



NETWORK OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS
CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES

PRESS RELEASE

29 September 2009

Ref: CRPMCOM090058

NRG4SD IN LOS ANGELES FOR THE SECOND GOVERNORS' GLOBAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

At the invitation of the Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Welsh Assembly Government Environment Minister Jane Davidson and Brittany Region Vice-President Christian Guyonvarc'h - in their roles as **nrg4SD** Co-Chair and European Focal Point Co-ordinator - will be representing the network at the second **Governors' Global Climate Summit** in Los Angeles, from 30th September to 2nd October.

Nrg4SD (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development) was set up during the Johannesburg Summit in 2002 and is the only global network devoted to promoting sustainable development. It has the unique feature of being governed jointly between the North and the South and is currently chaired by Wales and the State of Sao Paulo.

The Los Angeles Summit follows on from the first World Summit of Regions organised in Saint-Malo (Brittany) on 28 and 29 October 2008, which provided a platform for launching regional North/South initiatives in partnership with the United Nations agencies (UNDP and UNEP) and with the support of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR).

As Christian Guyonvarc'h underlines, the Los Angeles Summit will provide *"an opportunity to consolidate the role regional governments need to play in the Copenhagen talks. We have already secured the support of the African Group of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) for a territorial approach to tackling climate change. This has allowed us to introduce regional action into the texts that are currently being negotiated. I am very keen for the European Union to back this initiative aimed at acknowledging the role of sub-national governments."*

Ms Davidson stressed the Regions' responsibility and effectiveness in the face of climate change: *"The **UN Development Programme** and the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change consider that 50 to 80% of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and almost 100% of adaptation measures are implemented below UN member level – by regional and local government at sub-national level. Commitments made in Copenhagen will not be delivered unless there is a strong mobilisation of regional and local governments. It is therefore necessary for their role to be recognised by the highest level in order for them to take action accordingly."*

Prior to the Copenhagen conference, where nrg4SD will be present, the network will be taking part in preparatory meetings, including key discussions in Barcelona from 2nd to 6th November. The network will present its action at a meeting of regions in Brussels on 13th October to raise awareness among European Regions of the issues at stake in Copenhagen.

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