 1996 in Brussels.

### The Secretariat

The Secretariat's duties involve providing overall support for the Commission in carrying out the programme, in particular as regards promotion and information, and implementation and monitoring of the operations covered by URB-AL.

The provisional Secretariat which has been set up comprises two people and is situated at:

21, rue des Drapiers B-1050 Brussels Belgium Tel: (+32 2) 510 23 12 Fax: (+32 2) 510 26 47.

The programme's definitive Secretariat will be selected by tender: the invitation to tender will be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities, S series, in mid-December. Following scrutiny of the expressions of interest, 10 applicants will be requested to submit a detailed tender which will be assessed by a selection committee in accordance with standard Commission procedure.

The permanent secretariat will have a team of four people: a coordinator responsible for the Secretariat, an administrator, a financial and data processing manager, and a secretary /assistant.

### The programme activities

- 1. The biennial meetings on political and technical matters between mayors in European and Latin American towns are scheduled for 1998 and 2000. The first of these meetings will be held in Lisbon. The second meeting should take place in Latin America.
- 2. The topical networks will bring together local communities from the two regions to deal with specific problems. They will give rise to joint projects, which will include exchanges of experts and pilot operations.

The first network will be coordinated by the city of Santiago de Chile and will focus on the topic of "towns and drug problems". It will deal mainly with the role of local communities in the prevention of drug abuse and the reintegration of drug addicts. The seminar which is to launch the network is scheduled for November 1997. The organizers and Commission staff are at present compiling the paper which is to serve as a basis for discussions at this meeting. Towns and local communities which are interested are requested to contact the municipal authorities of Santiago de Chile now:

Mr Carlos Varas
Director for international relations
Alcadía Santiago de Chile
International Relations office
P.O. Box 52
D. Santiago de Chile
Chile

The second network will be coordinated by the town of Vicenza and will have as its topic "the conservation of urban historic contexts". It should take place during the first half of 1998. The name and address of the coordinators of this network will be given in the next information circular.

Calls for expressions of interest in the other six networks will be published in the Official Journal. Three invitations to tender for the setting-up of networks will be issued in the first half of 1997.

#### For further information:

Information circular No 3 will be issued in February 1997 and will contain practical details about participation in the programme. If you wish to subscribe and/or receive further information about URB-AL, please contact the external Secretariat at the address given earlier.

You can also obtain information on URB-AL from the EC Delegations in Latin America and the EC's offices in the countries of the European Union (see addresses attached).

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