



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE GENERAL IB

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

**Latin America Directorate**

Programation and Economic Cooperation Unit



**URB-AL/INFO**



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August 1999

## ***The URB-AL Programme in brief***

### ***Objective:***

*To develop a direct and lasting partnership between local participants in Europe and Latin America*

### ***Activities:***

- *Eight thematic networks of mutual interest offering an ongoing framework for cooperation and giving rise to joint projects cofinanced by the European Commission*
- *Two biennial political and technical meetings between mayors and representatives of towns in Europe and Latin America*

### ***Participants:***

*Towns, conurbations and regions in the European Union and Latin America*

## ***URB-AL thematic networks***

- Network No 1      Drugs and towns
- Network No 2      Conservation of historic urban contexts
- Network No 3      Democracy in towns
- Network No 4      The town as a promoter of economic development
- Network No 5      Urban social policies
- Network No 6      Urban environment
- Network No 7      Management and control of urbanisation
- Network No 8      Control of urban mobility

## Contents

- **EU-Latin America and Caribbean Summit, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**
- **Appointment of coordinators for Networks 6, 7 and 8**
- **Second biennial meeting**
- **Launch of Network No 5 "Urban social policies" coordinated by the Intendencia Municipal of Montevideo (Uruguay)**
- **Network activities**
  - Network No 1: Annual meeting in Santiago - 18 and 19 March 1999
  - Network No 2: Annual meeting in Vicenza - 25 and 26 June 1999
  - Network No 3: Drafting of proposals for joint projects
  - Network No 4: Preparations for the launch seminar (23-25 September 1999)
- **Dates of forthcoming URB-AL Programme activities**
- **Readers' contributions**
  - Follow-up to the "International meeting on housing renovation in historic urban contexts" held in Madrid on 9 and 10 April 1999
  - The Stockholm Challenge
  - *Habitat et participation*
- **Useful addresses**
  - European Commission
  - URB-AL Technical Secretariat
  - Biennial meetings
  - Thematic networks 1 to 8

## EU-Latin America and Caribbean Summit, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

*The first "EU-ALCAR" Summit of Heads of State and Government from the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 28 and 29 June 1999 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and chaired jointly by Mexico, Brazil and Germany. In all, 49 delegations attended the event: 17 from Latin America, 16 from the Caribbean and 15 from the European Union, plus the European Commission delegation.*

*The Summit concluded with a 60-point declaration aimed at strengthening historic, economic and cultural ties between the two regions with a view to a strategic partnership based on common goals such as strengthening democracy, freedom of the individual, the rule of law and international peace.*

*The Summit also agreed to step up political dialogue and economic and financial relations on the basis of far-reaching and balanced liberalisation of goods trade and capital flows, as well as cooperation in the fields of science, technology, culture, human relations, social affairs and education.*

*It set out priorities for action to implement these objectives.*

*The political priority was to work to modernise State apparatus (electoral, judicial, revenue, and budget systems, for example), calling on civil society to cooperate with the public sector in a number of initiatives.*

*On economic and financial issues, the Summit envisaged the setting up of cooperation mechanisms to strengthen*

*financial systems and invited business leaders to create a "business forum". It also proposed a study of current barriers to trade in the way of norms and certification procedures, and the conclusion of customs agreements.*

*The Heads of State also agreed to provide better protection for consumers and to improve the dialogue between the social partners, and promote cooperation programmes with regard to infrastructure.*

*On culture, education, science, technology, social and human relations, the Summit provided for programmes to combat marginalisation, social exclusion and poverty, with encouragement for cooperation at all levels of the education system.*

*The Heads of State also agreed to promote programmes destined to increase the participation of indigenous people in social and economic development programmes and they undertook to foster cultural and linguistic identities.*

*Article 47 of the Rio Declaration expressed continuing support for URB-AL Programme activities.*

*The next EU-ALCAR Summit will be held in the first half of 2002 and chaired by Spain.*

*Taken from DGIB internal newsletter No 19  
May/June 1999*

### Appointment of coordinators for Networks 6, 7 and 8

The European Commission has appointed the following local authorities as coordinators for Networks 6, 7 and 8 of the URB-AL Programme.

