

MEMORANDUM on the European Green Capital title

Ensuring high quality living environment is the key to balanced and sustainable economic and social development in the European Union. 80% of the people of the European Union live in cities and urban areas; therefore, the issue is especially topical for urban municipalities. The European Union Sixth Environmental Action Programme (adopted in 2001) set as one of its priorities to improve the urban living environment and develop a respective strategy. By now, the European Commission has adopted the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment.

Cities are aware of their key role in improving the urban environment and living standard of people and have made remarkable efforts to achieve it. We consider that the results achieved in cities in this field deserve more recognition, appreciation and their best practices wider dissemination. In the European Union there are several awards that recognise the achievements of cities in improving their living environment. All these awards focus on some specific area. However, there is no ultimate title awarded by the European Union that would recognize the activities of cities in improving their living environment as a whole.

Following the initiative of Tallinn, we, the representatives of European cities, propose to the European authorities to establish the European Green Capital title. This title is to be awarded each year to a city that is an environmental role model to other municipalities, e. g. by having followed a consistent environmental policy, implemented sustainable mobility solutions, including an improved public transport system, expanded the territories of parks and green areas, successfully introduced modern waste management principles and technologies, or implemented innovative and enterprising solutions to improve the quality of urban living environment.

Awarding the title would give an additional impetus to make urban environment healthier and safer, create opportunities to recognize and share the best practices, and strengthen environmental co-operation.

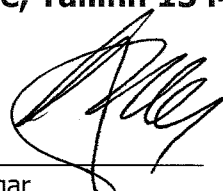
In view of the above considerations, we, Mayors and authorised representatives of cities who sign this memorandum and agree with its principles, hope that the European Commission will include our proposal in their agenda. The representatives of the undersigned cities are willing to contribute to the development of the principles, criteria and procedures for the European Green Capital nomination.

We authorize Mr Jüri Ratas, Mayor of Tallinn, to present this Memorandum to the Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, to Environment Commissioner Stravos Dimas, the Commissioner for Regional Policy Danuta Hübner.

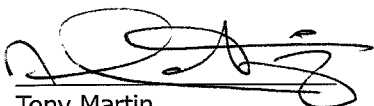
Memorandum on the European Green Capital title, Tallinn 15 May 2006



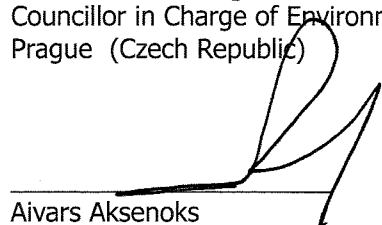
Karin Schubert
Mayor of Berlin (Germany)



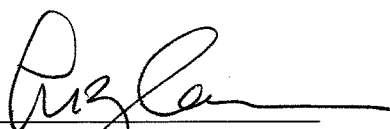
Miloš Gregar
Councillor in Charge of Environment
Prague (Czech Republic)



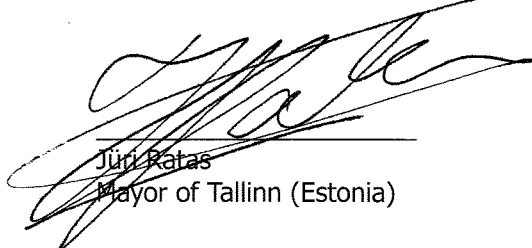
Tony Martin
Deputy Leader of the Borough Council
Dartford (UK)



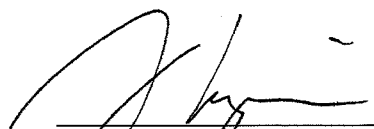
Aivars Aksenoks
Mayor of Riga (Latvia)



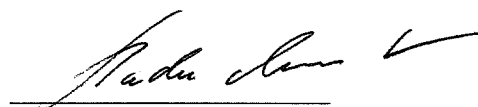
Liz Cameron
The Rt Hon The Lord Provost of Glasgow (UK)



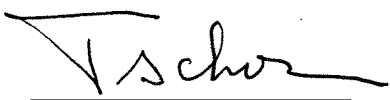
Jüri Ratas
Mayor of Tallinn (Estonia)



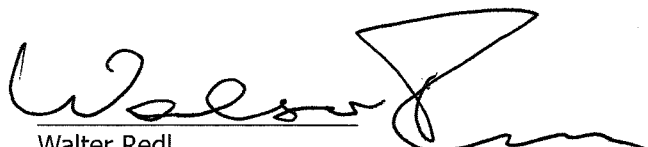
Jussi Pajunen
Mayor of Helsinki (Finland)



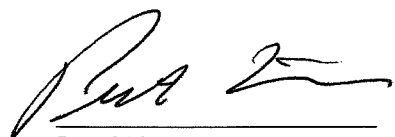
Aädu Must
Chairman of the City Council of Tartu (Estonia)



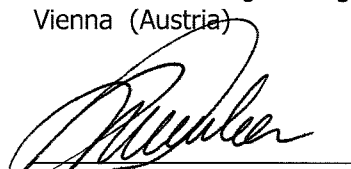
Rainer Tschorn
Chairman of the City Council of Kiel (Germany)



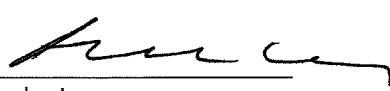
Walter Redl
Head of Water Engineering Department
Vienna (Austria)



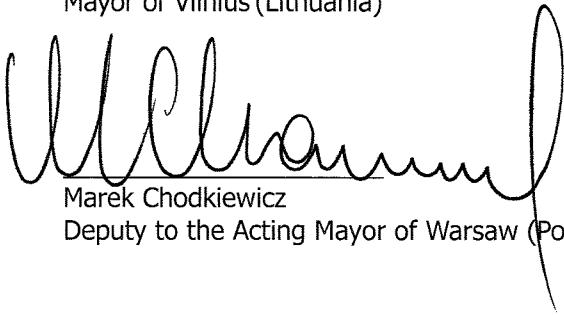
Pertti Lintunen
Deputy Mayor of Kotka (Finland)



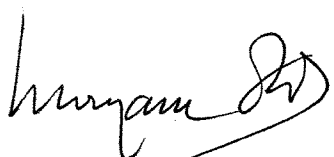
Arturas Zuokas
Mayor of Vilnius (Lithuania)



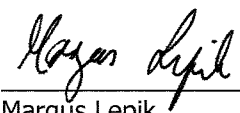
Alenka Loose
Director of Environment Protection Institute
Ljubljana (Slovenia)



Marek Chodkiewicz
Deputy to the Acting Mayor of Warsaw (Poland)



Myriam Sanchez
Director General for Environment
Madrid (Spain)



Margus Lepik
Chairman of the Board
Association of Estonian Cities