

Press file European Neighbours' Day Tuesday 26 May 2009

Press contacts :

Jean-Philippe Lecocq

Presse écrite : Solen Briand - + 33(0)6 18 28 56 26 sbriand@profilepr.fr

TV / Radios : Séverine Randjélovic - + 33(0) 6 18 28 55 51 srandjelovic@profilepr.fr

Contact European Federation of Local Solidarity

Atanase Perifan - +33 (0)6 20 63 34 10 – atanase.perifan@european-neighbours-day.eu

Christel Rathle - + 33(1).42.12.72.72 - christel.rathle@european-neighbours-day.eu



Editorial

In its 10 years of existence, Neighbours' Day has proved to be a fantastic success, going way beyond French horizons to become the greatest European citizen event. Good humour, wonderful encounters and togetherness, joyful laughter and happiness are everywhere. Well done, all of you participants out there! And for those of you who haven't enjoyed the event yet, just contact us or visit our website to know more.

With the upcoming European elections, 2009 is going to be an important year for Europe. Let's make this fantastic event the occasion to celebrate together the spirit of conviviality and solidarity that are so dear to us!

Atanase PERIFAN
E.F.L.S. President
Founder-Creator of Neighbours' Day



HOW TO ORGANISE NEIGHBOURS' DAY CELEBRATIONS

Organising this event is extremely straightforward. You don't need any special skills, just a pinch of generosity and a dash of enthusiasm!

- 1: Find a venue**, such as a courtyard, a garden, the entrance hall of a building or a suitable pavement if there is nothing else available! The important thing is that access should be easy and the venue should be a good meeting place for people from several different houses or buildings.
- 2: Advertise!** It's easy to let your neighbours know about the event – posters and invitations are available to download from the website in a wide variety of languages www.european-neighbours-day.eu
- 3: Stick a poster up** in the entrance hall of the building displaying the name, time, venue of the event and inviting participants to bring along a selection of different European dishes! Then pop invitations into your neighbours' letter boxes and under their doormats. Invite your neighbours to come along and join in...
- 4: Stimulate, familiarize and bring together** your friends, your neighbours, the caretaker of your building, your tenants' and owners' association ... making sure you don't forget anyone!

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Stockholm (Sweden)

Neighbours' Day Decked Out in European Colours!

Since the very beginning, Neighbours' Day has constantly expanded throughout Europe and beyond.

The most recent edition brought together over **8 million neighbours in more than 29 countries throughout the world, including 20 in Europe.**

Neighbours' Day is a wonderful opportunity to get to know neighbours, to share together and simply just "be" together; a way to positively change our social behaviour whilst enjoying a drink or a meal together...

With European elections taking place from 4 to 7 June 2009, the European Parliament has initiated a partnership with Neighbours' Day, to favour the spirit of conviviality and solidarity and to make participants aware of this major democratic date.

This association is a key opportunity for all Europeans to take part in the construction of a united Europe, one which is fundamentally more accessible and more charitable!

On **Tuesday 26 May 2009**, everyone is invited, once again, to joyfully and unitedly celebrate "better living together"!

So, note it down... Tuesday 26 May...



A Few Key Neighbours' Day Figures...

First Neighbours' Day in Paris in **2000**

European Neighbours' Day launch in **2004**

In **2008**

8 million participants

29 countries (20 UE countries)

2009 objective: 9 million participants

A Few Fabulous Celebration Initiatives

In France, Euro-MPs Join In the Party

European MPs are invited to join in Neighbours' Day celebrations to meet and share with local inhabitants and to trigger discussions and debates on subjects of concern for the participants.



It is also the opportunity to explain to the inhabitants how decisions taken in the European Parliament can directly influence their daily life, in their district, and even in their apartment buildings.

A New European Capital: Nicosia (Cyprus)

Enchanted by the Neighbours' Day concept, the House of Europe in Nicosia successfully convinced the local city authorities to join in the adventure! This day will also be organised by the European Parliament Office in Cyprus.



The European "Friendly & Cohesive City" Diploma

Since 2004, around 80 towns, cities and social housing associations have been awarded with the **"European Neighbours' Day" diploma, incorporating the "Friendly & Cohesive City" label.**

This year, a dozen partners, including Chemnitz, Nicosia, St Etienne, La Ciotat, Vienna, Odessa, Wroclaw, etc. shall receive this diploma, which will be presented to them by Atanase Périfan, President-Founder of EFLS.