Network No 6	Urban environment	Région de Bruxelles-Capitale (Belgium)
Network No 7	Management and control of urbanisation	Municipalidad de Rosario (Argentina)
Network No 8	Control of urban mobility	Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart (Germany)



Towns, conurbations and regions which have not yet joined Networks 6, 7 and 8 and are interested in taking part in their activities can contact the coordinating bodies (see Useful Addresses, p. 14).

With these three, the full complement of eight thematic networks provided for in the URB-AL Programme has now been set up.

### The second biennial meeting

The second biennial meeting of the URB-AL Programme will be organised by the City of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

The theme of the meeting, to be held in June 2000, is urban social integration. All interested local authorities should contact the City of Rio de Janeiro (see Useful Addresses, p. 12).

**Launch of Network No 5, "Urban Social Policies"  
coordinated by the Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo (Uruguay)**

Network No 5, "Urban social policies" launched its activities at a seminar held in Montevideo on 12 and 13 April 1999. Some 240 people from Latin America and Europe attended the seminar, representing numerous local bodies including 54 network members and various national and international organisations and NGOs.

The introductory speeches, made by Mr Mariano Arana, the mayor of Montevideo, and Mr Dieter Oldekop, representing the European Commission, were followed by a detailed presentation of the URB-AL Programme and a presentation of the Network, giving a basic framework for the seminar's work.

The three co-authors of the "basic document" ("Urban social policies at the dawn of the 21st century") in turn presented their findings and analysis of the theme of the network, and went on to chair the plenary debate which followed.

Mr Ruben Kaztman, the Director of CEPAL in Montevideo, spoke on the impact of spatial segregation on unequal societies, based on an exploratory study conducted in Montevideo.

Prior to splitting up into workshops, the coordination team explained how these would operate. The workshops were intended to pinpoint areas for cooperation and identify potential partners with a view to developing joint projects as part of the URB-AL Programme. Five workshops were proposed, on the subject of employment; insecure or irregular accommodation; municipal management and civic participation; health, education and culture, and childhood, youth and old age. The two half-day workshops were extremely productive, generating 20 ideas for projects. The results were presented and debated in the plenary session, before the official closing ceremony chaired jointly by Mr Arana and Mr Oldekop.

Network members must put forward their project proposals to the coordinator by 30 September 1999. The latter will send all the projects to the Commission for possible cofinancing.

All the Montevideo documents for the network (the basic document, membership list, project ideas, etc.) are available on the Network's website: <http://www.montevideo.gub.uy/urbal.htm>.

## Activities of the other thematic networks

### **Annual meeting of Network No 1 "Drugs and towns"**

The Municipality of Santiago de Chile welcomed some 70 participants to its annual meeting on 18 and 19 March 1999.

The main objective of the meeting was to review the network's various activities since its launch in November 1997. It also provided an opportunity to discuss how it was working, and for members to inform one another in more detail on the experience gained by the various municipalities and other organisations involved with regard to drugs problems in towns, and to develop new proposals for joint projects.

The Municipality of Santiago announced that the network now had 88 members among local authorities and 25 associated bodies. At the annual meeting, 35 of the Latin American local authorities were represented. It was unfortunate that only two European members attended.

The discussions were underpinned by a report on the subject drafted by Mr Ibán de Rementería, the expert who drafted the basic document for the network. It dealt with European thinking on how to manage the drug problem, the inadequacy of criminal law with regard to the supply of drugs and the objectives and potential of the "Drugs and towns" network. The report also included extracts from recent international agreements on preventing drug abuse. Copies can be obtained from the network coordinator (see Useful Addresses, p. 13).

The second deadline for sending project proposals to the coordinator of Network No 1 was 30 April 1999. Following this deadline, the European Commission received no proposals for joint projects.

Note that the third and final deadline for sending projects to Santiago de Chile, the network coordinator, is 30 April 2000.

### **Annual meeting of Network No 2 "Conservation of historic urban contexts"**

The annual meeting of Network No 2, "Conservation of historic urban contexts", was held at Vicenza on 25 and 26 June 1999, and coordinated by Mr Franco Pepe, who is responsible for the network.

Ms Manuela Dal Lago, President of the Province of Vicenza, held the introductory speech. She welcomed an audience of over 70, including 37 members of the network from eight countries: Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico. The three experts, who drafted the basic document, Mr Puppi, Mr Errath and Mr Govela, also attended the meeting.

