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PRESS RELEASE

Over 1,000 participants in Biofuel Cities European Partnership, as the stakeholder platform celebrates its first birthday

Freiburg, July 2008 – The launch of the stakeholder platform for the application of biofuels, Biofuel Cities, in July 2007 has raised a huge amount of interest amongst different stakeholder groups, with an impressive 1,010 people registered to date as participants in the European Partnership. The reason for this success lies not only in the numerous useful services and facilities offered by the platform, but also in the increasing public interest in the topic as illustrated by the prevalence of the issue in the media and on political agendas.

One year after its launch, the Biofuel Cities European Partnership, a platform designed for all stakeholders in the area of biofuels for transport, has been offering its participants an increasing range of information and access to numerous activities and resources, encouraging them to engage in dynamic networking and to form new partnerships. Some 340 information resources (e.g. publications, websites, policies) are now accessible on the interactive website, which also provides a Europe-wide directory of 250 projects and activities. Anyone interested in gaining a deeper knowledge about the sector will soon be able to learn 'Who is Who' in the biofuels field and find explanatory answers on frequently asked questions on the issues.

Beyond the array of information on offer, the success of the Partnership can also be explained by the numerous exclusive features provided to the participants, such as easy access to biofuel actors in the EU, a discussion forum and twinning co-operation opportunities. In addition, several workshops organised on important topics, such as the role of biofuel end-users or the local implementation of clean fuels & biofuels policy measures, encouraged participants to exchange and interact with peers and other stakeholders. Two study tours in the cities of Stockholm and Graz also offered opportunities to demonstrate practical examples of biofuel application and learn from good-practice examples.

Building on this success, the Biofuel Cities team is now looking forward to the second half of the project, taking into account the most recent European policy measures on Biofuels, as well as the concerns about the potential risks of biofuel production, which have recently raised media attention and public debate. As a neutral stakeholder platform, Biofuel Cities intends to contribute to the debate on how biofuels can be integrated into the European energy mix and transport solutions in a sustainable manner.

With this long-term vision in mind, further useful materials will become available for Biofuel Cities European Partnership Members. Work is currently being done on compiling a practical **handbook** for the integrated implementation of **Clean Fuel Policies**, as well as a technical **guidance** document on **biofuels and their applications**, which will provide practical information to local fleet owners and fleet operators on facts and experiences with alternative fuels. A **monitoring system** for biofuel projects, in the form of an easy-to-use online tool, will also be available before the end of the year, enabling registered participants to assess their biofuel projects and results.

Help us contribute to driving debate and progress in the biofuel sector. Join the Biofuel Cities European Partnership now!

www.biofuel-cities.eu



Words: 522

Background Information:

The Biofuel Cities European Partnership is a forum for the application of biofuels. Open to all stakeholders in the area of biofuels for vehicles, it offers www.biofuel-cities.eu - a one-stop-shop for information on biofuels application; online facilities, workshops and study tours to exchange and network with your peers and learn from experts; news, publications and tools to provide information, guidance and support.

Biofuel Cities European Partnership participants have full access to all features and participation is free. The Partnership was unofficially launched in July 2007 and more than 1,000 biofuels professionals and other interested stakeholders have already signed up.

The Biofuel Cities European Partnership was created and is managed by the Biofuel Cities project, which aims to demonstrate the broadscale use of new and innovative biofuel technologies. Biofuel Cities covers the complete chain from feedstock to biofuels production, distribution and utilisation in vehicle fleets. The project is co-ordinated by seven partners* that share unique and extensive experiences, not only on biofuels research and application and sustainable mobility, but also on the specific needs of local governments and private enterprise. It is supported by the European Commission under the EU's Sixth Research Framework Programme.

*SenterNovem, Exergia, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, INEM – International Network for Environmental Management, IPiEO – Institute for Fuels and Renewable Energy, NEN – Netherlands Standardisation Institute, VITO - Flemish Institute for Technological Research

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