



PRESS RELEASE - Brussels, June 2005

Cities are planning their European Mobility Week 2005

EU initiative finds worldwide momentum
16-22 September 2005

From 16 to 22 September 2005, European cities have the opportunity to participate in the fourth edition of the European Mobility Week (EMW) and invite their citizens to a wide range of activities dedicated to the promotion of sustainable mobility. The central theme for this year is **CLEVER COMMUTING**, which will encourage cities to promote sustainable trips to workplaces and schools in an attempt to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. Registration is now open for all local authorities willing to improve their urban quality of life through the EMW.

The European Mobility Week is an ever increasing initiative launched four years ago and which aims at promoting sustainable urban mobility and raise public awareness on the environmental impacts of current urban mobility trends. It represents an opportunity to encourage citizens to change their travel behaviours and shift to more sustainable modes of transport. The EMW 2005 hopes to catch up with last year's success: 850 cities in 40 countries participated in the campaign.

The European Mobility Week contributes to improving health of European citizens as it focuses on a sector mainly responsible for harmful emissions like particulate matters, contributing to climate change and ground level ozone. The health consequences of transport affect every citizens and this campaign represents an opportunity for local authorities to improve the quality of life of their citizens while preserving their mobility via the introduction of alternatives for the everyday car use.

This initiative, while initially European also finds interest in other parts of the world and it is expected that it will gain a worldwide dimension in the future. Several EMW promotional activities are already being undertaken in South America and Asia where international car free days have been organised last year.

We would like to invite local authorities to participate to this year's EMW. Participating cities should organise a week long of activities related to sustainable mobility as well as the international car free day. Further information on the registration procedure and conditions to fulfil are available on the EMW website.

The European Commissioner for Environment, Stavros Dimas, will launch this year's campaign on 16th of September, during the conference 'Urban Europe 2025 - Sustainable Mobility and Clean Air. Achievable vision!' in London. Experts and decision-makers from all over the world will gather to answer questions on how to tackle the real problems of mobility in cities. Further information will be made available shortly on the EMW website.

For further information:

European Mobility Week website: www.mobilityweek-europe.org

European Info Point: EUROCITIES – Mobility Forum - ACCESS

Valérie Bénard - Tel: + 32 2 552 08 66 - E-mail: v.benard@eurocities.be

Ivo Cré - Tel : +32 2 552 08 75 – Email : i.cre@eurocities.be