The cultural attaché of the Province of Vicenza, Mr Franzina, reviewed the network's work over the year, and discussed prospects for the future, including new members.

Mr Gabrici, representing the European Commission, spoke about cooperation between the European Union and Latin America, with particular emphasis on decentralised cooperation programmes and the opportunities which the URB-AL programme presented for local authorities. The URB-AL Technical Secretariat ran through the situation of the various thematic networks in the Programme, and gave supplied practical information on how to present new proposals for joint projects

Professor Silvio Castro then gave a talk on the development and current situation of Brazilian cities.

Various participants at the meeting proposed ideas for projects, and five working parties were set up to look at the following subjects: "Harbour towns", "Practical, conceptual and technical difficulties in defining areas of work", "Access to historic town centres", "Accommodation in old town centres" and "Heritage towns and the local area".

Each working party pinpointed new ideas for cooperation, which could result in fresh proposals for joint projects. The proposals must be sent to the Province of Vicenza by 31 October 1999.

The meeting closed with addresses by Mr Franzina and Mr Pepe. The next annual meeting will be held in the second quarter of 2000.



**Network No 3 "Democracy in towns"**

The deadline for members of Network No 3 and their partners to submit proposals for joint projects to the Ville d'Issy-les-Moulineaux, the network coordinator, was 31 July 1999. As usual, Issy-les-Moulineaux will forward the proposals to the European Commission, which will select projects for cofinancing, assisted by the High-Level Technical Committee.

**Network No 4 "The town as a promoter of economic development "**

The seminar to launch the network's activities will be held in Madrid on 23, 24 and 25 September 1999. Some 250 people are expected to attend.

Working parties are currently planned on the following themes:

- Strategic planning as a component of economic development.
- Town planning and infrastructure, heritage.
- Health and the environment as an engine of development.
- Tourism, culture and sport.
- Training and employment.
- Projects for economic development.  
Management, financing and investment.
- Local authorities and their role in urban economic development. Complementarity of public and private initiatives.
- Promoting enterprise: small and medium-sized enterprises. New technologies.

For information on this event, contact the coordination team for Network No 4 or consult the website of the Ayuntamiento de Madrid ([www.munimadrid.es/urbal/html/home.html](http://www.munimadrid.es/urbal/html/home.html)).

**Dates of forthcoming URB-AL Programme activities**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Thematic network</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Activity</b>
31 July 1999	Network No 3 Democracy in towns	Ville d'Issy-les-Moulineaux	Submission of joint projects
23-25 September 1999	Network No 4 The town as a promoter of economic development	Ayuntamiento de Madrid	Launch seminar
30 September 1999	Network No 5 Urban social policies	Intendencia Mun. de Montevideo	Submission of joint projects
31 October 1999	Network No 2 Conservation of historic urban contexts	Provincia de Vicenza	Submission of joint projects

## **Readers' contributions**

- **Follow-up to the "International meeting on housing renovation in historic urban contexts " held in Madrid on 9 and 10 April 1999**

*Article based on a text submitted by Amalia Castro-Rial Garrone, Directora General de Arquitectura y Vivienda, Consejería de Obras Públicas, Urbanismo y Transportes - Comunidad de Madrid (fax +34 91 580 43 96).*

The Community of Madrid organised an International meeting on housing renovation in historic urban contexts in Madrid, on 9 and 10 April 1999. This meeting was attended by some 30 technical experts and politicians, including the person in charge of the URB-AL Programme at the European Commission and representatives of UNESCO and the World Bank.

The discussions focused on three subjects:

- Renovation and housing schemes.
- Financial planning for housing.
- Public and private consultation on public investment in housing.

The theme of the meeting was also illustrated by technical visits to the historic city centre and the Lavapiés quarter, where major regeneration schemes are planned.

The conclusions of the presentations and debates are summarised below.

Since the 1970s, Europe has experienced population drift from city centres, which need to be rehabilitated as indispensable cultural items that provide a link with the historic identity of the city.

All towns have witnessed the main consequences of the abandonment of old town centres: the architectural and residential heritage of the town seriously deteriorates physically; minimum living conditions are often lacking; housing tends to be occupied by economically weak and marginalised population groups; the population ages and the town centre loses its social life, and some housing and neighbourhoods are partially or totally abandoned, which gradually makes them derelict and may encourage a rise in petty crime.