Diploma Award Ceremony Mayor of Dublin, May 2008

Neighbours' Day Dedicated to Town-Twinning

This year, during the Neighbours' Day celebrations, **the town of Chemnitz is inviting its twin-towns to come along and share their experiences** on the topic of social services helping disadvantaged people. Guests will include, notably, Zuzana Kailovà, mayor of Usti (Czech Republic) and Christine Eckert, deputy mayor of Mulhouse (France).

On the agenda: **visiting the town hall social services centres**, sharing and discussing ongoing sustainable development projects, and finally, **individual delegations presenting Neighbours' Day celebrations for their home towns.** And in the evening, everyone will join together with the inhabitants of the "Sonneberg" district to celebrate Neighbours' Day.

Liverpool: A Gigantic European-themed Feast



This year the former European Capital of Culture for 2008 is continuing its efforts with European Neighbours' Day and extending the reach of events to **all the social landlords in the city.**

Liverpool has approximately 30% of its housing stock as social housing and so the involvement of the Housing Associations is crucial to the success of END. We are also contacting every tenant and resident group in an effort to get as many organisations on board as possible. **The highlight of the events this year is likely to be the free European lunch** which we are hosting in one of the public squares in the city centre on 26th May, the army are doing the cooking and **5 top city chefs are preparing meals with a European theme to celebrate the day.**

An Ever-Expanding Network in Europe...

European Neighbours' Day is an event coordinated by the **European Federation of Local Solidarity (E.F.L.S)**

❖ **Its objective:** promote European Neighbours' Day, create local solidarity networks, encourage exchanges on neighbourly and community practices.

❖ **They continue to participate:**

Thanks to the support of an increasing number of cities, housing associations and local NGO's, Neighbours' day will be this year again celebrated in a lot of countries:

- In the European Union

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, United Kindgom, Slovaquia, Spain, Sweden.

- In the rest of Europe:

Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine.



FOCUS ON...: Luxembourg

The EFLS continues to strengthen its organization in Europe with the creation of the Luxembourg Local Solidarities Association, launched on 9 March 2009.

Its aim: ensure the coordination and organization of Neighbours' Day celebrations and develop and support other local solidarity initiatives.

www.Fetedesvoisins.lu - www.napochfest.lu

Luxembourg Neighbours' Day Timeline

- ⇒ **2005:** 1st Neighbours' Day in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- ⇒ **2008:** 19 towns and communes participate (representing 44.64% of the total Luxembourg population), 1 social housing association.



NEW FOR 2009!

The EFLS has launched an **intranet for all its partners, devoted to sharing local solidarity experiences and best practices.**

Plus, view the full list of European Neighbours' Day partner towns, cities and social housing associations on www.european-neighbours-day.eu

And Worldwide...

Neighbours' Day continues to enchant the world! Japan, Quebec, Taiwan... Everyone is delighted with the adventure and wishes to continue the celebrations. To offer all organizers the opportunity to share experiences, the EFLS has created a new web portal www.world-neighbours-day.org. From the USA to Japan, from Australia to Europe, you can now find out all the details, all the news of Neighbours' Day celebrations throughout the world!

In Japan: Drawing on its successful launch in Tokyo and Kobe in 2008 (22 celebratory venues listed), the organizers have decided to create a local association, "Rynjin Matsuri", whose key objective is to encourage Neighbours' Day in all towns and cities throughout Japan. This year, celebrations will take place in over 22 towns on Saturday 23 May. More information on www.rinjinmatsuri.jp

la fête voisins
隣人祭り



In Taiwan: Three years after the first celebrations in Taiwan, the organizers are more motivated than ever! *"After the political turmoil in Taiwan and economic chaos of the world, we should face our homes and neighbours who are the essential factors and perpetual value of our life. Let's Neighbours' Day, break down the wall, together we can make a change!"* Jay Fang, The Green Consumer Foundation, Taiwan



December 2008: During a trip to Japan, Atanase Périfan awarded the mayor of Tchiyoda (Tokyo) with the "Friendly & Cohesive City" diploma

In Canada: In 2008, around 160 municipalities, districts and local associations registered with the Quebec Healthy Cities and Towns Network (R.Q.V.V.S), organizer of the Quebec Neighbours' Day. Over 1,500 events were held throughout Quebec and more than 75,000 participants of all ages and all cultures celebrated. The Federal Government is currently discussing the idea of developing Neighbours' Day in other Canadian provinces.



