

Invitation for a workshop among national delegates and experts for the SMART CITIES initiative of the SET-Plan

Date: 2nd of December, 2011; from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Venue: Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU; Avenue de Cortenbergh
30, 1040 Brussels, Belgium**

Declared intention:

The interactive workshop provides information on current plans for the future of the Smart Cities Initiative (presented by Christoph Schoser, Acting Head of the Unit at DG Energy of the European Commission) and is intended to elaborate a defined position of the member states within the SMART CITIES and Communities Initiative regarding thematic as well as policy aspects.

Background:

In its Communication "*Energy 2020 – A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy*" the European Commission has identified the Smart Cities Initiative within the SET Plan as a project of European dimension for energy efficiency and for accelerating the large scale deployment of innovative low carbon technologies in urban environments. Therefore, the EC has launched the Smart Cities and Communities Initiative on 21 June 2011 in order to accelerate the transformation of European cities towards Smart Cities. The first calls for proposals have already been launched in July 2011 within FP 7 bringing together European cities from various regions with similar background and ambitions in innovative consortia. In addition to various activities at city level, the EC is about to set up the European Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform which shall serve as an interactive platform for all the relevant stakeholders involved.

In a first meeting on 31 May 2011, Smart Cities delegates and experts from 10 different countries (MS/AS) started an exchange of information on their national activities concerning energy-efficiency in cities, as well as their positions towards the SMART CITIES Initiative. The results of this meeting were inter alia a list of national programmes and projects, a formulated common position towards the EII on Smart Cities and a unanimous interest in further meetings

It is clear that the thorough implementation of the SET Plan Smart Cities and Communities Initiative requires the full commitment and support from European Member States at various scales. As this is an open process, the active contribution at Member States level is highly welcome and therefore we would like to invite you to jointly initiate a European wide process and to discuss and formulate common standpoints related to the Smart Cities and Communities Initiative.

On the following page you find a draft agenda which is intended at allowing you to fly in and out the same day.

Agenda

11:00

Welcome and aims of the Member States Initiative

Hans-Günther Schwarz, Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology

11:15

Current plans and intended roadmap for the future of the SMART CITIES Initiative (+ quick round of questions)

Christoph Schoser, Acting Head of the Unit at DG Energy of the European Commission

11:45

Smart Cities Vision and Concept (+quick round of questions)

Brigitte Bach, Head of Energy Department at Austrian Institute of Technology

12:15

Break-out session 1

Open discussion and group work on Smart Cities activities in the Member States and Associated Countries (a preliminary national screening as proposed on the following page is requested)

13:00

Lunch

13:30

Outcomes of break-out session 1

14:00

Process design for a Smart Cities Member States Initiative (+quick round of questions)

Reinhard Schwarz, Energy Department at Austrian Institute of Technology

14:15

Break-out session 2

Open discussion and group work on targets, objectives, added value, results, etc. of the Smart Cities Member States Initiative

15:00

Outcomes of break-out session 2

15:30

Conclusions and next steps

16:00

End of meeting

For the interactive working-groups the following information material will be needed (a preliminary screening of national Smart Cities activities is requested - if not already collected in the previous meeting in May 2011):

- National programs (calls + projects) on Smart Cities and/or urban energy technologies
- National industry know-how focused on Smart Cities
- Light-house cities: innovative cities with high ambitions and clear visions, demonstration districts, pilot-cities, cities that already have "smart cities character"
- Strategic R&D activities on Smart Cities (universities & RTO's)
- Further national Smart Cities activities (e.g. set-up of technology platform, conferences, etc.)
- National experts + thematic coordinators with profound expertise on Smart Cities

It shall be noted that the concept of Smart Cities embraces the following four key areas in the field of energy:

- 1) Urban energy planning
- 2) Urban energy networks (thermal + electric)
- 3) Energy-efficient interactive buildings
- 4) Urban energy supply technologies

We are looking forward to seeing you and kindly ask that you confirm your attendance by telephone or e-mail.

For registration or further questions, please contact:

Catrin Haider - on behalf of Hans-Günther Schwarz, Austrian Delegate to the Smart Cities EII

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