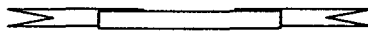
Hence urban renovation schemes can no longer be geared to physically renovating the buildings but must integrate all the town planning, social and economic issues at stake to ensure that such areas are regenerated and revitalised.

Public administrations must acquire the means to familiarise themselves with the situation of the existing population, as well as the causes of the decay of city centres and historic urban contexts.

Collaboration between all the sectors involved is therefore indispensable. One must promote balanced consultation between the public authorities on one side, furnished with normative instruments for the provision of incentives, development and direct action on infrastructure and facilities, and the private sector on the other. This will enable them to put forward solutions with a view to integrated revitalisation of the town.

Public administrations must develop a policy with clear objectives, in a flexible framework coordinating the various competent bodies. They must also encourage civic participation, by creating facilities and granting economic aid to the disadvantaged.

Priority should be given to short-term objectives likely to attract the private sector in. This will enable the objectives of longer-term strategic plans to be tackled with greater creativity, with a view to successful urban renewal and revitalisation.



- **The Stockholm Challenge: an extra opportunity for towns that are members of the URB-AL Programme**

*Article by Valérie Robert – Coordination unit for Network No 3. For further information, consult the Issy-les-Moulineaux (<http://www.issy.com>) or Stockholm Challenge (<http://www.challenge.stockholm.se>) websites.*

The Stockholm Challenge is an annual prize for bringing information and communication technologies within reach of citizens and communities, seeing these technologies not as an end in themselves but as a means.

The four objectives of the prize are:

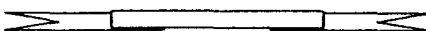
- to highlight the best IT projects conducted by towns;
- to reach at least 100 towns all over the world, with 500 projects divided into 11 categories;
- to build new networks between towns via projects, while reinforcing those already in existence;
- to create social and technological synergies between towns and their populations.

All projects are examined in terms of their impact on the population, society and the environment in the widest sense. The key criterion is therefore what the project brings to citizens and to the various communities. Projects that combat discrimination, promote sexual equality or provide access to information technology for older people and the disabled are particularly welcome.

Projects from the town of Issy-les-Moulineaux were shortlisted in four of the 11 categories, as follows:

- information technology for small and medium-sized businesses;
- information technology in all forms of education;
- public services and democracy;
- ease of access to the Internet.

At the award ceremony on 10 June, Issy-les-Moulineaux was represented, enabling it to promote its activities in Network No 3 of the URB-AL Programme. Projects to be considered for the Stockholm Challenge prize in 2000 must be submitted by October 1999.



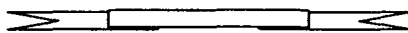
**● Habitat et Participation**

Article by Pascale Thys and Patrick Sénéart - *Habitat et Participation*, asbl, 1 place des Peintres, B- 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve - Belgium Tel.: +32-10-45.06.04 Fax: +32-10-45.65.64 E-mail: Pascale.Thys@euronetbe

This Belgian association, founded in 1982, aims to make public authorities aware of participative practices and to promote the commitment and participation of residents in the decision-making process by means of the following tools:

- studies (for example on rural development and combating social exclusion);
- training – particularly training workers in *quartiers d'initiatives* (who are deprived socially and in town planning terms); updating training notes for elected politicians drafted by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements;
- working through networks – the association is an active member of the Habitat International Coalition and *Dialogue pour le Progrès de l'Humanité* (the HIC, a non-governmental organisation, is in direct touch with grassroots organisations working for the right to housing in over 70 countries, while the DPH is an international contact network represented in over 30 countries);
- running the *Maison de la Participation* for the City of Brussels, a service designed to organise popular participation in the commune (public meetings, and raising awareness of the commune's projects).

The association was represented at the launch seminar of Network No 3, "Democracy and towns", and is open to proposals for collaboration. It has submitted several project ideas to the town coordinating the network, such as publishing the participative budget for Belgian elected politicians, and arranging exchanges of experience between elected politicians from Europe and Latin America; conducting trainer-training exercises among elected politicians; carrying out a study of actions to combat social exclusion, and organising an exhibition of housing conducive to fostering intergenerational encounters.