Neighbours' Day is also...

In Australia: "Neighbour day, The community you want starts at your front door" Every last Saturday in March, Australians are invited to go and greet and meet their neighbours and to make a special effort towards people living alone in their street or in their district
6 years after its first celebrations, the widely-publicized Melbourne Neighbours' Day has been given the official support of the Australian Prime Minister.
www.neighbourday.org

In the USA: "Your day, Your way!"
Following urban violence, "Neighbor Day" was launched in Rhode Island in 1993, and will be celebrated this year on 17 May.
In September 2008, the US Senat declared this day a National Day!
www.neighborhoodday.org

They Celebrated Neighbours' Day

Rahmi Tuncer, president of the Turkish Community Training Centre in Brême's Hemelingen district

"In Hemelingen, Neighbours' Day offered us the opportunity to bring together people of different cultures and to get rid of prejudices. A lot of things happen in our district, but people don't know each other and don't know anything whatsoever about their neighbours. A lot of Turkish meeting places exist, where men drink tea and play cards. But there are other things too. Evenings for women, remedial classes, etc. The situation is, however, a lot more difficult for the older Turkish people who have lived in the district for a number of decades. Not so long ago, there was a lot more communication between Turks and Germans. Today, the language barrier and increasing unemployment does nothing to encourage people to meet and share together."



Luisa Sanchez, Spain

"For the third year running, we all got together to celebrate this special event. And I'm very proud to say that the party was really successful, thanks to the great number of participants, the wonderful warm temperatures and the genuine friendship that could be felt everywhere: there was a real harmony between all the apartment building neighbours and the local shopkeepers who came along too. Everyone who took part in European Neighbours' Day is sure and certain of one thing: our numbers are going to swell year after year! "



Geneva - Rue des Confessions Neighbours

"On the agenda: entertainment for kids, sharing different international culinary dishes, a dozen various nationalities and specialities, and, not forgetting, lots of interesting conversations between neighbours who rarely see each other throughout the year. A slight misfortune obliged us to cut the evening short. One of the ground-floor apartments was flooded. But the good thing was that the unfortunate owner was able to count on his neighbours present that evening, to help stop the flood, call the emergency services and throw out the soaking wet objects!"



The Houssière District Committee, Belgium

"We all had a fantastic time last Tuesday celebrating Neighbours' Day 2008. We really want to thank the fifty or so district neighbours who got together and toasted friendship, and tasted the various specialities that were brought along to the party (tarts, tiramisu, sausages, cheese, cakes, pancakes, etc.). Although the sky was heavily overclouded, it was pretty warm outdoors and the rain didn't come and ruin the evening. As planned, our local ice-cream van paid us a visit, and offered delicious ice-cream to both kids and adults alike. Conversations were stimulating and joyful, and no-one had time to be even a little bit bored. We'll all be back for the 2009 Neighbours' Day celebrations... "

What if...We Continued all Year Long with VoisinsSolidaires "Neighbours Together"?

In France today, Neighbours' Day lasts all year long!

The wonderful success of **Neighbours' Day** has stimulated the French "Immeubles en Fête" association to go even further and make the dynamics of friendship and solidarity last all year, by bringing together the population to develop local solidarity actions and activities and best neighbourhood practices daily.

Developed in partnership with the Ministry for Housing, town halls, social landlords and housing associations, this plan, known as "**Neighbours Together**" gives everyone the opportunity to be part of a positive movement for social values.

For more information: www.voisinssolidaires.fr

A Few Key Figures of Solidarity in France...

90% of all people questioned would be ready and willing to regularly offer a helping hand to their neighbours.

94% of all people questioned believe it is essential to develop neighbourhood solidarity.

Technical Details

Survey carried out by the BVA Institute, by telephone on 16 and 17 May 2008, on a sample of 962 people, representative of the French population, aged 18 and over, and based on the quota method (sex, age, profession of the head of the family) using regional and agglomeration-category stratification.



"We are all united neighbours!"

