

**INTERNATIONAL EXPERT CONFERENCE**  
**COOL HEADED UNDER THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT! - CLIMATE CHANGE REQUIRES CONSCIOUS ACTIONS**  
**BOLZANO, 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2009**

**WORKSHOP n. 1 – The cities with a neutral CO<sub>2</sub> balance – The case Bolzano (it, de)**

***Speaker:* Wolfram Sparber, Director of Institute for Renewable Energy – EURAC**

***Moderator:* Mita Lapi, Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente**

More than 30 participants from Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland representing Local Governments (decision makers and operators), scientists (researchers and experts) and private persons (users and driving forces of demand) took part to this seminar, which was held as a brainstorming session on practical experiences of environmental sustainability, actively involving all participants.

The Director of the Institute for Renewable Energy of the EURAC, Dr. Wolfram Sparber, gave the introductory speech "Concrete actions towards a climate neutral city - the case of Bolzano" (see the presentation in the documentation on-line). The presentation provided updated information and data about the energy (production and consumption) and environmental (greenhouse gases emissions by sectors and fuels) aspects for some European cities. Moreover, comparison with the expected performances for the city of Bolzano through its "climate covenant" provided cost-effectiveness evaluations of the in action or planned territorial policies to achieve the zero emissions of greenhouse gases.

The following debate was very lively and animated and it had as main theme the strong motivation that "climate change requires conscious action". From Vienna to Milan, from Zurich to Monaco, the participants highlighted the central and crucial role of cities in tackling climate change. The choices of land governance must define a consistent course of concrete actions towards radical city energy rehabilitation.

In the framework of economic and financial crisis, some participants have been emphasized the importance of saving public resources that today are largely wasted due to unsustainable consumptions (especially in transport), low levels of energy efficiency (especially in residential buildings) and the minimum use of available renewable resources (starting from solar and micro hydroelectric). To this aim the use of different technological solutions, consistent incentives and prohibitions, and courageous policies can provide results in the short-medium term, beyond those specified by the European Union in the climate package "20-20-20" and in the following directives.

On the basis of rational choices of land government and new life styles, the climate neutral city is a place where social well-being and quality of life of citizens are prosecuted and secured. And this is the challenge of Bolzano, ambitious, but at the same time concrete, and in part already a real example.