



**10th Mayors' Summit &
General Assembly Meeting
2 - 3 November 2009
Helsinki (Finland)**

MINUTES

In accordance with article 12 of the statutes of the AISBL "Mayor of the world for a Global Cities Dialogue on the Information Society", relating to the convocation of the General Assembly Meeting "every year, in the second half of the year", Mr. André Santini, Chairman of the network, called a General Assembly Meeting and chaired the event on 2 - 3 November 2009 in the City Hall of Helsinki, Finland, the place where the Global Cities Dialogue was launched ten years ago.



2 November 2009

The tenth anniversary celebration started on the evening of 2nd November 2009 with a welcome address made by **Mr. Pekka SAURI, Deputy Mayor of the City of Helsinki** opening the Gala Dinner in the unique oldest preserved room of the city hall.



Live broadcast with the city of Viña del Mar, Vice chair city for Latin America. The Telepresence system was friendly provided by Cisco.

As Chairman, **Mayor André SANTINI** thanked all members and especially the participating ones for attending the tenth GCD-Summit and for having contributed to the success of the network by sharing their knowledge and expertise over the last decade.

On this special occasion three new members joined the network by signing the Declaration of Helsinki: the Greek cities **Trikala** and **Ana Liossia** and the city of **Bandundu**, Republic of Congo, represented by their respective mayors and representative. Chairman **André Santini** and vice mayor **Pekka Sauri** witnessed the signatory ceremony.



Mayor Christos PAPPOUS,
City of Ano Liossia



Mayor L. Catherine LUSAMBA,
City of Bandundu



Representative of the city of
Trikala, Mr. Odisseas RAPTIS

In the course of the Gala Dinner representatives of GCD-cities were able to convey the best wishes of their mayors to the assembly via the Telepresence system friendly offered by Cisco. On this purpose **Mr Raymond VERSTEEGH**, Business Development Manager for Cisco Systems booked the locations in Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Santiago de Chile (Chile).

On behalf of **Governor Mauricio MACRI**, the Director General of the Agency of Information Systems of the Buenos Aires Government, **Mr Jorge LINSKENS**, gave a short insight on the current situation on Argentinian Information Society issues. Buenos Aires is one the 12 founding members of the GCD-network.



Live broadcast with Buenos Aires

Mr Rodrigo KOPAITIC High Political Representative of the city of Viña del Mar, send to all attendees the greetings of his Mayor **Ms Virginia REGINATO BOZZO** and took the opportunity to share with the members their vision of an Information Society accessible to all citizens.

3 November 2009

Mr Jussi Pajunen, Mayor of the city of Helsinki inaugurated the 10th Mayors' Summit & General Assembly Meeting by addressing a welcome speech to the attendees and by giving a short introduction on Helsinki's state of affairs.

The first Keynote Speech was held by **Mr. Erkki Liikanen**, Governor of the Bank of Finland, who is a former Commissioner of the DG Information Society and Enterprises at the European Commission. He underlined the ways ICT change the organizational behaviour in fields such as investment, re-engineering of working methods, education and training. The productivity growth could be speed up more easily in the private sector than in the public one, because in the first, the competition drives the companies to invest in ICT and adapt to new working methods. He also emphasized the requirements for a successful IT project: focus on activity and not on IT in particular and the quest for immediate results. ICT change the organizational behaviours by spreading information; recruiting the right person; continuous learning and investing in the operational culture. Governor Liikanen referred to the measures to be taken by governments towards the development of the Information Society. After considering the Internet as the modern "electronic power network", governments should digitalize all public sectors, create information services, invest in education, research and development of ICT; In a nutshell: digital solidarity towards the development of the Information and Knowledge Society.