What if your building was suddenly in a festive mood? No more slamming doors or neighbours rushing past with worried, frowning faces... Time for interaction, conversation and friendship! Every year, **Neighbours' Day** provides a fresh start and a chance to break the cycle of indifference.

The **Neighbours Together** program supports and reinforces this positive attitude on a daily basis. It continues to promote **the spirit of mutual help and solidarity** that has been fostered through shared enjoyment, sincerity and happiness. We hope to bring you new ideas of how to be neighbourly to ensure that "**the right place to be is right next door!**"

Atanase PERIFAN
Founder-Creator of
Neighbours' Day



Annexes

- ✘ European Neighbours' Day History
- ✘ Institutional Partners
- ✘ National and Local Partners

European Neighbours' Day history...

1990: Atanase Périfan, Vice Mayor in Paris and a group of friends created the association « Paris d'Amis » ("challenges for friends"). Its slogan was "Pas de quartier pour l'indifférence" – "no quarter for indifference". Its aims were to strengthen community links, develop a feeling of belonging to the same district, create solidarity between neighbours, and take action against isolation and exclusion. "A real challenge!"

1999: Neighbours' Day is launched in Paris 17th district. It was an instant success: 800 buildings took part, mobilising over 10 000 residents

2000: the event went national: 500 000 people celebrated with their neighbours.

2004: the concept is launched in Europe under the name of **European Neighbours' Day**. More than 3.5 million people shared a moment of conviviality;./

In 2005, European Neighbour's Day is celebrated in **more than 450 cities from 16 different countries** . From Dublin to Athens, through Rome, Paris, Birmingham , Lisbon, Luxemburg, Ljubljana, a lot of city councils and housing associations supported **European Neighbours' Day which has become the 1st citizen meeting in Europe.**

In 2008 around **8 million** people took part in Neighbours' Day celebrations with **959 partner** cities and social housing organizations in **29 countries**.



Institutional partners



European Parliament

Neighbours' Day 2009 edition will take place under the high patronage of European Parliament through Mr Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of European Parliament.

«The European Parliament greatly supports all actions which give citizens the opportunity to interact and contribute to greater mutual understanding and solidarity in European cities. I am therefore happy to lend my patronage this year again to your event, which, in the framework of the 2009 European elections, aims to mobilise citizens.»

Hans-Gert PÖTTERING, Président



European Commission

Vladimír ŠPIDLA, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities also granted his patronage.

"Solidarity and proximity occupy a prominent place in the action of this Commission. I myself am very committed in favour of greater social cohesion and inclusion, which are an essential part of any democratic and dynamic society. Your initiative is a concrete example of solidarity and the fight against exclusion, it is therefore without hesitation that I renew my patronage of it."

Vladimir Spidla, Commissioner

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Committee of the Regions

For the third consecutive year, the Committee of the Regions has granted his patronage to European Neighbours' Day.

Through collaboration among citizens, by sharing experiences and being good neighbours, we are working together to forge an even closer and more human European community. It is the simple bonds between friends, families and neighbours which is the source of our vitality and strength.

Collaboration and partnerships are the keys to our shared success, both within our borders and within our neighbourhood. That is why the European Neighbours' Day initiative is so important, it brings us closer together to realise our common aspirations and to build networks of lasting friendships.

Luc VAN DEN BRANDE, President

This event is also supported by :

- CECODHAS, European Committee of Coordination of Social Housing.
- EUROCITIES, the network of major European cities.



National and Local Partners (last update 18/05/2009)

Pays / Country	Raison Sociale/ Organization	Ville / City
ALLEMAGNE / GERMANY	Stadt Frankfurt am Main	Frankfurt Am Main
	Stadt Chemnitz	Chemnitz
	Landeshauptstadt Bremen	Bremen
	Kieler Immobilienverwaltung GmbH	Kiel
	Hallo Nachbar - a Projekt of the Stadtteilgespräch Roderbruch e.v	Hannover
	Stadtverwaltung	Würzburg Am Main
	Entwicklungsgesellschaft Duisburg mBH	Duisburg-Marxloh
	Gesellschaft für Bauen und Wohnen Hannover	Hannover
	Stadt Hildesheim	Hildesheim
	Gesobau AG	Berlin
	Rabenhaus	Berlin
	Stadt Osterholz – Scharmbeck	Osterholz – Scharmbeck
	Quartiersarbeit Eichholz	Sindelfingen
AUTRICHE / AUSTRIA	Stadt Wien	Wien
BELGIQUE / BELGIUM www.immeublesenfete.be	Association Immeubles en Fête - Dag Van de Buren (Coordinateur National) 54 partners – List available upon request	Bruxelles
BULGARIE / BULGARIA	Ville de Bourgas	Bourgas
CHYPRE/ CYPRUS	Maison de l'Europe / Bureau du Parlement Européen à Chypre/ Ville de Nicosie	Nicosie
	Ville de Pano Lefkara	Lefkara

