

# DECLARATION OF VIC

## LOCAL COMMITMENT TO RIO +20:

### TOWARDS GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND GREEN ECONOMY

In its fifteen years of trajectory, the Network of Cities and Towns towards Sustainability has shown a firm conviction for the incorporation of principles of sustainable development at local government level.

Now, when two decades have passed since the Earth Summit of 1992, which inspired the creation of the Network and marked a turning point in the approach to fitting the environment into society, the United Nations has organized the Conference on Sustainable Development, usually known by Rio + 20 for the coming month of June.

The United Nations General Assembly also proclaimed 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, a valuable opportunity to deepen awareness of the importance of increasing access to sustainable energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy at local, regional, national and international levels.

The new planetary reflection occurs at a time of economic instability, a situation to which the principles of sustainability have much to contribute. Indeed, one of the basic objectives of the conference is to promote the green economy in the context of sustainable development: a declaration of principles which confirms that the work carried out so far by the Network of Cities and Towns has gone in the right direction.

Over the last fifteen years, the Network has become a huge place to share and work and very often pioneer in introducing action principles that emanate from the Earth Summit. Local governments have worked to implement policies and actions in their respective areas of sustainability, all of which result in a reduction of the ecological footprint, in the efficient use of resources and, therefore, in laying the foundations for more efficient municipal environmental management.

It is fair to recognize the role represented by local government, with the support of the Barcelona Provincial Council, in implementing the Local Agenda 21, and more recently in the design of energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change policies, under the Covenant of Mayors for Sustainable Local Energy.

Now, with the opportunity for discussion and reflection in the Rio conference and the new Network Strategic Plan 2011-2015 just adopted, bearing in mind the work in Catalonia launched last year aimed at preparing the country's active participation in the Conference, the Network has accepted the challenge to put forward new proposals for action, designed in sync with the above-described framework and criteria set by other institutions. For this reason the members of the Network of Cities and Towns towards Sustainability

## HAVE AGREED TO:

**PROMOTE** local sustainability policies in the conviction of their suitability as a mainstay of local **environmental governance**, and because we understand that they constitute a strategy that fully agrees with the criteria of efficiency and saving of resources applicable to the current economic situation.

**DEVELOP** the maximum potential of the municipalities in all fields of the **green economy** related to sustainable development.

**EXPLORE employment opportunities** related to the field of environmental sustainability in all sectors, traditional and emerging industries: energy efficiency and renewable energy, local water cycle, waste treatment, noise management, environmental communication and responsible consumption.

**ENCOURAGE coordination between local governments, national and supra administrations** in the area of Catalonia, in order to create synergies that produce a net advance in sustainable development and ensure the efficiency of resources invested, financial, human and organizational.

**PROMOTE cooperation with the business sector** to generate opportunities for public-private collaboration in the field of sustainability.

**ENSURE** the contribution of local government to developing policies and actions for **education and training** at all levels of the public, to facilitate the full development of the sustainable and green economy, and support the impulse to actions of research and innovation in sustainability, in order to face future challenges.

**ESTABLISH links with other networks towards sustainability** for common projects and goals, and establish links with social institutions to promote awareness and communication strategies which achieve the involvement of the citizens in implementing local environmental policies.

**SUPPORT national and international agreements with goals** of sustainability and efficient use of resources, and in particular the Covenant of Mayors for Sustainable Local Energy, to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and improving energy accounting.

**PROMOTE networking** at political and technical level, as a reflection and construction of action and, ultimately, as a municipal growth area.

Finally, **WE DECIDED** to present the **Declaration of Vic in the respective local parliaments** before 10 June, to give maximum support to local commitment to Rio +20, and to notify the agreements to the presidency of the Network.

12th Assembly of the Network of Cities and Towns towards Sustainability

Vic, 22 February 2012

**SEVENTY local governments from Barcelona, all of them members of the Network of Cities and Towns towards Sustainability, have approved the Declaration of Vic (13/06/2012)**

1	Ajuntament d'Arenys de Mar
2	Ajuntament d'Artés
3	Ajuntament d'Avià
4	Ajuntament de Badalona
5	Ajuntament de Berga
6	Ajuntament de Bigues i Riells
7	Ajuntament de Calaf
8	Ajuntament de Canet de Mar
9	Ajuntament de Capellades
10	Ajuntament de Castellbell i el Vilar
11	Ajuntament de Castellcir
12	Ajuntament de Castellar del Vallès
13	Ajuntament de Centelles
14	Ajuntament de Cercs
15	Ajuntament de Cornellà de Llobregat
16	Ajuntament d'Esplugues de Llobregat
17	Ajuntament de Figaró-Montmany
18	Ajuntament de Granollers
19	Ajuntament de La Garriga
20	Ajuntament de La Pobla de Claramunt
21	Ajuntament de La Roca del Vallès
22	Ajuntament de Malgrat de Mar
23	Ajuntament de Manlleu
24	Ajuntament de Masies de Voltregà
25	Ajuntament de Mataró
26	Ajuntament de Mollet del Vallès
27	Ajuntament de Montmeló
28	Ajuntament d'Òdena
29	Ajuntament de Roda de Ter
30	Ajuntament de Sant Adrià de Besòs
31	Ajuntament de Sant Andreu de la Barca
32	Ajuntament de Sant Boi de Llobregat
33	Ajuntament de Sant Celoni
34	Ajuntament de Sant Cugat del Vallès
35	Ajuntament de Sant Cugat Sesgarrigues
36	Ajuntament de Sant Martí Sesgueioles
37	Ajuntament de Sant Pere de Torelló

38	Ajuntament de Sant Quirze de Besora
39	Ajuntament de Sant Sadurní d'Anoia
40	Ajuntament de Sant Salvador de Guardiola
41	Ajuntament de Santa Coloma de Cervelló
42	Ajuntament de Santa Coloma de Gramenet
43	Ajuntament de Santa Margarida i els Monjos
44	Ajuntament de Santa Maria de Corcó
45	Ajuntament de Santa Perpètua de Mogoda
46	Ajuntament de la Seu d'Urgell
47	Ajuntament de Súria
48	Ajuntament de Tarragona
49	Ajuntament de Terrassa
50	Ajuntament de Tiana
51	Ajuntament de Torelló
52	Ajuntament de Vacarisses
53	Ajuntament de Vallgorguina
54	Ajuntament de Vallirana
55	Ajuntament de Vallromanes
56	Ajuntament de Vic
57	Ajuntament de Vilassar de Dalt
58	Ajuntament del Papiol
59	Ajuntament de Vilanova i la Geltrú
60	Consell Comarcal del Garraf
61	Ajuntament de L'Hospitalet de Llobregat
62	Ajuntament de LLIçà de Vall
63	Ajuntament de Palau-Solità i Plegamans
64	Ajuntament de Santa Maria de Palautordera
65	Ajuntament de Barcelona (on process)
66	Ajuntament d'Alpens (on process)
67	Ajuntament de Navàs (on process)
68	Ajuntament de Vilafranca del Penedès (on process)
69	Ajuntament d'Alella (on process)
70	Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona (on process)
71	Diputació de Barcelona (on process)