



NETWORK OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS  
CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES

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### UN BACKS THE REGIONS IN TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

**Christian Guyonvarc'h**, Vice-President of the Regional Council of Brittany in charge of European and International Affairs, attended the *2<sup>nd</sup> Governors Global Climate Summit* in Los Angeles from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October hosted by the Governor of California, **Arnold Schwarzenegger**. He was officially representing Jean-Yves Le Drian, Vice-President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and President of the Regional Council of Brittany, who will be meeting with the Governor of California on 15<sup>th</sup> December in Copenhagen at the *Inter-governmental Climate Conference*.

Christian Guyonvarc'h was also representing the international Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development ([nrg4SD](#)), of which he is Vice-President for Europe, together with the network's Co-Chair, the Welsh Minister for Sustainable Development, **Jane Davidson**.

Coming after the *1st World Summit of Regions on Climate Change* that Brittany organised in association with the CPMR on behalf of nrg4SD in Saint-Malo in October 2008, the Los Angeles meeting has confirmed governments' commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting territories to the already inevitable consequences of global warming. In Los Angeles, the Regions showed that many concrete policies have been introduced at their level, including protection of ecosystems, renewable energy production, energy efficiency in buildings, switching to and developing clean energy sources for public transport networks, changes to crop farming and public information and awareness campaigns.

During the Summit, **Olav Kjørven**, Assistant to the UN Secretary General and Director of Development Policy at UNDP, revealed that in Copenhagen **Ban Ki-Moon** would be defending the role of the regions in worldwide efforts to tackle global warming. Olav Kjørven also welcomed the pioneering role of the African Union States, represented in Los Angeles by the Algerian Minister, **Cherif Rahmani**, which have agreed to support the recognition of the role of the regions in Copenhagen. "*The 21<sup>st</sup> century will be the century where public action is delivered at grassroots level. It will therefore be the century of regions and cities,*" stated the Algerian Minister.

Christian Guyonvarc'h also held talks with the First Minister of Quebec, **Jean Charest**, who confirmed that at an official meeting in Matignon on 1<sup>st</sup> July, the French Prime Minister, François Fillon, had undertaken to support the principle of acknowledging the role the regions play in tackling climate change and to ask the European Union to do likewise.

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