FRANCE www.immeublesenfete.com	Association Immeubles en Fête (Coordinateur National) > 650 partners : list available upon request	Paris
ESPAGNE / SPAIN www.fecovi.ecsocial.com	CONCOVI / FECOVI (Coordinateur National)	Valencia
	Ayuntamiento de Bilbao	Bilbao
	Ayuntamiento de Alboraya	Alboraya
	Ayuntamiento de Catarroja	Catarroja
	Ayuntamiento de Albal	Albal
	Ayuntamiento de Massanassa	Massanassa
	Ayuntamiento de Beniparrel	Beniparrel
	Ayuntamiento de Silla	Silla
	Ayuntamiento de Els Poblets	Els Poblets
	Ayuntamiento de Liria	Liria
	Ayuntamiento de Crespins	Crespins
	Ayuntamiento de Picanya	Picanya
	Ayuntamiento de Horno de Alcedo	Horno de Alcedo
	Ayuntamiento de El Palmar	El Palmar
Ayuntamiento de Xirivella	Xirivella	
ITALIE / ITALY www.federcasa.it	FEDERCASA / ANCI (Coordinateur National) Fête reportée au 12 septembre 2009, liste non communiquée à ce jour)	Rome
IRELANDE / IRELAND	Dublin City Council	Dublin

GRECE / GREECE	Cultural Organisation of Pyrgetos "Proodos"	Trikala
	Ville de Chania	Chania

LETTONIE / LATVIA	City of Riga	Riga
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LUXEMBOURG / LUXEMBURG www.fetedesvoisins.lu www.nopeschfest.lu	Association Luxembourgeoise des Solidarités de Proximité (Coordinateur National)	Ingeldorf
	Ville de Steinsel	Steinsel
	Ville de Mamer	Mamer
	Ville de Hobscheid	Hobscheid
	Ville d'Esch-sur-Alzette	Esch sur Alzette
	Ville de Luxembourg	Luxembourg
	Le Fonds du Logement	Luxembourg
	Commune de Beckerich	Beckerich
	Ville de Differdange	Differdange
	Ville de Dudelange	Dudelange
	Commune d'Hesperange	Hesperange
	Commune d'Hobscheid	Hobscheid
	Commune de Leudelange	Leudelange
	Commune de Mondercange	Mondercange
	Ville de Nordstad	Nordstad
	Commune de Reckange/Mess	Reckange/Mess
Ville de Remich	Remich	
Commune de Rumelange	Rumelange	

PORTUGAL www.vizinhos.eu	Comité Português de Coordenação da Habitação Social (Coordinateur National)	Lisboa
	Câmara municipal Nazaré	Nazaré
	Câmara Municipal da Horta	Açores
	Junta de Freguesia de Belém	Lisboa
	Câmara Municipal de Aveiro	Aveiro
	Junta de Freguesia de S. Estevão	Lisboa
	Gebalis	Lisboa
	Câmara Municipal da Trofa	Trofa
	Câmara Municipal Silves	Silves
	Câmara Municipal Tavira	Tavira
	Câmara Municipal Peso de Régua	Peso de Régua
	Câmara Municipal Castro Marim	Castro Marim
	Câmara Municipal Santarém	Santarém
	Junta de Freguesia S.Francisco Xavier	S.Francisco Xavier
	Junta de Freguesia Monteiras	Monteiras
	Instituto Habitacional de Madeira	Madeira
	EMGHA	Cascais
	SocioHabitaFunchal	Funchal, Madeira
	Câmara Municipal de Coimbra	Coimbra
	Câmara Municipal de Evora	Evora
	Câmara Municipal da Amadora	Amadora
	Junta de Freguesia Azinhal	Azinhal
Junta de Freguesia de Santo André	Santiago do Cacém	
Junta de Freguesia de Altura	Altura	
Câmara Municipal de Setúbal	Setúbal	

