

# 50 Years Ring Partnership Charter for Sustainability

**Whereas** future generations are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development;

**Whereas** it is essential to build and promote citizenship on a local, regional, national, European and global level, making individuals stakeholders in public policies and in European and global solidarity;

**Whereas** the objective of a more just and peaceful Europe and a more just and peaceful world will be achieved only if development is sustainable, that is, considered in the long term, founded on solidarity between human beings and between present and future generations, combining justice and social equity, economic viability, environmental responsibility and respect for cultural and natural diversity based on democratic governance,

**We representatives of the cities of Cologne, Esch-sur-Alzette, Liège, Lille, Rotterdam and Turin,**

**in signing the present charter,**

**Reaffirm** our commitment to the construction of Europe and to the ideals of the United Nations;

**Reaffirm** the key role of local authorities with regard to sustainable development, by reason of their powers, skills, means and proximity to citizens;

**Reaffirm** the commitments made by local authorities in favour of sustainable development (more specifically the Aalborg Charter in 1994, the International Declaration of Local Governments at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, the Aalborg Commitments in 2004, the 2007 Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities);

**Reaffirm** the role of cities in providing local support in implementing European strategies and policies such as the Lisbon Strategy, the Göteborg European Sustainable Development Strategy, the European Climate Change Programme, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals;

**Reaffirm** our 1958 common commitment to promote European unity and peace by means of an intensive co-operation between their municipalities;

**We wish to bring a new momentum to our partnerships by making our policies one with our local sustainable development strategies.**

Through our exchanges and our common projects, we wish our cities to become even more inclusive, solidarity-oriented, prosperous, creative, participatory and sustainable, thus providing genuine quality of life for all.

Our 6 cities will focus on the following key-objectives:

- Social equity, inclusion and justice
- A vibrant and sustainable local economy
- Local management towards sustainability
- Governance and participatory democracy
- Equitable access to natural common goods
- Responsible consumption and lifestyle choices
- Urban planning and design taking into account environmental, social, economic, health and culture for the benefit of all
- Sustainable mobility choices
- The health and wellbeing of our citizens
- Peace, justice, equity, sustainable development and climate protection in Europe and at a global scale



City of Cologne

*Josef C.*



City of Esch-sur-Alzette

*Joël G.*



City of Liège

*B. Dierckx*



City of Lille

*Steffen*



City of Rotterdam

*M. J.*



City of Turin

*S. M.*