Mr André Santini, Chairman of GCD, started his speech with thanking Mayor Pajunen for the brilliant organisation of the event and for his warm welcome in Helsinki, ten years after the first GCD meeting in this very same city. Mr. Santini also mentioned the meeting at the European Commission who had been organised in 1999 by Mr. Liikanen and his predecessor, Martin Bangemann, for local representatives committed to the Information Society. At that time, just a few mayors had taken part. Since then, GCD has turned into a strong international non-profit association counting almost 200 mayors from all continents, who signed the Helsinki Declaration for a worldwide dialogue of cities on the information society. This document marks the commitment of international local authorities to such a dialogue. This was thanks to this permanent dialogue, during each of our meetings, of our sherpas' meetings or via the Internet and videoconferencing, that we have been developing over the last ten years. As a result, our cities have been changing over the last ten years too.

One of the key supporters of GCD at the European Commission who greatly helped GCD in the first years was Gian Cairoli. Unfortunately, Mr. Cairoli could not make it to the event, but he asked Mr. Santini to read following few lines in his name:

"dear Mr. President, my dear friend,

I would like, by your intermediary, to convey my most cordial greetings and encouragement to continue the GCD initiative to all the members whom I have the pleasure to know, as well as to all other members which joined the GCD recently.

I can perfectly remember of our meeting in spring 1999 following Commissioner Bangemann's will to promote the development of the information society in cities. During this meeting, he asked us to collaborate actively on the GCD initiative and on its drafting, which later gave birth to the Helsinki Declaration.

I can also remember following very well: I have had the idea to invite the mayor of Bamako to the conference of Helsinki and to the first GCD meeting, to make clear for European business people and political leaders the reasons of one of the poorest countries in Africa for being interested in the information and communications technologies.

That was the reason why Mr. N'Diaye, then Mayor of Bamako, left the sun of Mali and landed, somehow confused, in one of the icy and snowy nights of Helsinki. He discovered a new world, of which he immediately seized the potential for its city and its country. Bamako was thus the first African city to join the GCD.

I wish you, Mr. President and all GCD members, to continue the dialogue with the same enthusiasm and confidence in the future we had at the time of our meeting here in Helsinki ten years ago.

Best regards to all,

Giangaleazzo CAIROLI"

Mr. Santini continued his speech by presenting his city, which is a truly digital city. 80% of its population is connected to the Internet by ADSL, cable or FTTH. Numerous companies such as Cisco Systems, Hewlett Packard or, more recently, Microsoft Europe have their headquarters in the city. The head of Microsoft, Steve Ballmer, officially launched its Windows Phone in the sports hall of Issy-les-Moulineaux before inaugurating its brand new headquarters for France, Europe, Africa and the Middle East located in the city. 1,700 new jobs were thus created, as well as a new research centre of the giant of data processing.

Over the last years, the face of Issy has been changing:

- at the beginning of the 1980s, the city could only offer less than 30,000 jobs. Today, the city counts more than 70,000 jobs, mostly in the field of ICT, for 62,000 inhabitants;
- within ten years, the population grew from 52,000 to 62,000 inhabitants, without any staff increase at the town hall, but with more services provided. The ICT helped the city to master this evolution, which is demographically one of the strongest in a French city.

From children to seniors, the entire population profits from a wide range of digital services (such as cyber cribs, cyber living rooms for the elderly, mobile services, seedbed of companies, videoconferencing during summer camps, administrative services on line, local e-Democracy, etc). Thanks to this spirit of innovation, Issy is widely considered a cutting-edge city.

Finally, Mr. Santini presented some of the issues in which Issy has been particularly innovative since the General Assembly Meeting 2008 in Lyon:

- digital platform of dialogue between the inhabitants and city officials: i-Folio.fr;
- opening of an account on Twitter, which allows registered people to receive information on local events;
- development of a game on local finances for young children;
- testing, at the request of the government, the on line inscription of electoral rolls;
- transfer of our telephone system on a IP platform Internet Protocol);

- opening of a new media library equipped with about fifty connected computers, WiFi and an automat for the loan of documents;
- authorising a new school, the school of the Carthusian monks, to be selected in the international program of Microsoft "innovating School";
- launch this month of a new service of payment for parking via the Internet and mobile phone.