## **Useful addresses**

### **General information**

**European Commission**  
**Directorate General IB: External Relations**  
 Latin America Directorate - Unit IB/B/4  
 URB-AL Programme  
 Rue de la Loi, 200 (Office CHAR 4/235)  
 B-1049 Brussels - Belgium  
 Tel.: +32 2 295 12 29  
 Fax: +32 2 299 39 41

**URB-AL Technical Secretariat**  
 Avenue de Broqueville, 116 - Bte 9  
 B-1200 Brussels - Belgium  
 Tel.: +32 2 775 93 00  
 Fax: +32 2 775 93 09  
 secretariat@urb-al.com

**WEBSITE**  
<http://www.urb-al.com>

### **Biennial meetings**

**First Biennial Meeting**  
**Coordinator: Lisbon City Hall**

Ms Cristina Rocha  
 Directora do Gabinete de Relações Internacionais  
 Departamento de Apoio à Gestão  
 e Actividade Institucional  
 Câmara Municipal de Lisboa  
 Rua do Ouro 49 - 4º Piso  
 P-1100 Lisboa (Portugal)  
 Tel.: +351 1 3227366  
 Fax: +351 1 3227009  
 griii@mail.cm-lisboa.pt  
<http://www.cm-lisboa.pt>

**Second Biennial Meeting**  
**Coordinator: City of Rio de Janeiro**

Sr. Cláudio García de Souza  
 Coordenador  
 Prefeitura da Cidade do Rio de Janeiro  
 Relações Internacionais e Cerimonial  
 Palacio da Cidade  
 Rua São Clemente, 360 - Botafoga  
 22260-000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ (Brasil)  
 Tel.: +55 21 2862239/2861045  
 Fax: +55 21 2869246  
 cgsouza@pcrj.rj.gov.br

## **Thematic networks 1 to 8**

### **Network No 1 "Drugs and towns"**

**Coordinator: Municipalidad de Santiago de Chile**

Sr. Carlos Varas

Director para las Relaciones Internacionales

Alcaldía de Santiago de Chile

Programa URB-AL - Red n° 1

Plaza de Armas s/n, Casilla 52-D

Santiago / Chile

Tel.: +56 2 6392691

Fax: +56 2 6321962

stgoint@reuna.cl

<http://www.urb-al.cl>

### **Network No 2 "Conservation of historic urban contexts"**

**Coordinator: Provincia de Vicenza**

Dott. Franco Pepe

Capo di Gabinetto

Amministrazione Provinciale di Vicenza

Programma URB-AL - Rete n° 2

Contrà Gazzolle, 1

I-36100 Vicenza (Italia)

Tel.: +39 0444 399208

Fax: +39 0444 327825

[urb-al.rete2@provincia.vicenza.it](mailto:urb-al.rete2@provincia.vicenza.it)

<http://www.urb-al.net/rete2>

### **Network No 3 "Democracy in towns"**

**Coordinator: Ville d'Issy-Les-Moulineaux**

Mme Marie Virapatirin

URB-AL Programme - Network No 3

Hôtel de Ville - Bureau de la Coordination

62, rue du Général Leclerc

F-92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux (France)

Tel.: +33 1 40957920 & 40956772

Fax: +33 1 40959725

[urb-al@wanadoo.fr](mailto:urb-al@wanadoo.fr)

<http://www.issy.com/urb-al>

### **Network No 4 "The town as a promoter of economic development"**

**Coordinator: Ayuntamiento de Madrid**

Sra. Mercedes de la Merced Monge

Tercer Teniente de Alcalde

Ayuntamiento de Madrid

Programa URB-AL - Red n° 4

Calle Mayor n° 72 - 1°

E-28005 Madrid (España)

Tel.: +34 91 588 13 82

Fax: +34 91 588 17 52

[merced@munimadrid.es](mailto:merced@munimadrid.es)

<http://www.munimadrid.es/urbal/html/home.html>

**Network No 5 "Urban social policies"****Coordinator: Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo**

Sra Belela Herrera

Directora de Cooperación y Relaciones Internacionales

Oficina de coordinación de la red n° 5

Programme URB-AL

Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo

18 de Julio 1360 - Piso 25

11200 Montevideo (Uruguay)

Tel.: +598 2 901 40 80 or 908 64 22

Fax: +598 2 908 23 08

red5@piso9.imm.gub.uy

<http://montevideo.gub.uy/urbal.htm>**Network No 6 "Urban environment"****Coordinator: Région de Bruxelles-Capitale**

