ICT FOR A GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

HOW ICT CAN DURABLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELLBEING OF ALL CITIZENS AROUND THE WORLD

International Conference
European Commission - Brussels
January 22-23, 2009

Organized under the aegis of the European Commission

With the support of

and of the PARADISO FP7 project

Today's societies are facing increasingly complex issues, unprecedented in the history of mankind, and serious risks of breakdowns are in sight, as far as environmental, economic and social issues are concerned.

In order to avoid major worldwide crises, industrial, emerging and developing countries will need to agree, sooner or later, on an alternative way forward, based on a true sustainable development, a more sustainable economic growth, more equally shared resources.

What is at stake is durable innovation paths for companies and, ultimately, the wellbeing of all citizens of the world to be measured by new indexes going "beyond GDP".

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) will play a central role in this future, not only because ICT have become in just two decades a key driver of the development of all countries worldwide, but also because ICT can efficiently contribute to the achievement of the revised economic, social and environmental objectives which this future envisages.

Moreover, Europe is undoubtedly well placed to proactively promote this new concept of progress towards a true sustainable future.

It is in this context that the "ICT for a global sustainable future" conference is organised, and aims at giving the opportunity to participants to thoroughly understand and discuss what is at stake and which research areas can be usefully explored in the short and in the longer terms so that appropriate infrastructures, applications and services, based on Information and Communication Technologies, can be available tomorrow for the citizens of the world.

Viviane Reding
Commissioner for Information Society and Media, European Commission

Kofi Annan
Former Secretary-General, United Nations (tbc)

Hamadoun I. Touré
Secretary-General International Telecommunication Union

Jeremy Rifkin
President, Foundation on Economic Trends (tbc)
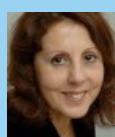
Abdul Waheed Khan
Deputy DG, UNESCO

Vittorio Prodi
Member of the European Parliament

Enrico Giovannini
Director of the Statistic Directorate and Chief statistician, OECD

Anders Wijkman
Member of the European Parliament, Vice-President of the Club of Rome

Maria da Graça Carvalho
Principal Adviser, Bureau of European Policy Advisers, European Commission

Immanuel Wallerstein
Professor, Yale University

Guo Liang
Deputy Director, Center for social development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Bianca Jagger
Executive Committee Chair World Future Council

Frantz Verella
Minister for Public works, Transport and Communications, Haiti

James Leape
Director General, World Wildlife Fund International

Lynn St Amour
President and CEO The Internet Society

Peter Madden
Chief executive Forum for the Future

Michelangelo Pistoletto
Painter and art theorist

Ashok Khosla
President, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Other confirmed contributions (video messages):

Rajendra Pachauri
Nobel Peace Prize, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Amartya Sen
Nobel Economic Prize, Economist and philosopher
Vinton Cerf
VP and Chief Internet evangelist, Google
Yann Arthus-Bertrand
Photographer, Member of Académie des Beaux-Arts (Institut de France)

VENUE

The "ICT for a global sustainable future conference" will take place in the Charlemagne building of the European Commission (room capacity: 450 persons) located 170 rue de la Loi, close to the Berlaymont building of the European Commission (picture) in the central part of Brussels (metro station: Schuman).

REGISTRATION

Registration for this event is free of charge but pre-registration is compulsory due to security rules linked to access into the Charlemagne building. It is highly recommended to register as soon as possible since, due to room capacity constraints, the registration process may be closed prior to the event. Only online registrations (through the event web site: http://www.paradiso-fp7.eu) are accepted and subject to confirmation. Thank you in advance for your kind understanding.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please visit http://www.paradiso-fp7.eu for more detailed information.

CONTACT

At the European Commission:
- *Jacques Babot (jacques.babot@ec.europa.eu)*
- *Fabrizio Sestini (fabrizio.sestini@ec.europa.eu)*

For the PARADISO project:
- *Roger Torrenti (roger.torrenti@paradiso-fp7.eu)*
- *Roland Burger (roland.burger@paradiso-fp7.eu)*

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMME

The event will start on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 10:00am and end on Friday, Jan. 23 at 4:30pm. The first day will be mainly devoted to keynote addresses presented by supporting organisations and contributions from worldwide experts in ICT and societal developments. The second day will focus on "the way forward", will include presentations and discussions related to the "PARADISO reference document" disseminated prior to the event, and will eventually discuss a possible roadmap to efficiently build on event outputs. The detailed event programme is updated on a regular basis on the event web site (http://www.paradiso-fp7.eu).

"The right conference at the right time"