Mr. Santini's approach has always been pragmatic. It takes into consideration his conviction, shared with you, that the cities have a crucial role to play in the development of the information society. More than half of the world population lives in cities today. This is four times more than one century ago.

Following Mr. Santini's speech, **Dr. Takao Shiino**, on behalf of the network GBDe, presented in his function as vice-Chairman, the topic "Using the Ubiquitous Network to Achieve a Sustainable Society", and emphasized the importance of ICT and mobile green services in the 21st century. In recent years, increasing importance has been given to the realisation of a "sustainable society". Dr Shiino proposed an "Eco-Ubiquitous Network Society" as a realization of Sustainable Society. A successful example of this function is the "Velib" bicycle sharing system, which has been in operation in Paris since 2007. In order to create such an eco-ubiquitous network society, industries, governments and consumers should improve their accountability, open up to sharable work and move to collaborative and coordinated model in supply chain across industry sector.

Report from the Vice Chair city for the Region

Africa: City of Rufisque, Senegal

The vice mayor of Rufisque, Mr Meissa Beye, conveyed the greetings of Mayor Badara Mamaya Sene to the Chairman and the assembly as due to his domestic agenda, he could not attend the meeting. He expressed the mayor's contentment regarding the activities undertaken by Rufisque in the ICT field until now and talked about the establishment of a geographical ICT data base for preserving the Senegalese cultural heritage and the development of the mobile services, to give access to the citizens via WiFi and thus to reduce the digital divide. Also on this purpose he introduced the city of Fatick located in Senegal: the Mayor Macky Sall expressed in his letter his firm intention to join the GCD network and his will to sign the Helsinki Declaration during an upcoming GCD-event as unfortunately this time he was not able to change his foreign-policy agenda. Furthermore, Mr Beye also presented the official letter from the Mayor of Ouakam, Senegal, in which he expressed his wish to join the GCD network.

Europe: City of Segrate, Italy

Due to personal reasons, the Mayor of Segrate, Mr. Adriano Alessandrini had to cancel his participation in the meeting at the last minute. As a result, Mr Andrea Moroni, Sherpa of the city of Segrate, talked in his name about the successful direct collaborative projects and highlighted the fact that through them the theory was put into practice and steps have been taken towards fostering the digital solidarity.

Asia: Guro, South Korea

Mr Dae-Woong Yang, Vice President for Asia of the Global Cities Dialogue and Mayor of Guro, gave a short presentation about the activities of Guro in the IT field and the relation to the other GCD-cities in Asia. Guro established administrative and public services through the IT for the well-being of the citizens. He also expressed his wish to further motivate the Asian members to become more active under the GCD umbrella.

Mini Round Tables

The debates were simultaneously translated into English, French, Spanish and Korean.

1. Mobile Public Services

This issue was proposed by the city of Luxembourg whose mayor took part in the dialogue together with the mayor of Guro (South Korea) and the vice mayor of Nowon (south Korea). The dialogue was moderated by Ms Claire Klindt, Sherpa of the city of Bremen and Secretary-General in Bremen.

Mayor Paul Helminger presented the two GCD brochures published on the occasion of the GCD 10th anniversary and highlighted the necessity of using ICT in education and of offering the citizens more mobility in their every day life, helping them get more involved in the social life of their city. He also presented concrete actions taken by Luxembourg in this domain: mobile services like buying bus tickets and paying the parking ticket via mobile phone; WiFi networking points in the city, where the citizens have permanent access to internet; monitoring traffic tools; city buses in which the citizens receive diverse information; the implementation of "another city", referring to the virtual letter box, which could help citizens integrate themselves easier in the social life of the city.