M. Pierre Reniers

Attaché

Programme URB-AL - Network No 6

rue du Prétoire, 30

B-1070 Bruxelles (Belgique)

Tel.: +32 2 517 12 00

Fax: +32 2 511 94 42

**Network No 7 "Management and control of urbanisation"****Coordinator: Intendencia Municipal de Rosario**

Ing. Roberto Miguel Lifschitz

Secretario General

Programa URB-AL - Red n° 7

Buenos Aires 711

2000 Rosario (Argentina)

Tel: +54 341 4802442 / 4802317 / 4802318

Fax: +54 341 4802360 / 4802320

sec\_gral@rosario.gov.ar

**Network No 8 "Control of urban mobility"****Coordinator: City of Stuttgart**

Ing. Wolfgang Forderer

URB-AL Programm - Netz Nr. 8

Rathaus, Markplatz 1

D-70173 Stuttgart (Deutschland)

Tel: +49 711 216 2675

Fax: +49 711 216 3088

wolfgang.forderer@stuttgart.de

**New address from September 1999**

Nadlerstraße, 4

D-70173 Stuttgart (Deutschland)

Tel: +49 711 216 87 99 or 216 87 98

Fax: +49 711 216 87 97

wolfgang.forderer@stuttgart.de



## Offices of the European Commission in the Member States Delegations of the European Commission in Latin America

### Vertretung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Zitelmannstraße 22  
D - 53113 Bonn  
Tel: +49 228 530 09-0  
Fax: +49 228 530 09-50

### Vertretung in der BRD in Berlin

Kurfürstendamm 102  
D - 10711 Berlin  
Tel: +49 30 896 09 30  
Fax: +49 30 892 20 59

### Vertretung in der BDR in München

Erhardtstraße 27  
D - 80331 München  
Tel: +49 89 202 10 11  
Fax: +49 89 202 10 15

### Vertretung in Österreich

Kärtner Ring 5-7  
A - 1010 Wien  
Tel: +43 1 516 18-0  
Fax: +43 1 513 42 25

### Bureau en Belgique/In België

Rue Archimède/Archimedesstraat, 73  
B - 1000 Bruxelles/Brussel  
Tel: +32 2 295 38 44  
Fax: +32 2 295 01 66

### Repræsentation i Danmark

Højbrohus, Østergade 61  
Postbox 144  
DK - 1004 København K  
Tel: +45 33 14 41 40  
Fax: +45 33 11 12 03

### Representación en España

Paseo de la Castellana, 46  
E - 28046 Madrid  
Tel: +34 91 431 57 11  
Fax: +34 91 576 03 87

### Representación en Barcelona

Edificio Atlántico  
Av. Diagonal, 407 bis, planta 18  
E - 08008 Barcelona  
Tel: +34-93 415 81 77  
Fax: +34-93 415 63 11

### Suomen edustusto

Pohjoisesplanadi 31  
Postbox 1250  
FIN - 00101 Helsinki  
Tel: +358 9 622 65 44  
Fax: +358 9 65 67 28

### Représentation en France

288 Bd Saint-Germain  
F - 75007 Paris  
Tel: +33 1 40 63 38 00

Fax: +33 1 45 56 94 17/18/19

### Bureau à Marseille

2 rue Henri-Barbusse (CMCI)  
F - 13241 Marseille Cedex 01  
Tel: +33 4 91 91 46 00  
Fax: +33 4 91 90 98 07

### Γραφείο στην Ελλάδα

2 Vassilissis Sofias  
GR-10674 Athina  
Tel: +30 1 725 10 00  
Fax: +30 1 724 46 20

### Representation in Ireland

39 Molesworth Street  
IRL - Dublin 2  
Tel: +353 1 662 51 13  
Fax: +353 1 662 51 18

### Rappresentanza in Italia

Via Poli 29  
I - 00187 Roma  
Tel: +39 6 699 991  
Fax: +39 6 679 16 58, 679 36 52

### Ufficio di Milano

Corso Magenta 59  
I - 20123 Milano  
Tel: +39 2 467 51 41  
Fax: +39 2 480 12 535