POLOGNE / POLAND	Urząd Miasta Łódź	Łódź
	Urząd Miasta Wrocław	Wrocław
	Slaski Związek Gmin i Powiatów	Świętochłowice
	Urząd Miasta Katowice	Katowice
	Urząd Miasta Gdańsk	Gdańsk

PAYS-BAS / NETHERLANDS www.dagvandeburen.nl	LocalPoint (Coordinateur National)	Voorburg
	Gemeente Gouda	Gouda
	Gemeente Alphen aan den Rijn	Alphen Aan Den Rijn
	Gemeente Delft	Delft

ROYAUME-UNI / UNITED-KINGDOM www.housing.org.uk	National Housing Federation (Coordinateur National)	London
	Accord Housing Group	Wesr Bromwich
	Home North West	Whitehaven, Cumbria
	Liverpool London	Liverpool
	Manchester City Council	Manchester
	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council	Newcastle upon Tyne
	Tower Hamlets Community Housing	London
	New Charter Housing Trust Group	Ashton-under-Lyne
	Yorkshire Housing Group	York, North Yorkshire
	New Fylde Housing	St Annes, Lancashire
	York Housing Association	Huntington, city of York
	Somer Community Housing Trust	Bath
	Muir Group Housing Association	Helsby, Chester
	Home Group Limited	South Harrow
	Southway Housing Trust	Manchester
	Muir Group Housing Association	Helsby, Chester
	Housing Hartlepool	Hartlepool
	Gateshead Council	Gateshead
	Cosmopolitan Housing	Liverpool
	Liverpool Housing Trust	Liverpool
	Wirral Partnership Homes	Wirral
Daventry&district Housing	Daventry	
Shoreline Housing Partnership	N.E Lincs	

	New Progress Housing Association	Leyland Lancashire
	Maidstone Housing Trust	Maidstone
	Southern Housing Group	Londres
	Walsall Housing Group	Walsall
	Circle Anglia	Londres
	ROSEVILLE HOUSE FAMILY CENTRE	Belfast
	NH Housing	Dugdale

REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE / CZECH REPUBLIC	Association Svátek sousedu, o.s. (Coordinateur National)	Prague
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ROUMANIE / ROUMANIA	Primaria Municipiului Timisoara	Timis
	Primaria Municipiului Arad	Arad

SUEDE / SWEDEN	Engelbrekt parish of Stockholm	Stockholm
	Jesu Kristi Kyrka av SDH	Stockholm

SLOVAQUIE / SLOVAQUIA	City of Považská Bystrica	Považská Bystrica
	City of Banska Bystrica	Banska Bystrica

HORS UNION EUROPEENNE/ OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN UNION

BOSNIE HERZEGOVINE	City of Mostar / Local Democracy Agency of Mostar	Mostar
CANADA www.fetedesvoisins.qc.ca	Réseau Québécois Villes et Villages en Santé (Coordinateur National)	Québec
CROATIE / CROATIA	City of Dubrovnik	Dubrovnik
JAPON / JAPAN www.rinjinmatsuri.jp	Association RINJIN MATSYRI (Coordinateur National)	Tokyo
NORVEGE / NORWAY	City of Bergen	Bergen
SUISSE / SWITZERLAND www.immeublesenfete.ch	Ville de Genève (Coordinateur National)	Genève
	Ville de Vevey	Vevey
	Municipalité de Nyon	Nyon
	Ville de Gland	Gland
	Ville de Lausanne	Lausanne
	Citta di Lugano	Lugano
	Municipalité de Morges	Morges
	Ville d' Yverdon-les-Bains	Yverdon les Bains
	Ville de Zurich	Zurich
	Ville de Sion	Sion
	Commune du Chêne-Bourg	Chêne-Bourg
	Commune du Chêne-Bourgeries	Chêne-Bourgeries
	Ville de Sierre	Sierre
	Ville de Meyrin	Meyrin
Ville d'Onex	Onex	
Commune du Grand-Saconnex	Le Grand-Saconnex	
UKRAINE	City of Odessa	Odessa
TURQUIE / TURKEY	Ville de Düzce	Düzce
TAIWAN	The Green Consumer's Foundation	Taipei