Mayor Dae-Woong Yang continued the dialogue and made a presentation of the U-Child protection System established by Guro-go. The Ubiquitous Sensor Network has been installed on the main routes taken by children like to playgrounds and schools in order to assure the children's safety at all times.

The vice mayor of Nowon, **Mr Gi Wan Jung**, chose as a relevant example of mobile public service the "elkun service system", which is an Electronic Oral Civil Service System for the benefit of all citizens. This system helps citizens, including elderly, disabled, illiteracy and emigrants save time, as they can fill in certain applications and forms by simply using their voice. Moreover, it supports the development of "Green IT" with "paperless environment".

2. From digital divide to digital solidarity

The second Mini Round Table on "Fostering the Digital Solidarity" was held with the participation of the vice mayor of the city of Rufisque, the city of Segrate and Dr. Luis Lozano (International Expert on ICT and Local and Regional Development). It was moderated by Mr Raymond Versteegh from Cisco Systems.

Mr Meissa Beye presented the cooperation project between the city of Segrate and “Senegal & Friends”. 40 computers and 4 printers have been sent with the last shipment and a low-cost solution has been found to set up an Internet centre. He not only mentioned the access to information that these computers will provide, but also the gain in knowledge for the citizens of Rufisque.

The city of Segrate also mentioned this bi-lateral agreement and was pleased of having overcome the difficulties that rose along the way. The city of Segrate used its prior knowledge regarding decentralised projects and successfully managed to support Rufisque and its citizens.

Dr Luis Lozano participated via TelePresence, shared his views over this issue and gave as relevant example his experience in the X-Cross project - European and Latin American Examples of Distance Cross-Curricular Learning in Science. The interactive discussion included the idea that local authorities should become more involved in overcoming the digital divide, also via bilateral projects between the GCD members. Moreover, a better visibility of the digital space should be given to the citizens and support them in using ICT.

3. ICT and fighting against the climate change

The following members participated in the third Mini Round Table: the mayor of the city of Ano Liossia (Greece), the vice mayor of the city of Helsinki (Finland) and the president of Politech Institute (Observer Member), moderated by the vice mayor of Helsinki. The dialogue included concrete examples in this field, namely successfully implemented projects, which aim at solving or easing the environment problems of the third millennium by involving as many citizens as possible.

Organizational Issues

The city of Segrate, treasurer of GCD, presented the financial results of GCD for 2008, which were approved by the General Assembly. Mr Santini asked for a re-voting of the annual contribution which was unanimously approved by the members. Segrate also presented the provisory results for 2009 which will be closed at the end of the year, providing a good overview of the current financial situation of GCD.

Mr Manuel Masías, the mayor of the city of Miraflores, Peru, proposed to host the next GCD meeting in 2010, namely the Spring Meeting of the Steering Committee. The decision will be taken during the next sherpas’ meeting and will be communicated to all members.

Living lab Vol. 3 seminar – Visit of Innovative Spots

The GCD participants had the chance to visit the innovative spots in Helsinki and get familiar with the Living Labs activities. In addition, translated visiting tours were provided for non-English speakers at the Library 10 (<http://www.lib.hel.fi/en-GB/kirjasto10/>) and other innovative spots established by the city, like for example the City Wall (<http://citywall.org/>).

The main organizers of the event were the Helsinki Living Lab, Forum Virium Helsinki, Greater Helsinki Promotion and the City of Helsinki. The Innovations seminar focused mainly on local Living Labs activities and their current projects, but had an international aspect to seminar themes and topics as well. This year the preliminary topics were “user-driven services” and “public information services”.

On behalf of GCD, Mr Eric Legale gave a short introduction about GCD as dissemination platform and presented of a concrete case, namely the benefits generated by the Open Living Labs based in the GCD-cities and also the e-Participation Apollon project, which had just started.

The 10th GCD General Assembly Meeting ended with a networking event organized at Slush Helsinki (<http://slushhelsinki.com/>), which was attended by approximately 300 guests.