### Représentation au Luxembourg

Bâtiment Jean Monnet  
rue Alcide De Gasperi  
L - 2920 Luxembourg  
Tel: +352 43 01-1  
Fax: +352 43 01-344 33

### Bureau in Nederland

Korte Vijverberg 5  
NL - 2513 AB Den Haag  
Postbus 30465  
NL - 2500 GL Den Haag  
Tel: +31 70 346 93 26  
Fax: +31 70 364 66 19

### Gabinete em Portugal

Centro Europeu Jean Monnet  
Largo Jean Monnet 1-10°  
P - 1200 Lisboa  
Tel: +351 1 350 98 00  
Fax: +351 1 350 98 01/2/3

### Representation in United Kingdom

Jean Monnet House  
8 Storey's Gate  
U.K. - London SW1P 3AT  
Tel: +44 171 973 19 92  
Fax: +44 171 9731900/9731910

### Representation in Northern Ireland

Windsor House  
9/15 Bedford Street  
U.K. - Belfast BT2 7EG  
Tel: +44 1232 24 07 08  
Fax: +44 1232 24 82 41

### Representation in Wales

4, Cathedral Road  
U.K. - Cardiff CF1 9SG  
Tel: +44 1222 37 16 31  
Fax: +44 1222 39 54 89

### Representation in Scotland

9 Alva Street  
U.K. - Edinburgh EH2 4PH  
Tel: +44 131 225 20 58  
Fax: +44 131 226 41 05

### Delegation i Sverige

Nybrogatan 11  
P.O. Box 7323  
S - 10390 Stockholm  
Tel: +46 8 562 444 11  
Fax: +46 8 562 444 12

### Argentina

Ayacucho 1537 - 1112 Buenos Aires  
Casilla de Correo 2892 - 1000 Buenos Aires  
Tel: +54 1 805 37 59/61/63/70  
Fax: +54 1 801 15 94

### Bolivia

Sanchez Lima 2440 - La Paz  
Casilla 10 747 - La Paz  
Tel: +59 12 41 00 88/41 01 55  
Fax: +59 12 41 40 89

### Brasil

QI 07, Bloco "A", Lago Sul  
70485-901 Brasilia - D.F.  
Tel: +55 61 248 31 22  
Fax: +55 61 248 07 00

### Chile

Av. Américo Vespucio Sur 1835 - Santiago 9  
Casilla 10093 - Santiago 9  
Tel: +56 2 206 02 67  
Fax: +56 2 228 25 71

### Colombia/Ecuador

Calle 97 n° 22-44 - Santafé de Bogotá  
AP Aéreo 94046, 114 - Santafé de Bogotá 8  
Tel: +57 1 621 60 43/236 90 40  
Fax: +57 1 610 00 59

### Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Panamá

Ofi plaza del Este, Edificio D, 3er Piso de la  
Rotonda de la Bandera, 50 mts oeste  
Apartado 836, 1007 Centro Colón - San José  
Tel: +506 283 29 59  
Fax: +506 283 29 60/1

### Guatemala

14 Calle 3-51, Zona 10, Edificio Murano,  
Nivel 14 OF.1401 - Ciudad de Guatemala  
Tel: +502 3665812/14  
Fax: +502 3665816

### México

Paseo de la Reforma 1675  
Lomas de Chapultepec  
C.P. 11001 México D.F.  
Tel: +52 5 540 33 45/6/7  
Fax: +52 5 540 65 64

### Nicaragua

De Plaza el Sol una cuadra al sur, una y  
media abajo, Managua  
Apartado postal 2654  
Tel: +505 270 44 99  
Fax: +505 270 44 84

### Perú

Manuel Gonzáles Olaechea 247  
San Isidro - Lima 27  
Casilla 180 792 - Lima 18  
Tel: +51 1 221 80 91/71 89/81 86  
Fax: +51 1 422 87 78/221 64 64

### Uruguay/Paraguay

Boulevard Artigas 1257 - Montevideo  
Tel: +598 2 400 75 80  
Fax: +598 2 401 20 08

### Venezuela

Edificio Comisión Europea, Avenida Orinoco,  
Las Mercedes, Caracas  
Tel: +58 2 91 5398/5133/5966  
Fax: +58 2 918876 / 993 55 73



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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Directorate General IB: External Relations  
Directorate for Latin America  
URB-AL programme  
rue de la Loi, 200  
B-1049 Brussels